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. If you imagine that the ground you're standing on is in a steamy, swampy, equatorial climate 225 million years ago, you will have no problem placing the oversized Triassic trees and dinosaurs that inhabited this area into your mind's eye. That is the primary story we have to tell here, but there are several others, too.

Humans have lived in this area for at least 10,000 years—the archeological record tells us that story. Several modern American Indian Tribes have ancestral ties to this place. And, of course, in recent times, Route 66 passed through the park and all of the structures we use today to support your visit and our management activities are now on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Painted Desert Inn, a 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 and 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 park road from one end to the other. There are many pullouts and several short trails to get you closer to the story.

Please help us keep the petrified wood in its natural place. One of our greatest challenges is the amount of petrified wood that is stolen every year by visitors who either don't know or don't care enough about those who come later to refrain from taking a souvenir. If you see this type of illegal activity, please let our law enforcement staff knows. 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. Or make whatever connection works best for you. Enjoy your park and thanks for your support!

Brad Traver, Superintendent
Out of the Car and On the Trail

The best way to enjoy and experience Petrified Forest National Park is on foot. Designated trails range in length from less than a half-mile to three miles.

Stay on designated trails in developed hiking areas. Off-trail hiking damages the fragile grassland environment and disturbs wildlife habitat, creating unsightly “social” trails. Leaving the designated trail can also be hazardous for hikers due to loose rock and dangerous cliffs. Pets must be kept on leash at all times. Pets are not permitted in the park buildings (except for service animals). Please clean up after your animal; use the trash receptacles. Bicycles are not allowed on trails or off roads at any time.

### Trails and Safety at Petrified Forest National Park

#### Trails and Safety

**Blue Mesa Trail**

- **Painted Desert Rim**
  - Trailhead: Tawa and Kachina Points
  - Length: 1-mile round trip
  - Description: This trail winds through the rim woodland, a place for chance encounters of many species of plants and animals. The view of the Painted Desert is spectacular. Please do not harm animals or plants in the park.

- **Puerco Pueblo**
  - Trailhead: Puerco Pueblo parking lot
  - Length: 0.3-mile loop
  - Description: Walk amidst the remains of a hundred room village, occupied by the ancestral Puebloan people between A.D. 1250 and 1400. Do not climb on the boulders or walls. Please do not touch petroglyphs.

- **Blue Mesa**
  - Trailhead: Blue Mesa sunshelter on the Blue Mesa road
  - Length: 1-mile loop
  - Description: Descending from the mesa, this trail loops among petrified wood deposits and badland hills of bluish bentonite clay. Plant fossils, including delicate ferns, have been found in the sedimentary layers of Blue Mesa. Please leave them for others to enjoy.

- **Crystal Forest**
  - Trailhead: Crystal Forest parking lot
  - Length: 0.75-mile loop
  - Description: Despite more than a century of collecting, a few beautiful crystals hide in the petrified logs of Crystal Forest. Please leave the petrified wood for others to enjoy. Report anyone removing petrified wood from the park.

- **Long Logs**
  - Trailhead: Rainbow Forest parking area
  - Length: 1.6-mile loop
  - Description: Long Logs is one of the largest concentrations of petrified wood in the park. Explore this ancient log jam at the base of gray badlands. Do not climb on the badland hills.

- **Agate House**
  - Trailhead: Rainbow Forest parking area
  - Length: 2-miles round trip
  - Description: Archeologists believe that this small pueblo was occupied for a short time about 700 years ago. Seasonal farmers or traders possibly built Agate House as a temporary home. Long Logs and Agate House Trails can be combined, as they start from the same trail head, for a total of 2.6 miles round trip.

- **Giant Logs**
  - Trailhead: Behind Rainbow Forest Museum
  - Length: 0.4-mile loop
  - Description: Giant Logs features some of the largest and most colorful logs in the park. “Old Faithful”, at the top of the trail, is almost ten feet across the base.

#### Safety

Stay on the designated trails. Do not go beyond protective fencing. Avoid cliff edges.

Be aware of symptoms of high altitude sickness: nausea, dizziness, headache, rapid heartbeat, and shortness of breath. Keep hydrated, rest, snack lightly, avoid alcohol and cigarettes.

