

**BANDELIER**



HOME SITES



FRIJOLES CANYON



LOWER FALLS, FRIJOLES CREEK



ANCIENT TRAILS



SHRINE OF THE STONE LIONS



RESTORED HOUSE



CEREMONIAL CAVE



TYUONYI RUIN



PAINTED CAVE



ON THE TRAIL

beautiful canyon country containing many cliff and open pueblo ruins of late prehistoric period

## BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO

—The drought years of the late 13th century proved disastrous for Indians of many ancient pueblo centers in the Southwest. The harried survivors were impelled to abandon their homes, as other families had done in previous years, and to move where the water supply was dependable. A favorable area was the upper Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico. One of the later flowerings of Pueblo culture occurred here, and the numerous ruins of Bandelier National Monument are characteristic of this phase of pueblo development.

Several groups settled on the canyon-slashed slopes of the Pajarito Plateau, in a striking setting characterized by tan cliffs, forested mesas, and deep gorges. The story of these people—their adaptation to their environment and their relationships with other groups—is gradually being brought to light through continuing research by archeologists, adding significant knowledge to Southwestern prehistoric cultures.

The Pajarito Plateau is of interest geologically as well as archeologically. It is constituted largely of tuff (consolidated volcanic ash) and basaltic lava ejected thousands of years ago by a great volcano. The caldera (saucer-shaped depression) created by the collapsed summit of the volcano is among the world's largest calderas; its rim forms the Jemez Mountains. Through this highland, running water has cut many steep-walled canyons down to the Rio Grande.

Bandelier National Monument, an area that is crossed

only by trails, covers more than 46 square miles. It was named in honor of Adolph F. A. Bandelier, the distinguished Swiss-American scholar, who carried on an extensive survey of prehistoric ruins in the region and studied the Pueblo Indians around Sante Fe between 1880 and 1886. Part of his time was spent in Frijoles Canyon, and the scene of his ethnohistorical novel, *The Delight Makers*, is laid in the canyon as he pictured it in prehistoric times.

### The Ruins

The most accessible features of the monument are the ruins in Frijoles Canyon. The ancients chose well the location of their dwellings. The deep gorge, cut by a stream rising high in the mountains, is still a veritable oasis in the dry country of New Mexico. Translated, the name of this stream, "Rito de los Frijoles," means simply Bean Creek.

Cliff ruins, or talus villages, extend along the base of the northern wall of the canyon for approximately 2 miles. These houses of masonry were irregularly terraced, from 1 to 3 stories high, and had many cave rooms gouged out of the solid cliff. The cliff of compressed volcanic ash, or tuff, was worked with tools of harder stone.

Tree-ring chronology and correlations of pottery types indicate that most of Bandelier's ruins belong to the late pre-Spanish period, although a few small ruins date back to the 12th Century. The large pueblos of Tyuonyi and Tsankawi evidently were occupied until about A.D. 1550,

although their decline had probably set in before Coronado visited the region in 1540. No specific mention of Pajarito villages is made in the chronicles of Coronado's expedition.

The Frijoles inhabitants, like other early pueblo dwellers, were farmers. They grew corn, beans, and squash. They used cotton cloth, which has been found in the caves, and this suggests that they had the loom. Since the growing season on the plateau is short, however, they might have had to obtain the cotton by trade. They made pottery with decorations in glaze.

Exact cause of abandonment of the dwellings is unknown. For centuries the Indian farmers lived in the Pajarito canyons, built villages, honeycombed the cliffs with artificial caves, and tilled the soil of valley and mesa top. With the passing years, such influences as drought, soil-eroding flash floods, soil depletion, raiding Indians, famine, and disease—singly or in combination—forced the canyon dwellers again to seek new homes. Undoubtedly, some of the descendants of the Indians of the Pajarito Plateau still live in modern pueblos along the Rio Grande.

### Interpretive Program

Slide programs are presented in the visitor center to provide orientation and interpretation of the area. Museum exhibits interpret the occupation of this general area from about A.D. 1200 to modern pueblo times.

