

Trip Planner



MAP INSIDE



Northern Painted Desert Wilderness

What Should I See and Do?

IF YOU HAVE ONE OR TWO HOURS:
Decide which end of the park interests you and spend time there, saving the rest for another visit.

- North End: several overlooks to take in views of the Painted Desert; walk the Painted Desert Rim Trail and visit the Painted Desert Inn.
- South End: Visit the Rainbow Forest Museum; walk Giant Logs and Crystal Forest Trails; drive the Blue Mesa Road
- Drive through the entire park.

IF YOU HAVE HALF A DAY, DO THE ABOVE & ADD:

- 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.
- Explore Blue Mesa and walk the trail.

IF YOU HAVE A FULL DAY OR MORE, DO THE ABOVE & ADD:

- Hike to Long Logs and Agate House.
- Choose an Off-the-Beaten-Path hike (see pg 2).
- Backcountry camp in the Wilderness Area.
- Celebrate—you have the luxury of time to enjoy!

Entering the Park

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK STRETCHES north and south between Interstate 40 and Highway 180. There are two entrances into the park, each one with a visitor center.

The petrified log fields are located at the southern end of the park. Outlooks, trails, cultural sites, and painted desert badlands are found in the middle and northern sections.

Your direction of travel *after* you leave Petrified Forest best dictates which side of the park you should enter.

- **Westbound I-40 travelers** should take exit 311, drive 28 miles south through the park. Take a right at HWY-180 intersection for 18 miles to return to I-40 via Holbrook.
- **Eastbound I-40 travelers** should take exit 285 into Holbrook or they may miss seeing the petrified wood. Follow signs through town to HWY-180. Travel 18 miles east on HWY-180 then turn left at the park’s southern entrance. Drive 28 miles north through the park to return to I-40.



The log fields such as Crystal Forest (above) are located in the southern half of the park.

- **Northbound travelers** headed to Hubble Trading Post, Canyon De Chelly, Monument Valley, or the Four Corners area are recommended to follow the Eastbound travelers route to reach HWY-191 North.
- **Southbound HWY-77 travelers** will be able to enter either side of the park to return back to Holbrook before heading south.



Detailed park map and trail information inside.

The Official

NPS App Is

HERE



Events & Activities



Maps



Offline Mode

Search "National Park Service" in the app stores or use the QR code.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



Contains Every NPS Site From Abe Lincoln's Birthplace to Zion National Park!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Petrified Forest National Park

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E-mail

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Website

www.nps.gov/pefo



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

Developed Trails

Tawa Trail: 2 mi (3.2 km) round trip

A walk between Painted Desert Visitor Center Entrance Station and Tawa Point. Showcases grasslands and views.

Painted Desert Rim: 1 mi (1.6 km) round trip

A walk between Tawa Point and Painted Desert Inn provides excellent views of the Painted Desert below.

Puerco Pueblo: 0.3 mi (0.5 km) loop

Walk among a partial excavation of a 100+ room village, occupied 1250–1380 CE.

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

Calling all hikers, explorers, and wanderers! Grab your water source and truly explore the Painted Desert. May require some route finding skills. Inquire at either visitor center to pick up one or multiple of the following guides:

Onyx Bridge

4 mi (6.4 km) round trip hike to a petrified wood "bridge"

Wilderness Loop

7 mi (11.3 km) round trip hike in N. Painted Desert Wilderness

Deadwash Overlook

4 mi (6.4 km) round trip to Deadwash Overlook. Moderately challenging hike with scrambling and steep elevations.

Historic Blue Forest trail

3 mi (4.8 km) round trip along an unmaintained CCC trail

Billings Gap

3 mi (4.8 km) round trip hike atop the Blue Mesa

Red Basin Clam Beds

8.5 mi (13.7 km) round trip hike atop the Blue Mesa

Jasper Forest

2.5 mi (4 km) round trip on an old road among petrified wood

First Forest

2.1 mi (3.4 km) round trip on an old road among petrified logs

1

Painted Desert Visitor Center

Stop for historic architecture, information, bookstore, gift shop, food, and gas.

