

Canyon de Chelly National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Canyon de Chelly National Monument
P.O. Box 588
Chinle, Arizona 86503



Canyon Tours

Canyon de Chelly National Monument is unlike any other national park in that the canyons remain on Navajo tribal lands and include a residential community. Canyon residents have shared their homelands to visitors long before the monument was established in 1931, but not all areas are open to the general public. Visiting this special place can include a self guided drive along the North and South Rim Drives that feature several overlooks and one hiking trail open all year round. Guided tours of the backcountry areas that are not open to the public are available by hiring an authorized guide and obtaining a backcountry permit. Arrangements for tours are made directly with an independent tour operator.

Important Update

As the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation continue to work together to manage the park, some modifications may occur that will affect the way the park operates. One major change will involve the collection of fees by the Navajo Nation.

Currently, Canyon de Chelly National Monument does not charge a fee for park entrance, for backcountry permits or for the Cottonwood Campground. The Navajo Parks and Recreation Department (NPRD); however, is considering

the following adjustments:

- Tribal management of the Cottonwood Campground.
- Fee collection for the Cottonwood Campground.
- Fee collection for backcountry permits.

An official news release from the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department is forthcoming. For any questions about these changes, please contact NPRD at 928-674-2106.

Tour Companies

Tours into the canyon can be arranged directly with the tour companies listed. Companies provide authorized guides that lead vehicle or hiking tours and even overnight camping tours.

Tours using YOUR own vehicle can also be arranged through the companies. Your vehicle must be four-wheel drive (4WD) with high clearance. Using all-wheel drive vehicles are not permitted.

Most companies offer tours that are a minimum of 3 hours and operate on a cash basis. Extra fees may apply for

leading more than 3 vehicles, leading large hiking groups and shuttling hikers. Please discuss details and fees with your guide. From April through October, advance reservations are suggested.

Backcountry permits are currently free and available only during regular business hours from the Visitor Center. The group leader and authorized guide are required to sign the permit in person acknowledging the park regulations. The entire group is responsible for abiding by the regulations set forth by the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation.

Backcountry Camping

Camping overnight in the backcountry requires hiring an authorized guide and obtaining a backcountry permit, in addition to submitting supporting documents. The supporting documents are required as a safety precaution in the event of an emergency.

The following supporting documents must be submitted to obtain an overnight backcountry permit from the Visitor Center: *all participant's names, emergency phone numbers, complete trip itinerary, and landowner(s) written permission.*

Groups requesting to camp overnight in the backcountry should plan well in advance to make arrangements directly with a company, to submit the required documents and to obtain the landowner(s) permission.

All overnight campers cannot be left unattended and must be accompanied by the authorized guide(s) at all times while in the backcountry. Large groups of 16 or more people may need to request a Special Use Permit (see SPECIAL REQUESTS).

Some Reminders

Here are some important points to remember about entering the canyon: Pets are not permitted on any canyon tours even if using your own vehicle; groups must stay together, have a backcountry permit and be accompanied by an authorized guide; entry is not permitted into any archeological site; and ask permission for photos of Navajo people, their homes or their property.

All tour arrangements including fees are to be made directly with the companies and your guide. Park staff can assist with providing company contact information, but cannot make recommendations.

Canyon tours are required to have: One guide per 5 vehicles; one guide per 6 horseback riders; one guide per 15 hikers. Large groups of 16 or more people may need to request a Special Use Permit (see SPECIAL REQUESTS).

Guides are not employees of the park, but are authorized by the National Park Service. The companies listed are also registered by the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department to provide commercial tour services.

Special Requests

Most special events or activities held in the park require a Special Use Permit, issued only after the park and the Navajo Nation determine that the activity will not cause derogation of the park's resources or values, visitor experiences, or the purpose for which the park was established.

To determine if a Special Use Permit is required, submit a written request to the park at least 3 weeks in advance to provide adequate time to work out details. The park and the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department will review the request.

Written requests should include as much detail about the event including date, time, location, type of event, number of people, number of vehicle or horses, and equipment or supplies to be used.

Any commercial filming and photography conducted in the park or anywhere on the Navajo Nation requires a permit from the Navajo Nation Film Office (NNFO). The NNFO also requires a permit for interviewing, filming or photographing Navajo people for commercial purposes. Upon approval of projects, an authorized guide must accompany filming or photography crews into the canyon. Fees will apply for hiring a Navajo guide.

Events such as commercial filming, commercial photography, weddings and large gatherings (large tour groups) may be subject to fees for the permit application, permit review and activity monitoring. In some cases, events may also require a certificate of liability insurance.

For more information about special events, please contact the park at 928-674-5500 ext. 228.

Vehicle and Hiking Tours

[A Canyon de Chelly Jeep Tour](#)
(928)674-3772, P.O. Box 1428, Chinle, AZ 86503
www.acanyondechellytour.com
Vehicle/Hiking/Overnight Camping

[Canyon Ancient Jeep Tours](#)
(928)349-5912, P.O. Box 1564, Chinle, AZ 86503
www.canyondechellyspiderrockjeeptour.com
Vehicle/Hiking

[Canyon de Chelly Tours](#)
(928)674-5433, P.O. Box 976, Chinle, AZ 86503
www.canyondechellytours.com
Vehicle/Overnight Camping

[Canyon Jeep Tours](#)
(928)245-9592, P.O. Box 2168, Chinle, AZ 86503
www.canyonjeeptours.net
Vehicle

[Dine Bikeyah Tours](#)
(928)675-0461, P.O. Box 1174, Chinle, AZ 86503
Vehicle/Hiking/Overnight Camping

[Thunderbird Lodge Tours](#)
(928)674-5841, 800-679-2473
P.O. Box 548, Chinle, AZ 86503
www.tbirdlodge.com
Vehicle

[Tseyi Jeep Tours](#)
(928)674-3262, P.O. Box 2880, Chinle, AZ 86503
www.tseyijeeptour.com
Vehicle/Hiking/Overnight Camping

[Twin Trails Scenic Tours](#)
(928)349-5560, P.O. Box 1913, Chinle, AZ 86503
Vehicle

[Tseyi Trails Tours](#)
(928)349-8528 or (928)674-8047
P.O. Box 1533, Chinle, AZ 86503
Hiking/Step-on for your private 4WD