



School Group Activity Guide

As you plan your trip to the park, allow at least 45 minutes to one hour driving time from the entrance station to the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. Below is a sample activity guide and time table that you can use to help plan your trip. All of your visit can be done on your own with some coordination and information from National Park Service staff. If you desire the assistance of a “step-on” guide, you can arrange for one through [ARAMARK Mesa Verde](#), the park concessionaire. For planning information and logistics, please see [Planning Your Visit](#).



Main Park Road

Specific Site	Time Needed For Activity	Specific Activity	Other Information
Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center	30 - 45 minutes	purchase tickets here if needed	exhibits to orient visitors to the park
Park Point	30 minutes	look into four different states	not plowed in winter
Montezuma Valley Overlook	20 minutes	identify geologic formations	



Museum Loop Road

Specific Site	Time Needed For Activity	Specific Activity	Other Information
Chapin Mesa Museum	30 minutes	see video - <i>Legacy of Stone and Spirit</i>	available through the Mesa Verde Museum Association . (Teachers get 10% discount. Must place order by phone.) 970-529-4445
Chapin Mesa Museum	45 minutes	dioramas, artifacts, and exhibits	
Chapin Mesa Museum	variable	kids 4 to 12 yrs complete Junior Ranger booklet and earn badge	booklet available at museum desk
Spruce Tree House	40 to 60 minutes	self-guided cliff dwelling	guided tours only, early November to early March
Petroglyph Point Trail	1 to 3 hours	self-guided trail (register at trail head or museum desk)	2.4 miles -- guide book available
Picnic Area	variable	30+ picnic tables	not plowed in winter

Mesa Top Loop Road

Specific Site	Time Needed For Activity	Specific Activity	Other Information
Stops 1, 4, and 6	45 to 60 minutes	a 600-year history of surface sites	
Stop 7	20 minutes	overlook of cliff dwellings	

Cliff Palace Loop

Specific Site	Time Needed For Activity	Specific Activity	Other Information
Cliff Palace Overlook	15 to 20 minutes for overlook	view the largest cliff dwelling in North America	tour and ticket required to enter Cliff Palace.
Cliff Palace Tour	60 minutes	ranger-guided tour	purchase tickets at the Visitor and Research Center <i>No tours in Spring 2015 due to preservation work. Please see schedule.</i>
Balcony House Tour	60 minutes	ranger-guided tour	purchase tickets at the Visitor and Research Center
Balcony House Tour for school groups	90 minutes	curriculum-based, ranger-guided tour for 3rd to 12th grade school groups	school group tours offered in spring and fall. Call 970-529-5079 for information
Soda Canyon Overlook Trail	45 to 60 minutes	1.25 mile round-trip trail to view Balcony House	only view of Balcony House without a tour

Main Park Road (on the way out)

Specific Site	Time Needed For Activity	Specific Activity	Other Information
Cedar Tree Tower and Farming Terrace Trail	tower: 15 minutes trail: 30 minutes +	tower/kiva is a surface site	good example of farming techniques
Far View Sites Complex	20 to 60 minutes	six surface sites	guide book available on site and in museum limited bus maneuvering and parking