3

Painted Desert Overlooks

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

5

Puerco Pueblo

View ancestral puebloan homes and petroglyphs along a 0.3 mi (0.5 km) loop trail.

7

Blue Mesa

Walk the 1 mi (1.6 km) trail and/or drive the 4 mi (6.4 km) loop road to explore colorful geology.

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Jasper Forest

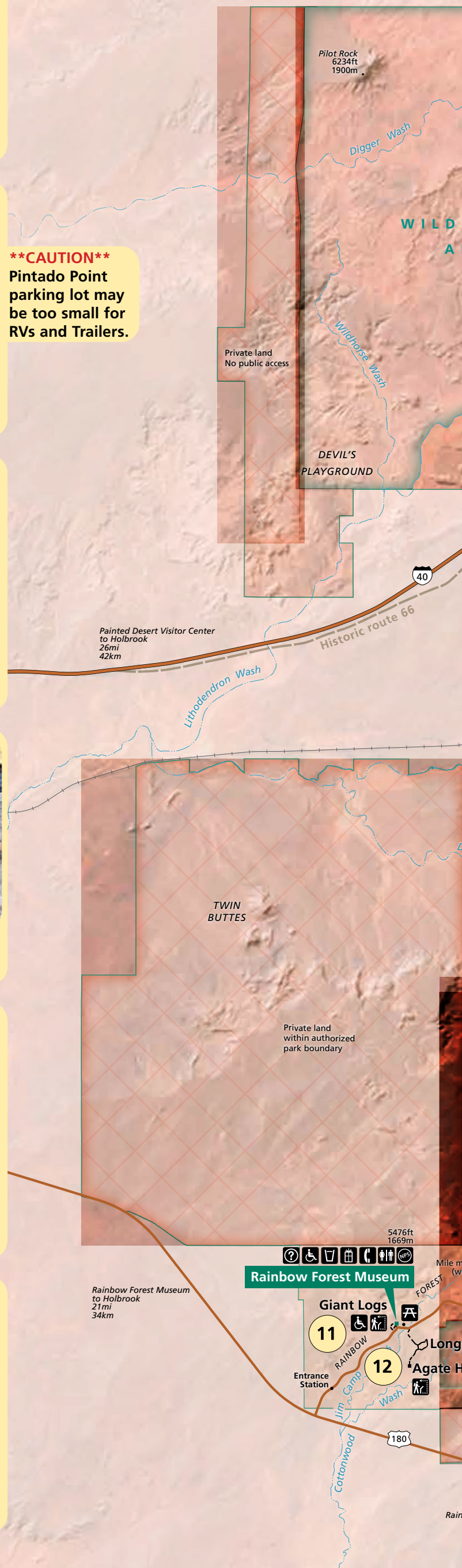
Enjoy a panoramic view of an area with a high concentration of petrified wood.

