



The village of Tyuonyi in Frijoles Canyon at the height of its development in the late 1400s.
NPS/LOUIS S. GLAZDZIAN



Pottery-making has been part of Pueblo culture since before 400 C.E. (Common Era). Some pottery was plain, some patterned with indentations, and some decorated with designs that may have symbolized features of the Pueblo world.

Ancestral Pueblo People

The Pueblo people have lived in the Southwest for many centuries. Archeologists think they are descended from groups of hunters and gatherers who came into the region over 10,000 years ago. The Pueblo people themselves say they have always been here. Ancestral Pueblo people lived in parts of what are now New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. Groups varied but shared many traits such as farming, weaving, and pottery-making (illustration at left). Their architecture and pottery reflect the peoples' diversity over time and from place to place. Early archeologists, studying the old dwellings for clues about their residents, adopted the Navajo term "Anasazi" to refer to the ancestors of Pueblo people before the coming of the Spanish. Many Pueblo people today consider the term disrespectful, so now "Ancestral Pueblo people" is used.

Ancestral Pueblo people in and around Bandelier, like Pueblo ancestors elsewhere, were farmers who grew maize (corn), beans, and squash. They supplemented their diet with native plants and by hunting deer, rabbits, other mammals, and birds. Cotton was cultivated and woven into garments. The people made winter

blankets ingeniously woven of yucca-fiber string twisted with turkey feathers or strips of rabbit skin. They fashioned tools, including a wide variety of axes, mauls, and knives, from animal bones, wood, and local stones such as obsidian and basalt. They acquired other items, including shells, turquoise, and parrots, through trade networks that ranged as far as central Mexico and Baja California.

Archeological surveys show at least 3,000 sites in Bandelier, but not all were inhabited at the same time. For generations these people lived in small, scattered settlements of perhaps one or two families each. As the population grew, people began coming together in larger groups, and, by the mid-1200s, villages often included as many as 40 rooms.

The following 250 years saw fewer and larger villages, with some exceeding 600 rooms. In Bandelier the villages of Tyuonyi (QU-weh-nee) and Tsankawi (SAN-kuh-wee) and their adjacent cave dwellings exemplify this latest period. By the mid-1500s the people who lived there had moved on, settling into new homes

in villages along the Rio Grande River. Soon afterward the Spanish colonized New Mexico, bringing immense change to the indigenous people of the Southwest.

No written records existed before the Spanish arrived, but, in their oral traditions today, Pueblo people remember the places where their ancestors lived. The Pueblos of Cochiti, San Felipe, Santo Domingo, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, and Zuni all have strong ties to Bandelier. Representatives from these Pueblos work closely with park staff to make decisions affecting their ancestral homelands. These Pueblos all have great regard for the dwellings in Bandelier and ask you to treat the area with respect and care.

"Spiritually, our ancestors still live here at Bandelier. You see reminders of their presence here—their homes, their kivas, and their petroglyphs. As you walk in their footsteps, value the earth beneath you and show everything the same respect we do when we re-visit this sacred place." —Affiliated Pueblo Committee

"The Grandest Thing I Ever Saw"

Forty-year-old self-taught anthropologist and historian Adolph F.A. Bandelier came to New Mexico Territory in 1880, sponsored by the Archeological Institute of America. His ambitious goal was to trace the social organization, customs, and movements of southwestern and Mexican peoples. He traveled and studied throughout the region, tramping canyons and mesas, living and working among many American Indian groups, and delving into document archives. Looking back on his first 18 months in the field, Bandelier tallied visits to 166 archeological sites in New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico. "I am dirty, ragged, and sunburnt, but of best cheer. My life's work has at last begun."

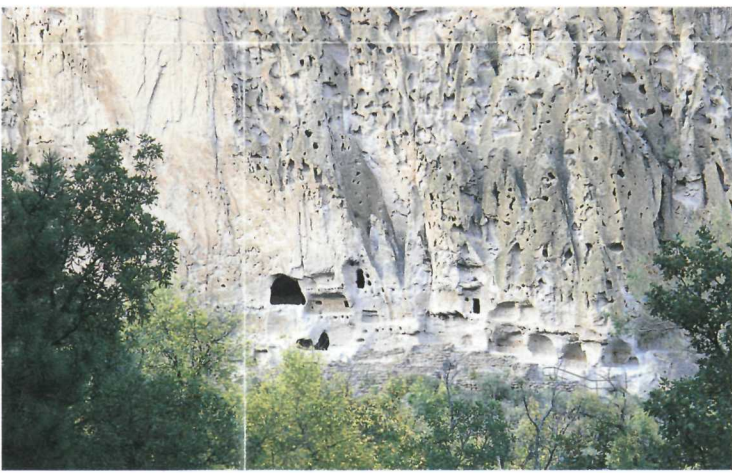
Men from Cochiti Pueblo guided Bandelier to their ancestral homes in Frijoles Canyon in 1880. Its sheer cliffs, year-round stream, and distinctive cave-room architecture, captured his imagination. In 1890 he made the canyon and

