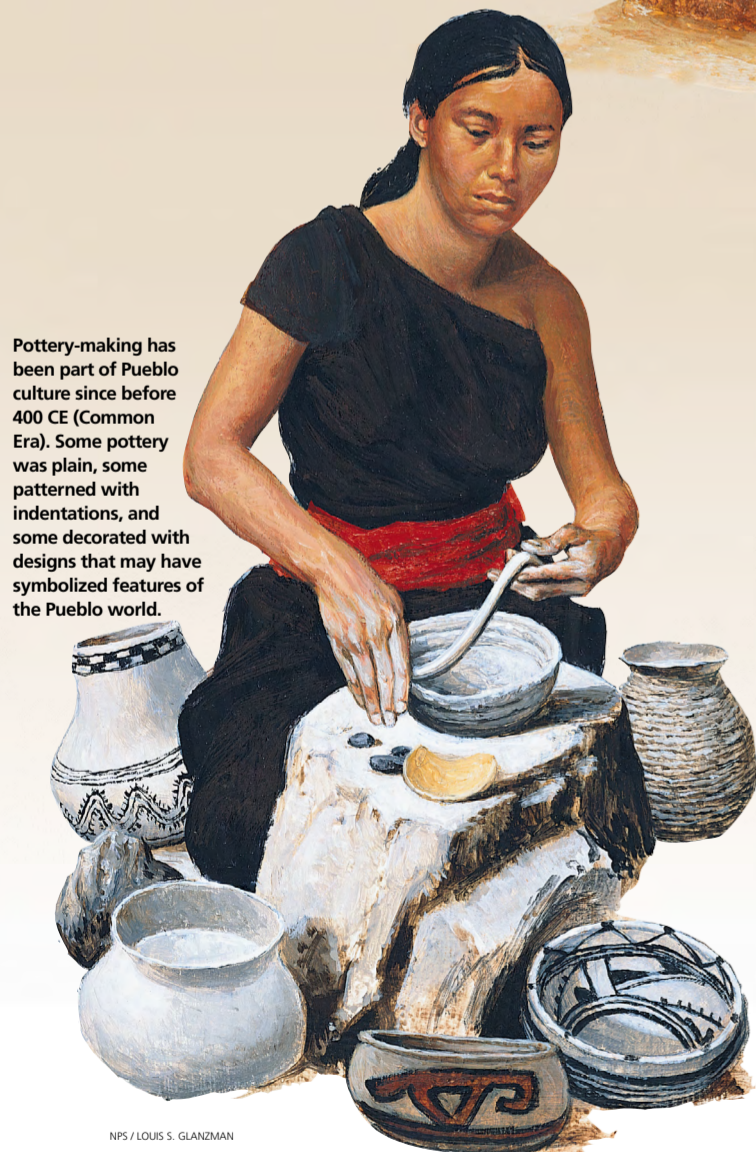




The village of Tyuonyi in Frijoles Canyon at the height of its development in the late 1400s. NPS / LOUIS S. GLAZMAN



Pottery-making has been part of Pueblo culture since before 400 CE (Common Era). Some pottery was plain, some patterned with indentations, and some decorated with designs that may have symbolized features of the Pueblo world.

## Ancestral Pueblo People

The Pueblo people have lived in the Southwest for many centuries. Archeologists think they are descended from groups of hunters and gatherers who came into the region over 10,000 years ago. The Pueblo people themselves say they have always been here. Ancestral Pueblo people lived in parts of what are now New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. Groups varied but shared many traits such as farming, weaving, and pottery-making (illustration at left). Their architecture and pottery reflect the peoples' diversity over time and from place to place. Early archeologists, studying the old dwellings for clues about their residents, adopted the Navajo term "Anasazi" to refer to the ancestors of Pueblo people before the coming of the Spanish. Many Pueblo people today consider the term disrespectful, so now "Ancestral Pueblo people" is used.

