



MESA VERDE  
—COLORADO—

# WHERE ANCIENT ARCHEOLOGY MEETS MODERN ACCOMMODATIONS



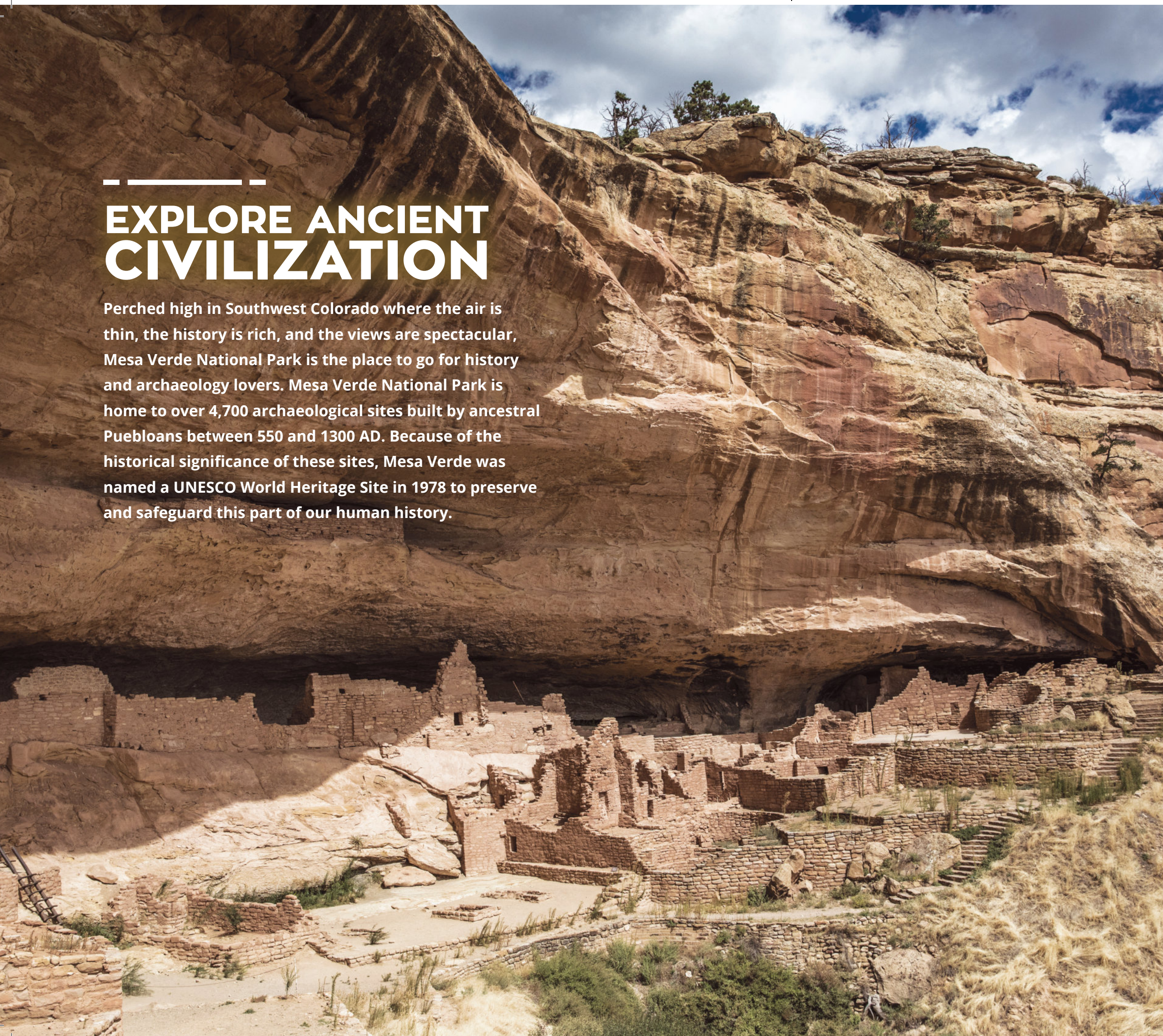
## HISTORY

Mesa Verde National Park was formed in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt to preserve the cultural and natural resources of the park. Some of the best-preserved and notable archeological dwellings in the United States are located within Mesa Verde. While Mesa Verde is best known for the 600 cliff dwellings, there are over 4700 archeological sites throughout the park with more being discovered all the time. A visit to Mesa Verde is a chance to learn about the Ancient Puebloans and to see how they lived every day. In 1978, Mesa Verde was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



# EXPLORE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

Perched high in Southwest Colorado where the air is thin, the history is rich, and the views are spectacular, Mesa Verde National Park is the place to go for history and archaeology lovers. Mesa Verde National Park is home to over 4,700 archaeological sites built by ancestral Puebloans between 550 and 1300 AD. Because of the historical significance of these sites, Mesa Verde was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978 to preserve and safeguard this part of our human history.



