

# INFORMATION SHEET

VC 831  
12/93

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT  
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Los Alamos, NM 87544 (505)672-3861  
24 Hour General Information (505)672-0343

On the Pajarito Plateau, west of the Rio Grande from Santa Fe, NM, are found the ruined dwellings of the Anasazi--the pre-European Pueblo Indians. Bandelier National Monument protects several of the largest of these ruins, in particular the unique cliff dwellings in Frijoles Canyon.

The Monument was established in 1916 and named in honor of Adolph F. Bandelier, a historian and ethnologist who worked in the Southwest in the 1880s. Bandelier did some of the earliest scientific research on both prehistoric and modern Pueblo Indians.

## LOCATION

From Albuquerque, drive north on I 25 to Santa Fe (60 miles); Bandelier is located 46 miles west of Santa Fe. Drive north on US 285 to Pojoaque, then west on NM 502, then continue on NM 4. Approach may also be made from north of Albuquerque at Bernalillo on NM 44 to NM 4 at San Ysidro, and then through the Jemez Mountains (104 miles). All roads are paved; the part of NM 4 going through the Jemez Mountains may be impassable in winter.

## VISITOR SERVICES

The Visitor Center, located in Frijoles Canyon, is open seven days a week, except for Christmas and New Year's Day. Summer hours are 8:00 am to 6:00 pm; winter hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. A ten minute video program is available as an orientation to the area. Museum exhibits interpret the ancient Pueblo culture from AD 1150 to modern Pueblo times.

The most accessible features of the Monument are the ruins in Frijoles Canyon. The 1.4 mile round trip, paved ruins loop trail starts at the Visitor Center. A portion of the ruins can be seen in an easy, half mile round-trip walk, but the ruins are not accessible by vehicle. Self-guiding trail booklets in English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese, and Braille are available at the Visitor Center. The ruins trail is partially accessible to wheelchairs; a wheelchair for visitor use is available at the Visitor Center.

In the summer some interpretive programs, including guided ruins walks, are offered by rangers and volunteers, depending on staffing levels.

Other services in Frijoles Canyon include a Gift Shop and Snack Bar. Overnight accommodations are available in the nearby communities of Los Alamos, White Rock, and Santa Fe. For information on accommodations and restaurants, Chamber of Commerce numbers are: Los Alamos (505)662-5595; Santa Fe (505)983-7317 and 988-4597. Service stations are 15 miles away in Los Alamos or 11 miles in White Rock. A picnic area is located near the Visitor Center and is open during daylight hours. **No wood or charcoal fires are permitted.**

A detached section of the Monument, Tsankawi, lies 13 miles from the Visitor Center, east on NM 4. The ruins there may be seen by walking a primitive, two-mile round-trip trail, which begins at the parking lot east of the Truck Route to Los Alamos. A self-guiding trail booklet is available at the trailhead or at the Visitor Center in Frijoles Canyon.

## WEATHER

Summer days can be very hot, while evening temperatures are cool. During July and August, afternoon thundershowers are common. Fall temperatures are moderate, with frost possible as early as mid-October. Snowfall is not a surprise any time between mid-October and mid-April. In the winter months significant snowfall may occur. Roads to and within the park are plowed regularly, but after a heavy snowfall it may be some hours before travel is reasonable. Part of the main ruins loop is also cleared of snow, but ice and slippery conditions should be expected.

## BACKPACKING

Bandelier contains 23,267 acres of designated wilderness with 60 miles of backcountry trails. Permits, free of charge, are required for all overnight travel into the backcountry. Permits, maps, and trail information may be obtained at the Visitor Center. No pets, bicycles, motorized vehicles or fires are permitted in the backcountry, and stream water must be purified before use. Group size is limited and camping is restricted in

some areas. Call for regulations and more information.

#### CAMPGROUNDS

Juniper Family Campground: Open March-November. Fee: \$6.00 per night, per site. Maximum ten people, three tents and two vehicles per site. Tables, grills, water, restrooms, a dump station, tent sites, and trailer sites up to 30 feet long are provided. No showers or electrical hookups available. Sites available on first-come, first-served basis. **No reservations.**

Ponderosa Group Campground: Open mid-April to late October (weather permitting). Fee: \$1.00 per person with a \$10.00 minimum per site, per night. Limited to **groups only** (10 people minimum; 50 maximum per site). Ponderosa is for tent camping; each group is limited to one RV. Tables, grills, water, and pit toilets provided. Only two sites are available and **reservations are required in advance.**

#### RECREATION FEES

Entrance Fees: Single, private, non-commercial vehicle:  
\$5.00/car (good for 7 days)  
Person on foot, on commercial bus or other means:  
\$ 3.00/person

Golden Eagle Passport: Available for \$25.00. It allows continual entrance into all Federal Recreation Areas for one year from date of purchase. It does **NOT** cover camping fees.

Golden Age Passport: U.S. citizens 62 years or older are eligible for this lifetime entrance permit valid for all Federal Recreation areas. It also permits a 50% discount on camping fees. There is a one-time \$10 fee.

Golden Access Passport: U.S. citizens who have been medically determined to be blind or permanently disabled and are eligible to receive benefits under Federal Law may obtain this free, lifetime entrance permit. It gives the same benefits as the Golden Age Passport.

Waiver of Entrance Fees: Bona fide educational and research institutions intending to visit Bandelier National Monument for **educational** purposes may receive a waiver of entrance fees by contacting the group reservation coordinator in writing or by telephone at least two weeks in advance of their visit.

#### REGULATIONS

**ALL VISITORS MUST STAY ON DESIGNATED TRAILS** while in the heavily used portion of Frijoles Canyon.

Archaeological Sites and Artifacts are protected under State and Federal laws from **all** disturbances. **Collection of any artifact is prohibited!**

Pets: Pets are **NOT** permitted in the backcountry, in buildings or on any trails. Pets must be on a leash or under physical control at all times and may not be left unattended outside a vehicle. Animals left unattended outside a vehicle become prey for predators.

Bicycles and motorized vehicles are **NOT** allowed on any trail in the monument, nor in the backcountry.

Wildlife, Collecting Plants, and Hunting: Collecting of natural food such as nuts and berries is permitted for personal consumption while in the Monument **ONLY**. Taking plants, rocks, pine cones, artifacts, etc. is **NOT** permitted. Fishing is permitted with a valid New Mexico state fishing license; the area from Ceremonial Cave to the Rio Grande is closed to fishing. Killing, disturbing, or harassing wildlife is prohibited. Do **NOT** handle or feed wildlife--plague and rabies may be transmitted to you.

Fires: Wood and charcoal fires are only permitted in Juniper and Ponderosa campgrounds. Use only wood you bring or purchase; no wood gathering. No open fires are permitted in the backcountry, but fuel-type stoves are allowed.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

From April through October, the park is very busy. Parking space is limited, and at the busiest times of the day visitors may have to wait an hour or more for parking in Frijoles Canyon. Parking for RVs is restricted and RV drivers should inquire about designated RV parking. You may avoid the congestion by visiting in early morning or late in the day. The canyon area closes at dusk.