Hello and Welcome

Of all the wonderful attractions in Northern Arizona, thank you for visiting Petrified Forest National Park. This piece of America’s heritage was set aside in 1906 to protect, and make available for public enjoyment, one of the largest petrified wood deposits in the world. But there are compelling human stories here, too. Several modern American Indian tribes have ancestral ties to this place. In recent times, Route 66 passed through the park. Many of the structures in use today to support your visit and management activities are now on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark.

Whatever your interest, please ask a ranger for more information or check out our website at www.nps.gov/pefo. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. We want to make your visit informative and enjoyable. If we spark your continuing interest in the stories the park has to tell, we’re glad to help you find more information. The most popular way to experience the park is to drive the 28 mile long park road from one end to the other. There are many pullouts and several short trails to get you closer to the story.

Please join the millions of visitors who have enjoyed the petrified wood and left it undisturbed for others to enjoy too. If you see illegal activity, please let our law enforcement staff know. Petrified wood collected legally from locations outside the park is available for sale in the park gift shop.

We hope you enjoy your connection with Petrified Forest National Park. We invite you to walk the trails amidst ancient petrified logs, take in the wide vistas of the Painted Desert, discover voices of the past in the petroglyphs, and listen to the silence of the wilderness. Enjoy your park, and thanks for your support!

Brad Traver
Superintendent

More Spectacular Than Ever

May be you are someone who has heard that massive amounts of petrified wood have been stolen from Petrified Forest National Park over the many decades visitors have been coming. Maybe you wonder what’s left for you to see today. We want to put your mind at ease.

To counter the belief some people hold that whole forests of petrified wood have been removed, we have expanded a re-photography effort begun in 2007 to capture images of Petrified Forest’s most important and iconic areas. This project is taking the many historic photographs in our collection (more than 200 so far) and reshooting those images from the same vantage points today. Two examples are shown below. The results of these many photo pairs show that the vast majority of petrified wood is right where it was 80 to 120 years ago when the pictures were first taken. Some pieces have rolled off bluffs into lowlands below. The wood in the Giant Logs area was rearranged for the expansion of the Rainbow Forest Museum in the 1950s. But nowhere in the park is it obvious that thieves have stripped away the wood that gives the park its famous name.

Wood theft does occur. We do catch and fine people who attempt to remove petrified wood, and we will always continue our vigilance. Occasionally, some wood pieces even arrive back in the mail from guilty parties. But the underlying message of the old “massive theft” narrative—that today’s visitors are seeing something less spectacular than their great-grandparents saw—is simply not true. These images show that Petrified Forest National Park is more spectacular than ever!

We also know—and celebrate—that the overwhelming majority of our park visitors continue to respect the rules and leave petrified wood where it lies for the appreciation of all. We thank you for this citizen stewardship! Now, we ask you to help us continue this important work to document the park’s condition. Please send scans of any and all photographs you have in your family archives of Petrified Forest before 1950 (send to PEFO_Superintendent@nps.gov). If we can find the point from which it was taken, we will reshoot the image. Then we will add the old/new pair to our collection and show the results from time to time, including if this shows wood theft has occurred.

Thank you, and enjoy Petrified Forest National Park!
Regulations and Safety

In case of emergency call 911, 928-354-9296, or contact any park ranger

Driving
• Stay on paved roads.
• Observe speed limits, which range between 10 and 45 miles per hour.
• Park or stop in designated areas. Do not stop on the main park road or park outside of campsites.
• Thank you for not idling your engine for extended periods of time (five minutes during periods of inclement weather, two minutes all other times).

Enjoying the Park
• Watch for lightning during inclement weather. Take shelter in an enclosed vehicle or building.
• All objects in the park are protected. Thank you for not collecting petrified wood, fossils, rocks, animals, plants, artifacts, etc.
• Use appropriate trash receptacles and recycling bins found throughout the park.
• Firearms are prohibited in federal buildings.
• Watch wildlife from a distance. Wild animals can carry diseases including rabies, hanta virus, and plague.

