

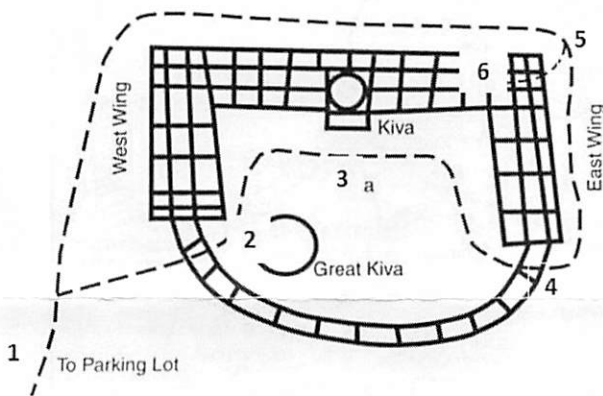


Hungo Pavi Trail Guide

ABOUT THE TRAIL

The trail is roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long with some slight slopes and steep areas. There are no trail number posts, so please use the map below to reference particular stops. Throughout your visit, please help us protect these sites by staying on the trail and leaving everything where you find it for future visitors.

THE TRAIL



1) TRAILHEAD

Visiting this site gives you the opportunity to visit a Chacoan great house which has never been subject to archaeological excavations. It received its current name during a military expedition in 1849 when Lieutenant James Simpson, a surveyor with the Corps of Topographical Engineers on that expedition, consulted with Carravahal, a local guide. Carravahal provided many of the names we use for great houses in the park today. Some think the name is based on the Hopi village called Shungopovi, but we may never know. Chaco Canyon has attracted many explorers and photographers. Lieutenant Simpson's survey reported that the site was in good condition, standing as high as four stories in some places.



Mindeleff brothers photo

In the 1880's, however, the Mindeleff brothers came into the canyon and documented that there had been considerable looting. Removal of archaeological artifacts was not illegal until 1906 with the passage of the Antiquities Act, and even then such laws were difficult to enforce. Shortly thereafter, in 1907, Chaco was designated our nation's fifth National Monument in an effort to further protect these sites.

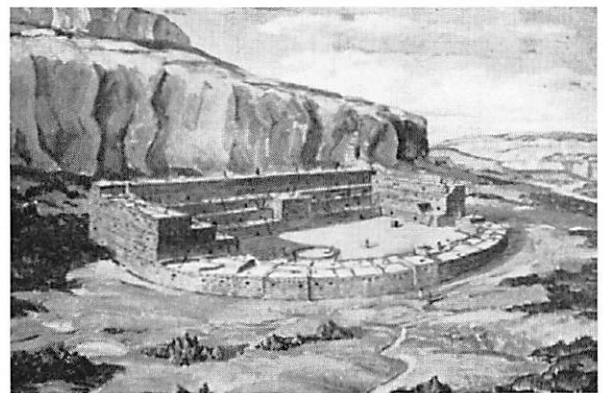
2) PLAZA, GREAT KIVA AND PLAZA WALL

The small mound of rubble you've just walked over is thought to be the remains of a low wall or block of rooms enclosing the open space in the center of the building,

known as the plaza. Look carefully at the ground to your right (to the southeast) and you can see a slight circular depression. This marks the location of a great kiva, or round room. Chaco is known for its numerous kiva structures, believed to be important places for gatherings and ceremonies. Modern Pueblo peoples still utilize kivas for such functions today. These features of Hungo Pavi are typical of Chacoan great houses.

The Chacoan great houses in the canyon were constructed between AD 850 and AD 1250. Great houses represent a unique time in South-western history. There were several phases to this great house period. Early great houses seem to be experimental. As construction continued, great houses became more standardized in form.

Hungo Pavi was built, starting in AD 1000, beginning with a single-story block of rooms that now forms the back of the building. A second building phase began in the 1060s and Hungo Pavi expanded to include two or three additional stories and the enclosing plaza wall. Similar expansions occurred at other buildings at that time and went on into the 1100s. Such extensive periods of construction would have made the canyon a lively place, full of activities such as building, farming, crafting, and trade.



Artist's interpretation of a restored Hungo Pavi

3) ENCLOSED KIVA

Behind this wall is an enclosed kiva. Kivas are typically circular, below-ground rooms thought to be used for ceremonial purposes, although there are other ideas about their uses, for example, as a living space or kitchen area during the cold winter months. This particular kiva is positioned at the center of Hungo Pavi's main room block, and is a round room built inside of a square one. From the outside, it gives the appearance of a square tower, rather than a round kiva. This "enclosed" building technique can be seen in many other great houses in the canyon as well. The remains of a possible antechamber or entry area can be seen in front of the kiva, where a partial doorway is still intact.

Looking to either side, you can see the walls of many rooms at Hungo Pavi rising out of the rubble. When complete, it is estimated to have had 140 rooms. What role these rooms and the great houses served is a matter of debate. Some believe they were large apartment complexes because of the many rooms here. However, relatively little evidence for everyday use is present. Some think the buildings were public structures meant for large events or gatherings, similar to a capitol building, cathedral, or university today. What reasons can you think of for creating such large and elaborate structures in this remote canyon?

