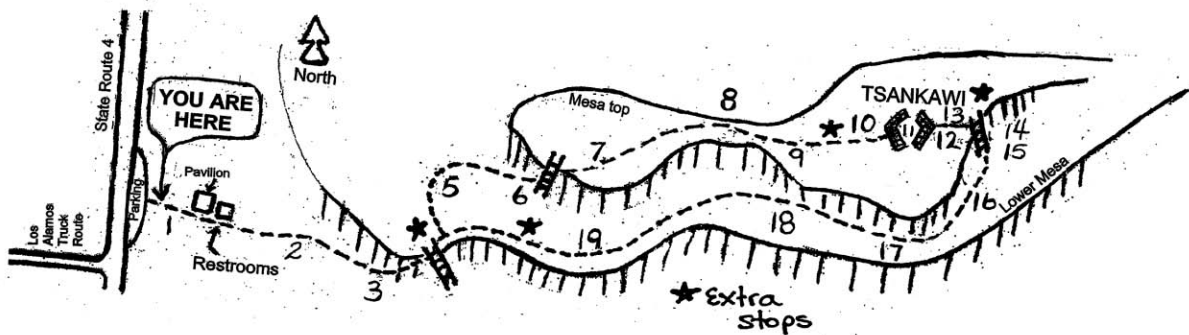


# Take a Journey Back in Time—Tsankawi Trail



## FIRST STOP: PAVILION

Hello! Welcome to Tsankawi (SAN-kuh-WEE)! My name is Ranger Keisha. I'm a National Park Service ranger in Bandelier National Monument, and Tsankawi is part of Bandelier. Today you'll get to learn about the Ancestral Pueblo people who lived here long ago. You will use your eyes and ears to get acquainted with this place, and this trail guide to record your ideas.

Since I'm a park ranger, one of my jobs is to be sure that you know how to take good care of yourself and this beautiful place while you're visiting here. Before you go up the trail, be sure you have everything you need. Match the item on the list with the reason you need it.

- Imagination and Observant Eyes
- Water
- Trail guide journal and pencil
- Sunscreen & a hat
- Walking shoes
- Listening Ears

- It's hot and sunny out here!
- To see this place as the ancient people did
- To walk on ancient trails
- It's dry out here!
- To hear new ideas, information, and birds
- To write down things to remember

And be sure to stay with your group! Write the names of at least three people in your group, including your group leader. Make sure that you stay with these people. They might see something that you miss. If you stay with them, you will get to see it too!

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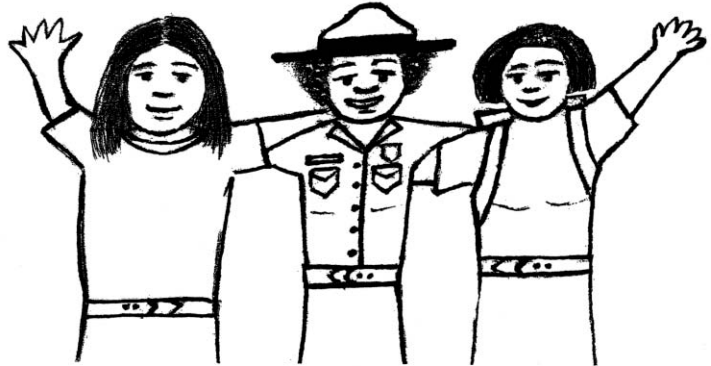
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Two of my good friends will help you get acquainted with Tsankawi.

Juan (hwan) is an elder from San Ildefonso Pueblo. His ancestors lived here. Dr. Diane is a scientist who has been studying Bandelier for a long time.

Time to get going! Just up the trail you'll meet Juan. He'll begin telling you about the people who lived here so long ago.



Juan , Keisha, Dr. Diane

**POST 2**

Hello! I am Juan. BEE-po-ah-VAY! That means "welcome" in Tewa (TAY-wah). It is the language we speak at San Ildefonso Pueblo, and that my ancestors spoke here at Tsankawi. San Ildefonso is not far away. If you drive from here to Santa Fe, you go by San Ildefonso just after you cross the Rio Grande.