Ancestral Pueblo people in and around Bandelier, like Pueblo ancestors elsewhere, were farmers who grew maize (corn), beans, and squash. They supplemented their diet with native plants and by hunting deer, rabbits, other mammals, and birds. Cotton was cultivated and woven into garments. The people

made winter blankets ingeniously woven of yucca-fiber string twisted with turkey feathers or strips of rabbit skin. They fashioned tools, including a wide variety of axes, mauls, and knives, from animal bones, wood, and local stones such as obsidian and basalt. They acquired other items, including shells, turquoise, and parrots, through trade networks that ranged as far as central Mexico and Baja California.

Archeological surveys show at least 3,000 sites in Bandelier, but not all were inhabited at the same time. For generations these people lived in small, scattered settlements of perhaps one or two families each. As the population grew, people began coming together in larger groups, and, by the mid-1200s, villages often included as many as 40 rooms.

In the following 250 years, fewer and larger villages were established, with some exceeding 400 rooms. In Bandelier the villages of Tyuonyi (QU-weh-nee) and Tsankawi (SAN-kuh-wee) and their adjacent cavates (human-excavated caves) exemplify this latest period. By the mid-1500s the people who lived there

had moved on, settling into new homes in villages along the Rio Grande. Soon afterward, the Spanish colonized New Mexico, bringing immense change to the indigenous people of the Southwest.

No translatable records existed before the Spanish arrived, but in their oral traditions today, Pueblo people remember the places where their ancestors lived. The Pueblos of Cochiti, San Felipe, Santo Domingo, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, and Zuni have declared their strong ties to Bandelier. Representatives from these Pueblos work closely with park staff to make decisions affecting their ancestral homelands. All of the Pueblos have great regard for the dwellings in Bandelier and ask you to treat the area with respect and care.

**Spiritually, our ancestors still live here at Bandelier. You see reminders of their presence here—their homes, their kivas, and their petroglyphs. As you walk in their footsteps, value the earth beneath you and show everything the same respect we do when we re-visit this sacred place.—Affiliated Pueblo Committee**

### "The Grandest Thing I Ever Saw"

Forty-year-old, self-taught anthropologist and historian Adolph F. A. Bandelier came to New Mexico Territory in 1880, sponsored by the Archeological Institute of America. His ambitious goal was to trace the social organization, customs, and movements of southwestern and Mexican peoples. He traveled and studied throughout the region, crossing canyons and mesas, living and working among many American Indian groups, and delving into document archives. Looking back on his first 18 months in the field, Bandelier tallied visits to 166 archeological sites in New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico. "I am dirty, ragged, and sunburnt, but of best cheer," he said. "My life's work has at last begun."

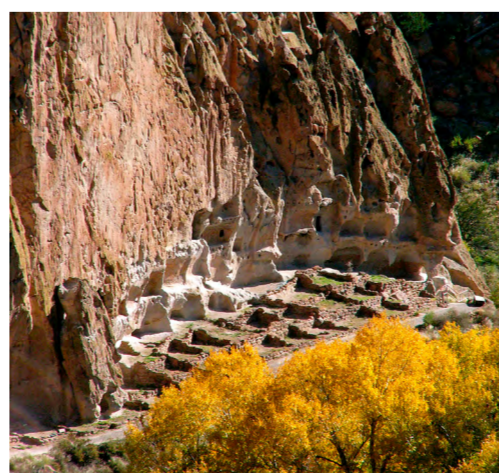
Men from Cochiti Pueblo guided Bandelier to their ancestral homes in Frijoles Canyon in 1880. Its sheer cliffs, year-round stream, and distinctive cave-room architecture captured his

imagination. In 1890 he made the canyon and dwellings the scene of his novel, *The Delight Makers*, depicting Pueblo life in pre-Spanish times. Bandelier left New Mexico in 1892 and went on to studies in Peru and Bolivia. In his seventies, he went to Seville, Spain, to study early Spanish records of the Americas. He died there in 1914.

