



Petrified Forest

National Park Fast Facts

Theodore Roosevelt created Petrified Forest National Monument on Dec. 8, 1906. Petrified Forest was designated as a national park on Dec. 9, 1962.

There are 221,621 acres (about 346 square miles) within park boundaries. Over 50,000 of those acres are designated Wilderness Area.

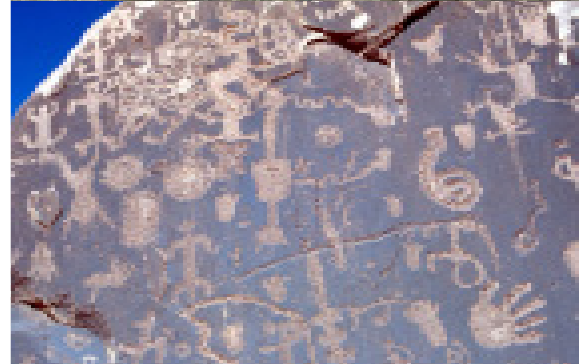
Intermountain Basin semi-arid steppe and grassland (shortgrass prairie) constitute the main environment of Petrified Forest National Park.

Hundreds of species of plants and animals can be found in Petrified Forest National Park. Residents include pronghorn, Gunnison's prairie dog, coyote, bobcat, bullsnake, Arizona tiger salamander, meadowlark, and golden eagle.

There over 13,000 years of human history in Petrified Forest National Park, including nearly a thousand archeological and historic sites in the park.

Puerco Pueblo was built by the ancestral Pueblo people, occupied between A.D. 1250 and 1380. Agate House was occupied about A.D. 1100-1150 and was built out of pieces of petrified wood.

Herbert David Lore built Painted Desert Inn by 1924. Using designs by NPS architect Lyle Bennett, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) reconstructed the Painted Desert Inn In the late 1930s. Recently, the building had an extensive rehabilitation, returning the inn to its 1949 appearance.





Petrified Forest National Park is the only national park site that contains a segment of the historic Route 66 alignment. Part of the National Old Trails Highway also passed through the park.

The Chinle Formation of Late Triassic Period (over 200 million years ago) is the main geological formation of the park.

The Bidahochi Formation outcrops at the north end of the park, laid down during the Miocene and Pliocene of the Quaternary Period, about 3-8 million years ago.

The brilliant colors in the petrified logs come mainly from three minerals: pure quartz is white, manganese oxides form blue, purple, black, and brown, and iron oxides provide hues from yellow through red to brown.

Annual visitation to Petrified Forest National Park is about 600,000 people.

Each year, tons of petrified wood are removed illegally from Petrified Forest National Park.

More information is available at our park website, <http://www.nps.gov/pefo>, including links to park brochures and images.