Wear sunglasses with UV protection, hat, and sunscreen.

Wild animals can carry diseases including rabies, hanta virus, and plague. Do not handle or allow your pets near any live or dead animals. Avoid nests and burrows.

If you are injured or ill while visiting the park, contact a ranger at any visitor center.

For Lost and Found, contact any visitor center or call the park at 928-524-6228.

Yellow emergency phones are located at Puerco Pueblo, Blue Mesa, and Crystal Forest. The park number for emergency only is 928-524-9726.
Activities at Petrified Forest National Park

Triassic Park Program at Giant Logs Trail

located nearby. park, is shown every half hour. A gift shop and a seasonal snack bar are
and restrooms. Timeless Impressions—a free orientation film about the
and displays of prehistoric animals as well as information, book sales,
Rainbow Forest Museum provides exhibits of petrified wood, fossils,
section for more information.
Crystal Forest, Long Logs, Agate House, and Giant Logs are all trails
across the valley floor.
Blue Mesa is an ideal setting to see the effect of erosion on badland
hills. The one-way spur road leads to the mesa top, a four-mile round
trip from the main park road. Petrified wood can be seen from the
overlooks along the road as well as the trail.
Agate Bridge is a large petrified log spanning a gully and Jasper Forest
showcases bluffs which once encased the petrified wood now strewn
across the valley floor.
Crystal Forest, Long Logs, Agate House, and Giant Logs are all trails
that feature the many wonders of Petrified Forest. Refer to the Trails
section for more information.
Rainbow Forest Museum provides exhibits of petrified wood, fossils,
and displays of prehistoric animals as well as information, book sales,
and restrooms. Timeless Impressions, a free orientation film about the
park, is shown every half hour. A gift shop and a seasonal snack bar are
located nearby.

Points of Interest and Facilities
In order as seen from north to south:

Painted Desert Visitor Center provides information, book sales,
exhibits, and restrooms. Timeless Impressions—a free orientation film about the park—is shown every half hour. A restaurant, gift shop, gas station, and convenience store are adjacent to the visitor center.
Tiponi, Tawa, Kachina, Chinde, Pintado, Nizhoni, Whipple, And Lacey Points are overlooks providing panoramic views of the red part of the Painted Desert.
Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark, located at Kachina Point, once served as a respite for travelers along historic Route 66. From the inn, you may view distant vistas and exhibits while touring this historic building.
Puerco Pueblo, a large archeological site, was occupied over 600 years ago. The pueblo has been partially excavated and a few of the room foundations stabilized. The trail also features petroglyphs.
Newspaper Rock has more than 650 petroglyphs adorning boulders below the overlook. Due to defacement of these petroglyphs and unstable hillsides, the area is closed below the cliff. Free spotting scopes are available at the viewpoint.
Blue Mesa is an ideal setting to see the effect of erosion on badland hills. The one-way spur road leads to the mesa top, a four-mile round trip from the main park road. Petrified wood can be seen from the overlooks along the road as well as the trail.
Agate Bridge is a large petrified log spanning a gully and Jasper Forest showcases bluffs which once encased the petrified wood now strewn across the valley floor.
Crystal Forest, Long Logs, Agate House, and Giant Logs are all trails that feature the many wonders of Petrified Forest. Refer to the Trails section for more information.

Ranger Guided Programs
Ranger programs are available throughout the year. You probably won’t be surprised that there are more programs available during our busy summer. There are three main programs:
Triassic Park: Discover the landscape of long ago and learn about the Late Triassic Epoch. Meet in the Rainbow Forest Museum sunroom. This will be either an easy Ranger-guided walk (with a few stairs) or a talk, depending on weather and interest.
Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark: Step back in time to learn about the inn’s captivating history and architecture. Meet at the Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark for this easy Ranger-guided tour.
Puerco Pueblo: Explore this ancestral Puebloan village and discover petroglyphs along the trail. Meet at the Puerco Pueblo parking lot trailhead for this easy Ranger-guided walk.

Additional activities, and events occur throughout the year. Call 928-524-6228 for more information, check at one of the visitor facilities when you come to the park, or visit http://www.nps.gov/pefo.