Bandelier's pioneering work is now relatively unknown to the public, but it established the foundation for much of modern southwestern archeology. Dr. Edgar Lee Hewett, a prominent southwestern archeologist, directed several excavations in Frijoles Canyon in the early 1900s. He saw the need to preserve these ancestral Pueblo sites and was instrumental in getting Bandelier National Monument established in 1916.



Adolph F. A. Bandelier was born in Switzerland in 1840 and grew up in Illinois. He was obligated to work in his father's businesses but read, corresponded, and published in anthropology. In 1880 he took up the southwest fieldwork that became his life's passion.



Long House is an 800-foot stretch of adjoining, multi-storied stone homes with hand-carved caves as back rooms. It may be what inspired Adolph Bandelier's exclamation, "The grandest thing I ever saw."



The Cultural Demonstration Program supports Pueblos' efforts to maintain and share time-honored cultural activities, including traditional dances—like this one by members of Zuni Pueblo.



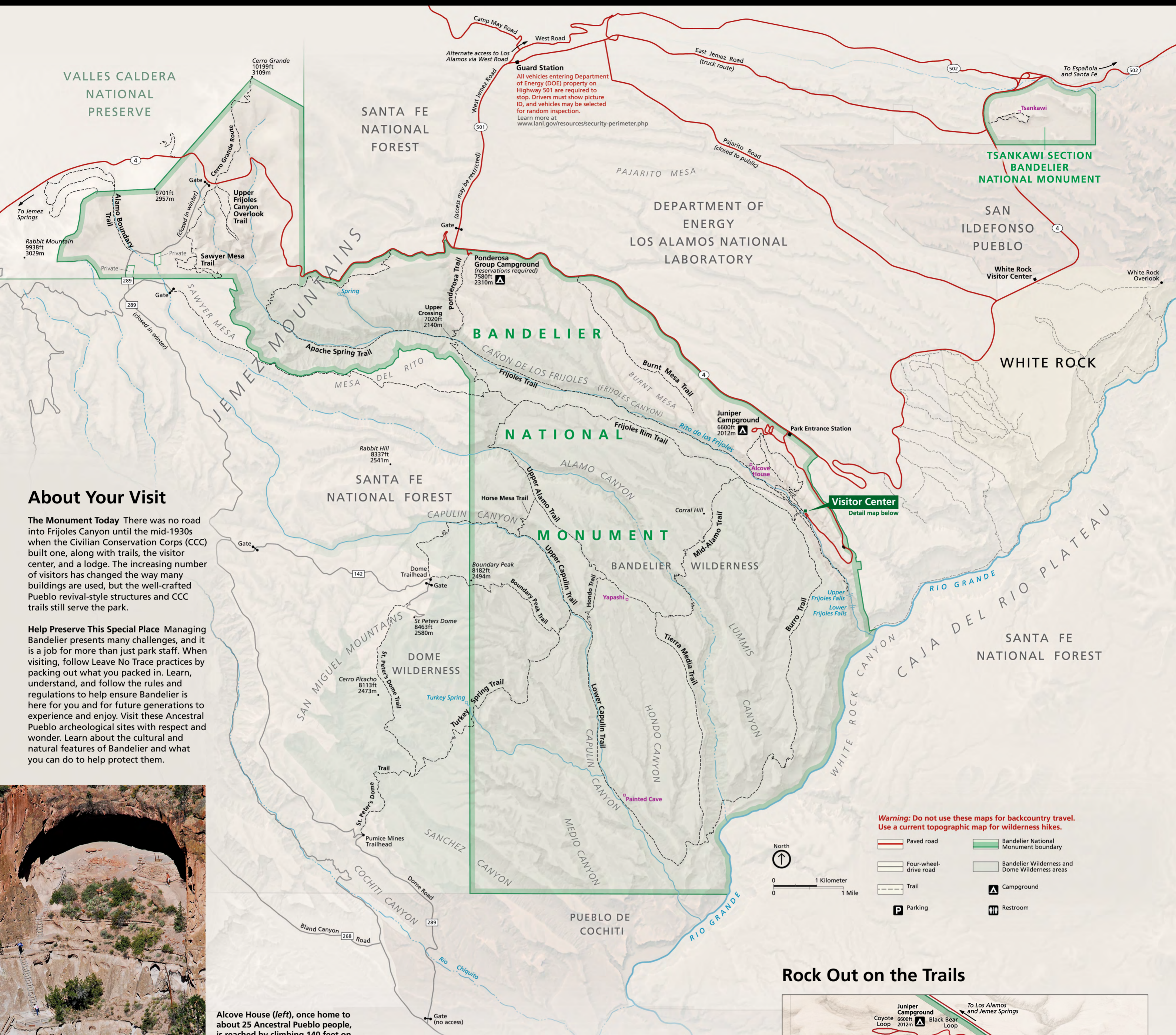
Located 140 feet above the floor of Frijoles Canyon, the Alcove House was once home to approximately 25 Ancestral Pueblo people. Inside the alcove today are the viga holes and niches of former homes and this reconstructed kiva.



