

WUPATKI

AREA INFORMATION SHEET

Wupatki National Monument
HC 33, Box 444A; Flagstaff, Arizona 86001
(602) 527-7040

LOCATION

Wupatki National Monument is a 35,253 acre archaeological unit of the National Park System located in the desert country northeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. To get to Wupatki, drive north out of Flagstaff on Highway U.S. 89 about 15 miles (24 km). Turn right on the paved loop road (U.S. Forest Service road 545) and continue driving for 22 miles (35 km) until you come to the Visitor Center. The Wupatki Ruin is situated behind the Visitor Center. You may get directions to other ruins from the ranger in the Visitor Center.

ACCESS

Plane, train or bus transportation will bring park visitors to Flagstaff and from there, rent-a-car, bus or aerial tours may be arranged. The monument is open all year and roads are passable except for a few hours after heavy snow storms. There is no entrance or admission fee to Wupatki National Monument.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Wupatki National Monument is a desert landscape of about 56 square miles containing more than 800 archaeological sites. These archaeological sites are the remnants of three separate and distinct cultures that lived in the area about 800 years ago. They were the Cohonina, the Kayenta Anasazi, and the Sinagua. It is believed that these groups shared and exchanged goods and ideas. Cohonina ceramics are present at many of the sites in Wupatki National Monument, but there is no evidence that the larger pueblos were inhabited by these people who were generally found to the north and west of the San Francisco Peaks. The Kayenta Anasazi are responsible for many of the pueblos found throughout the monument, especially those found in the northern part of the monument like Lomaki Pueblo and Crack-In-Rock Pueblo. Most of the petroglyphs found in the monument are traces left by the Kayenta Anasazi culture. Just after A.D. 1125, the Sinagua from the Flagstaff area expanded northward into the Wupatki Basin and they occupied the area around Wupatki Pueblo. At the Wupatki Pueblo we see evidence of both the Kayenta Anasazi and the Sinagua; the community room or "amphitheater" was built by the Kayenta Anasazi, while the ball court was built by the Sinagua with Hohokam (a culture that lived in the Verde Valley area) influence.

VISITOR/INFORMATION CENTER

The Visitor Center is open every day of the year except Christmas and New Year's Day. Summer hours (Memorial Day to mid-August) are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.. Off season hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. The Visitor Center serves as a sales outlet for the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association. Contact the monument for a list of publications available for sale.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Conducted walks through the Wupatki Ruin, demonstrations and other interpretive activities are available during the summer months. A schedule of summer activities is available at the Visitor Center. During the months of April and October park rangers lead overnight hikes to Crack-In-Rock Pueblo. Advanced arrangements must be made for this hike. Write to the above address for more information. Brief Visitor Center orientation talks will be given to organized groups upon request.

TRAILS

There are short walks to the Wupatki Ruin and the Citadel-Nalakihi Ruins. Self-guiding trail booklets may be obtained for both trails. The Wupatki backcountry is closed to public use, including hiking. Those wishing to use the backcountry must get permission from the park superintendent and register at the Visitor Center. Extended hiking trails are located in Coconino National Forest. Interested persons should write to the Forest Supervisor; Coconino National Forest; 2323 E Greenlaw Lane; Flagstaff, Arizona 86001.

WEATHER

The elevation at the Visitor Center is 4,890 feet (1,467 m) above sea level. Northern Arizona summers, at this elevation, can be quite warm with daytime temperatures somewhere between 90-100°F (32-37°C) and nighttime temperatures somewhere between 60-65°F (15-18°C). Winter nights are chilly with temperatures often going to the freezing mark or below. Snow occasionally falls at Wupatki but it rarely stays for very long. About one-third of Wupatki's annual precipitation of 7.6 inches (19.3 cm) comes from thunderstorms during the months of July and August. Spring days can be cool and windy. Autumn days can be quite pleasant.

RESTRICTIONS

All vehicles are restricted to designated roadways. Collection of natural or archaeological objects is prohibited. The use of firearms is prohibited. Pets are not allowed in the Visitor Center or at the ruins. In areas where pets are allowed, they must be leashed or kept under physical control at all times. Entering the backcountry is not allowed.

PICNICKING

There are picnic areas located along the loop road. A few picnic tables are located at the Wupatki Visitor Center. Doney Picnic Area is located three miles (4.8 km) north of the Visitor Center, and Painted Desert Vista Picnic Area is located 12 miles (19.2 km) south of the Wupatki Visitor Center.

CAMPING

There is no campground at Wupatki National Monument. The closest campground is Bonito Campground, located 20 miles (32 km) southwest of the Wupatki Visitor Center on the loop road. The campground is directly across the road from the Sunset Crater Visitor Center. Bonito Campground contains 44 sites and is open April 15 to November 1. The camping fee is \$7.00 per night. Private campgrounds are located in Flagstaff.

SERVICES

The nearest stores, gas stations and lodging facilities are located in Flagstaff or Gray Mountain. The nearest trading posts to get food and gas are Hanks Trading Post, Sinagua Trading Post, and Gem City Trading Post which are all approximately two miles north or south of the west entrance to Wupatki on U.S. 89 North. For specific information on motels and restaurants in Flagstaff, please contact the Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce; 101 West Santa Fe Avenue; Flagstaff, Arizona 86001.