Today I will be helping you learn about my ancestors. We'll use our imagination to go back in time. We'll walk on trails that are hundreds of years old. We'll see where my relatives lived hundreds of years ago. Because it was their home, this place is still very special to my Pueblo people now. So we ask you to treat Tsankawi with great respect. Act like you would when you visit the home of someone very special to you. Remember to:

- **Stay on the trail**
- **Look at petroglyphs but don't touch them**
- **Talk quietly**
- **Take only pictures**
- **Look at pot sherds but don't move or pile them**

**POST 3**

Ranger Keisha says:

Have you noticed many plants living here? Plants were important to the Ancestral Pueblo people. They used some plants for medicine. Some plants were good for food, spices, dyes, tools, building, or firewood. Some people still use wild plants today. Plants are important to the wild animals that live here too. People and animals both need to know which ones are useful and which ones that are harmful or even poisonous.

Right here you may only see two kinds of plants. They are both trees, piñon (pin-YOHN) pines and junipers. Use the pictures to help you identify them. Different plants like to live in different kinds of places, so as you go along the trail you will see other kinds. Come back to this page and check the names of plants that you find. In spring, summer, or fall you may see flowers that you wouldn't see in winter.



Pinon

Juniper branch





- Yucca (bunch of long, sharp leaves)~roots for making soap and shampoo; stringy leaves for making rope, sandals, paintbrushes, and baskets
- Ponderosa pines (have long needles)~tall and straight, good for roof beams, ladders, firewood
- Piñon pine (short needles)~nutritious, tasty pine nuts; wood good for firewood and tools. Many have died because of bark beetles and very dry weather
- Juniper (bushy evergreen tree, no needles)~absorbent bark used as diapers; berries for emergency food; wood for firewood, tools, and cross-beams in roofs
- Prickly-pear cactus (flat pads)~round red fruit is sweet and tasty (once thorns are removed!)
- Walking-stick cholla (CHOY-yah) (tall, slender cactus)~small birds and packrats build nests protected by its needles
- Four-wing saltbush (woody shrub with slender, bluish leaves)~ good browse (shrubby food) for deer

If you see a plant that you can't identify, go ahead and draw it here:

### **NEXT STOP: OPEN AREA AT TOP OF SLOPE PAST POST 3**

Juan says:

Are you enjoying the weather today? There were days just like this when the people lived here a long time ago. Their very favorite days would be when it rained. Rain clouds were very important to my ancestors, They needed rain for their crops to grow, because they got most of their food from farming. Can you imagine what it would be like to have a farm here? They grew corn, beans, and squash that didn't need a lot of water and could live in the heat. But they had to have rain every summer.

Write two words to describe the weather today.

Do you see any clouds that might bring rain?



Corn Growing



## AT THE TOP OF THE LADDER

Hello! I'm Ranger Keisha's other friend, Dr. Diane. I'm really glad she invited me to join you today. I love spending time at Tsankawi. As a scientist, I've studied many things about Bandelier, including the plants, animals, and even the rocks! In fact, this is a good place for us to look at the rocks. If you point toward the road and then move your arm a little ways to the right, you are pointing at some tall mountains on the horizon. They are the Jemez (HAY-mez) Mountains. They are actually parts of one huge volcano. Over a million years ago it erupted twice, and covered everything for miles around with really thick layers of lava called tuff. All the pinkish-orangish rock you see around you is tuff from that volcano. It provided a good place for the Ancestral Pueblo people to live. For a rock, it is pretty soft and crumbly. You will see that the people shaped tuff stones into rough bricks to build their houses. They even carved rooms into the cliffs.

### POST 5

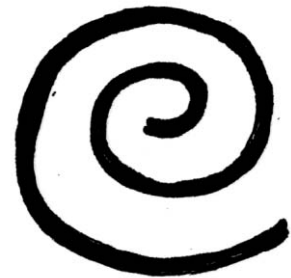
Dr. Diane says:

This trail was not always here. As you travel across it, think about how it got here. Surely footsteps have worn it down over the years. They did, but amazingly, many of these trails were carved before they were used. Look closely as you walk and see if you see chisel marks in the edges of the trail. Do you think that people followed the trails once they were carved, or that people carved trails where they wanted to walk, or that they had some other reason to carve trails? Today you are walking right where Ancestral Pueblo people walked so long ago. Staying on the trails helps us imagine what it was like to live here. It is also a good way to protect and show respect for this place.

