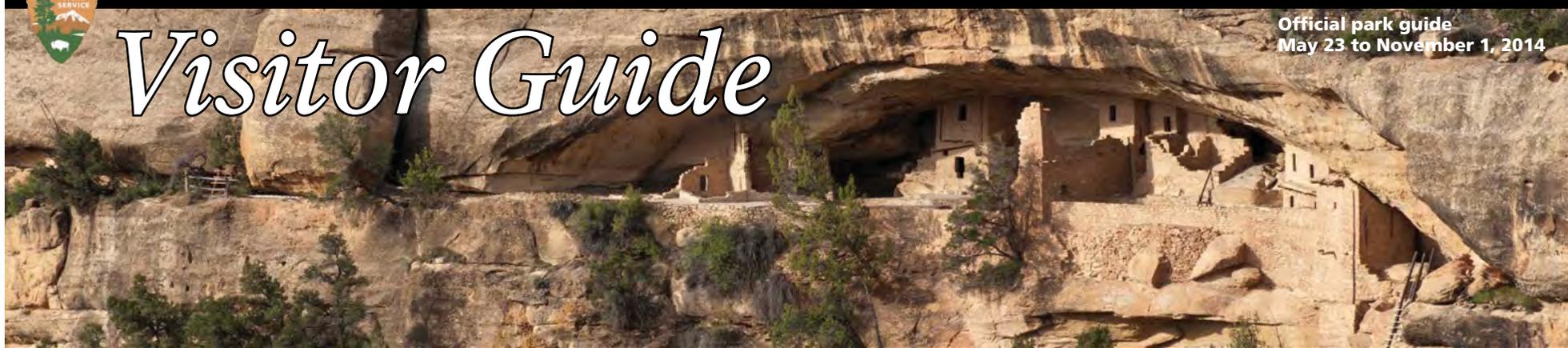




# Visitor Guide

Official park guide  
May 23 to November 1, 2014



Cliff Palace



Purchase a Tour Ticket... page 12



Take a Hike... page 4



Explore on Your Own... page 5

## Visitor Services and Facilities

### Visitor Center

(Tickets, Store, and ATM)

May 23 to September 1 7:30 am to 7:00 pm  
September 2 to November 1 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

### Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

(Exhibits, Lost and Found)

May 23 to October 18 8:00 am to 6:30 pm  
October 19 to November 1 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

### Chief Ranger's Office

(First Aid)

May 23 to November 1 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

### Morefield Campground Ranger Station

May 25 to September 1 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
September 2 Closed for season

### Wetherill Mesa Information Kiosk

May 23 to September 1 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
September 2 Closed for season

### Picnic Areas

Chapin Mesa Picnic Area 8:00 am to sunset  
Cliff Palace Picnic Area 8:00 am to sunset

### Colorado Welcome Center in Cortez

May 23 to May 25 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
May 26 to August 31 8:00 am to 6:00 pm  
September 1 to November 1 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

### U.S. Post Office on Chapin Mesa

May 23 to October 31  
Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Saturdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
November 1  
Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Saturdays Closed

# Protect the Park, Protect Yourself

This partial list of regulations and laws is designed to help you have a safe and enjoyable visit, and to protect Mesa Verde's ecosystems and fragile archeological sites.

For more information, questions or additional regulations, please ask a park employee.

## How you can protect park resources

Natural and cultural resources at Mesa Verde National Park are protected by federal law. It is illegal to collect artifacts, plants, animals, or natural objects. By leaving them undisturbed, all generations may enjoy and learn from them.

Chasing, capturing, feeding, or teasing wildlife is illegal and dangerous. Keep your food, cooking equipment, and garbage in your vehicle or hard-sided trailer, especially in the campground.

Fire is an important part of Mesa Verde's story. Most fires here were started naturally, by lightning. Help us prevent human-caused fires by being very careful with matches, cigarettes, and campfires.

Archeological sites are fragile. Please do not sit, stand, climb, or lean on these 750-year old fragile structures.



Black bear

## Park Entrance Fees

From May 23 to September 1 the park entry fee is \$15.00 per private car or \$8.00 per person on foot, on a bicycle, or on a motorcycle. September 2 to November 1 the fee is \$10.00 per car or \$5.00 per person. For commercial vehicle fees, call 970-529-4465 or visit [www.nps.gov/meve](http://www.nps.gov/meve). Federal Interagency annual access, military, and senior passes are available at the park entrance gate.

## Share the road

Park roads are steep, narrow, and winding. Do not stop on the roadway; use pullouts or overlooks. Watch for wildlife, pay close attention to your speed around curves, and obey all traffic signs. Trailers and towed vehicles are not allowed beyond Morefield Campground. Extra parking is available near the park entrance.

Bicyclists use caution! The road is steep with few shoulders. Ride single file and stay as far to the right as possible. Bicyclists, like vehicle drivers, must comply with traffic regulations. Bicycles are allowed on paved roads only. Wetherill Mesa Road is closed to bicycles.



Mule deer - enjoy from a distance

## Rocks fall

The park road is built on unstable soils. As a result, rocks and boulders can break loose and fall on the road, posing a hazard to you and your car. If you see boulders blocking the road, do not attempt to move them. Call 970-529-4461 or contact a park employee.

## Visit a cliff dwelling safely

At 7,000 feet (2135 m) elevation, you may feel short of breath, nauseated, or tire easily. Plan ahead and know your own limits.

Trails into cliff dwellings are uneven and steep, with steps and ladders, cliff edges and tight passages, with strenuous elevation changes. Visiting cliff dwellings is not recommended for anyone with heart or respiratory problems or other physical limitations. You can view many cliff dwellings from roadway overlooks.

## Water is vital

Dehydration is a common problem in Mesa Verde. Carry water with you everywhere, and drink it. You can fill your reusable water bottle at all park facilities, including Cliff Palace and Wetherill Mesa Information Kiosk. Food and other beverages are not allowed in archeological sites.

## "Can you hear me?"

Once you drive through the park entrance, cell phone service is limited. You can find telephones and pay phones at park facilities. Wi-Fi service is available at the Morefield Campground Store, Far View Lodge, Far View Terrace, and Spruce Tree Terrace. In case of emergency, contact a park employee or call 911.

## Do you need gas?

Gas is available at Morefield Campground only. You will probably drive at least 50 miles while in the park. Plan accordingly.

