



THE SCENIC APPROACH TO

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

The above photograph, from the Park Entrance on HIGHWAY 160, pictures the 13,000-ft. La Plata Range of the southern Rockies.

MESA VERDE INFORMATION OUTPOST



on HIGHWAY 160 at the Park Entrance, provides detailed information to help plan your sightseeing; free telephone service here to verify reservations at the Park Center, 21 miles distant.

Point Lookout Lodge on US 160 at the Park Entrance is recommended for convenience and economy (children under 14, free). Cabins with bath, accommodating 2 to 6 persons, are in quiet forested area away from the highway. Inquire at restaurant in stone building, at Information Outpost, or at nearby service station (phone 303-529-4516).

THE PARK ENTRANCE, pictured below from U.S. 160, is dominated by the summit of POINT LOOKOUT, 1,500 feet above. Now, after stopping at the Entrance Ranger Station for your permit, turn back 2 pages to the section "ENTERING MESA VERDE" and begin your exploration of this most spectacular and unique National Park.



MAP AND GUIDE MESA VERDE

*National
Park*

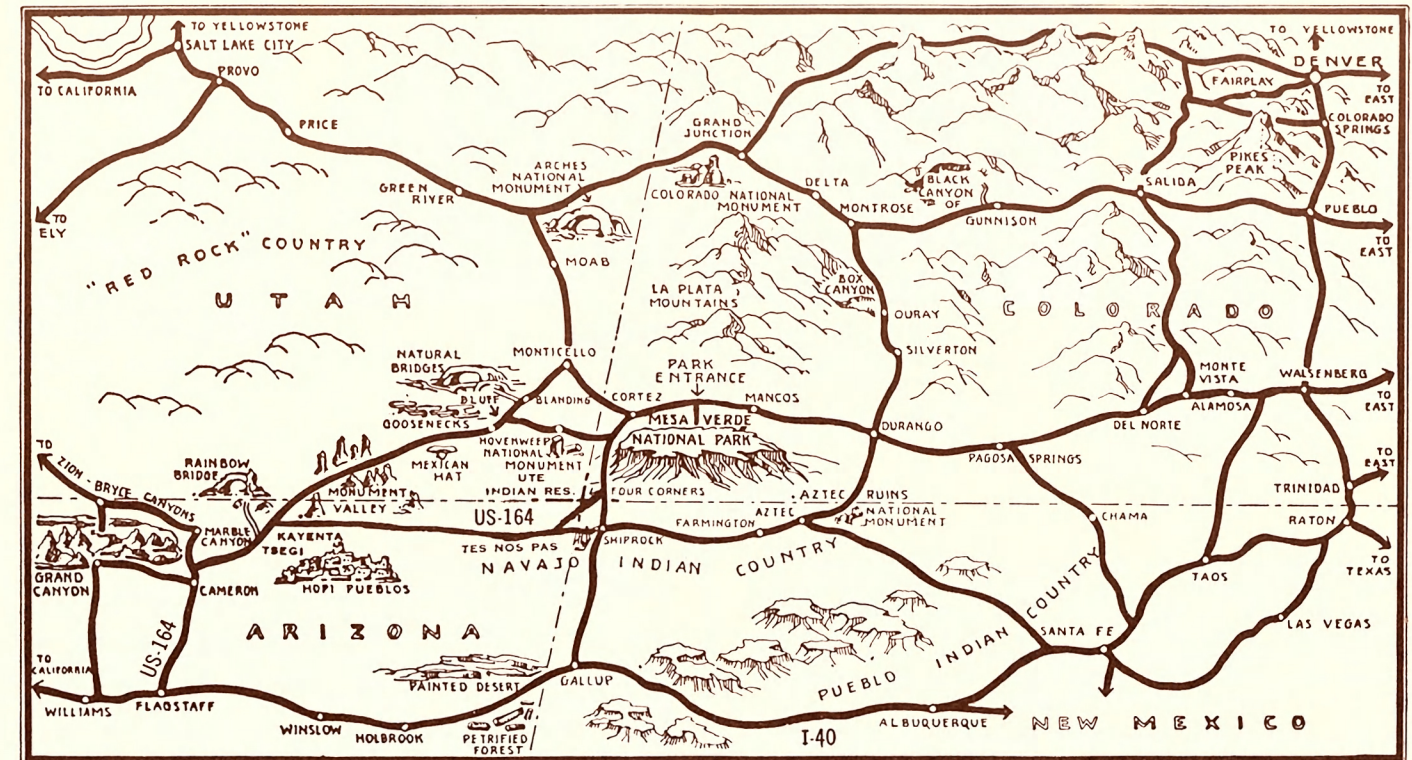


*Follow the
SCENIC
NAVAJO
TRAIL
through the
ROCKIES*

Published in 1969 by Mesa Verde Co., Concessioner authorized by the National Park Service, U. S. Dept. of the Interior to provide public service in Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado.

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

PICTURE MAP OF MESA VERDE AND THE "FOUR-CORNERS COUNTRY" OF THE SOUTHERN ROCKIES



Your Trip To Mesa Verde National Park

Mesa Verde National Park is a majestic plateau rising abruptly out of semi-arid land bordering the Colorado high mountain country of the Continental Divide. It is world famous for its matchless concentration of cliff dwellings. From Park Point, six mountain ranges in four states can be viewed—30,000 square miles of America the Beautiful!

No trip through the Southwest, or southern Rockies, is complete without time spent in Mesa Verde exploring prehistoric ruins and marveling at artifacts left by a people that vanished almost a thousand years ago. Interpretation by ranger-archeologists in the ruins, in the museums, and around evening campfire will give a thrilling sense of knowing part of America.