Trails and Hiking
• Stay on designated trails while in developed areas or during emergencies.
• Do not go beyond protective fencing.
• Be alert for loose rock edges which can be unstable.
• Respect prehistoric structures by not climbing on them.
• Enjoy petroglyphs, but do not touch or damage them.
• Stay hydrated. Water is available at the Painted Desert Visitor Center, Painted Desert Inn, and Rainbow Forest Museum.
• Protect yourself from the sun. Wear sun glasses with UV protection, hat, and sunscreen.
• Respect all park rules and regulations.

Climatic Averages for Petrified Forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average High</th>
<th>Average Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>47.5°F</td>
<td>21.0°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>54°F</td>
<td>25°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>61°F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>58°F</td>
<td>37°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>48°F</td>
<td>21°F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total   848°F

All park rules and regulations are available at www.nps.gov/pefo/parkmgmt/upload/PEFO_2013-Superintendent-Compendium.pdf

Wilderness Adventure

Wilderness areas are protected and valued for their untrammeled, natural, undeveloped, and secluded qualities. The Petrified Forest National Wilderness Area was one of the first to receive this designation in the National Park System. The park consists of two units covering over 50,000 acres of mesas, buttes, badlands, and scattered areas of grasslands.

Wilderness hiking offers the opportunity to visit sites seldom seen by most park visitors. There are no developed trails; hiking is cross-country. Be prepared! There is no water and little shade in the backcountry.

Wilderness Recreation Information:
• No permits are required for day hiking.
• Day hikers must be back at their vehicles by the park’s posted closing time.
• A permit for wilderness camping (required for overnight use) can be obtained from the Painted Desert Visitor Center and Rainbow Forest Museum on the day of activity.
• All permit applicants must read and sign the permit conditions sheet before being issued a permit.
• Follow Leave No Trace principles. To learn more, visit www.LNT.org/kam-principles.

Pet Hiking and Bicycling:
• Motorized vehicles and bicycles are not allowed in wilderness.
• HORSES and other pack animals are allowed in wilderness.
• Overnight group size is limited to eight people and six stock animals.
• No wood or charcoal fires are allowed. The use of solar, propane/butane, and white gas fueled stores is allowed.

For more information go to www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm

Petrified Forest is a pet friendly National Park! Pets are allowed on trails and in the park’s wilderness. Thank you for following these rules and regulations for pets:
• Pets must be leashed (no longer than 6 feet) and physically restrained at all times.
• Pets are not allowed in buildings, except for service animals.
• Pets may also be tied to an object for short periods of time (less than 30 minutes) in developed areas or during emergencies.
• Don’t allow your pet to interact with wildlife.
• Clean up after your pet and dispose of it properly. A ‘pet relief’ area is designated at the Painted Desert Visitor Center parking lot.

Pets

Accessibility

Restrooms, visitor centers, and picnic areas are accessible or accessible with assistance for wheelchair users. The park film is accessible with assistance for individuals in wheelchairs. The park film is also available in braille at our Park Headquarters. Service animals are welcome everywhere in the park.

Recreation

Bicycle Use

Bicycle use is permitted on paved park roads and parking areas open to the public. In addition, the following unpaved areas are also approved for bicycle use:
• The unpaved portion of Old Route 66 (near #2 on map, pg. 4-5).
• The eastern portion of Old Highway 89 in the Rainbow Forest area from its intersection with the main park road to the east boundary (near #4 on park map).
• The trail beginning at Rainbow Forest Picnic Area and continuing to the base of the mesa, ending at a loop in the road, about a mile (near #5 on park map).
• The portion of the Long Logs trail from its intersection with the main park road, continuing to the trailhead loop area approximately 1/2 mile up the trail (near #3A on park map).

Permits Needed for Wilderness Camping

Camping in the wilderness of Petrified Forest is a great opportunity for solitude and adventure. As there are no designated camping sites, you choose your spot anywhere within the specified boundaries. This allows you to select your place in the wild to enjoy colorful sunsets, the incredible night sky, and inspiring sunrises. Obtain a camping permit at Painted Desert Visitor Center or Rainbow Forest Museum (both facilities open 8 to 5 pm daily) before embarking on your journey. Permits are free!

Off the Beaten Path Hikes

With 50,000 acres of wilderness available, hiking off trail and “off the beaten path” is a great option for those interested. Some destinations can be found off an old road or trail no longer maintained; others may require route finding skills. For more information, including routes and maps, ask at Painted Desert Visitor Center, Rainbow Forest Museum, or visit www.nps.gov/pefo/off-the-beaten-path.htm.