## Camping?

Morefield Campground is located four miles from the park entrance. It has over 250 camp sites and 15 full hook-up RV sites. There are restrooms with flush toilets, showers, a camp store, coin-operated laundry, gasoline, and an RV dumping station. To learn more, turn to page 11. Camping is not allowed elsewhere in the park. Other campgrounds are located in Cortez and Mancos, Colorado.

## Pets need to be protected too

For your pet's sake, do not leave them in your vehicle without proper ventilation and water, and only when temperatures are not hazardous to their health. Leaving pets alone tied to any object is illegal.

Activities with pets are limited. Leashed pets may accompany you on paved roads and parking lots and in the campground. Even if leashed, pets are not allowed on trails, scenic overlooks, or in buildings. Please, clean up after your pooch.

## Firearms

Possession of firearms must comply with federal and state laws. Hunting and recreational use of firearms is prohibited in Mesa Verde.

# Make the Most of Your Visit

## Top Five Mesa Verde Activities

### Take a glimpse into an ancient culture

The Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center and Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum offer glimpses into the culture of Ancestral Pueblo people. In the museum, look for a hafted knife with a quartzite blade; can you imagine a hunter skinning a deer using that knife? For facility hours see page 1.

### Visit a cliff dwelling community

Five cliff dwellings are open to the public. Cliff Palace, Balcony House, and Long House can only be entered on a ranger-guided tour. Spruce Tree House and Step House can be explored on your own. Whatever your schedule or interests, details for how to visit a cliff dwelling are on page 5 and 12.

### Explore from your car

Mesa Top Loop Road on Chapin Mesa is a six-mile drive that offers amazing canyon views and a chance to learn about the Ancestral Pueblo people's occupation and architecture through time. To help plan your drive read more below.

### Go for a walk or a hike

Wander Prater Ridge Trail, try to decipher the art on the Petroglyph Trail, or discover the lushness of Spruce Canyon. Whatever you decide, [taking a walk or a hike](#) will give you a chance to see some of the park's hidden gems. See page 4 for trail specifics.

### Attend an evening program

Looking for something later in the evening? Join the popular Twilight Tour or the new Photography Tour of Cliff Palace. Purchase tickets online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or go to page 7 for details. The free Morefield Campground Evening Program offers a variety of topics on both natural and cultural history. See page 6 for times.

## Planning Your Visit

Whether you have a few hours or a few days, we invite you to enjoy the spectacular scenery and share a rare glimpse into the ancient culture that shaped this region for over 750 years. Here are a few suggestions for making the most of your time in the park.

### If you have a half-day:

First, stop by the [Visitor and Research Center](#) at the park entrance. Rangers here will help plan your visit. While there, enjoy the exhibits and browse through the store for a selection of books and trail guides.

Twenty-two miles (35.4 km) south of the Visitor and Research Center is the [Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum](#). Here, exhibits and dioramas trace the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people. Also available is a 25-minute park video shown every half-hour, and a museum store.

Take a self-guided tour of [Spruce Tree House](#), the park's best-preserved cliff dwelling, located adjacent to the museum. Trail guides

are available. Allow one hour for this ½-mile (0.8 km) round-trip paved trail with a 100-foot (30 m) descent and ascent. Rangers are onsite to answer your questions.

Or, take a scenic drive on [Mesa Top Loop Road](#). Stops along the six-mile (10 km), 45-minute drive, with easily accessible, short, paved walking trails, reveal the full range of architecture from earliest pithouses to the cliff dwellings. Highlights include views of Square Tower House and Cliff Palace.

### If you have one full day:

You'll have time to do all half-day activities, plus join a one-hour ranger-guided tour of either [Cliff Palace](#) or [Balcony House](#). Tickets are required. Tickets can be purchased at the Visitor and Research Center, Morefield Ranger Station, or Colorado Welcome Center in Cortez. See facilities hours on page 1.

You can also visit [Far View Sites](#), four miles (6.4 km) north of the museum. This self-guided walk includes Far View House and four other villages plus a dry reservoir all linked by a level ¾-mile (1.2 km) dirt path. See page 5.



Ancestral Puebloan Knife



Green Towhee

### If you have two full days:

Add a 90-minute ranger-guided tour of [Long House](#) on Wetherill Mesa. Tickets are required.

Tickets can be purchased at the Visitor and Research Center, Morefield Ranger Station, or Colorado Welcome Center in Cortez.

Drive Wetherill Mesa Road, walk Badger House Community Trail, and ride the tram to overlooks.

Visit [Step House](#) to view Modified Basket-maker (A.D. 550 to A.D. 750) and Classic Pueblo (A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1300) period architecture. The ¾-mile (1.3 km) round-trip trail begins at the information kiosk, and includes a 100-foot (30 m) descent and ascent on a winding path. Allow 45 to 60 minutes.

### If you have more than two full days:

You'll have the opportunity to tour all ticketed cliff dwellings, drive all the park roads, and hike one or more of the park trails. See pages 4 and 12.

# Exploring on Foot

## Chapin Mesa



### Farming Terraces

**0.5 miles (0.8 km) round-trip**

Beginning and ending on the road to Cedar Tree Tower, this ½-mile loop trail leads to a series of prehistoric check dams built by Ancestral Pueblo people to create farming terraces. The check dams improved crop yields by collecting water and soil from natural run-off.

### Spruce Canyon Trail

**2.4 miles (3.9 km) to complete loop**

This hike begins from the Spruce Tree House trail, follows the bottom of Spruce Canyon, and switchbacks up to the mesa top just northeast of the picnic area on the museum loop road. Access is available only when Spruce Tree House is open.

### Petroglyph Point Trail

**2.4 miles (3.9 km) to complete loop**

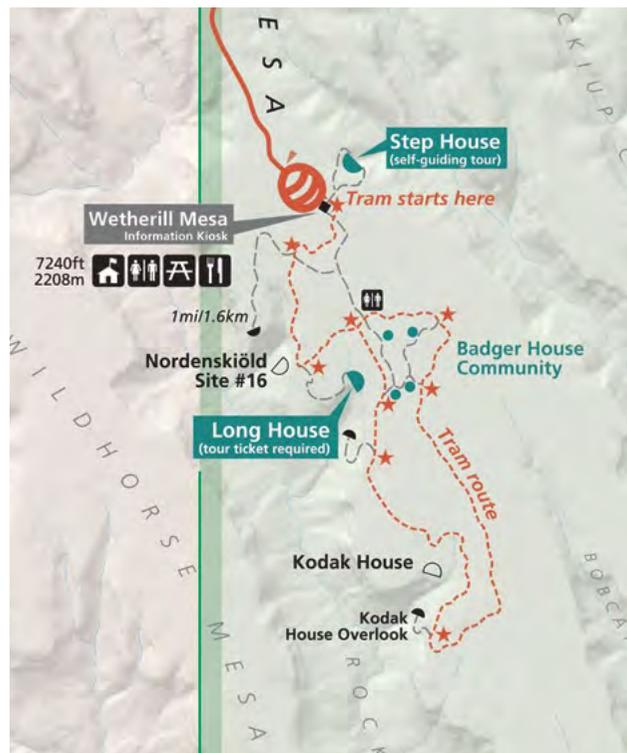
This hike begins from the Spruce Tree House trail. It follows an ancient path along the canyon wall to the largest petroglyph panel in the park. Access to trail is only available when Spruce Tree House is open.