A Timeless Treasure Trove
Imagine a place that protects pieces of natural and cultural history, from artifacts centuries old to fossils millions of years old. This place is the Petrified Forest National Park Museum Collection. More than 200,000 objects are housed in the collection, including archeological objects recovered from hundreds of sites within the park’s boundaries and associated field records; ethnological objects related to Hopi and Navajo cultures; Triassic fossils; Park Photographic Archive; representative geological specimens collected from the park; and the biological collection (both plants and animals). The museum collection provides a window of discovery into the Late Triassic—its flora, fauna, and geology, as well as millennia of human use and occupation, and the current environment—an aid to understanding and education among researchers, park staff, and park visitors. Explore some of the objects in the collection at the Rainbow Forest Museum and at http://www.museum.nps.gov/pefo/page.htm.

Cultural Demonstrations
The Cultural Demonstration Program at Petrified Forest National Park provides the opportunity for regional people to share their history and traditional crafts in the dynamic setting of Petrified Forest National Park.

The park is pleased to promote awareness and appreciation for the diverse history and cultures of the region on Saturdays in March, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, and November. Through cultural demonstrations, we can recognize the ancient peoples, intertribal relationships, European-descent cultures and even Route 66 history.
Programs and Activities

Special Event Calendar

March
Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month

April
National Park Week, last full week in April

Summer
Cultural Demonstrators: Most Saturdays through the summer, visit with silversmiths, dancers, weavers and other demonstrators, many with items for sale.

June
Summer Solstice Celebration June 14-28—for about a two week period around the summer solstice, join rangers each morning to watch sunlight and shadow interact with a petroglyph at Puerco Pueblo.

August
Founders Day: anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service, August 25.

September
National Public Lands Day: Last Saturday in September
Navajo County Fair: county fairgrounds in Holbrook.

October
Ghosts of the Past-Lamplight tour of historic Painted Desert Inn, closest Saturday to Halloween.

November
National American Indian Heritage Month

December
Petrified Forest's Anniversary, December 8-9
Check for more special activities and details at the park website http://www.nps.gov/pefo or call 928-524-6228.

Online with Petrified Forest
Want to plan for your trip? Can’t come out to visit us? You can virtually visit Petrified Forest National Park online! Start with our official website at http://www.nps.gov/pefo. Stay connected with the park through our social networks:

Twitter: http://twitter.com/PetrifiedNPS
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/PetrifiedForestNPS
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/PetrifiedForestNP

Artist-In-Residence Program

Artists have influenced the formation, expansion, and direction of our national parks. The work of many artists has also assisted in providing perspectives at parks, creating meaningful experiences for visitors. Artists document national parks through diverse approaches and techniques, including painting, poetry, photography, prose, and music, reflecting the multi-faceted qualities of parks, bringing enjoyment and a deeper understanding of the parks.

Founded in 2006 as part of the park’s Centennial Celebration, Petrified Forest National Park’s 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. Selected artists stay in the park for two-weeks during April through October. Artists are prepared to work in this sometimes demanding environment.

Participating artists are asked to donate an original piece of artwork from their residency in Petrified Forest to the park. The artwork will be accessioned into the park’s permanent museum collection. Artists will also present two programs to the public during their residency.

Aspire to share your vision of Petrified Forest National Park with the public through the world of art. Work completed under this program contributes to the public understanding and appreciation of our national parks and create a legacy preserved for future generations.

The application form and more details can be found at http://www.nps.gov/pefo/parknews/artist-in-residence.htm.
Wilderness and Camping at Petrified Forest National Park

Wilderness Hiking and Camping
The Petrified Forest National Wilderness Area was one of the first two designated in the National Park System. What is wilderness? The concept is different for everyone. Artists may see shapes and color; backpackers anticipate an adventure; legislators define it in legal terms. In general, wilderness is a place where the human imprint is minimal. In 1964 Congress passed the Wilderness Act, restricting grazing, mining, timber cutting and mechanized vehicles in these areas. Wilderness Areas are protected and valued for their ecological, historical, scientific and experiential resources. The Petrified Forest National Wilderness Area consists of over 50,000 acres of mesas, buttes, badlands, and scattered areas of grasslands.