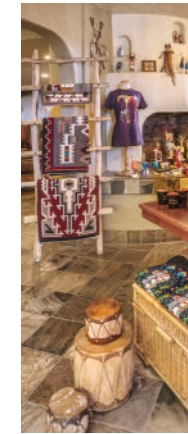
# LODGING

## **FAR VIEW LODGE:**

Located just 15 miles from Mesa Verde National Park, Far View Lodge is the perfect cozy headquarters for your archeological adventures. The lodge is open from May to September and has 150 rooms, some with private balconies and spectacular views of the park. At the Far View Lodge, you'll find amenities such as on-site dining, free parking, WiFi, and pet-friendly rooms.

## **MOREFIELD CAMPGROUND:**

The Morefield Campground hosts 267 campsites and 15 RV hook-up sites with water, electric, and sewer. Morefield Campground places you just 4.5 miles from the park entrance. At the campground, you'll find the Knife Edge Cafe, a camp store for any supplies you're missing, barbecue grills, picnic tables, showers, and laundry facilities.



# DINING

## METATE ROOM RESTAURANT:

Located inside the Far View Lodge, you'll find the Metate Room Restaurant which serves award-winning, contemporary cuisine that's inspired by regional heritage foods and spices.

## FAR VIEW TERRACE CAFE:

At the Far View Terrace Cafe, you can enjoy a great meal with a view. Located near the Far View Lodge, this is a casual food court setting with options such as salads, sandwiches, pizza, and pasta. You can also get coffee and grab-and-go breakfast and lunch options at the Mesa Mocha Espresso Bar.

## FAR VIEW LOUNGE:

After a long day of adventuring sit back, order some pub food, and sip a cocktail while you share stories about your day in the Far View Lounge. You can socialize, take in the stunning views, or catch the game on TV.

## SPRUCE TREE TERRACE CAFE:

Head over to the Spruce Tree Terrace Cafe for indoor or patio dining. On the menu, you'll find American classics and Southwest specialties. Don't miss the popular Navajo tacos.

## VISIT MESA VERDE. REVISIT THE MEMORY.

Our four gift shops offer an extensive collection from 8 local tribes including Hopi, Zuni, Santa Clara and Navajo. The gift shops within Mesa Verde offer regional Native American handcrafts, such as traditional Navajo rugs, handmade flutes, reproductions of Native American weaponry, katsina and kachina carved wooden dolls, woven baskets, pottery, drums, and hand crafted jewelry. They also offer clothing, souvenirs, posters, books, sunglasses, snacks, and other gifts. The gift shops are located at:

- Far View Lodge
- Far View Terrace
- Morefield Campground
- Spruce Tree Terrace



# ACTIVITIES



## GUIDED TOURS:

During your stay in Mesa Verde, you can't miss a guided tour of the archeological sites. Tours start on a bus which will take you to the sites, where a certified, professional guide will make history come alive with captivating storytelling about the people who used to live in these dwellings. There are a number of different tours to choose from:

- **700 Years tour** - Gives you a historical overview of the architecture, culture, and religion of the Ancestral Puebloans.
- **Private tours** - The Chapin Mesa tour offers a personal adventure that is tailored to suit your needs, ranging from families with children to guests with ADA needs.

You can also take a self-guided tour through the historical sites or book a private tour.



## HIKING:

Throughout Mesa Verde National Park you'll find a variety of trails perfect for novices and experienced hikers. You'll find trailheads at Morefield, Chapin Mesa, and Wetherill Mesa. Please stay on the trail and pack water.



## VISIT THE CLIFF DWELLINGS:

The Mesa Verde Cliff Dwellings are where the Ancestral Puebloans lived, worked, and socialized during the late 12th century. You can take a guided tour or tour some of the cliff dwellings on your own.



## STARGAZING:

As a certified International Dark Sky Park, Mesa Verde is perfect for stargazing. With minimal light pollution and only small cities nearby, you'll be able to see incredibly nighttime views of the Milky Way and constellations.