Off trail hikes into Old Blue Forest

Top 5 Off the Beaten Path Hikes:

Old Blue Forest
2.5 mi (4 km) round trip hike on an old road among petrified wood
Onyx Bridge
4 mi (6 km) round trip hike to a petrified wood “bridge”
Billaume Grove
2 mi (3 km) round trip hike to the Blue Mesa
Martha’s Butte
2 mi (3 km) walk to a petroglyph site with a solar marker.

Petrified Desert and the National Historic Landmark in the snow
What Should I See and Do?

Any time spent at Petrified Forest National Park is time well spent. The highest concentrations of petrified wood are found in the southern end of the park, while the northern end contains the Painted Desert and showcases the human story.

If you have one or two hours:

- Choose an Off the Beaten Path hike (some listed on page 3).
- Hike to Long Logs and Agate House.
- Walk the Giant Logs Trail (pick up a trail guide at Rainbow Forest Museum).
- Attend a ranger program (available seasonally).
- Visit Puerco Pueblo.
- Stop at the Route 66, Newspaper Rock, Agate Bridge, and Jasper Forest overlooks.
- Drive through the entire park.

If you have half a day, do the above and add:

- Celebrate—you have the luxury of time to enjoy!
- Walk a 0.4 mi (0.6 km) loop trail.
- Study paleontological exhibits in the museum and watch the park film; walk Giant Logs and Crystal Forest trails; drive the Blue Mesa Road.
- Many petrified logs glitter with quartz crystals along a paved 0.75 mi (1.2 km) loop road.

If you have a full day or more, do the above and add:

- Hike the Blue Mesa and Agate House Trails.
- Choose an Off the Beaten Path hike (some listed on page 3).
- Visit the Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark, offers exhibits on the building's history.
- Spend the night in the park's wilderness.
- Celebrate—you have the luxury of time to enjoy!

If you have two days:

- Visit the Painted Desert Visitor Center.
- Watch the park film; walk Giant Logs and Crystal Forest trails; drive the Blue Mesa Road.
- Many petrified logs glitter with quartz crystals along a paved 0.75 mi (1.2 km) loop road.

If you have three or more days:

- If you have half a day, do the above and add:
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Special Programs

Ranger Guided Programs

Ranger programs are available seasonally and as staffing allows, with schedules posted at Painted Desert Visitor Center and Rainbow Forest Museum.

Programs may include:
- Triassic Park Walk (about 30 minutes): Discover the landscape of long ago and learn about the Late Triassic. Meet at Rainbow Forest Museum. This program may include a brief walk on the nearby Giant Log Trail.
- Puerco Pueblo Walk (about 45 minutes): Learn about the former inn’s captivating history and architecture. Meet at Painted Desert Inn.

Cultural Demonstrations

The Cultural Demonstration Program at Petrified Forest National Park promotes awareness and appreciation for the diverse history and cultures of the region.

Traditionally offered on weekends spring through fall, visitors can interact with demonstrators, learn more about the people and places of the Petrified Forest region, and purchase locally-made crafts.

For more information:
www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/cultural-demonstrations.htm

Education Program

Educators, make Petrified Forest National Park your outdoor classroom! You and your class can explore the park on your own or schedule to meet a ranger.

Ranger Activity Booklet will earn a badge and patch. Stop at:
- Painted Desert Visitor Center
- Rainbow Desert Inn, or
- Rainbow Forest Museum ... to get started!

Artist in Residence

Artist have influenced the formation, expansion, and direction of our national parks.

Founded in 2006 as part of the park’s Centennial Celebration, the Artist-in-Residence Program continues this tradition. The program offers visual, performing, and literary artists the opportunity to pursue their artistic discipline while being surrounded by Petrified Forest’s inspiring landscape. Artists selected for the program enjoy a two-week residency and, while in the park, share their artistry and provide experiences for visitors.

For more information and to apply:
www.nps.gov/pefo/parknews/artist-in-residence.htm

Getting Involved

Volunteers—Very Important People

There are opportunities throughout the year to volunteer at Petrified Forest National Park. The Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) program here offers volunteers a wide variety of experiences, from working in visitor centers, to roving the park, to assisting paleontological and archaeological research teams in the field.