### Soda Canyon Overlook Trail

**1.2 miles (1.9 km) round-trip**

This easy walk begins ½ mile north of the Balcony House parking area along Cliff Palace Loop Road. The trail leads to canyon edge views of Balcony House and other archeological sites along Soda Canyon.

## Wetherill Mesa



### Nordenskiöld Site No. 16 Trail

**2 miles (3.2 km) round-trip**

Named for Gustaf Nordenskiöld, who explored the area in 1891, this trail offers a leisurely walk through recovering fire-scarred vegetation and leads to an overlook of Nordenskiöld Site No. 16. Please note: there is no shade; bring sun protection and water.

### Badger House Community Trail

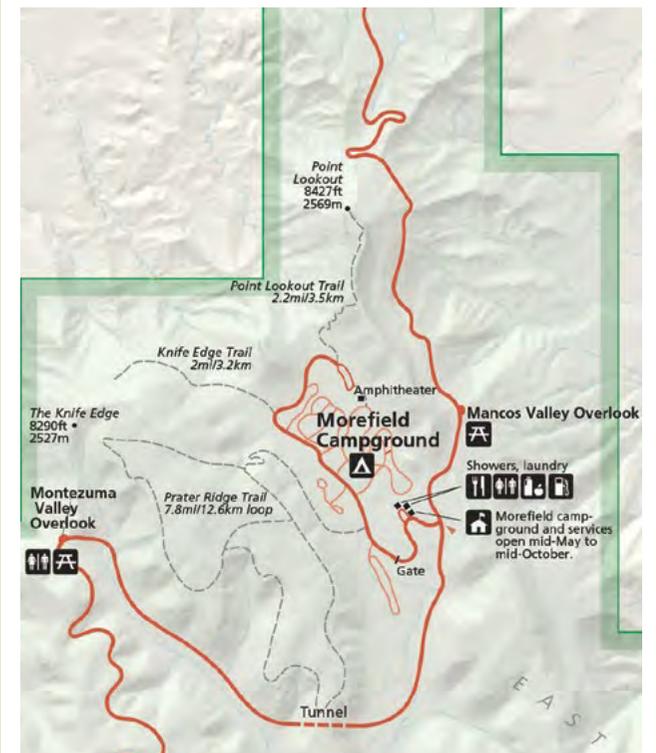
**1.2 miles (1.9 km)**

This trail begins at the information kiosk and winds through four mesa top sites, as it gently drops in elevation to the Two Raven House tram stop.



Nordenskiöld Site No. 16 Trail

## Morefield Campground



### Point Lookout Trail

**2.2 miles (3.5 km) round-trip**

Follow the switchbacks up Point Lookout and traverse the mesa top. From the top, you will see sweeping views of Montezuma and Mancos Valleys and distant mountains.

### Knife Edge Trail

**2 miles (3.2 km) round-trip**

The trail follows the park's historic entrance road from the northwest corner of Morefield Campground towards the Montezuma Valley overlook. This unpaved level trail provides good views of the Montezuma Valley and is an excellent place to watch the sunset.

### Prater Ridge Trail

**7.8 miles (12.6 km) to complete north and south loops**

Beginning on the west end of Morefield Campground, the north loop trail ascends Prater Ridge and follows the top of the ridge above the Montezuma Valley. The shorter south loop offers views of Prater Canyon.

Please respect these fragile places by leaving plants, animals, and artifacts undisturbed.

For your safety:

- Hiking is permitted only on designated trails
- Carry and drink plenty of water
- Stay away from cliff edges as undercut overhangs are dangerous
- Trails can be muddy and slippery after summer rains; proper footwear is recommended
- Pets are not allowed on trails

# Exploring on Your Own

## Chapin Mesa

### Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

Dioramas and artifacts in the museum shed light on Ancestral Pueblo people's lifeways. A 25-minute orientation film is shown on the hour and half-hour. A museum store, water, restrooms, cafe, gift shop, and post office are located nearby.

### Spruce Tree House

Mesa Verde's best-preserved and third largest cliff dwelling was constructed between A.D. 1211 and A.D. 1278. This prehistoric village built into a natural alcove may have housed 60 to 80 people in about 130 rooms and eight kivas.

Allow 45 minutes to one hour for the 100-foot (30 m) elevation descent and ascent on a paved winding path. The trail is ½ mile (0.8 km) round-trip and begins at the museum. Rangers are in the site to answer your questions.

#### May 23 to September 1

8:30 am to 6:30 pm

#### September 2 to October 18

9:00 am to 6:30 pm

#### October 19 to November 1

9:00 am to 5:00 pm



### Far View Sites

This mesa top community includes Far View House, four other villages, and a dry reservoir. On this trail you can explore Ancestral Pueblo people's life from A.D. 900 to A.D. 1300. The level, unpaved ¾-mile trail (1.2 km) is open 8:00 am to sunset.

## Wetherill Mesa

### Wetherill Mesa Road

Less crowded than Chapin Mesa with only trails and tram transportation, Wetherill Mesa offers you a quiet setting to appreciate the archeological sites and scenery. If you plan to visit Long House while you are on Wetherill Mesa, be sure to purchase a ticket at the Visitor and Research Center at the park entrance.

This 29 mile (46.8 km) drive from the Visitor Center follows the northern and western boundary of the park, offering spectacular views of the surrounding valleys. Allow 1¼ hours for this drive.

Wetherill Mesa Road is open 9:00 am to 4:15 pm daily. Vehicles are restricted to less than 8,000 lbs GVW and less than 25 feet (7.6 m) in length. Bicycles are not allowed. This road closes for the season September 2.

