More Spectacular Than Ever!

There is a renaissance underway at Petrified Forest National Park. The park itself has doubled in size. New hiking trails, building renovations, and updated exhibits are examples of improvements found throughout the park. Not to mention, our original attraction and namesake is still here in abundance: petrified wood!

To counter the incorrect belief that massive amounts of petrified wood were stolen from Petrified Forest over time, we are continuing a re-photography effort to capture images of Petrified Forest’s most important and iconic areas. This project involves taking historic photographs in our collection (more than 200 so far) and reshooting those images from the same vantage points today. The results show the vast majority of petrified wood is right where it was when the pictures were first taken.

Wood theft does occasionally occur. We do catch and fine people who attempt to remove petrified wood, and we will always continue our vigilance. But the underlying message of the old “massive theft” narrative—that today’s visitors experience something less than their grandparents saw—is simply not true. These images show that Petrified Forest 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 for the appreciation of all. Thank you for doing the right thing! Enjoy Petrified Forest National Park.

What Should I See and Do?

If you have one or two hours:
• South End: Visit the Rainbow Forest Museum and watch the park film; walk Giant Logs and Crystal Forest Trails; drive the Blue Mesa Road
• North End: Watch the park film at Painted Desert Visitor Center; select several overlooks to take in views of the Painted Desert; walk the Tawa Point Trail and visit the Painted Desert Inn

If you have half a day, do the above and add:
• Drive through the entire park (28 mi/45km main road).
• Walk the Painted Desert Rim Trail to Kachina Point.
• Enjoy the views and wayside exhibits at Route 66, Newspaper Rock, Agate Bridge, and Jasper Forest.
• Walk the Giant Logs Trail (pick up a trail guide at Rainbow Forest Museum).
• Visit Puerco Pueblo.
• Attend a ranger program (available seasonally).
• Explore Blue Mesa and walk the trail.

If you have a full day or more, do the above and add:
• Hike to Long Logs and Agate House.
• Choose an Off the Beaten Path hike (see page 2).
• Spend the night in the park’s Wilderness Area.
• Celebrate—you have the luxury of time to enjoy!
Long Logs provides excellent views of the Painted Desert below. A walk between Tawa Point and Painted Desert Inn Station and Tawa Point. Showcases grasslands and views. A walk between Painted Desert Visitor Center Entrance and Tawa Trail: 2 mi (3.2 km) round trip for a total of 2.6 mi (4.2 km) round trip. *Long Logs and Agate House Trails can be combined, as they start from the same trailhead, for a total of 2.6 mi (4.2 km) round trip.

Blue Mesa: 1 mi (1.6 km) loop Steep path enters into vibrant blue, purple, and gray badlands dotted with colorful petrified wood. Crystal Forest: 0.75 mi (1.2 km) loop Explore a beautiful scatter of colorful petrified logs. Giant Logs: 0.4 mi (0.6 km) loop See some of the largest and most colorful logs in the park. "Old Faithful" is the showcase log, at almost ten feet around at the base. Trail guide available at trailhead Long Logs: 1.6 mi (2.5 km) loop* Site of a Triassic log jam, this area is covered in especially long petrified tree trunks.

Agate House: 2 mi (3.2 km) round trip* Walk to a seven-room reconstructed pueblo.

*Long Logs and Agate House Trails can be combined, as they start from the same trailhead, for a total of 2.6 mi (4.2 km) round trip.

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.

Top Off-the-Beaten-Path Hikes:

Old Blue Forest 2.4 mi (3.9 km) round trip along an unmaintained CCC trail
Jasper Forest 2.5 mi (4 km) round trip on an old road among petrified wood
Onyx Bridge 4 mi (6.4 km) round trip hike to a petrified wood “bridge”
Billings Gap 3 mi (4.8 km) round trip hike atop the Blue Mesa

Enjoy a panoramic view of an area with a high concentration of petrified wood.

Study paleontological exhibits in the museum and walk a 0.4 mi (0.6 km) loop trail.

**Painted Desert Visitor Center**
Stop for historic architecture, park film, information, bookstore, gift shop, food, and gas.

**Painted Desert Overlooks**
Enjoy spectacular views of the Painted Desert from many overlooks in this area.

**Blue Mesa**
Walk the 1 mi (1.6 km) trail and/or drive the 3.5 mi (5.6 km) loop road to explore colorful geology.

**Jasper Forest**
Enjoy a panoramic view of an area with a high concentration of petrified wood.

**Rainbow Forest Museum and Giant Logs Trail**
Study paleontological exhibits in the museum and walk a 0.4 mi (0.6 km) loop trail.
In PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK, you can explore the unique landscape of petrified logs and petroglyphs. Here are some highlights:

1. **Painted Desert Inn**
   - A historic inn turned museum offers exhibits about the CCC, Fred Harvey Company, and more.