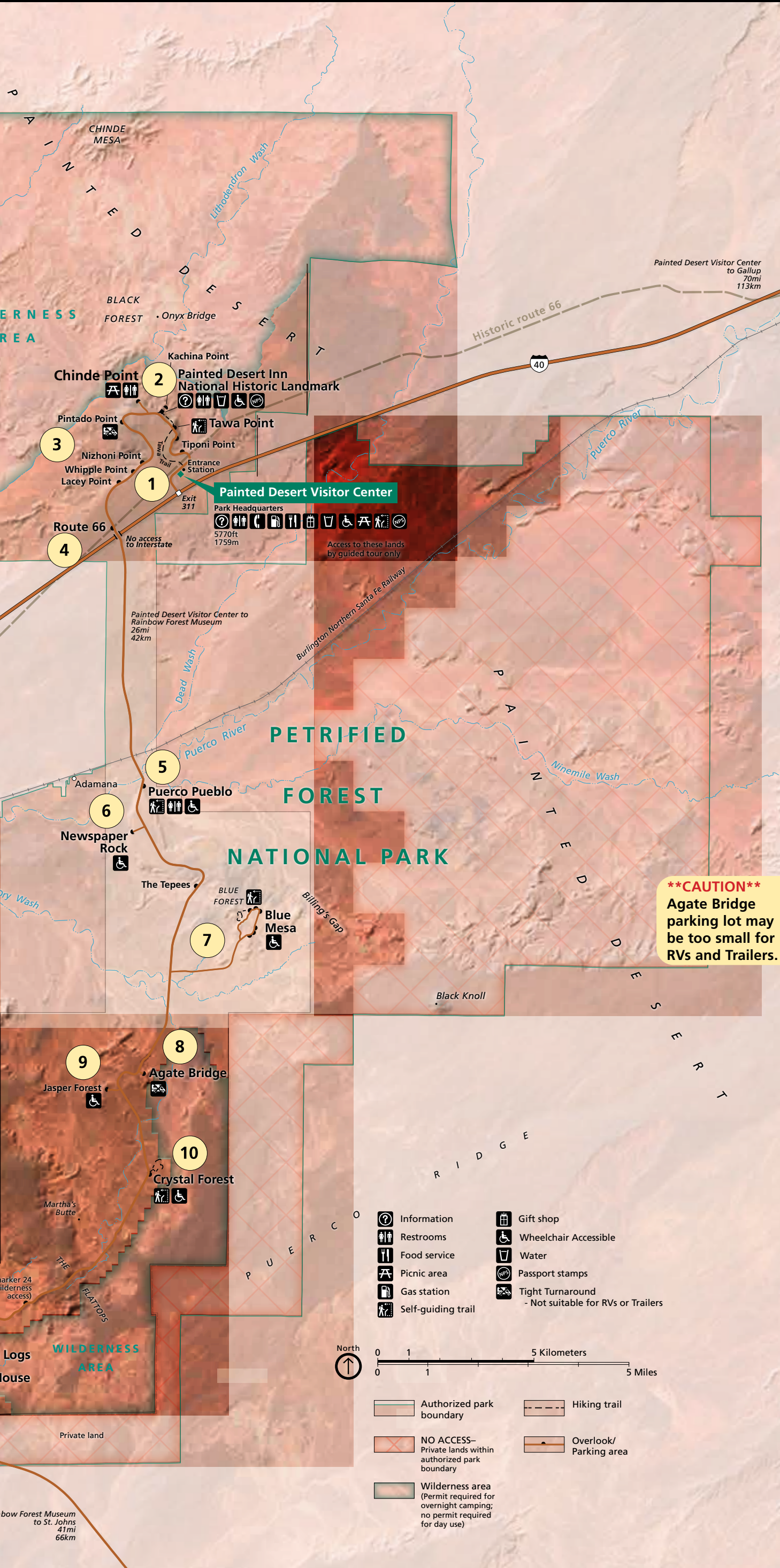
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Rainbow Forest Museum and Giant Logs Trail

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

****CAUTION****
Pintado Point parking lot may be too small for RVs and Trailers.





2 Painted Desert Inn

A historic inn turned museum offers exhibits about the CCC, Fred Harvey Company, and more.



4 Route 66 Alignment

A 1932 Studebaker sits where famed Route 66 once cut through the park.



6 Newspaper Rock

Look down from an overlook to see over 650 petroglyphs, some as old as 2000 years.



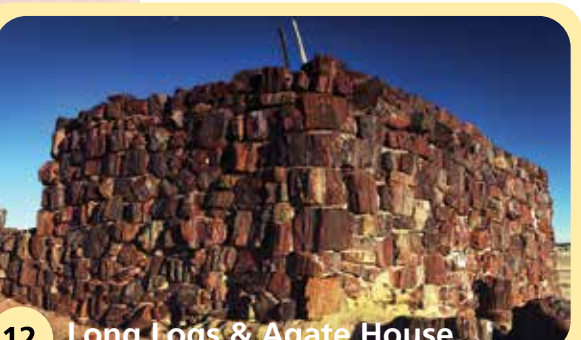
8 Agate Bridge

See a 110 ft (34 m) petrified log spanning a gully.