### Wetherill Mesa Information Kiosk and Tram

At the end of the Wetherill Mesa Road, you will find an information kiosk, picnic tables, books and mementos, and snack service. Open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

A tram leaves the kiosk every half-hour beginning at 9:30 am. You can ride the tram to view archeological sites and to access trails. Long House ticket holders are seated first; others are seated on a space-available basis. The last tram to visit overlooks and trails leaves at 3:30 pm.



## Accessibility

Access to Mesa Verde's premier sites is challenging. Most cliff dwelling trails are steep and uneven, with steps and ladders, cliff edges and tight passages, and include strenuous elevation changes. However, many cliff dwellings and mesa top sites are visible from roadway overlooks, short paved trails, and from your vehicle.

For assistance, ask a park employee, or call 970-529-4465 for more information.

### Accessible services:

#### Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center

Designated parking, restrooms, exhibits, an ATM, a drinking fountain, and a wheelchair available for loan.

#### Far View Sites

Designated parking and a restroom, and an unpaved gravel ¾-mile (1.2 km) level trail to six archeological sites.

#### Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum Area

Designated parking, restrooms, exhibits, a drinking fountain, pay phones and a ramp. Services includes a portable ramp to enter exhibit rooms, a wheelchair available for loan, and a 25-minute orientation film with captions.

#### Spruce Tree House

There are no ladders or steps on this paved steep ½-mile (0.8 km) round-trip trail that descends 100 feet (30 m). Four benches are available for the moderately strenuous return trip. If you prefer, you can view Spruce Tree House from a covered patio behind the Chief Ranger's Office, adjacent to the museum.

#### Mesa Top and Cliff Palace Loop Roads

Designated parking, restrooms, and paved trails are along each six-mile (10 km) loop road. Binoculars are helpful for cross-canyon views of cliff dwellings, including Cliff Palace and Square Tower House.

#### Wetherill Mesa

Designated parking, restrooms, and picnic tables. You can ride the accessible tram to paved overlooks of Kodak House and Long House. Badger House Community trail is paved, with a slight descent from the tram stop to mesa top sites.

# Park Ranger Programs- No fee

Discover Mesa Verde with these free programs given by park rangers. Stop in at the Visitor and Research Center and Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum for details. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Programs may be cancelled during inclement weather. For information on touring a cliff dwelling, see page 12.



## Morefield Campground Evening Program

Enjoy a National Park Service evening tradition! Archeologist Jesse Fewkes began the first evening campfire talks in the history of the National Park Service at Mesa Verde National Park in 1907.

Today, that tradition continues. Join a ranger in the Morefield Campground Amphitheater to learn about Mesa Verde's fascinating natural and cultural history. Topics vary by night and can include Ancestral Puebloan history, plants and animals of the park, dark night skies, regional resources, and more.

There is no fee. Bring a flashlight.

May 23 to July 26	9:00 pm
July 27 to August 23	8:30 pm
August 24 to September 1	8:15 pm

## Park Fun For Kids

### Junior Ranger Program

Hey, kids! Become a Junior Ranger and have a great time learning about Mesa Verde National Park. Becoming a Junior Ranger is a great way to explore your national parks and help take care of them for the future.

#### Activity Booklet

Children from age 4 to 12 can become a Junior Ranger. Just pick up a free activity booklet at the Visitor and Research Center or Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, explore the park, and complete the activities. When done, take the booklet to any park information center for review.



A special Mesa Verde Junior Ranger badge is awarded for a job well done.

#### Junior Ranger Station

Visit the Mesa Verde Junior Ranger Station at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum for some extra Junior Ranger fun. Learn more about the Ancestral Pueblo people with kid-friendly exhibits or hands-on activities. This is a great place to be sworn in as a Mesa Verde Junior Ranger and receive your badge.

#### Located Inside Museum Courtyard

June 12 to August 16  
3:00 pm\* to 6:00 pm  
\*Open earlier when staffing allows

### Discovering Morefield Campground

Camping is a wonderful time to discover the natural side of Mesa Verde. For a fun, family-oriented way to explore your natural surroundings, pick up a Junior Naturalist Activity Booklet and check out a Discovery Pack.

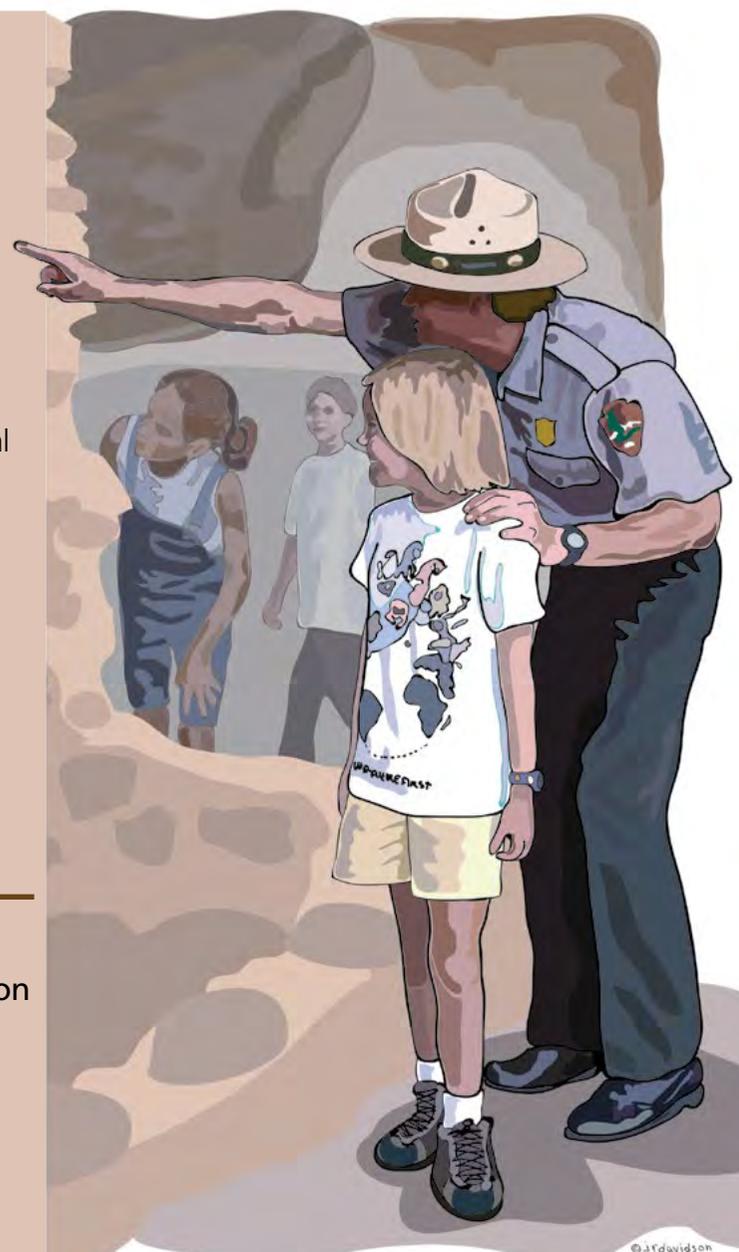


#### Morefield Campground Ranger Station

May 25 to September 1  
5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

#### Junior Ranger Station (in museum)

June 12 to August 16  
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm



# Park Ranger Programs- Fee



Mesa Verde offers visitors opportunities to explore the backcountry of the park. Purchase tickets for these special hikes and tours online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Tickets are non-refundable. *For a ranger-guided tour of Cliff Palace, Balcony House, or Long House, see page 12.*