2. **Route 66 Alignment**
   - A 1932 Studebaker sits where famed Route 66 once cut through the park.

3. **Newspaper Rock**
   - Look down from an overlook to see over 650 petroglyphs, some as old as 2000 years.

4. **Agate Bridge**
   - See a 110 ft (34 m) petrified log spanning a gully.

5. **Crystal Forest**
   - Many petrified logs glisten with quartz crystals along a paved 0.75 mi (1.2 km) loop trail.

6. **Long Logs & Agate House**
   - A 2.6 mi (4.2 km) trail showcases petrified logs and a pueblo reconstructed of petrified wood.
Donations are always appreciated! Donation boxes are found at park visitor centers. If a donation is made in someone’s honor, please include contact information so they may receive acknowledgment.

Visitor Comment Forms are available at park visitor centers. Catch us doing things right and provide feedback to improve the park experience.

Volunteers are valued and appreciated here! Opportunities exist throughout the year to volunteer in the park in a wide variety of capacities. www.nps.gov/pefo/getinvolved/volunteer

Your Dollars at Work that are generated by entrance fees are used to accomplish projects throughout the park.

PARTNERS
Friends of Petrified Forest is a non-profit partner that brings resources and expertise to natural and cultural park research projects. www.friendsofpetrifiedforest.org

Ortega National Parks is the official park concessionaire that operates a restaurant, two gift shops, a convenience store, and a gas station within the park. www.ortegaparks.com

Petrified Forest Museum Association operates non-profit bookstores at park visitor centers. Your purchases here directly help the park with financial and staff aid. www.petrifiedforestbookstore.com

Junior Rangers are special! Kids who complete activities in the park’s junior ranger activity booklet (available at park visitor centers) earn a badge.

Ranger-Guided Programs are available seasonally and as staffing allows. Ask at park visitor centers or check www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/calendar

Restaurants Painted Desert Diner at the north end of the park is open 8am–9pm daily (extended hours seasonally). Gift shop at Rainbow Forest Museum offers grab and go options.

Visitor centers at Painted Desert and Rainbow Forest are open at least 8am–9pm daily.

Wilderness encompasses over 50,000 acres in the park. There are no developed trails and hiking is cross-country. Be prepared—you are responsible for your own safety. Devils Playground is open by permit only, otherwise no permits are required for day hiking. A free permit is required for all overnight wilderness use and is available at park visitor centers. www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/hiking

Protect Yourself, Protect the Park

Emergency call 911 or park dispatch at 928-524-9726

Accessibility such as restrooms, visitor centers, and picnic areas are accessible (or accessible with assistance). The park film is open captioned. Free braille book is available at park visitor centers. Service animals are allowed everywhere in the park.

Bicycles are permitted on all paved roads. Several unpaved routes are also approved within the park; see www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/gettingaround

Going Green benefits you, the park, and the planet. Examples include using park recycle containers, bringing your own water bottle (and reﬁlling it for free), and enjoying a hike. Please do not idle your vehicle more than 3 minutes.

Pets are welcome! Keep in mind, heat kills—do not leave pets unattended in your vehicle. Pets are allowed on the trails as long as they are leashed and their excrement is picked up and disposed of properly. Only trained service animals (not support animals) are allowed in the buildings. Ask about our Bark Ranger Program!

Regulations All objects in the park are protected. Do not collect anything in the park except for photographs and memories. Obey all trafﬁc laws, including speed limits. Drones, and all unmanned aircraft, are prohibited within the park. Firearms are prohibited in all park buildings. www.nps.gov/pefo/learn/management

SAFETY

Avoid cliff edges and do not go beyond protective fencing. Always be aware of your surroundings.

Keep a safe distance from all wildlife. Approaching or feeding any wildlife is dangerous and illegal.

Use sunblock, stay hydrated, take your time, and rest to reduce the risk of sunburn, dehydration, and exhaustion. Water is available at park visitor centers and Painted Desert Inn. Petrified Forest’s high elevation (about 5,400 feet) and dry climate may affect you differently than your home environment.

Weather varies greatly and changes suddenly. Be prepared to layer clothing for heat, cold, rain, wind, and snow. Beware of winter ice and summer lightning (seek shelter inside a vehicle or building).

There is no overnight lodging available in the park, and camping in the park is limited to backpacking in the Wilderness Area. Nearby communities that offer lodging and camping options include Holbrook, Winslow, Gallup, and St. Johns. Several nearby national forest service areas and state parks also offer lodging and camping options.

Permits Needed for Wilderness Camping

Backpacking in the Wilderness Area of Petrified Forest is a great opportunity for solitude and adventure. There are no designated camping sites. Obtain a camping permit at Painted Desert Visitor Center or Rainbow Forest Museum (both facilities open at least 8 am to 5 pm daily) before embarking on your journey. Permits are free!