

TRAIL INFORMATION

HIKING

In Mesa Verde N.P. Is RESTRICTED

Regulations governing the use of Mesa Verde National Park permit hiking only around developed areas and on the following trails listed below. Visitors found hiking away from developed areas or designated trails, or entering cliff dwellings when not accompanied by a uniformed National Park Service employee are subject to penalties* provided for in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (*maximum fine of \$500 and 6 months imprisonment). These regulations are necessary to protect the fragile and irreplaceable ruins and artifacts for which Mesa Verde National Park was established. Hikers are advised to carry water with them on any trail during the summer months as water along the trails is undrinkable. Please stay away from cliff edges. Undercut overhangs can be dangerous.

A. Trails in the Park Headquarters Area: Hikers are required to register at the Chief Ranger's Office before attempting these trails. Trail ends at the parking area near museum.

1. **Petroglyph Point Trail:** 2.8 miles, begins from the Spruce Tree House Trail. The trail follows below the edge of the plateau to the South, then makes a short climb to the rim of the plateau and returns via the rim. Good views of Spruce and Navajo Canyon and a few petroglyphs. Trail ends at the parking area near museum.
2. **Spruce Canyon Trail:** 2.1 miles, begins from the Spruce Tree House Trail and follows the bottom of Spruce Tree Canyon; turns up Spruce Canyon and then terminates at the picnic area. This trail provides an opportunity to experience the canyon bottoms.

B. Trails in the Morefield Area: (No permit required).

1. **Prater Ridge Trail:** 7.8 miles, begins and terminates on the west side of the Morefield Campground. This trail ascends the east side of Prater Ridge and follows a loop around the top of the ridge and returns via the same ascent. Changes in elevation and vegetation types - views of surrounding country.
2. **Knife Edge Trail:** 1.5 miles, trail follows old road alignment from Northwest corner of Morefield Campground to the Montezuma Valley Overlook, provides good views of Montezuma Valley and is a good place to watch sunsets from.
3. **Point Lookout Trail:** 2.3 miles, trail switchbacks up the back side of Point Lookout and follows along the mesa. The trail provides excellent views of both Montezuma and Mancos Valleys as well as the surrounding countryside.