## Mug House

Mug House was built over several decades in the 12th century, and was home to about 80 to 100 people. Along the route, you will view other Ancestral Puebloan sites including Adobe Cave.

This strenuous 2-hour, 3-mile (4.8 km) round-trip hike is along an unpaved, uneven trail that descends 100 feet (30 m) and includes steep drop-offs, switchbacks, and scrambling up and down boulders.

- May 27 to August 30
- Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays
- Tour is limited to 10 people
- Price: \$25.00 per person, all ages

## Upper Navajo Canyon

Enjoy the autumn weather and fall color as you hike this historic trail, built in the 1930s by the Public Works Administration. You will view several small alcove sites, and experience two different natural ecosystems as you descend from the pinyon-juniper woodlands to the mountain chaparral in the canyon bottom.

This moderate 4-hour, 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip hike follows an unpaved, uneven trail that descends 760 feet (232 m), includes steep drop-offs, and switchbacks.

- September 3 to October 5
- Wednesdays and Sundays
- Tour is limited to 14 people
- Price: \$18.00 per person, all ages

## Wetherill Mesa Experience

Expansive canyon views, spectacular glimpses of cliff dwellings and Wetherill Mesa in the autumn reward hikers on this hike. We will introduce you to the story of the Ancestral Pueblo people, the environment in which they lived, and the ecology of the pinyon-juniper woodlands.

This moderate 4-hour, 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip hike follows an old fire road and an unpaved trail across Wetherill Mesa.

- September 2 to October 3
- Tuesdays and Fridays
- Tour is limited to 14 people
- Price: \$18.00 per person, all ages

## Yucca House

Yucca House National Monument is located eight miles south of Cortez, Colorado. Experience a sense of discovery by visiting this large, unexcavated Ancestral Puebloan site that has remained largely untouched for the past 800 years!

This easy to moderate 1-hour, 1/2 mile (0.8 km) walk is along a mostly level, unpaved path. Tour participants will meet at the Colorado Welcome Center in Cortez for a brief orientation talk, then carpool to the site.

- September 10 and September 19
- Tour is limited to 15 people
- Price: \$5.00 per person, all ages

## Know Before You Go

Your safety depends on good judgment, adequate preparation, and constant attention. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring plenty of water. Shade is limited, so bring a hat and sunscreen. Evaluate your physical condition when choosing a hike.

Elevations range between 7,000 and 7,500 feet (2134 m and 2286 m) above sea level. You should plan for all weather possibilities because weather conditions are quite variable. It's possible to begin your hike in full sun and end with a thunderstorm or a snowstorm.

## What To Bring

Bring a minimum of 1/2 gallon (2 liters) of water per person. You will also need a daypack large enough to carry water, sunscreen, hat, rainwear, binoculars, and camera. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Please, do not bring any type of snack or food, or drinks other than water into a cliff dwelling.

## Restrictions

Due to overhanging branches, uneven terrain, and footing obscured by vegetation, children must be able to keep pace with the group and walk the extent of the trail on their own without difficulty. Children in backpacks are not permitted.

Please understand that once you begin these hikes, neither you nor your children may "turn around" as there will be no ranger to escort you back to the trailhead. Carefully consider the distance and difficulty of this hike before purchasing a ticket.

## Please Be On Time

Please be at your hike departure location, ready to go, at least 15 minutes early. The park road is narrow and winding, and can take 45 to 60 minutes to drive from the park entrance to departure locations. To be fair to others, the tour may leave without you if you are late. Please plan accordingly.

## Cliff Palace Twilight Tour

Meet a character from Mesa Verde's past on a 90-minute evening tour of Cliff Palace. This is a unique opportunity to learn about North America's largest cliff dwelling through the eyes of the people who found, stabilized, and preserved it in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Tours offered Sundays to Thursdays | • Tour is limited to 20 people |
| May 25 to July 24                    | • Price: \$12.00 per person,   |
| July 27 to September 1               | all ages                       |
| September 2 to September 4           |                                |

## Cliff Palace Photography Tour

Photographers, here is chance to spend 90 minutes in Cliff Palace with a park ranger in a small group setting. Dramatic sunset lighting will appeal to both amateur and professional photographers as well as those seeking a deeper connection with this extraordinary archeological treasure.

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Tours offered Fridays and Saturdays | • Tour is limited to 10 people |
| May 23 to July 26                     | • Price: \$20.00 per person,   |
| August 1 to August 30                 | all ages                       |
| September 5 to September 6            |                                |

# Special Events



## A Vibrant Culture

Contemporary Pueblo people from Hopi, Zuni, and Rio Grande Pueblos are descendants of Ancestral Pueblo people of Mesa Verde. This summer, the park will host Pueblo artisans and dancers as they share their vibrant culture. These special events will be held at the Visitor and Research Center, located near the park entrance just off U.S. Highway 160.

~~July 5 and 6:~~ Flora Lomayestewa has been bringing her Hopi dance group from Shungopavi village on Second Mesa to Mesa Verde for the last twenty-five years. The Lomayestewa family invites you to view traditional Hopi dances scheduled both days at 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm, and 4:00 pm. **Due to family circumstances, the Hopi Dances have been canceled.**

**September 20:** Starr Tafoya from Santa Clara Pueblo has given pottery demonstrations at Mesa Verde for over sixteen years. She is an award winner at the Santa Fe Indian Market. Join her at 10:30 am for a demonstration, firing, and sale of her black and redware pottery.