### POST 6

Juan says:

The pictures that you see on the rocks to your left are called petroglyphs (PET-row-glyphs). My ancestors drew them here. Look closely to see three pictures that look like people. The large one looks like it has cornhusks or maybe feathers on its head. You might also find some stars (they look like a + sign) and other pictures. How long do you think they took to make? Drawings like these must have been really important if someone worked that long and hard to make them. What do you think they meant to the people who lived here? Only the person who made them would really know their meaning.



Remember, if you want to draw, please draw on paper or at your own house. It's not respectful to draw in places where other people, such as my ancestors, made drawings that were special to them. And remember not to touch the petroglyphs. The oil from your fingers can hurt them. If people touch them, eventually they won't be here anymore.

Here on this paper, draw a design that means something special to you:

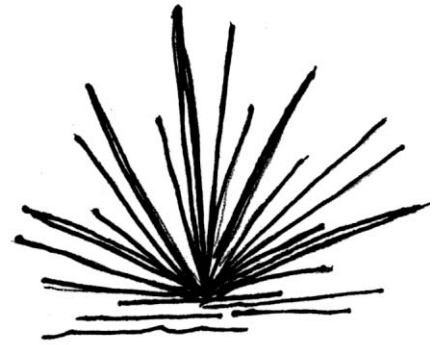


To continue on the trail, you can go up the trail through the rocks or use the ladder around the corner to your right.

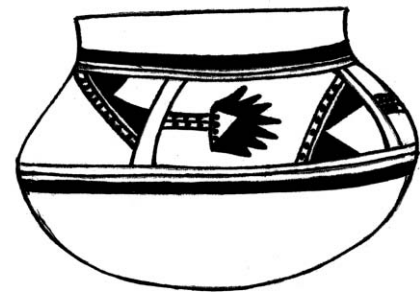
### POST 7

Juan says:

Pueblo women have been making pottery for a long, long time. The Ancestral Pueblo people used it for storing, cooking, and serving food. They also used it to carry water. They traded it with people in other villages. Pottery is strong, but it breaks if you drop it. As you walk along, keep your eye open for pieces of broken pottery. When you see one, imagine who might have made it. What do you think it was used for? How did it break? Every piece of pottery here holds its own story about the people who made it and how they lived. Each piece of pottery connects the people of San Ildefonso with our ancestors who lived here. If you move it or take it, these stories and connections are lost. So it is very important that you leave it exactly where you found it. Then other people can see it too! Count how many pieces and different colors of pottery you see.



Yucca



Tsankawi Pottery Jar

### POST 8

Juan says:

Tsankawi is an old name. Some elders at San Ildefonso say that it means, "village between two canyons at the clump of sharp, round cactus." Other elders understand the name other ways. What would you name your home?

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Draw a sharp, round cactus if you see one.

Prickly pear cacti may have bright flowers in spring or dark red fruit in summer and fall. Remember to leave the flowers and fruit for the wildlife.



Prickly Pear Cactus





**POST 9**

Juan says:

Do you like to stand in high places and see all around you? The people at Tsankawi chose a high point to build their homes. From here they could see long distances in all directions. One thing they could see was other villages. There were lots of other villages around this area in those days. From here they could see at least four of them.

From up here you can also see many of the mountains that are still important to Pueblo people even now. Mountains are landmarks and show directions. You already know the Jemez Mountains. They are to the west. The tall mountains all along the horizon to the east are the Sangre de Cristo (SAHN-gray day KRIS-toe) Mountains. To the south you see bumpy low mountains not too far away, which are the Cerros del Rio (SER-ros del REE-oh). The low slanted mountain on the far horizon is Sandia Peak, near Albuquerque. To the north is San Antonio Mountain. You can't see it from where you're standing, but the people here could see it when they stood on the roofs of their houses.