No permits are required for day hiking. Wilderness hiking offers the opportunity to visit sites seldom seen by most park visitors. There are no developed trails; hiking is cross-country. Clear air, sparse vegetation, and a variety of landmarks combine to make hiking conditions excellent. Be prepared! There is no water and little shade in the backcountry. A gallon of water per person per day is recommended in summer months. Day hikers must be back at their vehicles by the park’s posted closing time.

There are two units in the Petrified Forest National Wilderness Area. The Painted Desert unit is at the north end of the park, accessed from Kachina Point. The trailhead can be found on the northwest side of the Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark. Campers must hike at least one linear mile from the trailhead at Kachina Point or north of the Lithodendron Wash. The Rainbow Forest unit is at the south end of the park, accessed from the parking area at mile marker 24 south of the Flattops. In the Rainbow Forest unit, campers must hike at least a half mile southeast of the main park road near the Flattops. There are no maintained campsites in the wilderness area.

Horseback riding and pack animals are permitted in the wilderness. All information and regulations contained in this article pertain to horse use in the wilderness.

A permit for backcountry camping may be obtained for a maximum of 14 consecutive days. The campsite must be relocated every three days to minimize impacts on the resource. Camping is allowed for not more than a total of 30 days in any calendar year park-wide. All permit applicants must read and sign the permit conditions sheet before being issued a permit.

Regulations:
- Collection of plants, rocks, petrified wood, fossils, archeological objects or other materials is illegal everywhere in the park.
- No bicycles or motorized vehicles are allowed in the wilderness area.
- Camping in the park without a permit is prohibited.
- Group size for staying in the wilderness area overnight is limited to eight (8) persons per group. Use of campsites is limited to eight (8) persons.
- No wood or charcoal fires are allowed. The use of solar, propane/butane, and white gas fueled stoves is allowed in wilderness camping areas. Charcoal fires are not allowed in wilderness camping areas.
- Bury human waste. Pack out your trash.

Did You Know?
Most of the fossil giant reptiles found in Petrified Forest are not dinosaurs; instead they are crocodilian relatives. Dinosaurs have different hips, ankles, and other physical characteristics.

Horseback Riding and Pack Animals
The park offers diverse riding and packing opportunities in the Petrified Forest National Wilderness Area.
- When using parking areas, please leave room for other visitors to park.
- Park your trailer so that it does not interfere with vehicle traffic flow.
- Follow all park regulations.
- Clean up after horses in improved areas (parking lots, paved areas, etc).
- All food and water must be packed in. Feed must be certified weed-free.
- Do not leave horses unattended, to prevent encounters with other park visitors. Free-trailing or loose-herding is not permitted. Horses are prohibited on paved trails, paved roads and around visitor use areas.
- Water for horses may be obtained at the service station by the Painted Desert Visitor Center. No water is available in the wilderness area.
- Animals are limited to six (6) per group.

The trail down to the northern unit of the wilderness area can be very steep with an unstable surface. While there are no maintained trails in the wilderness areas, there is very little grade change and riding is easy. Petrified wood is sharp and can cause damage to stock hooves. Take care of yourself, your stock, and your park.
Education, Junior Rangers, and Volunteers

Junior Ranger Program

Junior Rangers take time to explore, learn and protect their national parks. Kids of any age who complete the required activities in the Petrified Forest Junior Ranger Activity Booklet are eligible for a Junior Park Ranger Badge and Patch. Stop at the Painted Desert Visitor Center, Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark, or Rainbow Forest Museum to request an activity booklet.

We invite YOU to become a member of this very special group of people. Help protect our national parks and join the team. Become a Petrified Forest National Park Junior Ranger today!

Volunteers—Very Important People

Have you read the headlines lately? Vandals Destroy Petroglyphs—Fossils are Stolen From Park—Petrified Wood Theft Continues. This is what is happening on our public lands, lands set aside for everyone to enjoy. How can an interested person help deter the increasing damage to our cherished lands? Become a volunteer at Petrified Forest National Park!

Volunteers Jo and George rove the park, offering their knowledge of the resources to visitors.

Junior Rangers are sworn in by one of the rangers.