In summer, members of the ranger staff conduct guided

tours and give nightly talks at the campfire circle on the archeology, ethnology, and natural history of the region.

The main Frijoles Canyon ruins are visited by a loop trail laid out to exhibit a complete sample of the ruins of the Bandelier area; the circuit takes about an hour. A guide booklet describing the ruins is available.

### The Back Country

Ninety percent of Bandelier National Monument is virtually undisturbed wild land. This rugged and scenic land is accessible by more than 60 miles of maintained trails, leading to such features as the gorges of Alamo Canyon, the Stone Lions Shrine, Painted Cave, the pueblo ruins of San Miguel and Yapashi, and White Rock Canyon of the Rio Grande. Especially popular are the walks from Upper Frijoles Crossing—upstream to the beaver dams and downstream to park headquarters. The upper Frijoles section is a densely forested area, where you can experience the inspiration that comes with solitude.

*Caution:* Distance figures given in the trail map table do not reflect the energy and endurance required for the longer trips. Since trails lead into and out of deep, steep-walled canyons of the rough and broken country, and the altitude (about 7,000 feet) throws an additional burden upon the heart and lungs, you must be in good physical condition.

Before leaving the headquarters area for a hike on the trails, you should register with a park ranger, and you

should check in with a park ranger when you return. This is for your safety; it may also avoid a needless search.

Under certain circumstances, campfire permits are required. You may obtain a permit when you register for your hike.

### Tsankawi Section

The detached Tsankawi section of the monument is 11 miles north of Frijoles Canyon on N. Mex. 4. This large unexcavated ruin, situated on a high mesa, provides sweeping views of the Rio Grande valley, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the east, and the Jemez Mountains to the west.

A 2-mile self-guiding trail leads from the highway on a circular route through the ruin, following an ancient Indian trail for part of its way (walking time: about 1½ hours). In some places the old trail has been worn into the soft volcanic rock to a depth as great as 18 inches by the countless treading feet of the people who used it centuries ago. Along the trail are cave structures and many interesting petroglyphs, or rock carvings.

### A Reminder

All objects in the monument—Indian artifacts, wildflowers, trees, and rocks—must be left in place and undisturbed so that others, too, may enjoy them. This protection is a matter of Federal law, and violators will be prosecuted. It is also a matter of good citizenship and consideration for others. The Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 prohibits the destruction or removal from place of any object of antiquity. The wisdom that prompted this act is obvious. If every thoughtless or indifferent visitor should remove even a tiny fragment of pottery from the unexcavated Tsankawi section, for example, soon there would be none left. And each fragment tells its part of the whole story of these early people, a story now being pieced together by archeologists.

### Administration

Bandelier National Monument, established on February 11, 1916, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Los Alamos, NM 87544, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