Choosing a place to live is a very important decision. San Ildefonso is down in the valley, but our ancestors chose to live on top of this mesa. We know they had good reasons. Look on the list and decide which things would help and which things would be problems. Can you think of more things to add? Would you choose to make your home here or in the valley?

- See a long way around you
- Be up where lightning strikes
- Be easy for other people to find (remember, some are friends and some might be enemies)
- Be hard to sneak up on
- Climb up each day after working in your garden
- Rain water would run off; you wouldn't have to worry about floods

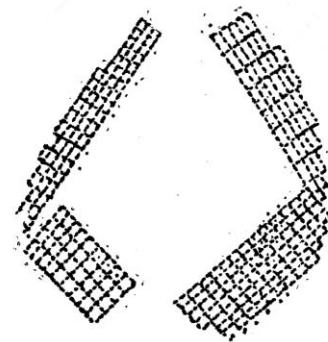


Cholla

**NEXT STOP: WHERE PLANTS CHANGE FROM TREES TO SHRUBS, BETWEEN 9 AND 10**

Juan says:

When Spanish explorers came to New Mexico, they saw my ancestors living and working together in strong stone villages. Pueblo is the Spanish word for village, so the explorers called them Pueblo people. My ancestors moved away from Tsankawi almost 500 years ago. With nobody living here, the roofs and walls fell down. Dirt blew in, and plants grew in the dirt. So when you see Tsankawi, you will see dirt, plants, and piles of rock. You are right on the edge of the village. Here you see that trees grow in the plaza outside of it and shrubs grow on the village itself. As you walk in, keep your eyes peeled. See who is first to notice building stones.



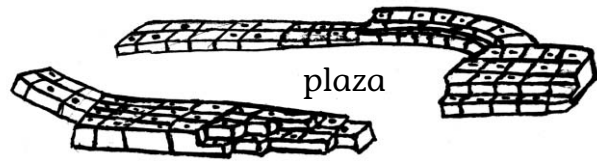
Map of Tsankawi



### POST 10

Juan says:

You are now standing on the walls of the village. Five hundred years ago, there would have been strong, cozy homes all around us. This would have been a busy place, with people everywhere. Men would be going out to hunt or farm. Women would be cooking and caring for the children. They had dogs and turkeys, but no other tame animals. They had no horses, so they had to go everywhere on foot. They traveled long distances to go trading.



Tsankawi with roofs and walls

### POST 11

Juan says:

Now you are in the plaza. Can you find the plaza on the map, and see it all around you? On the map, notice the outline of the walls. What shape is this village? If you lived here, where in the village would you like to live?

### POST 12

Juan says:

On the map you can see that this village has a lot of rooms. There would actually be even more, because many houses were two or maybe even three stories tall. Probably there were more rooms than the number of people living here. Why do you think that there were so many extra rooms? Think about your own home. How many rooms does it have? How many people live there? Do you have rooms that are just for storage? The Pueblo people saved all of the crops that they didn't eat right away and stored them for wintertime. They also stored nuts and other foods they had gathered. They needed lots of rooms to store enough food to feed the whole pueblo all winter! The storerooms had to be well-built to keep out mice, bugs, and rain.

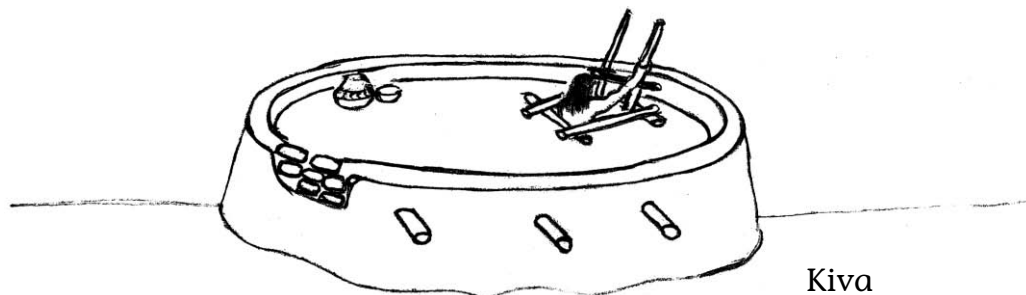


Salt Bush Branch

### POST 13

Juan says:

Pueblo villages now and long ago contain very special rooms called kivas (KEE-vahs). Kivas are round rooms that are usually underground. These are special places, used for learning and ceremonies and other specific purposes. They aren't homes. As you walk through the village you may notice round low spots in the ground that might be kivas. They are still very special places to my people. Treat them with respect; never walk on them.