## Four Corners Lecture Series

The Four Corners Lecture Series is sponsored by nine local entities, including Fort Lewis College, Anasazi Heritage Center, and Mesa Verde National Park. The 2014 lecture series theme is "Roads Less Traveled." Each hosting organization will sponsor speakers who have expertise in a subject relating to that theme.

Visit [www.nps.gov/meve](http://www.nps.gov/meve) or ask a park employee for the schedule, list of speakers, and subject for each free presentation.



## Wetherill Mesa Bike and Hike



**September 13 and 27:** You are invited to participate in this year's Wetherill Mesa Bike and Hike. The fall is a special time of year to visit as the more relaxing fall season replaces the busy days of summer. The Wetherill Tram is not running so you are invited to ride your bike on the tram road and hike to Long House and Step House cliff dwellings. Rangers are available to answer your questions. Wetherill Mesa will be open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm both days.

## Artist-in-Residence Program



Mesa Verde National Park's [Artist-in-Residence \(AIR\) program](#) provides professional writers, composers, and visual and performing artists the opportunity to pursue their particular art form while being surrounded by the park's inspiring ancient architecture and natural landscape.

Mesa Verde's AIR program is managed by the Mesa Verde Museum Association (MVMA), a nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. The works completed under this program contribute to the public understanding and appreciation of our national parks, create a legacy preserved for future generations, and offer park visitors and the public an opportunity to see our heritage through the eyes and ears of contributing artists.

Five artists are selected annually to live in the park for two weeks during the spring or fall pursuing their craft. They will each present a free public demonstration, performance or talk during their residency.

Public presentations will be offered on:

May 15, May 29, September 11, September 25, and October 9.

Ask a park employee or contact MVMA at 970-529-4445 for specific time, location, and subject for these presentations. For more Artist-in-Residence program information, please visit [www.nps.gov/meve/supportyourpark/artists\\_in\\_residence.htm](http://www.nps.gov/meve/supportyourpark/artists_in_residence.htm)



Kristen Gjerdset

## Your Dollars at Work

Mesa Verde National Park staff strive to be effective stewards of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources. We also work hard to ensure that all visitors have an enjoyable and educational experience.

Part of this responsibility is making you aware how your money is being spent and how these activities benefit you, the park, and future generations.

The news briefs are examples of a few of these projects. Some are behind the scenes, while others are activities you may experience during your visit. It might be as simple as the sound of an electric drill, the sight of park biologists in the field, or a view of researchers painstakingly mapping an archeological site.

These projects are important to the continued preservation of your national parks.

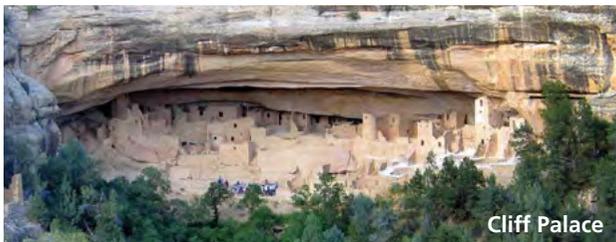


Trail to an archeological site along the Mesa Top Loop

### Trail Repairs

Repair work will continue on trails along the 6-mile Mesa Top Loop Road. Work includes tread replacement and repair of retaining walls.

Maintenance is also planned for the Square Tower House and Spring House trails. This work will allow continued access for special backcountry hikes in the future.



Cliff Palace

### Architectural Preservation

Work continues to identify the reasons behind the downhill movement that is occurring in the south end of Cliff Palace. The development of a comprehensive engineering assessment with preservation alternatives is being paid for in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, Anschutz Foundation, and the Mesa Verde Foundation.

The stabilization treatments and documentation started in 2011 at Square Tower House is expected to be completed this year.



Visitor and Research Center

### Move the Museum Collection

The move of the park's three million object museum and archival collection from the old Research Lab to the Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center will continue in 2014. Although the move to the new facility should be completed this summer, the unpacking and re-housing of objects in their new home will take a number of years to complete. Much of this work will be done through student interns and volunteers. You can view a section of the new collection facility during a visit to the Visitor and Research Center.



U. S. Department of Energy

### "Greening" the Fleet

The [Clean Cities National Park Initiative](#) is a partnership between the Department of the Interior and Department of Energy. It supports transportation-related projects that use renewable and alternative fuels, electric drive and advanced vehicles (EV), and fuel saving measures in the parks. The park, in partnership with ARAMARK Corporation, Southern Colorado Clean Cities Coalition and the Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities will acquire three additional propane pickup trucks, construct a fleet fueling station, and conduct another education and outreach event before the end of 2015.



Nonnative Musk Thistle

### Invasive Plant Management

Currently, Mesa Verde National Park and Yucca House National Monument have populations of dozens of non-native plants, many of which are highly aggressive competitors with native species. An Invasive Plant Management Plan will be developed to enhance current management strategies. The plan will set priorities for controlling new and existing populations of invasive weeds and look into additional ways of detecting and preventing their establishment and spread.

## Road Improvements

The loop road that provides access to the Chapin Mesa Historic District is being resurfaced this summer. The work involves milling, recycling, and repaving the existing roadway and parking areas that provide access to the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, Spruce Tree House, Spruce Tree Terrace Café, and several administrative buildings.

Visitors may encounter short delays and be required to park in temporary lots or graveled spaces while the main parking areas are repaved. There will be traffic control and parking guidance during the construction to minimize any inconvenience. All services will be in operation and open at regularly scheduled times. The work is expected to be completed by early- to mid-summer.

The ¾ mile (1.2 km) long Prater Ridge Tunnel will also receive minor drainage repairs and painting in June and July. Limited traffic delays may be encountered, but delays should not be over two to three minutes in length. Much of the work will occur during night hours.

Please use caution through the work zones and obey traffic control signs and personnel. This work can only be performed during warmer, drier weather and is necessary for the continued use of the roads. *Caution is advised at all times.* We apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you for your patience.



# Mesa Verde Museum Association

## Providing Memories, Inspiring Stewardship

Mesa Verde Museum Association (MVMA) is the innovative educational nonprofit partner that inspires life-long stewardship of Mesa Verde's cultural and natural heritage. Since 1930, MVMA has supported education and research in the park through an active publishing program, membership program, in-depth learning opportunities, and retail stores. Proceeds from all our programs generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in park support each year.

## You Can Make a Difference!

You can help preserve and protect the park for future generations by becoming a Mesa Verde Association member today!