Excellent highways have shortened driving time to only one day from Denver, Salt Lake City, Grand Canyon, Phoenix, or Santa Fe. For travelers driving along I-40 through the Southwest, Mesa Verde National Park can be reached quickly by a brisk drive north on US 666 from Gallup or northeast on US 164 from Flagstaff. The latter highway, crossing the Navajo reservation past the "Four Corners" of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico (called the NAVAJO TRAIL), was completed in 1962 to provide a new short-cut for transcontinental vacation travel.

Motorists who seek particularly spectacular areas of the Southwest will be delighted with the paved route to Mesa Verde looping north from US 164 at Kayenta through Monument Valley, Mexican Hat, the Goosenecks and other areas of scenic southern Utah.

The above Pictorial Map is intended to locate a few of the interesting features of the Mesa Verde region and the centers of population within one day's motor travel. Mileage and other details are readily available on any good highway map.

Bus service from Durango direct to Far View Motor Lodge is scheduled twice daily by Continental Trailways.

Increasing numbers of visitors now arrive at Durango via Frontier Airlines.

ENTERING THE PARK: Opposite the point where the PARK ENTRANCE ROAD meets US 160, an INFORMATION STATION is maintained to provide free telephone reservation service for visitor housing within the Park or for accommodations in Cortez or Manco. It is recommended that here you obtain a copy of the "Pictorial Guide to Mesa Verde National Park" which will help you plan your visit in the Park. Point Lookout Coffee Shop, Gift Shop, and Service Station lie a few feet east of the Information Station. Some distance back from the road, a few cabins and trailer campsites with utilities provide quiet budget accommodations (children under 14 free!).

Your first stop in Mesa Verde National Park is at the entrance station where rangers will give you a packet of information and check your Golden Eagle Passport (if you don't have one, the Park user fee is \$1.00 per car through noon of the day following issue or \$.50 per day for a user who arrives on a public conveyance).