Education Programs

Educators! Bring your students to Petrified Forest National Park for a ranger-led program that will meet your curriculum needs. The park has endeavored to provide motivating educational opportunities for students while meeting several Arizona Academic Standards. We are always delighted to have classes visit the park with the desire to learn more about this extraordinary place.

Petrified Forest offers:
- Developed Curriculum-based programs on paleontology and archeology,
- Other ranger programs designed to meet specific curriculum needs,
- In-class programs, when a ranger brings the park to your students,
- Traveling trunks that you can sent to your school.

For information write to: Education Specialist
Petrified Forest National Park
P.O. Box 2217
Petrified Forest, AZ 86028

Call the Education Specialist at 928-524-6228
E-mail: PEFO_Superintendent@nps.gov

Did You Know?
Sometimes misnamed antelope, American pronghorn aren’t related to that Old World animal at all. They may resemble antelope, but pronghorn are so unique that they the only members of the family Antelocapridae.
### Petrified Forest Museum Association

Petrified Forest Museum Association
Promoting Interpretive and Educational programs
Promoting scientific research and resource understanding
Producing park-specific publications and materials
Preparing the park for future generations

Become a Member of the Petrified Forest Museum Association and help support your park!

Membership Benefits include an initial 20% discount on anything purchased along with the membership 15% discount at all Petrified Forest Museum Association bookstores, and 10-20% discount at other national park bookstores around the country. Depending on the membership level, there are additional benefits, such as park publications.

Membership applications are available at park visitor centers and museums.

Contact: 928-524-6228 x239
Email: pfma@frontiernet.net
Website: [http://www.npsbookstore.com](http://www.npsbookstore.com)

### Petrified Forest National Park

Mailing Address
Petrified Forest National Park
P.O. Box 2217
Petrified Forest, AZ 86028

E-mail
PEFO_Superintendent@nps.gov

Fax Number
528-524-3567

Park Headquarters
528-524-6228

Website
[http://www.nps.gov/pefo](http://www.nps.gov/pefo)

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

### Area Information

The park does not provide any lodging facilities and camping is limited to backpacking into the wilderness area. Nearby communities, national forests, and state parks have a variety of motels and camping offerings. Communities also offer other services and businesses. For more information:

- Gallup Chamber of Commerce
  505-722-2228

- Holbrook Chamber of Commerce
  [http://www.ci.holbrook.az.us/](http://www.ci.holbrook.az.us/)
  1-800-524-2459

- Winslow Chamber of Commerce
  [http://winslowarizona.org/](http://winslowarizona.org/)
  928-289-2434

For road conditions call:
- Arizona 1-888-411-7623 (or 511 in Arizona)
  [http://www.az511.com](http://www.az511.com)
- New Mexico 1-800-432-4269

### Fees and Passes

**Petrified Forest Entrance Fees**

- $20 annual pass to Petrified Forest
- $10 per private vehicle for a seven-day pass
- $5 per person: bicycles, pedestrians, motorcycle, and non-commercial bus passenger

Fees subject to change at any time.

**National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program**

Passes admit the pass holder/s and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas, not to exceed 4 adults at per person fee areas. Children under 16 are free. Both the Senior and Access Passes provide a 50% discount for some fees, such as camping, swimming, boat launch, and specialized interpretive services.

**Annual Pass**—$80: can be obtained in person at the park, by calling 1-888-ASK USGS, Ext. 1, or via the Internet at [http://store.usgs.gov/pass](http://store.usgs.gov/pass).

**Senior Pass**—$10: lifetime for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. The pass can only be obtained in person at the park.

**Access Pass**—Free: lifetime for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. Acceptable documentation is required to obtain the pass. The pass can only be obtained in person at the park.

**Volunteer Pass**—Free: for volunteers with 500 service hours on a cumulative basis.

#### Climatic Averages for Petrified Forest

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### Other Information

**Did You Know?**

Petrified Forest was one of the first two national parks to have a designated national wilderness area. Wilderness areas are protected by law to be “…affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable…”
Most restrooms, visitor centers, and picnic areas are accessible or accessible with assistance for wheelchair users. The park film is Open Captioned. There is a free book in Braille available at the visitor centers. Service animals are always welcome in the park!