dwellings the scene of his novel, *The Delight Makers*, depicting Pueblo life in pre-Spanish times. Bandelier left New Mexico in 1892 and went on to studies in Peru and Bolivia. In his seventies, he went to Seville, Spain, to study early Spanish records of the Americas. He died there in 1914.

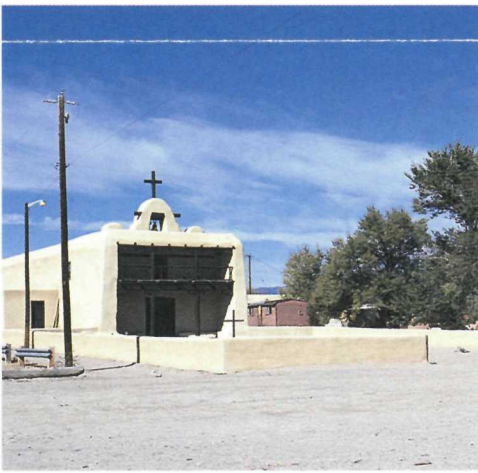
Bandelier's pioneering work is now relatively unknown to the public, but it established the foundation for much of modern southwestern archeology. Dr. Edgar Lee Hewett, a prominent southwestern archeologist, directed several excavations in Frijoles Canyon in the early 1900s. He saw the need to preserve these ancestral Pueblo sites and was instrumental in getting Bandelier National Monument established in 1916.



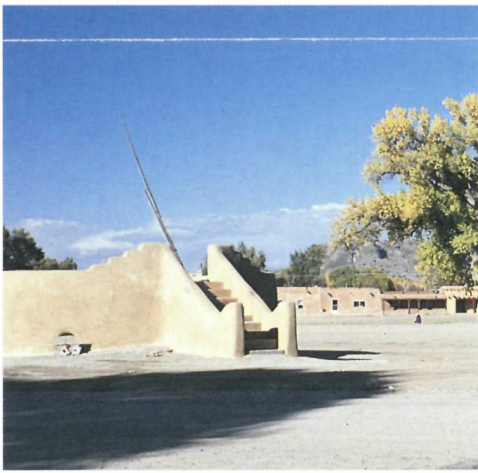
Adolph F.A. Bandelier was born in Switzerland in 1840 and grew up in Illinois. He was obligated to work in his father's businesses but read, corresponded, and published in anthropology. In 1880 he took up the southwest fieldwork that became his life's passion.



Long House is an 800-foot stretch of adjoining, multi-story stone homes with hand-carved caves as back rooms. It may be what inspired Adolph Bandelier's exclamation, "The grandest thing I ever saw."



According to the people of the present-day Pueblos of San Ildefonso and Cochiti, they are the descendants of those who left the villages in the Bandelier area in the mid-1500s. Saint Bonaventure Church (above) is



a Spanish addition to Cochiti Pueblo. The traditional round kiva (above) is in the plaza of San Ildefonso Pueblo.

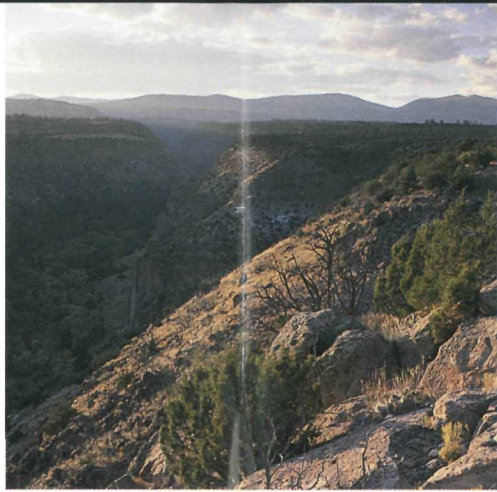
Exploring Bandelier



Talus houses, like this reconstruction near Tyuonyi, were built on the rock debris (talus) slopes on the sunny sides of canyons and mesas.