Another traditional cultural activity in the modern Pueblos is making and painting pottery. These intricate skills are often passed from parents (or grandparents) to their children.

This learning process allows the Pueblos to maintain important touchstones of the past in a quickly changing modern world.

# Exploring Bandelier



## About Your Visit

**The Monument Today** There was no road into Frijoles Canyon until the mid-1930s when the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built one, along with trails, the visitor center, and a lodge. The increasing number of visitors has changed the way many buildings are used, but the well-crafted Pueblo revival-style structures and CCC trails still serve the park.

**Help Preserve This Special Place** Managing Bandelier presents many challenges, and it is a job for more than just park staff. When visiting, follow Leave No Trace practices by packing out what you packed in. Learn, understand, and follow the rules and regulations to help ensure Bandelier is here for you and for future generations to experience and enjoy. Visit these Ancestral Pueblo archaeological sites with respect and wonder. Learn about the cultural and natural features of Bandelier and what you can do to help protect them.



Alcove House (left), once home to about 25 Ancestral Pueblo people, is reached by climbing 140 feet on a series of steps and ladders. NPS

**When To Visit** The park is open year-round; the visitor center closes December 25 and January 1. The busiest time is spring into November.

Free, required shuttle service into Frijoles Canyon runs mid-May to mid-October, 9 am to 3 pm, due to limited parking there. Check park website for information.

Winter can be snowy and cold but offers more solitude; snow is cleared from a portion of Pueblo Loop Trail. Summer temperatures are often 80s to 90s°F; afternoon thunderstorms are common. Fall offers cooler, sunny days and crisp nights.

**Where to Start Your Visit** At the visitor center in Frijoles Canyon, staff can help you plan your visit. To help orient you, there are trail guides, videos, exhibits, and a nearby park store that offers publications and other items related to the Bandelier area. The visitor center is open daily except December 25 and January 1, generally 9 am to 5 pm. Service animals are allowed.

**Facilities** The park store is open year-round. A cafe is open seasonally.

The park has no lodging. Juniper Family Campground, on the mesa above Frijoles Canyon near the entrance station, may be closed by snow. Ponderosa Group Campground is for groups of 10 or more; reservations are required.

In picnic areas near the visitor center, you can use self-contained stoves but not fires. Tables are first-come, first-served.

**Activities** Bandelier has three miles of public roads and over 70 miles of trails in its 33,750 acres. The network of trails, long and short, invites you to explore the park.

Ancestral Pueblo dwellings are within a short, easy walk of the visitor center. The closest archaeological site is 400 yards from

the visitor center. The paved 1.4-mile Pueblo Loop Trail to Tyuonyi and the cliff dwellings can be walked in about an hour; wheelchairs and strollers can be used on part of Pueblo Loop Trail. Extending your walk, head ½ mile up Frijoles Canyon to Alcove House, a cliff dwelling reached only by climbing 140 feet up long wooden ladders and numerous stone stairs. A guidebook about the canyon and people who lived here is available for purchase.

