Mesa Verde

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mesa Verde National Park

Interpretive Program Schedule, Winter/Spring

January 1 to May 23, 2013
November 3 to December 31, 2013

Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center and Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

The Visitor Center and Museum will both help you gain insights into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people. The visitor center is located immediately inside the park, just off Highway 160. The museum is located 22 miles (35 km) from the Visitor Center. A 25-minute video is shown every half hour at the museum in the heart of the park.

Visitor Center Hours

January 2 to April 6
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

April 7 to May 23
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

November 3 to December 31*
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Museum Hours

January 2 to March 8
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

March 9 to April 6
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

April 7 to May 23
8:00 am to 6:30 pm

November 3 to December 29*
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

December 30 to December 31
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

*The Museum and Visitor Center are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Spruce Tree House

Spruce Tree House is Mesa Verde's best-preserved cliff dwelling. It is the only cliff dwelling open year-round, with free ranger-guided tours offered daily during the winter months.

Located near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, the 0.5 mile (0.8 km) winding, paved trail includes a steep 100-foot (30-m) descent and ascent. The trail is moderately strenuous and may be icy during the winter.

Ranger-guided Tours

January 2 to February 15	10:30 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm
Februrary 16 to March 8	10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:30 pm
November 3 to December 31*	10:30 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm

Self-guided

March 9 to April 6	9:00 pm to 5:00 pm
April 7 to May 23	9:00 am to 6:30 pm

*Spruce Tree House is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Cliff Palace

1 hour (ticket required)

Join a one-hour ranger-guided tour into this large and complex archeological site, which was built and occupied about AD 1190 to 1280. You'll descend uneven stone steps and climb five ladders for a 100-foot (30-m) vertical climb. Total walking distance is 0.25 mile (0.4 km) loop. Tour begins at Cliff Palace Overlook.

January 1 to April 6	Closed
April 7 to May 4	9:00 am to 5:00 pm; every hour
May 5 to May 23	9:00 am to 5:00 pm; every half-hour*

*Please note: Essential preservation work on Cliff Palace may be required this summer; tour schedule disruptions are possible.

Visitors on ranger-guided tour of Cliff Palace

Balcony House

1 hour (ticket required)

The one-hour ranger-guided tour into Balcony House offers an intimate--and challenging--glimpse into an Ancestral Puebloan community of the late 13th century. You'll climb a 32-foot (9.8-m) ladder, crawl through a 12-foot (3.7-m) long tunnel, and climb up a 60-foot (20-m) open cliff face with stone steps and two 10-foot (3-m) ladders to exit the site. Tour begins at the north end of the Balcony House parking lot.

January 1 to April 20	Closed
April 21 to May 4	9:30 am, 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:30 pm
May 5 to May 23	9:00 am to 5:00 pm; every hour

TOUR TICKETS

Tour tickets for Cliff Palace and Balcony House are $3.00 per tour, per person, regardless of age. Tickets can be purchased at the following locations and times:

Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center

April 7 to May 23 — 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Colorado Welcome Center, Cortez

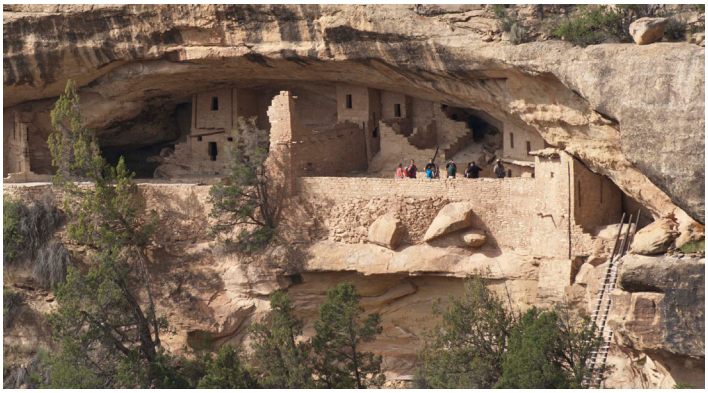
April 7 to May 23 — 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Balcony House for School Groups (3rd - 12th grade)

90 minutes (free - no ticket, but reservations required)
A 90 minute, curriculum-based, ranger-guided tour of Balcony House, at no cost for 3rd to 12th grade educational groups. Group size is limited to 30 students per tour, and each tour must have at least one (and no more than three) educators/chaperones for every ten students. For reservations, call 970-529-5079.

The tour involves involves climbing a 32-foot (9.8-m) ladder, crawling through a 12-foot (3.7-m) long tunnel, and climbing up a 60-foot (20-m) open cliff face with stone steps and two 10-foot (3-m) ladders to exit the site. Tour begins at the north end of the Balcony House parking lot.

April 8 to May 24 Variable schedule, call 970-529-5079



Visitors on ranger-guided tour of Balcony House