Your tax-deductible membership dues will support the work of both MVMA and the Mesa Verde Foundation, the park's capital fundraising partner. Members receive a discount in MVMA stores and online, periodic e-newsletters, a year-end gift, and discounts at most cooperating association bookstores in national parks and other public lands across the country. To ask about membership at MVMA stores, call us at 970-529-4445 or 800-305-6053, or visit [www.mesaverde.org/membership](http://www.mesaverde.org/membership).



Replica pottery

## Enhance Your Visit

You'll find an outstanding selection of Mesa Verde publications and products at our stores that will help you further explore and appreciate this park's incomparable cultural and natural resources. MVMA stores are located in the Visitor and Research Center, Morefield Ranger Station, Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, Wetherill Mesa Information Kiosk, and Colorado Welcome Center at 928 East Main Street in Cortez, and online at [www.mesaverde.org](http://www.mesaverde.org).



Visitor and Research Center Store

## Mesa Verde Museum Association

**10% off your purchase**

Present this coupon at the register.

Redeemable at MVMA stores in the Visitor and Research Center, Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, Wetherill Mesa Kiosk, Morefield Ranger Station, and Colorado Welcome Center in Cortez.

Coupon is good on all regularly priced items. Not valid with other discounts.

Expiration date: 12/31/2014

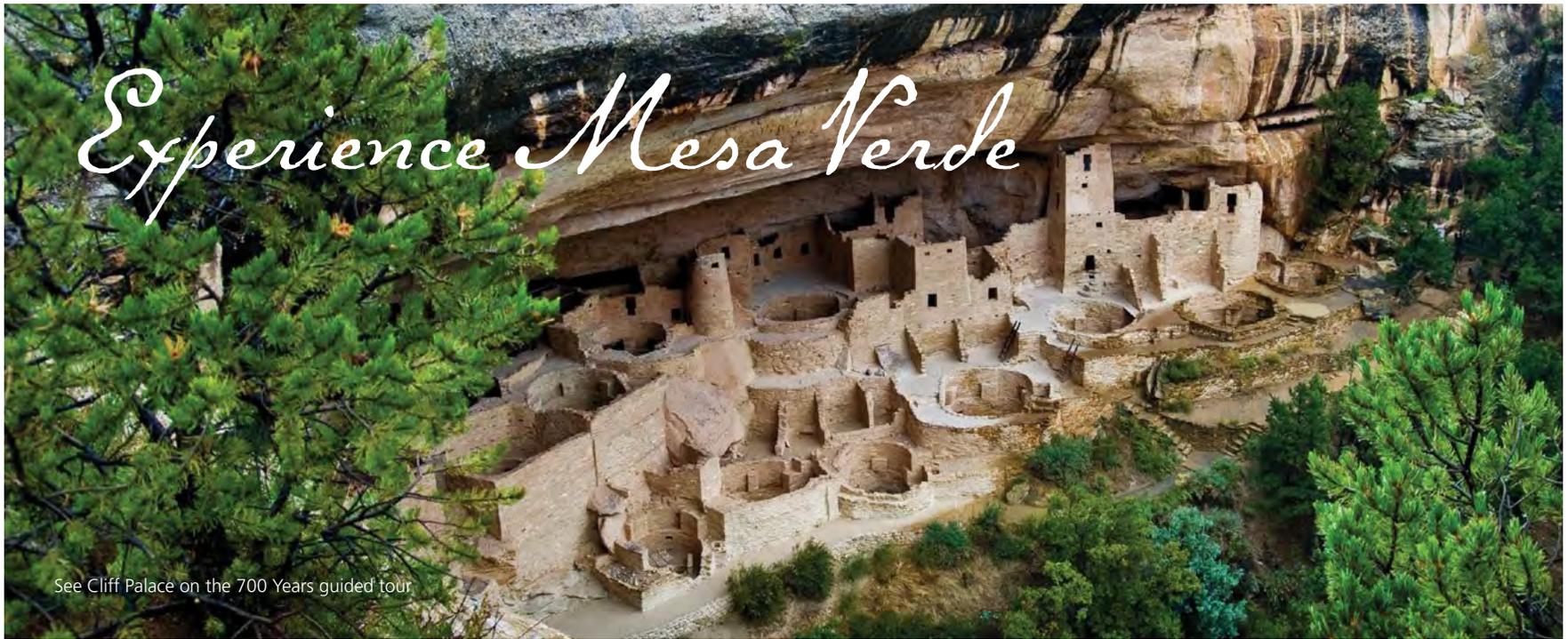
## Just for Mesa Verde Junior Rangers!



We've designed a special colorful logo to recognize Mesa Verde Junior Rangers! It features the tower from Square Tower House cliff dwelling (which you can see from the Mesa Top Loop), a brightly-colored collared lizard, an Ancestral Puebloan black-on-white pottery design found in the Mesa Verde region, and the iconic "flat hat" that park rangers wear. We offer a variety of educational products and apparel for every Junior Ranger that features this distinctive logo. Come see our selection today.

Kids who present their completed Mesa Verde Junior Ranger booklet and their badge at any MVMA store will receive a 15% discount on their entire purchase!

# ARAMARK Concession Services



See Cliff Palace on the 700 Years guided tour



Kiva Room at Far View Lodge



Native Handcrafts



Far View Lodge



Concessions at Mesa Verde National Park are managed by Aramark and authorized by the National Park Service.

## FOOD, SHOPPING, GUIDED TOURS, CAMPING AND LODGING



### MOREFIELD CAMPGROUND AREA

**Morefield Campground:** Camp Grocery Store, RV & Tent Camping, Showers, Laundry, and Fuel. All-you-can eat pancake breakfast at Knife Edge Cafe.



MESA VERDE  
—COLORADO—

(800) 449-2288, (970) 529-4422 locally, or visit and book on-line at [visitmesaverde.com](http://visitmesaverde.com)

# Touring a Cliff Dwelling

Cliff Palace and Balcony House are popular ranger-guided cliff dwelling tours. During periods of high demand, you may be asked to choose only one of these tours per day.

A tour of Long House, located on Wetherill Mesa, can be taken on the same day as the Cliff Palace or Balcony House tours.

Tour tickets are \$4.00 per tour, per person, regardless of age. (Pass discounts do not apply).