The popular Falls Trail leads to Frijoles Canyon's Upper Falls and focuses on scenery and geology. A booklet available for purchase explains interesting geologic features and identifies some native plants. The walk to Upper Falls is about three miles roundtrip (about two hours to complete).

Tsankawi is a separate section of the park on NM 4 about 11 miles north of the main entrance. It offers a 1½-mile loop walk on a primitive trail. Along the way are a large unexcavated village, cavates (hollowed out spaces in rocks), and many petroglyphs (rock carvings). A guidebook is available for purchase.

Hikers with more time and stamina may venture into the backcountry. You can reach many areas on day hikes. Backpacking is allowed. Seventy percent of Bandelier is designated wilderness. The terrain is generally rugged with steep canyons. The average elevation (7,000 feet) can make hiking difficult if you are used to lower elevations. Finding remote archaeological sites and petroglyphs or spotting shy wildlife can make hiking worthwhile for the well prepared.

A free backcountry permit, available at the visitor center, is required for overnight stays in the wilderness. Use a current topographic map for all backcountry travel. Ask at the visitor center for more information.

**Safety** Bandelier is an archeological area preserved in as natural a condition as possible, which can be hazardous.

- Stay alert, be cautious, and use common sense.
- Stay on trails.
- Do not climb among the dwellings or enter caves unless they are accessible by ladders.
- Carry drinking water, even on short trails, especially in hot weather.
- Do not drink water from streams unless you purify it.

The waterborne intestinal parasite *Giardia lamblia* is found in Bandelier.

**Regulations** Bicycles, motorcycles, pets, and fires are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry.

- Climbing on walls or cliffs is prohibited. Stay on trails.
- Federal law prohibits removing plants, animals, rocks, or other natural or historic features.
- Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Squirrels in particular can bite and may carry plague.
- Pets are restricted to campgrounds, picnic areas, and parking lots. They must be leashed at all times. No pets on trails.
- Bicycles and motorbikes are restricted to paved roads. No bikes allowed on trails.
- Fires are permitted only in designated campgrounds and only in grills provided. Firewood collecting is prohibited.
- Permits are required for all overnight trips into the backcountry.
- A bear bag or other animal-resistant container is required for all overnight stays in the backcountry.
- All vehicles towing trailers, cars, etc., must unhitch at the amphitheater parking lot across from Juniper Family Campground.
- For firearms, fishing, and other regulations check the park website.

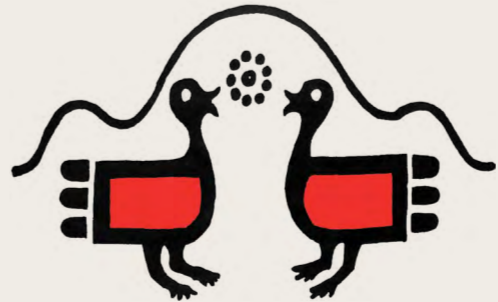
**Learn More About Bandelier** The books listed next are among the items available for purchase from the park store near the visitor center, operated by the nonprofit Western National Parks Association. You may also call 505-672-3861, ext. 1816, or visit [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org).

- *Bandelier National Monument* by Patricia Barey is a good source for general readers.
- *The Peopling of Bandelier*, edited by Robert P. Powers, examines aspects of the area's archeology.
- *The Delight Makers* is Adolph Bandelier's historical novel, first published in the 1890s. It is still in print.
- A *Trails Illustrated* topographic map is available for hikers, as is the hikers' guide *A Guide to Bandelier National Monument* by Dorothy Hoard.

**Accessibility** We strive to make facilities, services, and programs accessible to all; please call or check the park website.