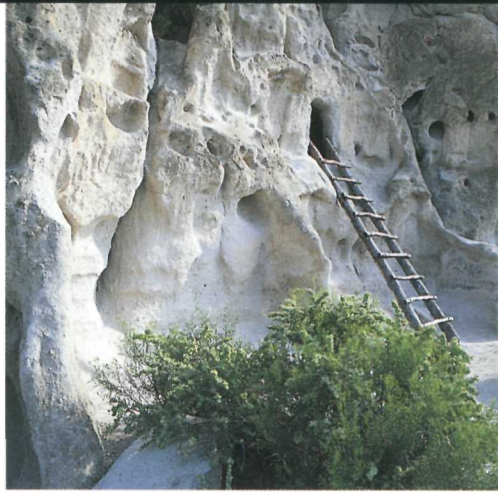
Tyuonyi, on the floor of Frijoles Canyon, was inhabited at the same time as the dwellings built along the base of the cliff.



Huge ash flows from the Valles Caldera eroded into the rugged canyon and mesa terrain that typifies the Bandelier area.



Ancient footpaths in the detached Tsankawi unit.



Ladders give access to several cave dwellings along the Main Loop Trail. Stone homes once stood in front of many of these caves.



Despite the delightfully unusual appearance of the tassel-eared Abert's squirrel—remember not to feed any wildlife.

The Monument Today There was no road into Frijoles Canyon until the mid-1930s when the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built one, along with trails, the visitor center, and a lodge. The increasing number of visitors has changed the way many buildings are used, but the handsome Pueblo revival-style structures and CCC trails still serve the park.

As more people visit each year, parking lots, facilities, and even some trails are strained to accommodate them. Protection is a continuing struggle. Park managers face challenges in backcountry areas too. Livestock grazing from before the park was created contributed to heavy soil erosion now occurring at lower elevations. Severe wildfires result from forests grown unnaturally dense after decades of fire suppression. Fires in 1977, 1996, and 2011 together burned more than 60 percent of the park. In 2000 a fire that began in Bandelier traveled northeast along the mountain slopes and through neighborhoods in Los Alamos. Wildlife populations are affected by park management and by what goes on outside the park boundary. With today's challenges, preserving the monument is a job for more than just the park staff. You, too, can help by respecting regulations and taking the time to learn about the cultural and natural resources.

Getting Here Bandelier National Monument is 48 miles northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico. From Santa Fe, go north on US 285/84 to Pojoaque, then west on NM 502 and south on NM 4. From Albuquerque, you can reach the park by driving through the Jemez Mountains on NM 4. Take I-25 north of Albuquerque to NM 550 to NM 4. The road is paved, but ask about road conditions before taking the mountain route in winter. If using GPS in this area, be sure to double-check with a road map.

When To Visit The park is open year-round except December 25 and January 1. The busiest time is spring into fall. There may be a shuttle service during these times, since parking in the visitor center is not sufficient for holiday weekends and other days with heavy visitation. Check the park website for possible shuttle information. Winter can be snowy and cold, but it offers more solitude; snow is cleared from a portion of the Main Loop Trail. Summer temperatures are often in the 80s to 90s°F, and afternoon thunderstorms are common. Fall offers cooler, blue-sky days and crisp nights. The park remains busy into November.

Where To Start The visitor center in Frijoles Canyon is a good place to start your visit. Staff can help you plan your time in the park. To help orient you, there are trail guides, videos, museum exhibits, and a park store that offers a large selection of publications and other items related to the Bandelier area. The visitor center is usually open from 9 am to 4:30 pm, and may have longer hours of operation in other seasons. Service animals are welcome.

Things To See and Do Bandelier is unusual in that it has only three miles of public roads within its 33,750 acres, but 70 miles of trails. This network of trails, both short and long, invites you to explore the park. There are Ancestral Pueblo dwellings within a short, easy walk of the visitor center.