MORFIELD: Entering the Mesa Verde is a breathtaking experience. Spectacular views confront the visitor as the road ascends for five miles into a high valley. This valley is an important activity center—the MORFIELD CAMPGROUND-VILLAGE complex. Just off the entrance road there are almost 500 individual and group campsites, a 1,500-seat amphitheater, horseback riding, and a shopping center. In the shopping center, a general store contains a supermarket, an Indian handcraft shop, clothing, souvenirs, and camping equipment. Needs from air mattresses to zinc oxide can be satisfied there. A large service station, a vehicle spray-wash area, 20 individual shower rooms, a coin laundry (complete with irons, boards, and a hair drier), and a refreshment center are within a few feet of each other. An EVENING CAMPFIRE program is presented in the amphitheater.

PARK POINT: The 21-mile road from the Park entrance to headquarters passes through a tunnel piercing the mesa south of Morfield Campground



SQUARE TOWER RUIN
Clings beneath overhanging
walls of Navajo Canyon.



CLIFF PALACE RUIN



BASKETMAKER GROUP,
in the Museum at Park
Headquarters.

What to See and Do in Mesa Verde

and Village. Then it rises past Montezuma overlook on the northern edge of Mesa Verde and winds upward to PARK POINT, ten miles from the Park entrance. A turnoff, two minute's drive, leads to the observation station parking area. At altitude of 8,572 feet, this highest point in Mesa Verde commands a thrilling panorama of mountain and desert topography. Southwestward can be seen the "Four Corners Country" of the Navajo Reservation, the only place in America common to four states.

FAR VIEW—NAVAJO HILL: Approximately four miles past Park Point the road reaches another important point of activity—the summit of Chapin Mesa. The National Park Service has located there the NAVAJO HILL VISITOR CENTER, an interpretive facility open for the first time in 1968. On the gentle summit above the visitor center is the FAR VIEW MOTOR LODGE, a comfortable facility placed in service in 1964, including a cafeteria, a room-rental office, a handcraft shop and newsstand, and a small beverage lounge. Adjacent is the FAR VIEW SERVICE STATION. On the entrance road south of this center approximately a mile is Far View Ruin, a large surface pueblo important to the interpretation of Mesa Verde.

SPRUCE TREE: The final six miles of the Park entrance road descends gently through the forest of Chapin Mesa to SPRUCE TREE, the Park Headquarters Area. The principal interpretive activity is here overlooking SPRUCE TREE RUIN, the third largest and, perhaps, the best preserved of the Classical Pueblo cliff dwellings. Visit the MUSEUM, where an interesting half hour will outline the main features of the remarkable stone age civilization that flourished here a thousand years ago. This is essential to your enjoyment while in Mesa Verde. A walking tour will take you down into Spruce Tree Ruin.

The SPRUCE TREE TERRACE, opening on the museum parking lot, provides simple, convenient FOOD SERVICE (both indoors and outdoors). The INDIAN ROOM inside gives visitors an opportunity to acquire fine examples of the superb handcrafts of the Southwest tribes. Books, film, postcards, slides, grocery items, ice, sundries, and many other items needed by visitors can also be found in the store. Registration for accommodations in SPRUCE TREE COTTAGES can be accomplished at the Terrace.

