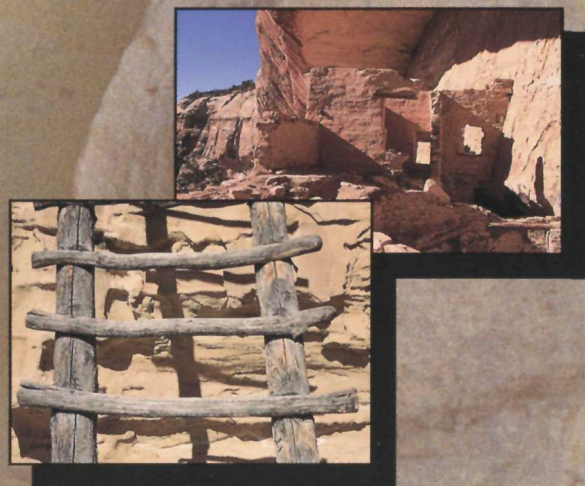


Eventually the forces of nature came to play against them. The Anasazi were devastated by severe drought and famine, which forced them to leave their great cliff palaces and stone towers. By the end of the thirteenth century the canyons and mesas were empty of human life.



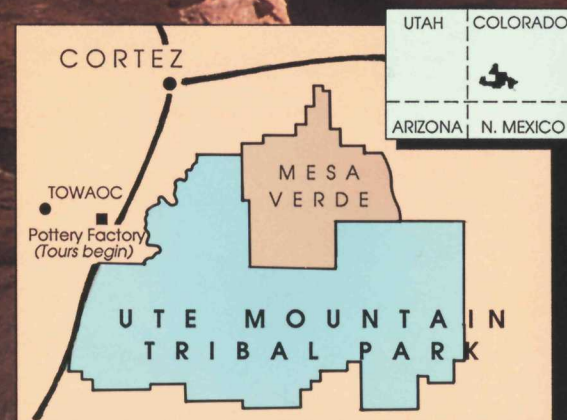
Nature continued to reclaim the land, slowly eroding and covering the great stone dwellings abandoned by the Anasazi. The Ute people began to wander into the Southwest, ending a long, drifting migration from the Bering Straits. One of these Ute bands came into the Mancos Canyon area to hunt and spent the winters, this band was called The Weminuche.



UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PARK

New Toll FREE (800) 847-5485

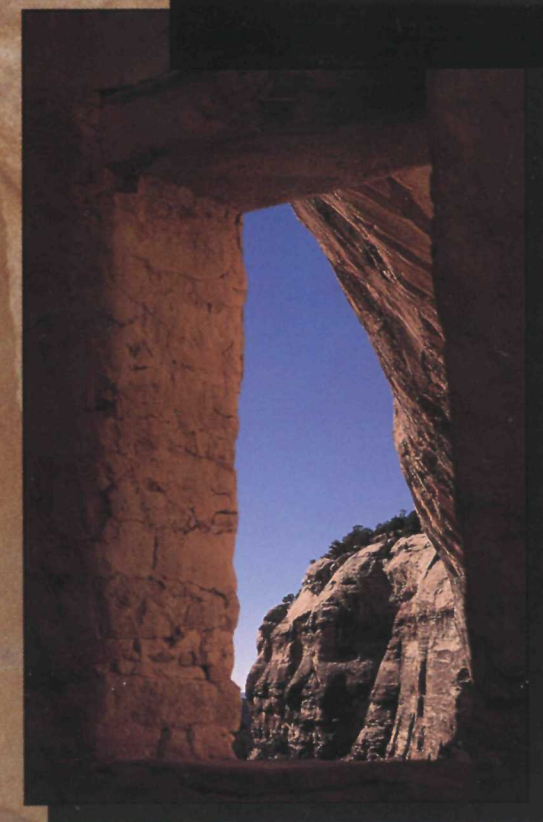
ALL TOURS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A UTE INDIAN GUIDE WHO INTERPRETS THE ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SITES IN THE PARK. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY CONTACTING: UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PARK
TOWAOC, COLORADO 81334
PHONE (303)565-3751 EXT.282 or 565-8548



AWAKEN YOUR SPIRIT

ANASAZI (THE ANCIENT ONES)

The Anasazi arrived in the Mancos Canyon area about 400 A.D. They hunted and farmed the canyons and mesa tops. They grew in numbers and built great stone dwellings using stone tools. These stone villages were nestled into the cliff faces and under great ledges. Food was plentiful and life was good for many centuries.



UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PARK



Ute Mountain Tribal Park is part of the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation and encompasses approximately 125,000 acres. The Park has been set aside by the Tribe to preserve the prehistoric culture of the Anasazi.

Within the boundaries of the Park are hundreds of surface ruins and cliff dwellings, historic Ute wall paintings and ancient petroglyphs.

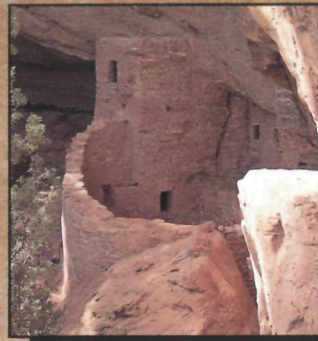
The Tribal Park is operated primarily as a primitive area in order to protect its cultural and environmental resources. Emphasis is placed upon experiencing the natural setting as well as visiting a number of the ruin sites in various stages of reconstruction.



Ute pictograph

This painting of a cowboy and horse, which is typical of Ute artwork, is located at the site of the "hogan" or home of Chief Jack House, last chief of the Ute Mountain Utes.

A physically challenging experience awaits those who seek to explore the Park, with several long and sturdy ladders to be descended, and rigorous climbs to reach ruins. Various day hikes and backpacking trips are available to thoroughly explore more primitive areas.



Tree House

This cliff dwelling, like most of the others in Lion Canyon, was built around 1140 A. D. and initially occupied for fifteen to twenty years. The Anasazi moved to another location and returned to the site in 1195 A.D. Each dwelling was rebuilt and occupied for about one full generation then abandoned forever.



Kiva

Once covered by roofs and accessible by ladder, this kiva at Eagles Nest displays a magical painting around its interior wall.



Enjoy the rare opportunity to observe ancient artifacts as they were left behind by the Anasazi. You may examine these artifacts and take photographs, but do not remove them from the area. Ruins and artifacts are protected by Federal, State and Tribal Park laws.



Claret-cup cactus

One of many species of cactus among a great variety of Southwest vegetation.

Traditions continue THE UTE MOUNTAIN UTES

A visit to the tribal park provides the visitor with the unique opportunity to not only explore and discover the mysteries of the Anasazi, but to also experience and learn more about the Ute Mountain Ute Indian tribe.



UTE MOUNTAIN POTTERY

Roughened utility ware and finely decorated blackstone found in many of the ancient Anasazi dwellings were the primary artistic expression of a simple nomadic people.

The pottery-making tradition of the Anasazi inspires the Ute Mountain Utes in a unique expression of artistry which reflects their land and cultural heritage.

This high-quality hand-painted Indian pottery savors the contours and colors of their land, the temperament of the people, fashioned by the necessity of living directly from the earth.



Collared Lizard

TOURS AND INFORMATION

FULL DAY TOURS are scheduled daily leaving the Ute Mountain Pottery Plant, 15 miles south of Cortez, Colorado, on U.S. Highway 666. Visitors are asked to bring a lunch and drinking water, and to use your own vehicle for transportation. (Make sure your gas tank is full; the main ruins are 40 miles off the paved roads.)

BACKPACKING is offered to visit remote areas of the Park. These tours may be scheduled from one to four days and leave from the campground.

OVERNIGHT CAMPING is available at a primitive campground located along the Mancos River.

DAY HIKING TOURS are given, tailored to public interest.

SPECIAL GROUPS ARE WELCOME BUT YOU MUST MAKE ADVANCE RESERVATION AND PROVIDE YOUR OWN MEALS AND EQUIPMENT.