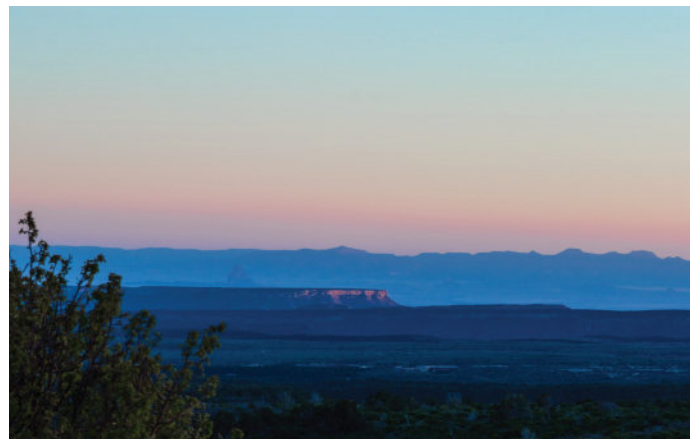
# SEASONAL

## SEASONAL TEMPS:

With elevations from 6,500 to 8,500 feet, Mesa Verde experiences mild temperatures. In the summer you'll be able to enjoy highs in the 80s with cool, crisp evenings. Winter daytime temperatures usually stay in the high 30s, but you can get snow from October to May. With a range of temperatures year-round, it's best to dress in layers during your visit to Mesa Verde.

## EVENTS CALENDAR:

In Mesa Verde, local culture is the way. Get to know the little towns nearby this historical area by visiting the regular farmers market for locally-grown veggies, pastries made by local, small businesses, and artisan crafts. In July, you can enjoy the small-town vibes at the Montezuma County Fair, where you'll find live music, goat roping, and salsa-making contests.



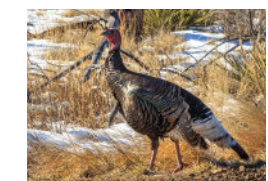
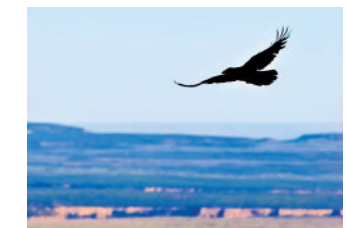
## SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS:

At Mesa Verde National Park, we take sustainability seriously. Here's how we're working to take care of the environment:

- **Food sourcing** - procuring local and seasonal products
- **Efficient operation** - controlling energy usage
- **Water conservation** - low flow fixtures and opt-out linen service
- **Minimizing waste** - recycling, composting, and reducing packaging
- **Reduce emissions** - providing public transport in the park

## WILDLIFE VIEWING:

Mesa Verde consists of multiple habitats, including 74 mammal species, 200 bird species, 16 reptile species, 5 amphibian species, and over 1,000 insect species. During your time in the national park, you might also see coyotes, mountain lions, bats, wild turkeys, and mule deer.



# PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE

While Mesa Verde National Park is open year-round, some services and tours have seasonal dates of operation, so be sure to research what you'd like to do and if it's available before you arrive.

We suggest you'll want to bring these things along with you for your trip:

- Reusable water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Chapstick
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Warm layers of clothing
- Sturdy shoes or hiking boots
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Collapsible walking stick or hiking poles
- Daypack
- Journal

## PARK ENTRANCE FEES:

The park entrance fee for Mesa Verde National Park depends on what time of year you visit.

If you're planning to visit the park from January 2 to April 30 or November 1 to December 31:




- Private vehicles
- Per person
- Motorcycle



# SAMPLE ITINERARY



## DAY OF ARRIVAL A MOMENT TO SETTLE

-  Check-in to Far View Lodge
-  Enjoy a regionally-inspired dish in the Metate Room
-  Get a good night's rest so you're ready for a full first day



## 1ST FULL DAY HISTORY COMES ALIVE

-  Start your morning with a hearty breakfast from the Far View Terrace Cafe
-  Learn about the local history and archeological sites on the 4-hour 700 Years Tour
-  Finish your day with an evening meal of Navajo Tacos at the Spruce Tree Cafe



## 2ND FULL DAY GET CLOSE TO NATURE

-  Get an early start for a hike along Petroglyph Point Trail, which is 2.4 miles round trip
-  Near park headquarters, you can get lunch from the Spruce Tree Cafe
-  After lunch, you can take a self-guided tour through the archeological sites or enjoy the Morefield Explorer Scavenger Hunt

## FEE-FREE DAYS:

For a few days each year, you can visit the national parks for free.





# BE INSPIRED

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL



[VisitMesaVerde.com](http://VisitMesaVerde.com) 800.449.2288



Concessions at Mesa Verde National Park are managed by Aramark and authorized by National Park Service.