Kiva



**POST 14 (THE POST IS BETWEEN TWO LARGE JUNIPERS)**

Dr. Diane says:

In order to live in such a dry place, the people had to conserve water. We think they placed these stones to make a dam. When it rained, water ran down from the village. These rocks caught the water and made a pond. The people could use the water for cooking and drinking, and to put on their crops. When you look around, do you see any place where they could find water when this was dry? It is a long walk to the nearest stream or to the Rio Grande.

**NEXT STOP: WHILE YOU ARE WAITING FOR OTHERS TO USE THE LADDER:**

Ranger Keisha says:

While you are waiting by the ladder, let's Compare and Contrast. Remember all the things you have learned today about the Ancestral Pueblo people. Look at the boxes below. Fill in the blank spaces. Where it tells what we use today, fill in what the people used long ago. Where it tells what they used, fill in what we use today.

**POST 15**

Juan says:

Some of the people at Tsankawi lived in the village on top of the mesa, but others liked to be here along the cliff. You can see small rooms carved into the rock. In English the cave rooms are called cavates (CAVE-eights). My ancestors built houses here, and each cavate was the back room of a house. The people always made cavate homes on the side of the cliff that faces the sun in the afternoon. In the winter the snow melted off more quickly. Even on a cold day, the sun would warm these rooms.

**POST 16**

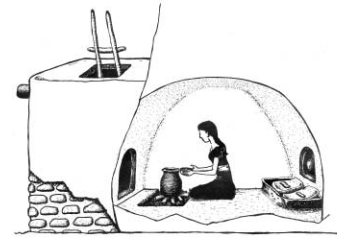
Ancestral Pueblo times	Present times
	Pictures on paper or canvas
	Get water from the faucet
Building your own house	
	Buy soap and shampoo
Go somewhere by walking	
	Cloth for diapers
Grow food in gardens	
	Use cement to build dams
Gather piñon nuts for snacks	
Can you think of something that is the same today as it was long ago?	





Dr. Diane says:

Do you see the stairways carved into the cliff? The pueblo people carved them, just like the trails. Sometimes they used ladders to get up the cliff. Sometimes they used stairs. Sometimes instead of carving whole stairs, they chipped a series of hand-sized holes in the cliffs. Then they used their fingers and toes to get up the cliff by climbing up the line of holes. Those are called "hand-and-toe holds."



Cavate

**POST 17**

Ranger Keisha says:

Today Tsankawi is a quiet place. Sometimes when you walk this trail you don't see anyone else at all. Imagine all the sounds there would have been when more than a hundred people lived here. There would be voices echoing from the cavates, dogs barking, babies crying, and maybe even people singing. Now, if you listen, you can hear birds, wind blowing through the leaves, maybe even your own breathing. Aren't you glad you've been talking quietly? Would you rather be here now in the quiet or long ago with so many things going on?



Using hand-and-toe holds

**POST 18**

Dr. Diane says:

Have you begun to notice more petroglyphs along the cliffs? There are a lot more petroglyphs hidden in the walls as you continue down the trail. See how many of them you can find. Make sure that you point them out to your friends so they can see them too. Remember not to touch them.

If you were in a city and saw drawings on walls, they might be graffiti. Petroglyphs are different. Graffiti is a name for drawings that are made without the permission of the people who own the property. They are rude and damaging. Petroglyphs are designs that are very special to Pueblo people. When they were made, it was with the approval of everyone in the village. Only the person who made each one knows what it really means. But they are important to present-day Pueblo people. If you carved a design on these walls, would it be a petroglyph or graffiti? Would it be something you would be proud of, or something you would hope nobody would find out about?

If you wanted to write or draw something you could be proud of, which of these things could you do instead of carving into cliffs near an ancient village?

