CHIMNEY ROCK
ARCHEOLOGICAL AREA

Phone U.S. Forest Service,
Pagosa Springs, Colorado at
(303) 264-2268 for tour
reservations and information

SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST
PAGOSA RANGER DISTRICT,
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
The Chimney Rock Archeological Area on the Pagosa Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest was established by the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Forester's Order of May 28, 1970 (36 CFR 251.22 authority). This 3160 acre area was set aside for the purposes of protecting and recreationally developing Chimney Rock's unique pre-Columbian Indian sites and ruins. These management objectives were reinforced by the San Juan National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan approved in September, 1983. This plan recognizes that the Peregrine falcon (a threatened & endangered species) habitat at Chimney Rock is to be protected as well.

The central portion of the area, some 960 acres, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1970. Recently the Chimney Rock Archeological Area was proposed for addition to the Chaco Archeological Protection Site System in the Chaco Joint Management Plan submitted to the U.S. Congress on September 11, 1984 (per Title V., P.L. 96-550).

The Anasazi (Navajo for "Ancient Ones") occupied the Chimney Rock country around a thousand years ago, from approximately 900 AD to 1125 AD. At that time this area may have supported a population of more than 2,000 farming Indians who lived in pueblo villages and isolated houses spread from the ridges and bluffs along the Piedra River and Stollsteimer Creek to the high mesa tops near the dominant spires of Chimney Rock. The most impressive of these ruins is a large pueblo situated at an elevation of 7600', just below the two Chimney Rock pinnacles. This building was the northeastern outpost of the Anasazi who lived at Chaco Canyon, which is some 87 air miles south of here in New Mexico. It was constructed around 1076 AD probably for religious and trade purposes. Chimney Rock has been called America's Machu Picchu, for its mountain setting is similar to that of the fabled lost city of the Incas. No actual connection, however, is likely.

The Chimney Rock Archeological Area is almost as well known for the spectacular panoramic view it affords the visitor of the surrounding San Juan Mountains and Piedra River Valley of southwest Colorado. It is as well a key wildlife habitat especially for the Peregrine falcon, deer, and elk.
FOREST SERVICE TOURS

You are invited to visit the Chimney Rock Archeological Area through the guided tours provided by the San Juan National Forest, Pagosa Ranger District, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

HOW

To sign up for a tour call the Pagosa Ranger District at (303) 264-2268 or write the Pagosa Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, Box 310, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147, or drop by the office at 2nd and Pagosa Street.

TOUR SCHEDULES AND TIMES

May 15 to September 15 (aprx. dates): Tours are conducted daily. The tours start promptly at 9:00 AM at the Chimney Rock Archeological Area gate on Colorado Highway 151. The Forest Service guide will meet you there.

September 15 to May 15 (aprx. dates): There are no regularly scheduled tours during the winter months.

DIRECTIONS

The Chimney Rock entrance is reached via U.S. Highway 160 from Durango or Pagosa Springs. The junction with Colorado Highway 151 to Capote Lake, Navajo Lake, and Ignacio is around 45 miles east of Durango and 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs (see map on next page). Drive south on 151 for about 3 miles, the Chimney Rock entrance gate and parking area is located on the right (west) side of the highway.

FEE

There is no charge. However, a minimum donation of $2.00 per person is suggested.

RESTRICTIONS AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Tours are restricted to 30 persons on a first come first served basis. This limit is necessary due to the small size of the area and to protect the Peregrine falcon habitat. Those who arrive at the gate without a reservation will only be allowed to go on the tour if the group size does not exceed 30 persons.

Tours may be cancelled, without prior notice, if less than 8 reservations are made. Tours may also be cancelled for such reasons as, bad weather, unsafe road conditions
(often caused by heavy rains), and Peregrine falcon protection needs.

Pets are not allowed on the tours. Smoking is restricted to the Highway 151 (lower) and mesa top parking areas.

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR
Weather conditions will vary greatly at Chimney Rock but during the summer months it will usually be warm to hot. Good hiking shoes are recommended for your comfort and safety. Bring water and maybe a snack -- no water or food is available. Bring a camera or you will wish that you had.

CAUTIONS
This is a high elevation area (appx. 7600') and though the walking trails are fairly short especially the hike to the top ruin is strenuous. Participants should be in good health.

