

Visitor Activities

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



October 20, 2019 to April 11, 2020



Point Lookout

Welcome

Late fall, winter, and early spring is a wonderful time to visit Mesa Verde National Park, and there are many activities available to help you experience this special place. Enjoy a variety of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking opportunities in a quiet winter environment. Step back in time and drive the Mesa Top Loop Road to explore 700 years of Ancestral Pueblo history; visit the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum to see a turkey-feather boot worn long ago; and view Spruce Tree House surrounded by autumn colors, winter snow, or the early blooms of spring. Check the park website at www.nps.gov/meve for more information.

Winter Logistics

All activities depend on road, trail, and weather conditions. Please check with a ranger before beginning any of the listed activities. We recommend good hiking boots or snow boots, warm layered clothing, a hat, gloves, snacks, sunglasses, and water.

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. Check *Visitor Services* on the back page for hours. There is no overnight camping or lodging in the park, but accommodations are available in nearby communities. For additional park information, tune your radio to AM 1610.

Visitor and Research Center

The [Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center](#) is located at the park entrance and serves as the park's primary facility for orienting visitors to opportunities within the park and surrounding area. It also houses a state-of-the-art research and storage facility for the park's archives and museum collection of over three million objects. Open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

*Please stop by the the Visitor and Research Center to pay your entrance fee and support your park.



Welcome Plaza, Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

[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 or upon request. Open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.



Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

View Spruce Tree House

[Spruce Tree House](#) is Mesa Verde's best-preserved cliff dwelling. *Although Spruce Tree House is currently closed* due to the continuing threat of rockfall, you can observe the cliff dwelling from viewpoints near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. The trail to the lower viewpoint is short but steep, and can be icy.

*It is a 45- to 60-minute drive from the park entrance to Spruce Tree House and the Museum.



Spruce Tree House from overlook

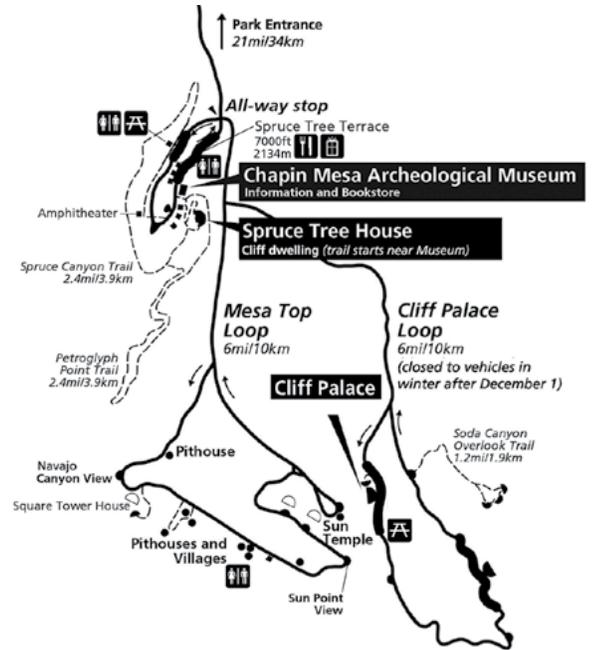
Explore On Your Own

Mesa Top Loop Road is a 6-mile (10 km) drive through 700 years of Ancestral Pueblo history. Along the road, you'll find short, easily-accessible paved trails to view archeological sites, including surface sites and cliff dwelling overlooks. (During snow storms, the loop may briefly close until the road and walkways are cleared.) Open daily 8:00 am to sunset.

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 closes to vehicles on December 1 or with first significant snow fall. The road is then available for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking. It will reopen to vehicles in late March or early April when weather and road conditions permit.

Far View Sites Complex includes Far View House plus four other villages and a dry reservoir. Four miles (6.4 km) north of the 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.



Winter Recreational Opportunities are available for Nordic skiing and snowshoeing once there is a sufficient amount of snow and the park has begun to groom trails. Ask for maps, descriptions, and trail conditions at the Visitor Center or Museum. Find out what winter trails are open by calling 970-529-4622 or 970-529-4631. Information is also on the park website at go.nps.gov/wintertrails.

Snowshoes are available for loan at the Visitor Center and Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum.

Visitor Services

Mesa Verde National Park

970-529-4465 www.nps.gov/meve

- **Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum**

970-529-4631

October 20, 2019 to April 11, 2020
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

- **Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center**

970-529-5037

October 20, 2019 to April 11, 2020
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Mesa Verde Museum Association, Park Partner

970-529-4445 www.mesaverde.org

- **Museum Store**

October 20, 2019 to April 11, 2020
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

- **Visitor Center Store**

October 20, 2019 to April 11, 2020
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

*All visitor services are closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Aramark, Park Partner

800-449-2288 www.visitmesaverde.com

- **Far View Lodge/Metate Room** (Closed October 24)

October 20 to October 23, 2019
Dinner 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm

- **Far View Terrace**

October 20 to October 23, 2019 (Closed October 24)
Breakfast only 7:00 am to 10:00 am
Mesa Mocha 7:00 am to 11:00 am

- **Spruce Tree Terrace Gift Shop and Café**

October 20 to October 23, 2019
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
October 24 to December 30, 2019
11:30 am to 2:30 pm (limited menu)

January 2 to April 13, 2020
Ask for hours

- **Morefield Campground** (Closed October 31)

-limited services
October 17 to October 30, 2019

*All Aramark facilities are closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

Protect the Park

Help Mesa Verde preserve its archeological sites and natural environment for future generations.

- Please do not sit, stand, climb, or lean on fragile archeological structures.
- Pets must be leashed at all times; only service animals are allowed in public buildings or on trails. Please clean up after your pet.
- Do not leave pets unattended.
- Camping and overnight parking is not permitted.



- Help keep wildlife wild. It is illegal to feed, capture, chase, or tease wildlife.

Protect Yourself

In case of emergency, call 911

Road Advisory

- Obey all traffic signs
- Watch for falling rocks
- Gasoline is available intermittently during the winter months. Since you will drive *at least* 50 miles while in the park, please plan accordingly.
- Check sign at park entrance for possible chains or snow tire requirements. Watch for snowplows.

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.