10 Crystal Forest

Many petrified logs glimmer with quartz crystals along a paved 0.75 mi (1.2 km) loop trail.



12 Long Logs & Agate House

A 2.6 mi (4.2 km) trail showcases petrified logs and a pueblo reconstructed of petrified wood.

Programs & Services

Artist in Residence Program offers artists of all disciplines the opportunity to immerse in the inspirational landscape of Petrified Forest. www.nps.gov/pefo/getinvolved/artist-in-residence

Bark Rangers know the rules of B.A.R.K. and receive a treat for a job well done! Inquire at the visitor centers or entrance gates. Certified service animals only in buildings.

Cultural Demonstrations occur throughout the year. Interact with demonstrators, learn about the people and places of the area, and purchase locally-made crafts. www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/cultural-demonstrations

Dark Skies are a valued resource here at Petrified Forest. As a International Dark-Sky Park, the parks nightscape falls on the Bortel scale at 3 (1 being the darkest and 9 being the brightest). Astronomy events and wilderness camping are the best ways to experience the celestial wonders above. www.nps.gov/pefo/learn/nature/darkskies

Educational programs offer curriculum-based education including field trips, off-site visits, and distance learning. www.nps.gov/pefo/learn/education/classrooms

Gas (including diesel) is available at Painted Desert Visitor Center.

Gift shops are found near Painted Desert Visitor Center and Rainbow Forest Museum.

Petrified Forest Field Institute is proud to offer guided tours exploring fun and compelling subjects led by world class guides and field experts. www.petrifiedforestfieldinstitute.org

We Can't Do It Alone

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 on improving 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 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–3pm daily (extended hours seasonally). Gift shop at Rainbow Forest Museum offers grab and go options.

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

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 (including e-bikes) 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 5 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.

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 and signage. Please do not follow social or dirt trails on paved trails such as Puerco Pueblo and Crystal Forest.

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

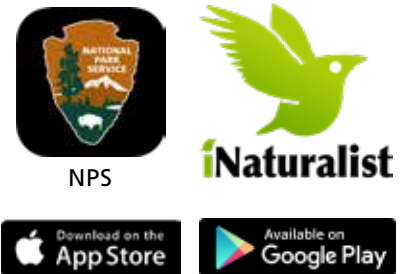
Use sunblock, stay hydrated, take your time, and rest to reduce the risk of sunburn, dehydration, and exhaustion. Water is available at park visitor centers and Painted Desert Inn. Petrified Forest's high elevation (about 5,400 feet) and dry climate may affect you differently than your home environment.

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).

Digital Apps

NPS App The official app! Every NPS park site included. Maps, events, offline mode & more!

iNaturalist app Observe, learn, and share information about park plant and animal life.



Park Hours of Operation

The park is open every day except December 25. The park is open at least 8 am to 5 pm Mountain Standard Time (MST) year round, with extended hours spring through fall. Visit our webpage www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/hours.htm for specific information and alerts.

Check time.gov when traveling between timezones. Arizona does not observe daylight saving time. An exception is the nearby Navajo Nation, which does observe daylight saving time.



SCAN TO SEE PARK MOVIE
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see more on our
YouTube channel:
PetrifiedForestNPS

All Within Is Protected

“The idea of preserving in a national grouping such spots of scenic beauty and historic memory originated here in this country...In Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America, other countries have followed our pioneering example and set aside their most magnificent scenic areas as national treasures for the enjoyment of present and future generations.” -Dwight D. Eisenhower

Resource theft includes but not limited to:

- petrified wood
- pottery sherds
- fossils
- arrowheads
- rocks and soil
- petroglyphs
- plants and animals (living & deceased)

Even feathers and dry grass need to remain where they lie. If you witness resource theft in the park, please call 928-524-6025 and provide a thorough description of the event taking place.

Lodging and Camping

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!**