**More Information**  
Bandelier National Monument  
15 Entrance Rd.  
Los Alamos, NM 87544-9508  
505-672-3861, ext. 0  
[www.nps.gov/band](http://www.nps.gov/band)  
Follow us on social media.  
Use the NPS App to guide your visit.

Bandelier National Monument is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

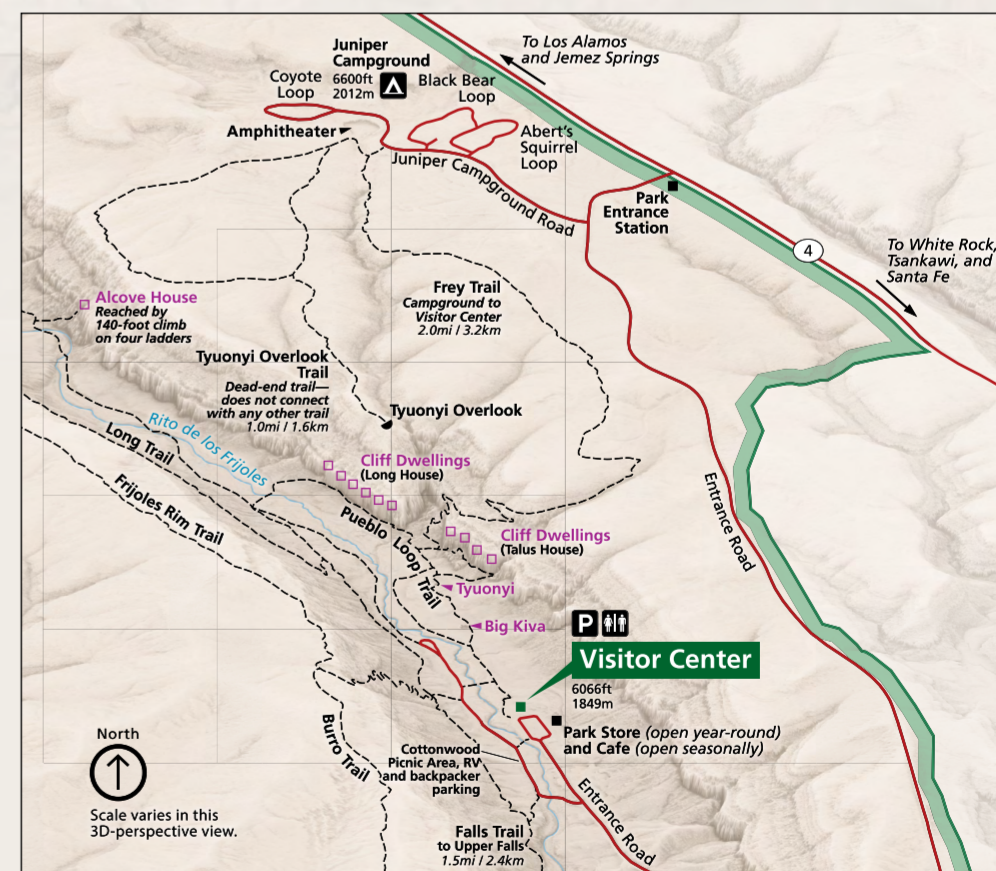


Using Ancestral Pueblo petroglyphs found at Long House, this logo was designed for Bandelier as early as the 1920s. It is still used today. NPS

**National Park Foundation.**  
Join the park community.  
[www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org)

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## Rock Out on the Trails



### Plan Your Visit

The park offers many activities. Here are some suggestions based on how much time you have during your visit.

#### One Hour

- Attend the 14-minute movie *This Place Knows Us* at the visitor center.
- Explore the museum.
- Walk the Pueblo Loop Trail using the self-guiding booklet.

#### Two Hours

- The previous activities plus:
- Continue the trail to Alcove House.

#### Three to Four Hours or More

- The previous activities plus:
- From the visitor center, hike the Falls Trail using the self-guiding booklet.
  - Ask rangers at the visitor center for suggestions on other trails.