- Write a book?
- Make a watercolor painting?
- Write a story?
- Write a poem
- Illustrate a book?
- Scratch words into the outside of someone else's house



**NEXT STOP: AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL PAST POST 19**

Dr. Diane says:

Look at the valley below you. Do you see many, many dead trees? They died from bark beetles during several very dry years around 2003. The tall trees are ponderosa pines and the short ones are piñon pines. When ponderosa and piñon pines have enough water, they can fight off bark beetles. But when there is a drought, a tree may not have enough sap to flood out all the beetles trying to lay their eggs under its bark. Then the tree might die. Having trees die from dry weather is sad. But think what it would be like to be an Ancestral Pueblo farmer here. Imagine this valley full of crops instead of trees. Droughts happen often in New Mexico. Imagine how worried you would be if there wasn't enough rain for your crops to grow. The food in your storeroom would be very important to keep your family and your community alive.

**Be careful where you step because the trail gets narrow. Make sure you stay with your adults.**

**NEXT STOP: ON THE BIG FLAT STONE AREA ABOVE THE LAST LADDER**

Juan says:

From here you can see two worlds. You can see buildings in Los Alamos. But you are still surrounded by Tsankawi, where my people lived long ago. I really like walking this trail, honoring my ancestors and enjoying the beautiful place they chose to live. Then I like going back to my own home in San Ildefonso and spending time with my Pueblo family and friends. I hope you enjoyed this place too, and learning about my people. I hope you will take home good memories, and come again some day. In Tewa we say SAENG-gih-DEE-hoh, see you again !



Ponderosa

**LAST STOP: THE PAVILION**

Ranger Keisha says:

Good job! You went to visit people who lived here 500 years ago, and now you are back in your own time. I'm sure you discovered lots of things about the Ancestral Pueblo people. And I bet you are proud that you did all your exploring without disturbing anything along the way.

Let's write a few more notes so that we can remember what we saw and learned.

Write two new things that you learned at Tsankawi

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



What was your favorite part of Tsankawi?

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Why is it important to leave everything as we found it?

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What present-day Pueblo's ancestors lived here?

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What is one thing you would tell someone who has never been to Tsankawi?

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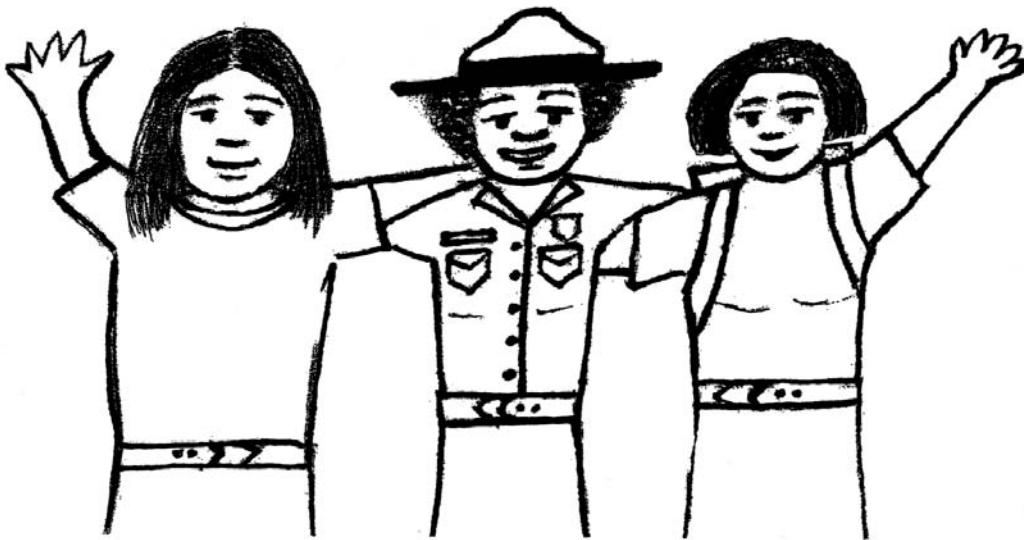
FIELD TRIPS

What is a question you would like to ask if you could talk to someone who lived at Tsankawi?

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Come again!