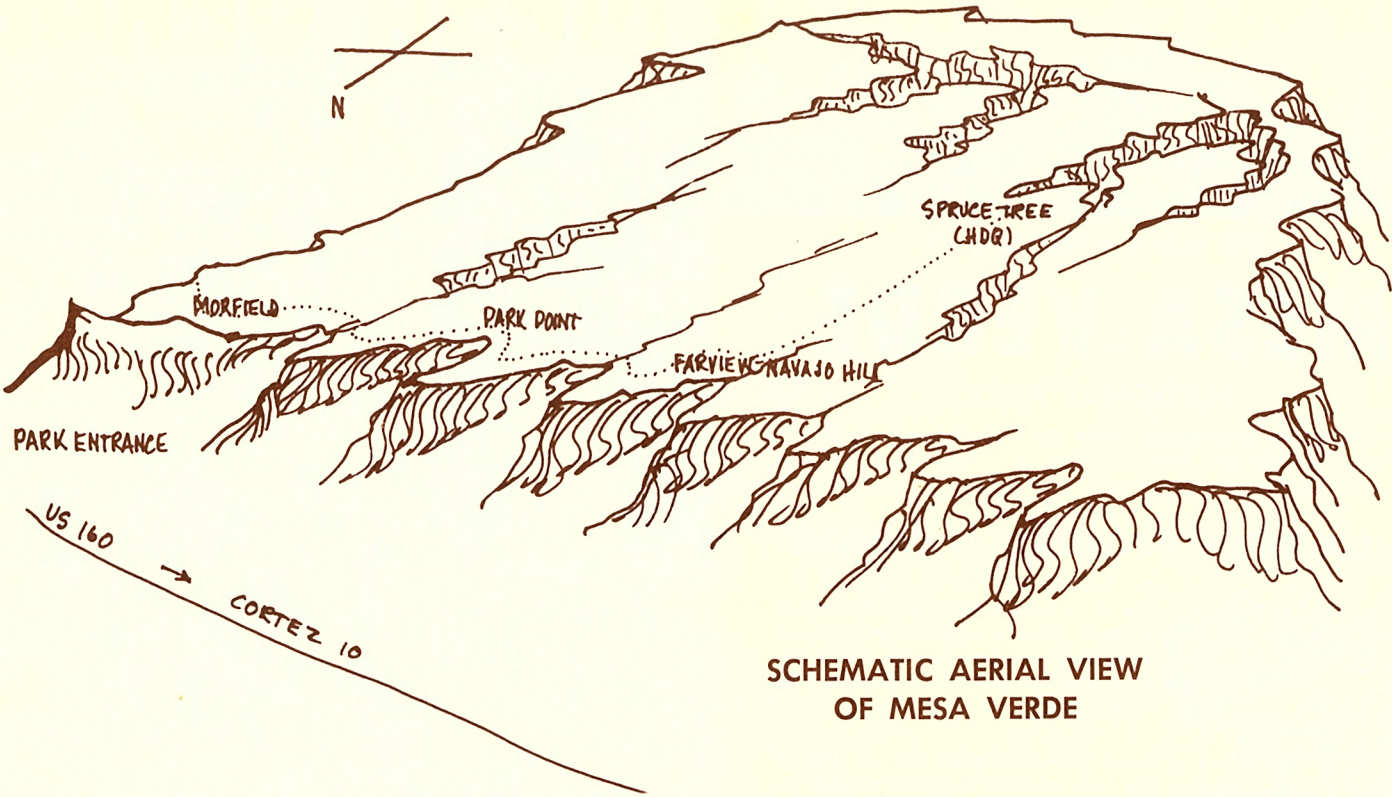
A charming VISITOR LUNCH-STOP is located at Park Headquarters overlooking Spruce Canyon to the west. The CAMPFIRE CIRCLE is nearby where rangers give talks each evening—stories of the ancient people who built the great cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde and of the present day Indian inhabitants of the region. A Navajo dance team frequently demonstrates tribal dances and chants. No visitor should miss the experience of attending these campfire meetings which are varied each evening to provide one of the most important features of the Park interpretive service.

Approximately half a mile above the headquarters area there is a widened intersection. Approaching southward from the entrance, the visitor will find that the road straight ahead and the road entering the intersection on the right are ends of a loop drive through the headquarters area. Entering the intersection from the left (east) is the RUINS ROAD, a system of two loops which provides access to numerous ruins and view-point exhibits. During the major part of the visiting season, ranger-archeologists take parties into CLIFF PALACE (the largest ruin) and BALCONY HOUSE located on the ruins loops. Inquiry should be made regarding schedules at these two important ruins. You may drive in your own car to the vicinity of the ruins or may use the conducted bus service from Spruce Tree Terrace or Far View Motor Lodge (\$3.00 for a two or three hour round trip). If you have a camera, take an ample supply of film. Field glasses are helpful for use at stops along the mesa rim where trail-side exhibits point out remote ruins in the canyons below and on distant walls.