CHIMNEY ROCK ARTIFACTS EXHIBIT
An exhibit of pre-Columbian artifacts from Chimney Rock can be seen at the Pagosa Ranger District office, 2nd and Pagosa Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado. This exhibit can be viewed during working hours Monday through Friday.

Tours start at 9:00 AM. It will take appx. 2 to 3 hours to tour the ruins.
NOTICE

Ancient ruins, artifacts, fossils and historical remains are fragile and irreplaceable.

HELP PRESERVE YOUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

Any person who, without an official permit, injures, destroys, excavates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact or object of antiquity on the public lands of the United States is subject to arrest and penalty of law.

Please report all antiquities you find, and any suspected violations you observe, to the nearest office of the U.S. Forest Service.

United States Department of Agriculture—Forest Service
1. **WHAT TIME ARE TOURS?**  
   a. Forest Service has daily tours (7 days a week) at 9:00 am from the gate on Highway 151. Make reservations for tours at Pagosa District Office, 180 Pagosa Street or call 264-2268 for information.  
   b. Fairfield Lodge runs a shuttle bus from the Lodge on Tuesdays and Thursdays to the Forest Service tour. Make reservations at Fairfield Lodge.  
   c. Lake Capote has tours at 10:00 am Friday through Monday. Make reservations at Lake Capote.  

2. **HOW DO I FIND THE ENTRANCE GATE?**  
   Drive 20 miles west of Pagosa Springs on US 160; turn south on Highway 151 (towards Ignacio and Navajo Dam) continue for 3 miles and the entrance is on the west (right) side of the road. Use your odometer as there are no signs on Highway 151.  

3. **IS THERE A FEE?**  
   A donation of $2.00 per person is requested for the Forest Service tour, to help defray the cost of providing a tour guide. Lake Capote charges a fee of $2.00 per person. Fairfield Lodge does not charge for the tour itself but does charge a fee for transportation to the site in their shuttle bus; the donation to the Forest Service also applies to those riding the Fairfield shuttle.  

4. **WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE TOUR?**  
   2 to 2 1/2 hours from leaving the gate to returning to the gate. Time required would be 3 to 3 1/2 hours from Pagosa Springs or Fairfield Lodge; or 2 to 2 1/2 hours from Lake Capote.  

5. **IS DRINKING WATER AVAILABLE?**  
   No potable water is available at the site.  

6. **IS THE SITE FOR SALE?**  
   No, however, there is a tract of private land adjoining it on the southeast that is for sale.  

7. **ARE THEY EXCAVATING THERE NOW?**  
   There are no immediate proposals for new excavations at this time.  

8. **MAY I TAKE SMALL CHILDREN ON THE TOUR?**  
   Yes, but they must be accompanied by an adult and if they are walking (not in backpack etc.) they should be capable of walking 1/2 mile.
9. **WHAT IS BEING DONE TO PROTECT THE SITE?**
   The Forest Service is currently expending 4 to 6 thousand dollars annually for ruins maintenance and for reconnaissance to prevent vandalism.

10. **ARE GUIDED TOURS THE ONLY WAY TO SEE THE SITE?**
    From October 1 to March 1 each year the public is free to walk in or out of the area with no restrictions. March 1 through September 30 each year public access is prohibited within a 1/2 mile radius of the spires to protect the nesting site of peregrine falcon. Motorized travel except on guided tours is prohibited year round.

11. **HOW STEEP IS THE CLimb?**
    The trail is moderately steep. From parking lot to upper ruins (distance of approximately 1/2 mile) there is an elevation gain of about 500'.

12. **IS THERE HANDICAPPED ACCESS AVAILABLE?**
    At the present time there is no access for handicapped visitors.

13. **WHAT SEASON ARE TOURS AVAILABLE?**
    Tours are conducted May 15 through September 15 each year. Special tours may be available on request to the Pagosa District Office.

14. **WHAT DAYS DO VOLUNTEERS DO TOURS?**
    Ruben Marquez conducts tours each Tuesday and Jennie Ferrell conducts them each Wednesday. The other 5 days a week tours are conducted by Archeological Technician Sharon Kraus.

15. **WHERE CAN I BUY A CHIMNEY ROCK BOOK WRITTEN BY DR. EDDY?**
    These books can be purchased from the tour guide, from the Pagosa District office or at Lake Capote for $6.00 each.