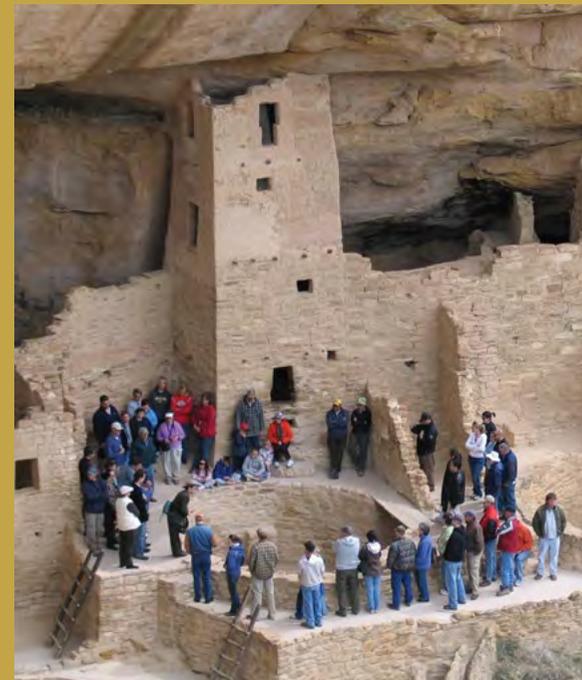
## Purchase tour tickets at:

- Visitor and Research Center
- Morefield Ranger Station
- Colorado Welcome Center, Cortez
- Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum (limited hours, see hint below)\*\*

For hours of operation, see Visitor Services section on page 1.

\*\*Hint: You'll get the best selection of times for ranger-guided tours at the Visitor and Research Center, Morefield Ranger Station, or the Colorado Welcome Center. Options may be more limited at the museum.

Tickets will be sold at the museum from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm through September 1. (After September 1, ticket sales hours will be reduced. Ask a ranger for times.)



## Cliff Palace

### Mesa Verde's Largest Cliff Dwelling

On this one-hour tour you will descend uneven stone steps and climb four ladders, with an elevation change of 100 feet (30 m). Total walking distance is ¼ mile (0.4 km). Tour begins at the Cliff Palace, a 23-mile (37 km) one-hour drive from the Visitor and Research Center.

### May 23 to September 1

Every half-hour: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

### September 2 to October 18\*

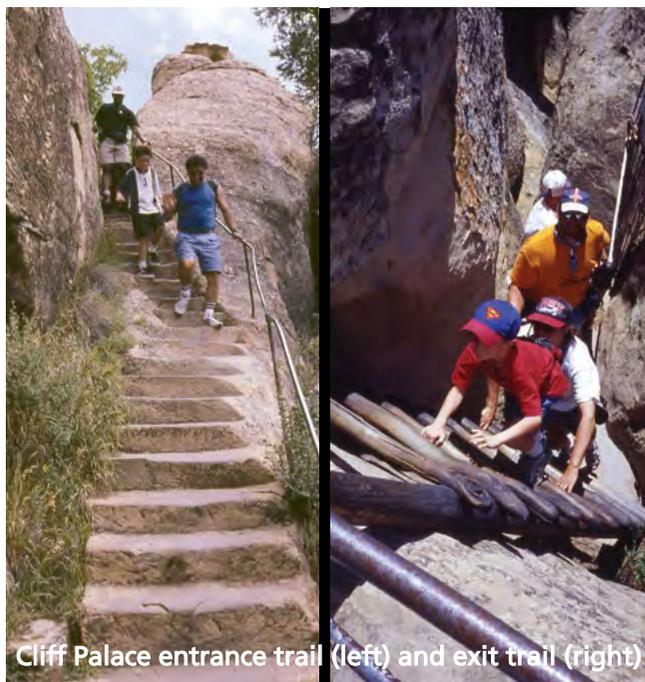
Every hour: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

### October 19 to November 1

Every hour: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**November 2: Closed for season**

\*Additional tours will be added if possible.



Cliff Palace entrance trail (left) and exit trail (right)

## Balcony House

### Most Adventurous Cliff Dwelling Tour

On this one-hour tour you will climb a 32-foot (9.8 m) ladder, crawl through an 18-inch wide (45 cm) and 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 tour begins at the north end of the Balcony House parking lot, a 25-mile (40.2 km), 1¼ hours drive from the Visitor and Research Center.

### May 23 to August 16

Every half-hour: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

### August 17 to September 1\*

Every hour: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

### September 2 to October 18

Every hour: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**October 19: Closed for season**

\*Additional tours will be added if possible.



Balcony House entrance ladder

## Long House

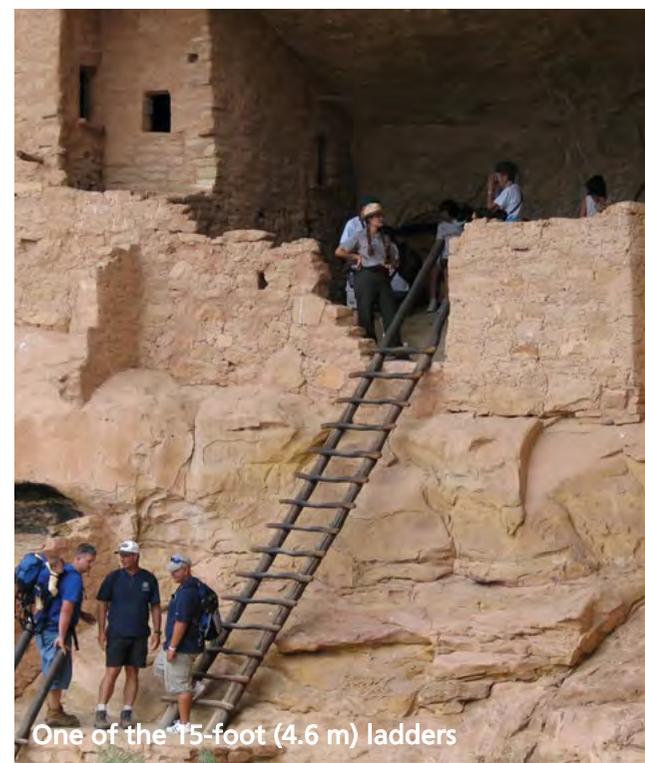
### Most In-Depth Tour

On this 90-minute tour you will ride a tram to and from the trailhead. In the site you will climb two 15-foot (4.6 m) ladders and experience a 130-foot (40 m) elevation change to exit. The round-trip hike is ¾ mile (1.2 km). Tour begins at the Wetherill Mesa Information Kiosk, a 29-mile (46.8 km) drive from the Visitor and Research Center. Allow 1¼ hours for this drive. Vehicles over 25 feet (8 m) long are not allowed on the Wetherill Mesa Road.

### May 23 to September 1

10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 noon, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, and 4:00 pm

**September 2: Closed for season**



One of the 15-foot (4.6 m) ladders