

Visitor Activities

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mesa Verde National Park



November 6, 2011 to March 10, 2012



Spruce Tree House

Winter in Mesa Verde National Park is a magical time. There are multiple activities available to help you experience this mysterious place. Take a step back in time and visit the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum to see an Ancestral Puebloan turkey feather winter boot; join a free ranger-guided tour of Spruce Tree House and experience the warmth of a kiva; drive the Mesa Top Loop Road and watch for deer making their way through the snow; or enjoy a variety of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking opportunities while the snow falls quietly around you.

Winter Logistics

All activities depend on road and weather conditions. Please check with a ranger before beginning any of the listed activities. We recommend good hiking boots or snow boots, warm clothes, a hat and a pair of gloves.

Guide booklets are available at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and at sites along the Mesa Top Loop Road. Limited food service is available at the Spruce Tree Terrace near the museum from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. There is no overnight lodging in the park, but accommodations are available in nearby communities. For additional park information, tune your radio to AM 1610.

Tour a Cliff Dwelling

[Spruce Tree House](#) is Mesa Verde's best-preserved cliff dwelling and the only cliff dwelling open during the winter. Ranger-guided tours are offered daily at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:30 pm.

Located near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum the 1/2-mile (1 km) winding, paved trail includes a steep 100-ft (30 m) descent and ascent. The trail is moderately strenuous and may be icy.

Dress warmly and meet the ranger at the museum five minutes before the tour.



Spruce Tree House Trail

Explore On Your Own

[Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and Store](#)

will help you gain insights into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people. The museum is located 20 miles (33 km) south of the park entrance. A 25-minute park video is shown every half hour. See Visitor Services below for museum and store hours.

[Petroglyph Point Trail](#) is located near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. The 2.4-mile (3.9 km) trail leads to a panel of petroglyphs. In clear weather, the trail can be hiked as a loop. However, due to ice and snow, you may be directed to hike via the mesa top section of the trail, or the entire trail may be closed. Ask a ranger at the museum for trail conditions and to register for the hike.

[Cliff Palace Loop Road](#) is open to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking. No vehicles are permitted after December 1. To explore this 6-mile (10 km) road, park just outside the locked gate, but do not block the gate. Highlights include Cliff Palace and Soda Canyon overlooks (view of Balcony House). Open daily 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

[Mesa Top Loop Road](#) is a 6-mile (10 km) drive with short paved trails to view 12 easily-accessible archeological sites, including surface sites and cliff dwelling overlooks. Highlights include views of Square Tower House and Cliff Palace. Open daily 8:00 am to sunset.

[Far View Sites Complex](#) includes Far View House plus four other villages and a dry reservoir. Four miles (6.4 km) north of the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, this 3/4-mile (1.2 km) trail is not plowed. Park just outside the gate, but do not block the gate. Open 8:00 am to sunset.



Far View House

Visitor Services

Mesa Verde National Park
1-970-529-4465
www.nps.gov/meve

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum
Nov. 6 to Dec. 31, 2011 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Jan. 1 to March 10, 2012 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
1-970-529-4631

Mesa Verde Museum Association Store
Nov. 6 to Dec. 31, 2011 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Jan. 1 to March 10, 2012 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
1-970-529-4646
www.mesaverde.org

ARAMARK, Park Partner
1-800-449-2288
www.visitmesaverde.com

Spruce Tree Terrace Gift Shop
11:00 am to 3:30 pm

Spruce Tree Terrace Restaurant
11:00 am to 3:30 pm

U.S. Postal Service
Monday to Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Know the Rules of the Park

It is your responsibility to know and follow park rules and regulations. By observing these, you can have a safe and enjoyable visit, plus help Mesa Verde preserve its archeological sites and natural environment.

- Please do not sit, stand, climb, or lean on fragile archeological structures.
- Pets must be restrained at all times; animals are not allowed in public buildings or on trails.
- It is prohibited to leave pets unattended.
- Help us keep wildlife wild. It is illegal to feed, capture, chase or tease wildlife.
- Camping and overnight parking is not permitted.



Mule deer

For Your Safety

In case of emergency, call 911

Road Advisory

- Watch for snowplows
- Mind all traffic signs
- Watch for falling rocks
- Gasoline is not available in the park

High Elevation

- Mesa Verde ranges from 7,000 feet elevation to 8,572 feet at Park Point; the air is thin and very dry.
- Consider your physical health BEFORE participating in any activity.
- Carry and DRINK plenty of water.