

# Canyon de Chelly National Monument

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Canyon de Chelly National Monument  
P.O. Box 588  
Chinle, Arizona 86503  
928-674-5500  
[www.nps.gov/cach](http://www.nps.gov/cach)



## Canyon Tours

Canyon de Chelly National Monument is unlike any other national park in that the canyons remain on Navajo tribal lands and include a residential community. Canyon residents have shared their homelands to visitors long before the monument was established in 1931, but not all areas are open to the general public. Visiting this special place can include a self guided drive along the North and South Rim Drives that feature several overlooks and one hiking trail open all year round. Guided tours of the backcountry areas that are not open to the public are available by hiring an authorized guide and obtaining a backcountry permit. Arrangements for tours are made directly with an independent tour operator.

### Important Update

As the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation continue to work together to manage the park, some modifications may occur that will affect the way the park operates.

Currently, there are no fees for entering the park or for the backcountry permits; however, the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department (NPRD) is managing the Cottonwood Campground and is now collecting camping fees.

NPRD may collect fees for backcountry permits in the future and will provide an official news release as changes occur.

For campground rates or questions regarding these changes, please contact the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department at 928-674-2106, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Tour Companies

Tours into the canyon can be arranged directly with the tour companies listed. Companies provide authorized guides that lead vehicle or hiking tours and even overnight camping tours.

Tours using YOUR own vehicle can also be arranged through the companies. Your vehicle must be four-wheel drive (4WD) with high clearance. Using all-wheel drive vehicles are not permitted.

Most companies offer tours that are a minimum of 3 hours and operate on a cash basis. Extra fees may apply for

leading more than 3 vehicles, leading large hiking groups and shuttling hikers. Please discuss details and fees with your guide. From April through October, advance reservations are suggested.

Backcountry permits are currently free and available only during regular business hours from the Visitor Center. The group leader and authorized guide are required to sign the permit in person acknowledging the park regulations. The entire group is responsible for abiding by the regulations set forth by the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation.

### Backcountry Camping

Camping overnight in the backcountry requires hiring an authorized guide and obtaining a backcountry permit, in addition to submitting supporting documents. The supporting documents are required as a safety precaution in the event of an emergency.

The following supporting documents must be submitted to obtain an overnight backcountry permit from the Visitor Center: *all participant's names, emergency phone numbers, complete trip itinerary, and landowner(s) written permission.*

Groups requesting to camp overnight in the backcountry should plan well in advance to make arrangements directly with a company, to submit the required documents and to obtain the landowner(s) permission.

All overnight campers cannot be left unattended and must be accompanied by the authorized guide(s) at all times while in the backcountry. Large groups of 16 or more people may need to request a Special Use Permit (see SPECIAL REQUESTS).

The information provided is subject to change.

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## Some Reminders

Here are some important points to remember about entering the canyon: Pets are not permitted on any canyon tours even if using your own vehicle; groups must stay together, have a backcountry permit and be accompanied by an authorized guide; entry is not permitted into any archeological site; and ask permission for photos of Navajo people, their homes or their property.

All tour arrangements including fees are to be made directly with the companies and your guide. Park staff can assist with providing company contact information, but cannot make recommendations.

Canyon tours are required to have: One guide per 5 vehicles; one guide per 6 horseback riders; one guide per 15 hikers. Large groups of 16 or more people may need to request a Special Use Permit (see SPECIAL REQUESTS).

Guides are not employees of the park, but are authorized by the National Park Service. The companies listed are also registered by the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department to provide commercial tour services.

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## Special Requests

Most special events or activities held in the park require a Special Use Permit, issued only after the park and the Navajo Nation determines that the activity will not cause derogation of the park's resources or values, visitor experiences, or the purpose for which the park was established.

To determine if a Special Use Permit is required, submit a written request to the park at least 3 weeks in advance to provide adequate time to work out details. The park and the Navajo Nation will review the request.

Written requests should include as much detail about the event including date, time, location, type of event, number of people, number of vehicle or horses, and equipment or supplies to be used.

Any commercial filming and photography conducted in the park or anywhere on the Navajo Nation requires a permit from the Navajo Nation Film Office (NNFO). The NNFO also requires a permit for interviewing, filming or photographing Navajo people for commercial purposes. Upon approval of projects, an authorized guide must accompany filming or photography crews into the canyon. Fees will apply for hiring a Navajo guide.

Events such as commercial filming, commercial photography, weddings and large gatherings (large tour groups) may be subject to fees for the permit application, permit review and activity monitoring. In some cases, events may also require a certificate of liability insurance.

Any questions, contact the park at 928-674-5500 ext. 228.

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## Tour Companies

This list is for information only and is subject to change.

The National Park Service does not endorse any establishment listed.

### VEHICLE

Antelope House Tours  
Owner – Adam Teller  
(928)674-5231 or (928)349-7709  
[www.canyondechelly.net](http://www.canyondechelly.net)

Canyon Ancient Jeep Tours  
Owner – Oscar Bia  
(928)349-5912  
[www.canyondechellyspiderrockjeeptour.com](http://www.canyondechellyspiderrockjeeptour.com)

Canyon de Chelly Jeep Tours  
Owner – Leander Staley  
(928)674-3772 or (928)797-0836  
[www.acanyondechellytour.com](http://www.acanyondechellytour.com)

Canyon de Chelly Tours  
Owner – Leon Thomas  
(928)349-1600 or (928)349-1391  
[www.canyondechellytours.com](http://www.canyondechellytours.com)

Canyon Jeep Tours  
Owner – Deswood Yazzie  
(928)313-1020 or (928)429-4674  
[www.arizonacanyonjeeptours.com](http://www.arizonacanyonjeeptours.com)

Changing Woman Tours  
Owner – Victoria Begay  
(928)674-5260 or (928)797-8415  
[www.changingwomancafe.com](http://www.changingwomancafe.com)

Tseyi Jeep Tours  
Owner – Bobby VanWinkle  
(928)674-3262 or (928)429-7026  
[www.tseyijeeptour.com](http://www.tseyijeeptour.com)

Twin Trails Scenic Tours  
Owner – Timothy Halwood  
(928)349-5560 or (928)349-3733

### HORSEBACK

Justin's Horse Rentals  
Owner – Justin Tso, Sr.  
(928)675-5575 or (928)797-7275

Tso's Horse Tours  
Owner – Evelyn Tso  
(928)674-5678 or (928)349-1358  
[www.tsoshorserental.com](http://www.tsoshorserental.com)

### HIKING/STEP-ON

Ancient Canyon Tours  
Owner – Eleanore Yoe  
(928)380-1563 or (928)349-6185  
[www.ancientcanyonontours.com](http://www.ancientcanyonontours.com)

Antelope House Tours  
Owner – Adam Teller  
(928)674-5231 or (928)349-7709  
[www.canyondechelly.net](http://www.canyondechelly.net)

Canyon Ancient Jeep Tours  
Owner – Oscar Bia  
(928)349-5912  
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**TOUR GUIDES MAY NOT SOLICIT FOR SERVICES IN THE PARK.  
PLEASE REPORT SOLICITING TO A PARK RANGER IMMEDIATELY.**