U.S. DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT

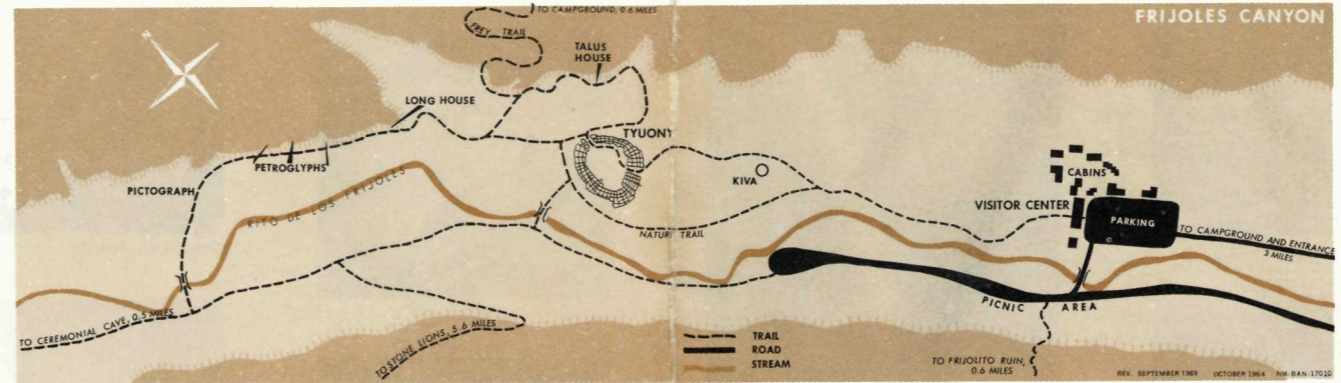
SCALE IN MILES



■ RUIN  
 — STREAM  
 - - - TRAIL  
 — ROAD

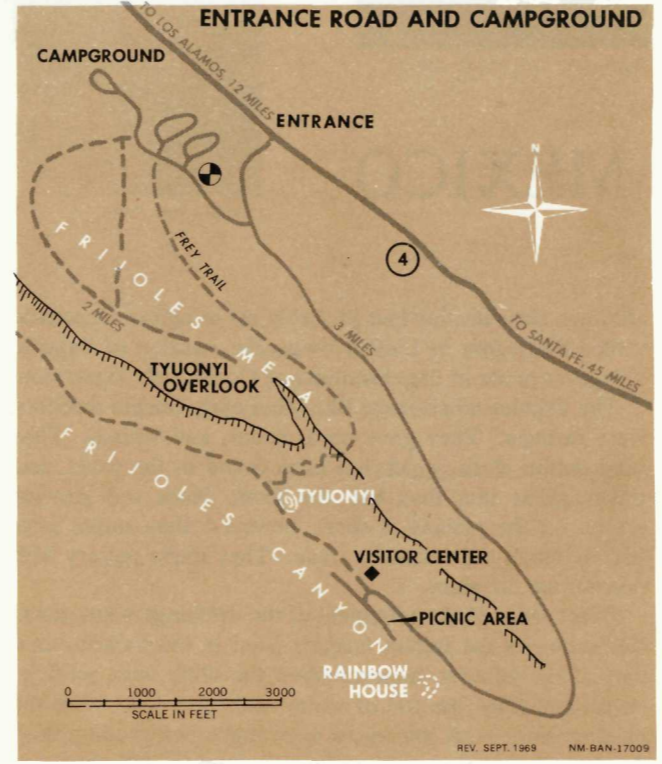
SEPT. 1964 NM-BAN-17008

COVER: LONG HOUSE



### Trails of Bandelier: Suggested Walks and Pack Trips

DEPARTURE POINT AND DESTINATION	ROUND TRIP DISTANCE (MILES)	TIME
<i>From headquarters area to:</i>		
Campground (via Frey Trail)	0.63	1 hour
Ceremonial Cave	2	1 hour
Lower Waterfall	3	2.5 hours
Rio Grande	5.5	4 hours
Upper Alamo Canyon View	7.3	4 hours
Stone Lions Shrine	12	8 hours
Stone Lions-Painted Cave-Rio Grande	20	2 days