You can also support the Park’s volunteer program by making a donation. Your donation will directly support the housing of volunteers here at Petrified Forest National Park.

Your Dollars at Work

Funds generated by entrance fees are used to accomplish projects that the park has been unable to fund through yearly Congressional allocations.

Recent projects at Petrified Forest National Park made possible by your fees:
- Conducting condition assessments of archaeological sites
- Preparing fossil specimens for visitor display and education
- Enhancing the park’s high school education program
- Rehabilitating restrooms

For more information go to www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm.

Friends of Petrified Forest

The commercial concessionaire for Petrified Forest National Park is Xanterra Parks & Resorts (once the Fred Harvey Company). They are the United States’ largest operator of park-based hotels, restaurants, and stores. At the north end of the park, Xanterra operates the Painted Desert Diner, a gift shop, a convenience store, and a gas station. At the south end of the park, Xanterra operates a gift shop and seasonal snack bar.

Combining dramatic settings and landmark buildings with exceptional service, Xanterra offers legendary hospitality with a soft footprint. Be sure to enjoy their hospitality during your visit to the park!

Petrified Forest Museum Association

Petrified Forest Museum Association operates two non-profit bookstores in the park (at Painted Desert Visitor Center and Rainbow Forest Museum). You purchase from this valued partner directly helps the park with financial and staff aid.

Friends of Petrified Forest

Interested? Visit the group’s Facebook site at: www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPetrifiedForestNationalPark.
Petrified Forest National Park is a world class scientific laboratory for study of fossils from the later part of the Triassic Period (about 227-205 million years ago). The fossil record at the park preserves everything from fossil pollen and spores to some of the earliest dinosaurs, and allows for reconstruction of several ancient environments through time. The recent addition of more than 40,000 acres to the park has resulted in the discovery of many more fossiliferous layers including a new locality where the bones of numerous fish, giant amphibians, and reptiles reflect life in an ancient lake setting. Ongoing paleontological and geological research, both through park staff and our academic partners, is reconstructing the history of life during this period at a degree of detail never before attempted, including determination of climate change (temperature and precipitation rates) and its effects on biotic (animal and plant) extinctions.

Congress authorized an expansion of Petrified Forest National Park by over 100% of our size in 2004. We have been busy acquiring and assessing new expansion lands since then and in 2014, we expect to open over 13,000 acres of these lands for public enjoyment. None of them have paved roads but there are some interesting things to see on these lands—ask us about them if you are ready to explore!

Humans have been living and working in the Painted Desert for the last 13,000 years. Petrified Forest National Park protects hundreds of significant archeological sites. The record of human occupation ranges from small single-room field houses to villages where hundreds of people lived. Phenomenal rock art sites are scattered throughout the park. Ongoing archeological research by park archeologists and partners is aimed at developing a better understanding of how people hunted, farmed, and lived in this seemingly harsh environment. By studying these sites and the artifacts they contain—like pottery and stone and bone tools—archeologists can get a picture of the past lives of the inhabitants of Petrified Forest. The ongoing expansion of the park has added almost unlimited research potential to help answer these questions. A three-year research effort is underway to locate, study, and interpret the archeological history of newly added portions of Petrified Forest National Park.

You can virtually visit Petrified Forest National Park online!

www.nps.gov/pefo

Stay connected with the park through our social networks:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PetrifiedForestNPS
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/petrifiedforestinps
Twitter: www.twitter.com/PetrifiedNPS
YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCkGSp8Qe_g_ FyoOoAQWaH6g

Expanding our Horizons

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From the Desk of a Paleontologist

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Online with Petrified Forest

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www.nps.gov/pefo

Stay connected with the park through our social networks:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PetrifiedForestNPS
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/petrifiedforestinps
Twitter: www.twitter.com/PetrifiedNPS
YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCkGSp8Qe_g_ FyoOoAQWaH6g

Going Green

Petrified Forest National Park strives to be a leader in environmental awareness and management. You can help us in the following ways:

- Look for recycling receptacles when throwing out paper, plastics, and aluminum.
- Bring your own water bottle and refill it for free (see the park map to see where water is available).
- Enjoy a walk in the park—it is good for you and for the environment!