The closest archeological site is 400 yards from the visitor center, and the paved 1.2-mile Main Loop Trail to Tyuonyi and the cliff dwellings can be walked in about an hour. Part of this trail is accessible for wheelchairs. You may buy a guidebook about the canyon and the people who lived there. Extending your walk a half-mile up Frijoles Canyon brings you to Alcove House (formerly called Ceremonial Cave), a

cliff dwelling reached only by climbing long wooden ladders. Also popular and of moderate length, the Falls Trail leads to Frijoles Canyon's Upper Falls, focusing on scenery and geology rather than early inhabitants. A booklet that explains interesting geologic features and identifies some native plants is on sale. The walk to the Upper Falls, about three miles round-trip, takes about two hours.

Tsankawi, a separate section of the monument on NM 4 about 11 miles north of the main entrance, offers a 1.5-mile loop walk on a more primitive trail. You can see a large unexcavated village, cave dwellings, and many petroglyphs (drawings carved into rock). A guidebook is available.

Hikers who have more time and stamina may venture into the park's backcountry. Seventy percent of Bandelier is part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Many areas can be reached by day hikes, and backpacking is allowed after obtaining a wilderness permit at the visitor center. The terrain is generally rugged with steep canyons, and the average elevation, 7,000 feet, can make hiking difficult if you are used to lower elevations. But the rewards of finding remote archeological sites and petroglyphs or spotting shy wildlife can make it worthwhile for the well-prepared. Be sure to use a current topographic map for all backcountry travel.

Ask at the visitor center for information on the trails and for regulations for hikers and backpackers. Bicycles, motorcycles, pets, and campfires are not permitted on trails or in the backcountry.

For firearms regulations check the park website.

Planning Your Visit

The park offers many things to see and do. Here are some suggestions, based on the amount of time you have to spend.

One Hour

- View the 14-minute movie "This Place Knows Us" at the visitor center.
- Go through the exhibit room.
- Go through the exhibit room.
- Walk the Main Loop Trail, with the self-guiding booklet.

Two Hours

- View the 14-minute movie "This Place Knows Us" at the visitor center.
- Go through the exhibit room.
- Walk the Main Loop Trail, with the aid of the self-guiding booklet.
- Continue to Alcove House.
- Return to the visitor center.

Three or Four Hours or More

- View the 14-minute movie "This Place Knows Us" at the visitor center.
- Go through the exhibit room.
- Walk the Main Loop Trail, with the aid of the self-guiding booklet.
- Continue to Alcove House.
- Return to the visitor center and hike the Falls Trail, with the self-guiding booklet.
- Ask rangers at the visitor center information desk for suggestions on other trails.

Safety Precautions Bandelier is an archeological area preserved in as natural a condition as possible, and such conditions can be hazardous. Remain alert, be cautious, and use common sense. Stay on trails and do not climb among the dwellings or enter caves unless they are accessible by ladders. Carry drinking water, even on short trails, especially in hot weather. Do not drink water from streams unless you purify it. The water-borne intestinal parasite *Giardia lamblia* is found in Bandelier.

Regulations
▲ Climbing on walls or cliffs is prohibited. Stay on trails.
▲ Federal law prohibits removing plants, animals, rocks, or other natural or historic features. *These are felony offenses.*
▲ Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Squirrels in particular can bite and may carry plague.
▲ Pets are restricted to campgrounds, picnic grounds, and parking lots. They must be leashed at all times. No pets on trails.
▲ Bicycles and motor bikes are restricted to paved roads. No bikes on trails.
▲ Fires are permitted only in designated campgrounds and only in the grills provided. Firewood collecting is prohibited.
▲ Permits are required for all overnight trips into Bandelier's backcountry.

Facilities The gift shop and snack bar are open year-round. There is no lodging in the park. Juniper Campground, located on the mesa above Frijoles Canyon near the entrance station, may be closed by snow. Ponderosa Group Campground is for groups of 10 or more; reservations required. In the picnic areas near the visitor center, fuel stoves are welcome, but not fires or charcoal; tables are first-come, first-served.

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all; call or check our website.

To Learn More about Bandelier Buy these and other books and maps from the park's nonprofit cooperating association at the visitor center—or call 505-672-3861 x515 or visit www.wnpa.org.

• *Bandelier National Monument* by Patricia Barey is a good source for general readers.

• *The Peopling of Bandelier*, edited by Robert P. Powers, examines aspects of the area's archeology.

• *The Delight Makers* is Adolph Bandelier's historical novel, first published in the 1890s. It is still in print.

