November 1, 2015 to March 5, 2016

Welcome

Winter is a special time to visit Mesa Verde National Park and there are many activities available to help you experience this magical place. Step back in time by visiting the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum to see an Ancestral Puebloan turkey-feather winter boot; view Spruce Tree House surrounded by winter snow; drive the Mesa Top Loop Road and watch for deer making their way through the snow; or enjoy a variety of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking opportunities in the quiet winter environment.

Spruce Tree House is Mesa Verde’s best-preserved cliff dwelling. You can observe Spruce Tree House from two viewpoints near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. You can walk to the overlooks on your own, or join a free ranger talk to learn about the cliff dwelling and the Ancestral Pueblo people who once lived there. Three programs are offered daily:

November 1, 2015 to February 20, 2016
10:30 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm

February 21, 2016 to March 5, 2016
10:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:30 pm

To join a ranger talk, dress warmly and meet the ranger at the Museum five minutes before the program begins. The trail to the viewpoint is short but steep, and may be icy.

Spruce Tree House and the museum are a 45 to 60 minute drive from the park entrance.

Winter Logistics

All activities depend on road 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, 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, from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. There is no overnight lodging in the park, but accommodations are available in nearby communities. For additional park information, tune your radio to AM 1610.

Visit Spruce Tree House

Mesa Verde National Park Visitor and Research Center

Mesa Verde National Park 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. This LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) facility also houses a state-of-the-art research and storage facility for the park’s archives and museum collection of over three million objects.

*The Mesa Verde Visitor Center is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.
*Entrance fees will be collected here from January 10, 2016 through March 5, 2016
Winter Recreational Opportunities are available for Nordic skiing and snowshoeing once there is an appreciable amount of snow and the park has begun to groom trails. To find out what winter trails are open, call 970-529-4622 or 970-529-4631.

Snowshoes are available for loan at the Visitor Center and Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. Ask for maps, descriptions, and trail conditions at the Visitor Center or Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. This information is also available on the winter activities page of the park website.

Explore On Your Own

**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. The museum and store are open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.

**Mesa Top Loop Road** is a six-mile (10 km) drive with short paved trails to view 12 easily-accessible archeological sites, including surface sites and cliff dwelling overlooks. Highlights include views of Square Tower House and Cliff Palace. 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** is open to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking. No vehicles are permitted after December 1.

**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.

**Mesa Verde National Park**
1-970-529-4465  www.nps.gov/meve

**Mesa Verde Museum Association, Park Partner**
1-970-529-4445  www.mesaverde.org

**Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum**
1-970-529-4631
November 1, 2015 to February 20, 2016
9:00 am to 4:30 pm
February 21, 2016 to March 5, 2016
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Museum Store**
November 1, 2015 to February 20, 2016
9:00 am to 4:30 pm
February 21, 2016 to March 5, 2016
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Visitor Center Store**
November 1, 2015 to March 5, 2016
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

**Aramark, Park Partner**
1-800-449-2288  www.visitmesaverde.com

**Spruce Tree Terrace Gift Shop and Café**
November 1, 2015 to March 5, 2016
11:00 am to 3:30 pm  (limited menu)

**U.S. Postal Service, near the museum**
November 1, 2015 to March 5, 2016
8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday

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