



Betatakin Tour Information – Summer 2019

Scheduling: Betatakin tours are free and available daily during the regular season, **May 2019– September 2019**, with a limit of 25 people per tour. All tours to Betatakin are on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are not required. Off-season tours are available (if weather permits and staff are available) during March, April, October, and November. Please call **(928)-672-2700** to confirm when tours are available. If you represent a large group, call in advance for possible accommodations.

The 7:00 A.M. & 8:15 A.M. Betatakin Tour (Tsegi Point Trail) begins with a safety talk and trail briefing in front of the visitor center. This is a strenuous 5 mile (8 km) round trip hike. The hike begins $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the visitor center so visitors are required to drive to the Betatakin parking area. Composting restroom facilities are available at the Betatakin parking lot and at the bottom of the canyon near the Betatakin alcove. The trail has an elevation loss of 700 feet (218 meters) and follows an old gravel road to Tsegi Point, and then drops down steep stairs along the sandstone switchbacks. The route then follows the Kayenta formation into Betatakin Canyon. Hiking time ranges from 4-5 hours roundtrip.

- *The Betatakin tour will use the Tsegi Point Trail daily with extreme heat in the afternoon.*
- *The Aspen Trail is currently closed until further notice. (August-September).*
- *Composting restroom facilities are available at the bottom of the canyon near the Betatakin alcove.*
- *Off-season tours vary in terms of trails used and length of tour duration and start times.*

Hikers should be in fair physical condition. People with cardiovascular or joint problems should not take part in this tour. If you feel that the hike will be too strenuous, tell the ranger that you will not be attending the hike. Remember the altitude of the monument is at 7300 feet (2220 meters), which can lead to altitude sickness.

Visitors should wear sturdy hiking boots or shoes and bring two-three liters of water per person; trail snacks are optional and trash will need to be packed out. Hiking poles are also a great recommendation but sharp pointed hiking poles and tripods are not allowed inside the alcove. We recommend you bring your own binoculars, hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

At the conclusion of the tour, visitors will hike out at their own pace. All hikers need to stay on designated trails at all times. The ranger will be the last person out of the canyon, ensuring that all hikers have returned safely to the visitor center or Betatakin parking area. No smoking allowed on either tour.

Hazards: Fall or winter weather can vary from mild conditions to freezing temperatures with gusty winds or deep snow. Unexpected rock fall hazards exist in the canyons as well as within the alcove; management has the discretion to cancel a tour at any time. Due to the health and safety of all visitors and employees, all tours will conclude outside of the alcove. Temperatures can reach ten degrees warmer than the mesa tops. Summer weather can be quite variable with afternoon thunderstorms, wind, and heat. Please do not underestimate the effects of heat and the need for water

The Time: Please remember that the Navajo Nation, as well as Navajo National Monument, observes Mountain Daylight Savings Time beginning on March 10, 2019 through November 03, 2019 of this calendar year. We are one hour ahead of most southern Arizona locations such as Grand Canyon, Flagstaff, Phoenix, Page and the Hopi Nation. Navajo National Monument, Navajo Nation, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico (Four Corners Area) observe Mountain Daylight Savings Time.