• *A Trails Illustrated* topographic map is available for hikers, as is the hikers' guide, *A Guide to Bandelier National Monument*, by Dorothy Hoard.

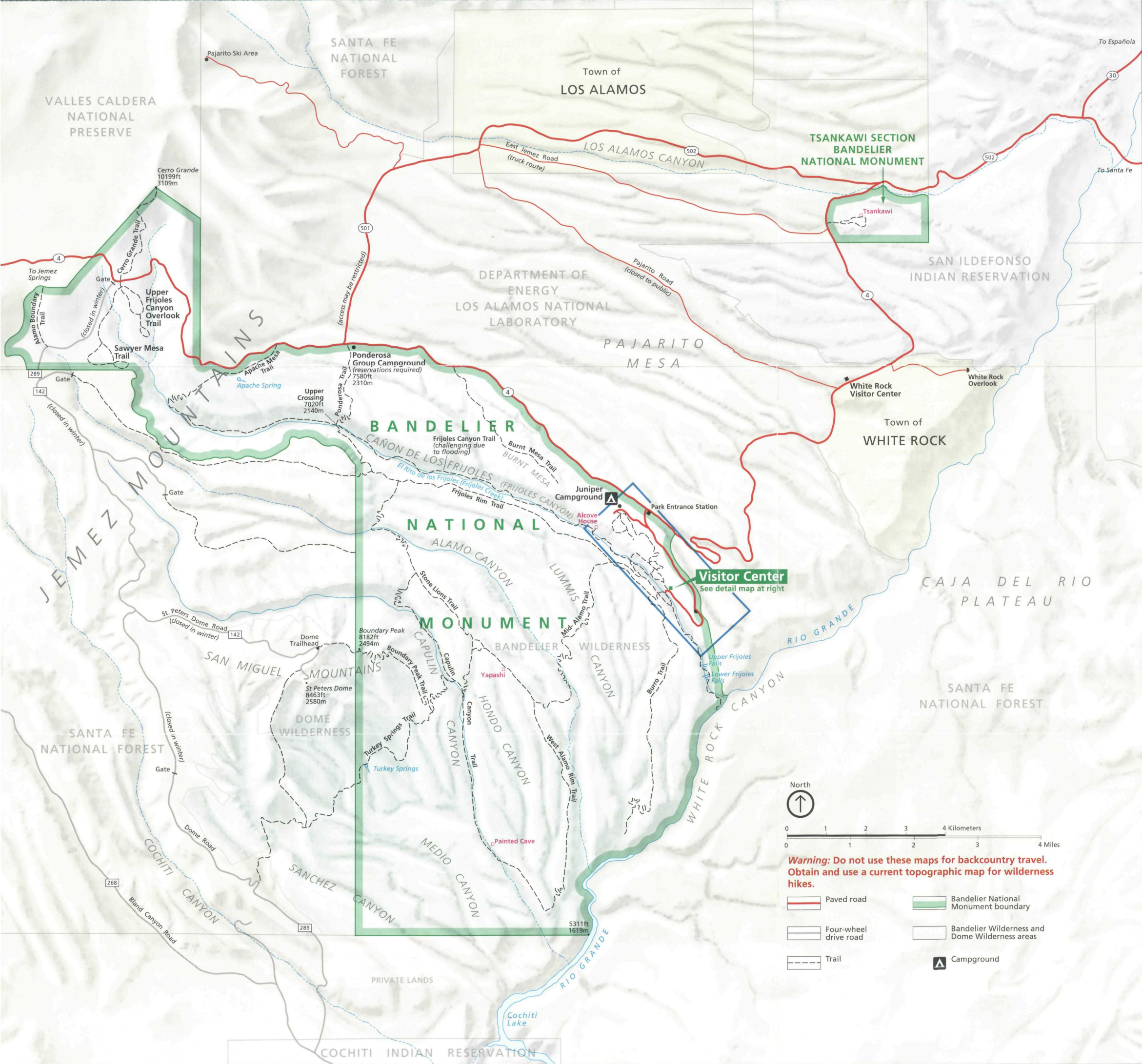
More Information Bandelier National Monument 15 Entrance Road Los Alamos, NM 87544-9508 505-672-3861 x515 www.nps.gov/band www.nps.gov/webangers

Find Bandelier also on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube.

Bandelier National Monument is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities visit www.nps.gov.

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Bandelier National Monument



Detail of Frijoles Canyon Area