4) ENTRANCE AND PRESERVATION

There is a gap in the enclosing wall here, indicating this may have been the entrance into the building. This southeast entrance is typical of great houses. Standing at this point also affords you a stunning view of Fajada Butte to the southeast, and the distant walls of Una Vida, another great house near the cliffs to the left of the Visitor Center.

Looking to the east, you can see a low masonry structure in the mouth of the side canyon near Hungo Pavi. This is not Chacoan, but rather a dam built in 1939 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC was an organization designed to put young men to work during the Great Depression. Several crews of men worked in Chaco from 1937- 1942, building infrastructure within the park to assist with erosion control. They created many earthen berms and the dam you see here in Mockingbird Canyon.

The Chacoan people also created many dams and possibly wells, canals, and even reservoirs. Hungo Pavi is strategically located near good water sources. The main canyon here angles back into Mockingbird Canyon, which forms a natural drainage area and contains several seep springs.

In 1937, another division of the CCC began work in Chaco Canyon with the specific goal of preserving the structures. The success of this group of local Navajo men led to the creation of a permanent preservation crew which continues to work at Chaco today. Our preservation crew works to protect these buildings using several techniques including: backfilling the rooms, replacing lost mud mortar in the walls, installing drainages and roofs, and capping and bracing walls. The first recorded preservation and stabilization at Hungo Pavi began in 1957.

5) ROAD FEATURES

Facing away from the building toward the cliff face, you can see a series of ridges. This is a staircase and is one of the easiest road features to see at Chaco. There are hundreds of known road segments in the Chacoan area, and many more miles of roads are thought to have existed.

Chacoan roads generally ran in straight lines, and did not avoid natural features as you can see in the picture of the staircase.



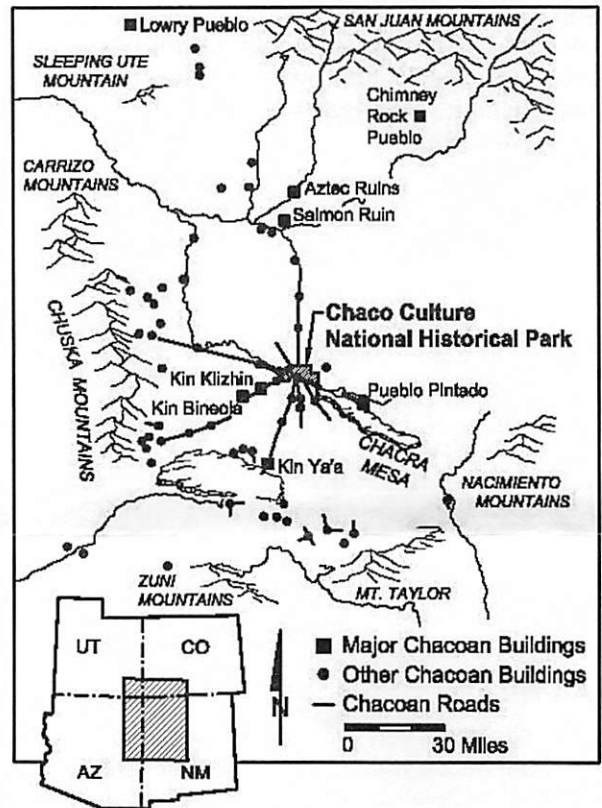
Stairway at Hungo Pavi

The roads measure fifteen to thirty feet wide and are often very straight segments with obtuse angles used to change their direction.

The Chacoans did not have wheeled vehicles or horses available to them, so the reason for building these long, linear features is a mystery to us. Many explanations

have been offered – some believe they are actually drainages, or purely practical paths which connect the canyon to outlying Chacoan sites, and still others believe that they are symbolic or ceremonial in nature.

No matter what the explanation is, hundreds of miles of these roadways have been discovered, as seen in the map below.



6) ROOF BEAMS AND MASONRY

Strong roofs supported the ceilings of Chacoan buildings. You are standing between two stories. The large holes in the wall would have supported thick roof beams, called *vigas*. These were usually made from ponderosa pine or spruce wood. There are over 200,000 of these beams used throughout the canyon's great houses. It is thought that they were largely imported from the Chuska Mountains which are over fifty miles to the west of Chaco Canyon. In the mountains, logs were cut and then carried into the canyon for use in the construction of the buildings. Smaller pieces of wood called *latillas* were secondary roof beams used to form the ceiling. They were generally made from juniper and cottonwood trees found locally and laid perpendicular to the *vigas*.

Chaco is known for its highly detailed masonry wall construction in a style known as "core and veneer". As you walk along the back of Hungo Pavi, look at a cross-section of wall. In the center is the core or center of roughly shaped rock set in mud mortar, and on either side are outside layers of fine masonry veneer. This building style allowed the walls to support great weight and allowed the Chacoans to build these large-scale great houses.

Please enjoy the rest of your visit and help us protect these special places by not touching walls and leaving artifacts in place. Leave nothing behind.