### About Your Visit

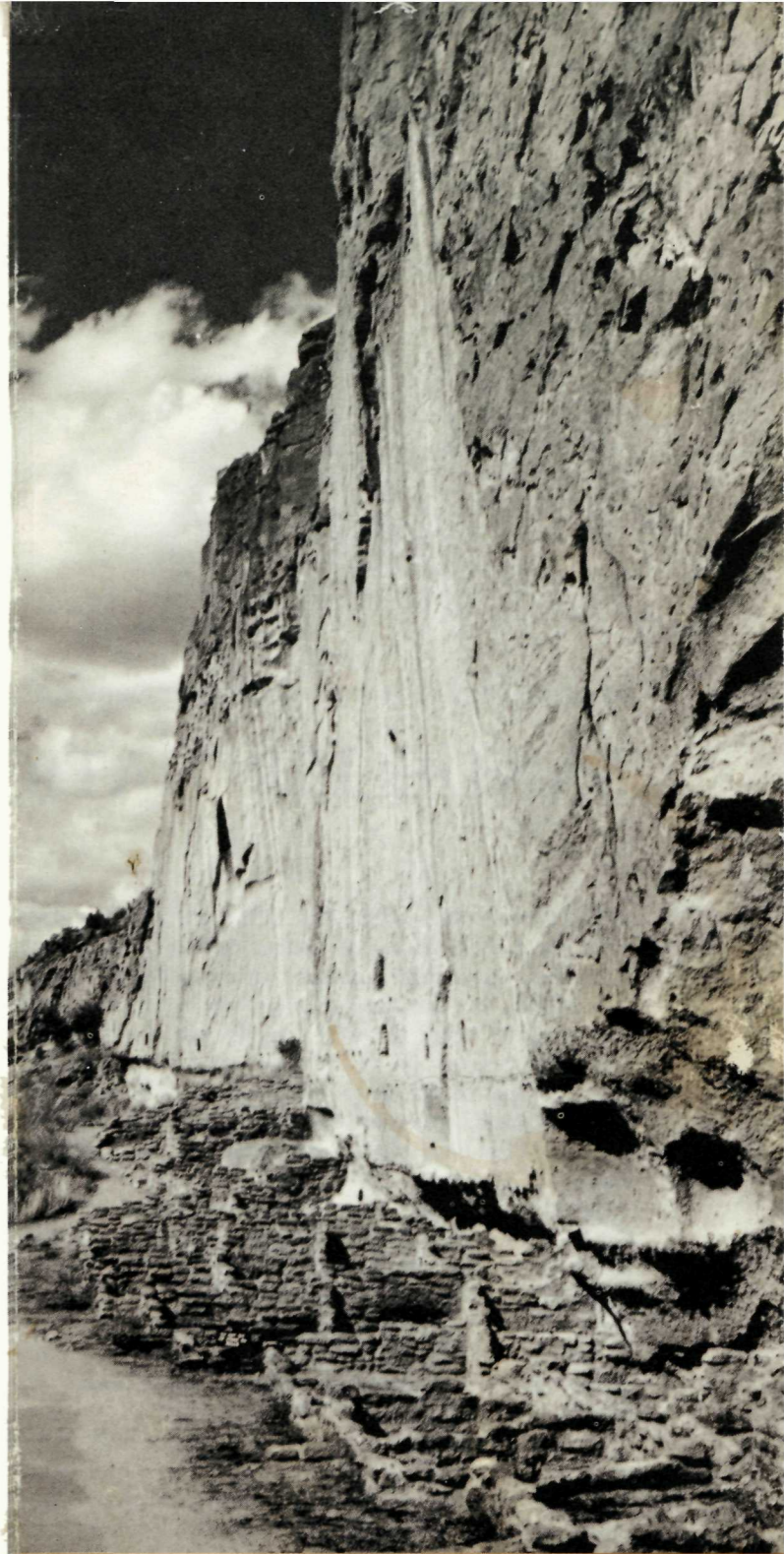
The monument, 46 miles west of Santa Fe, N. Mex., is reached from Santa Fe north on U.S. 285 to Pojaque, then west on N. Mex. 4. Approach may also be made through the beautiful Jemez country from Albuquerque. Inquiry should be made during bad weather before attempting the latter trip.

From May into September, temperatures range from the low 50's at night to the high 80's in the daytime. The relative humidity is generally low. Thunderstorms, usually of short duration, are frequent in July and August.

A campground on the mesa above Frijoles Canyon near the entrance station has campsites (containing tent spaces, tables, fireplaces), toilets, and water taps. No utility hook-ups are provided. Campground closed December, January, and February. A lunch area is in Frijoles Canyon near the visitor center.

Frijoles Canyon Lodge (Address; Los Alamos, NM 87544) has a snackbar, overnight accommodations, and campers' supplies; open only in summer.

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