CLIMATE: The National Park Service has observed Mesa Verde's weather at headquarters (altitude 7,000 feet) continuously since 1923. The climate is low in humidity. A gentle, dry breeze generally accompanies the warmth of summer days and provides for comfort without air-conditioning. A light wrap is necessary in the evening because the parched air flowing across Mesa Verde from the arid Southwest cools quickly after sundown (the average drop from the day's high to the night's low from May through October is 28.8° F.). Park Service records indicate the following mean maximum temperatures for each month as follows: MAY—71.1° F., JUNE—82.6° F., JULY—87.5° F., AUG.—84.9° F., SEP.—75.6° F., OCT.—65.9° F., NOV.—51.5° F., DEC.—41.7° F., JAN.—40.2° F., FEB.—44.4° F., MARCH—50.4° F., APRIL—51.1° F. During the entire year, fewer than one out of four days qualifies as "cloudy." There is no measurable precipitation on four out of five days. Visitors should remember that average conditions are not always encountered, for, as American author O. Henry once said: "We may achieve climate, but weather is thrust upon us."

Many visitors have learned that a new area of the Park, WETHERILL MESA, is being developed for visitation. Roads and interpretive facilities are not complete and it will be necessary to wait until funds are available and work is completed before this fragile area can be opened for visitors. When Wetherill Mesa is open, however, it will add an especially fine experience for visitors to Mesa Verde.

This map and guide attempts to sketch an image of Mesa Verde National Park which will be useful to a visitor as he creates his own image by exploring the Park personally or by absorbing a portion of the wealth of written material available. BEST WISHES for a satisfying experience!—MESA VERDE COMPANY.



SCHEMATIC AERIAL VIEW
OF MESA VERDE

ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE PARK CENTER — RATE INFORMATION

Season — May Through October

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS: Register at FAR VIEW MOTOR LODGE or SPRUCE TREE TERRACE. Advance reservations with deposit, are advisable. For reservations write Mesa Verde Company, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado 81330 (telephone 303-529-4421).

ROOM RATES:

	Single Occupancy	Two Persons	Three (2 Beds)	Three (3 Beds)	Four (2 Beds)	Four (3 Beds)	Five Persons
Far View Motor Lodge:							
Room, large, with bath	\$12.50	\$14.50	\$15.50	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$17.50	\$18.50
Room, small, with bath*	10.00	12.50	U/A	U/A	U/A	U/A	U/A
Spruce Tree Cottages:							
	Single Occupancy	Two (Double)	Two (Twins)	Three	Four	Five	Six
Room, large, with bath	\$ 8.25	\$ 9.50	\$11.00	\$12.50	\$13.50	\$15.50	\$17.50
Room, small, with bath*	6.25	7.50	9.00	10.50	U/A	U/A	U/A
Room, small, without bath	4.25	5.50	7.00	8.50	U/A	U/A	U/A

Add State Sales Tax of 3%

*Limited number available

Housekeeping Cottages, in limited number, are also available. Facilities and rates are the same as "Room, large, with bath," in above price schedule, with \$1.00 (per entire party) added for use of kitchen equipment, refrigerator, gas fuel, etc.

Rates for Children Under 3 years, free if no extra bed is used; under 8 years, half rate; 8 years or over, full rate.

SIGHTSEEING TRIPS BY BUS: There are two 3-hour sightseeing trips daily; morning and afternoon trips to different parts of the Mesa Verde to visit ruins. Rates: \$3.00 per person.

All rates, approved by National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, are subject to change without notice only by Government approval. (Above schedule authorized in 1969.)