

WELCOME TO CANYON DE CHELLY NATIONAL MONUMENT

Regardless of the number of parks and monuments you may have visited, you will find Canyon de Chelly different in many respects from all the other units in the National Park System.

The following "what to do, see, and not do" is provided for your benefit and to help make your trip more enjoyable. If you wish more information, please ask a park ranger.

Canyon Travel: Federal regulations strictly govern all visitor travel within the canyons. All visitors must be accompanied by a park ranger or an authorized guide. This regulation is for your safety as well as for the protection of the area and the privacy of the Navajo people who make the canyons their homes.

Hiking: The White House Trail is the ONLY access to the canyon floor that is exempt from the above restriction. This is a self-guiding trail with a special guidebook. The trail leaves from White House Overlook (described below) and is about 2 miles long, round trip. For further information, inquire at the Ranger Station.

Canyon Rim Drive: There are 15 miles of dirt road along the south rim of Canyon de Chelly, with five overlook points to which you may drive your own car. To reach this road, continue on to the end of the paved road, turn left and follow the signs. Points of interest along the drive are described below. Turnoffs are marked. All distance figures given below are as measured from the end of the pavement.

Sand Dunes (about 2 miles) is an area of small dunes of very fine sand.

Junction Overlook (about 4 miles) provides an excellent view of the junction of Canyon de Chelly and del Muerto.

White House Overlook (about 5 miles) presents a view of White House Ruin in the distance. (See Hiking, above.)

White Sands Overlook (about 9 miles) offers an exceptional view of several ruins and striking scenery of Canyon de Chelly and Wild Cherry Canyon.

Spider Rock Overlook (about 15 miles) presents a remarkable view of Canyon de Chelly and Monument Canyon. The depth of the canyons here is greater than 1,000 feet. Spider Rock is a spire of rock jutting like a needle 800 feet from the canyon floor. Picnic tables, fireplaces, and restrooms are available.

Three Turkey Ruins Overlook (about 22 miles) provides an outstanding view of the ruins. This area is a part of the Navajo Tribal System, and the ruins are among the best preserved in the Southwest.

Commercial Trips into the Canyons: The Thunderbird Lodge, a private concession located within the monument, offers half-day and full-day trips up the canyons in special vehicles.

Navajo Guides: Authorized Navajo guides are available, and they can also provide rental horses.

For further information and assistance, talk to a park ranger.

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