



MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK FACT SHEET

LOCATION Mesa Verde National Park is located in the southwestern corner of Colorado, adjacent to the Four Corners region of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

GETTING THERE **Plane**
The nearest airports are in Cortez (CEZ) and Durango (DRO), Colorado, as well as Farmington (FMN), New Mexico.

Car
Mesa Verde's cliff dwellings and ancient sites are a one-hour drive from Cortez, heading east on Highway 160 to the park turnoff, and a 1.5 hour drive from Durango, heading west on Highway 160 to the Park turnoff.

Public Transportation
The closest bus terminal is located in Durango. Car rental is needed to get from the bus terminal to the park. The entrance to Mesa Verde is 35 miles from Durango and 8 miles from Cortez. Detailed directions are available at www.visitmesaverde.com.

WEBSITE www.visitmesaverde.com

PHONE 866-292-8295 for reservations

MEDIA CONTACT Rachel Irwin
(619) 533-7973
(207) 356-6906 (Cell)
aramark@allisonpr.com

OVERVIEW A World Heritage site named "Number One Historic Monument in the World" by *Conde Nast Traveler* and "One of 50 Places to Visit in a Lifetime" by *National Geographic*, Mesa Verde National Park is the largest archaeological preserve in North America and an integral part of Southwest's Grand Circle region. It is also the first and only national park designated specifically for the preservation of human culture in North America.

Established in 1906 to preserve sites built by Pre-Columbian Indians on the mesa tops and canyon alcoves of Southwest Colorado, Mesa Verde celebrated its 100-year birthday in 2006 with a series of special public events and celebrations to commemorate its many achievements. The park contains more than 52,000 acres of Federal land housing over 4,400 known archaeological sites, including 600 cliff dwellings.

A series of ladders, stairways and paved hiking trails permit visitors a closer look at these ancient dwellings. Two of the most impressive sites include Cliff Palace, which has more than 150 rooms occupying a deep alcove beneath the canyon



rim, and Balcony House, which is reachable by climbing a 32-foot ladder and crawling through a short tunnel.

OPERATING HOURS & SEASONS

Mesa Verde National Park is open daily, year-round. Visitor accommodations are open through the primary visitation season, mid-April through mid-October. Limited services are available in winter.

Chapin Mesa Museum is open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. mid-April to mid-October; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. the rest of the year. Far View Visitor Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. mid-April to mid-October. Ranger-guided tours and self-guided tours are available in spring, summer and fall.

LODGING

Far View Lodge

Right in the heart of Mesa Verde National Park, Far View Lodge offers not only the most convenient location for visiting the park, but also the best views of any accommodations in the area. Situated at 8250 feet above sea level (Far View Lodge was featured as one of the world's best high-elevation hotels -- *Travel and Leisure, November 2008*), Far View Lodge offers spectacular views into four states reflecting the shimmering red desert and canyons of northern New Mexico to the south, the snow covered La Plata mountain range to the east, the verdant Mancos Valley and the lofty San Juan mountain range to the north and the stately silhouette of the "Sleeping Ute" formation and Utah's Abajo and LaSalle mountain ranges to the west.

Call 866-292-8295 year round for reservations. Located 15 miles inside the Park, Far View Lodge has 150 rooms, each with a balcony providing spectacular 100-mile views across the Mesa. Dates of operation in 2010 are from mid-April through mid-October. Prices range from \$78 - \$151, based on season and type of accommodations.

RV/CAMPGROUND

Mesa Verde National Park Morefield Campground

Call 866-292-8295 or www.visitmesaverde.com for reservations. Mesa Verde's Morefield Campground, which is located in a large wooded area 4 miles from the Park entrance, has 435 sites on loop roads in a high canyon. Amenities include a café, a gas station, an RV station, hot showers, a coin-operated laundry and a grocery store, as well as access to food, supplies and firewood. Single and group sites include a barbecue grill, picnic table and benches, with many sites offering shade.

15 RV hook-up sites are also available and may be reserved by calling 866-292-8295.

Dry camp sites rate per night is \$24 for up to two vehicles and two tents. Visitors entering Mesa Verde purchase a \$15 entrance permit, which is valid on entry to the park for seven consecutive days. Travel into the park is accessible to



vehicles of all sizes except for trailers, which are not allowed past the Morefield Campground. Dates of operation for 2010 are from mid-May through early October (rates and opening/closing dates are subject to NPS approval).

DINING

Metate Room – an upscale restaurant inside Far View Lodge that features contemporary, sustainable interpretations of heritage foods with a Southwestern flair. Metate Room won the American Culinary Federation Colorado Chefs Association’s first-ever “Award of Culinary Excellence” in 2010. The menu features game meats as well as traditional favorites, along with a selection of more than 100 wines from around the world selected by our consulting sommelier.

Far View Café & Gift Shop offers more casual fare located in the retail complex across from the Visitor Center and near the Far View Lodge. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served. **Mesa Mocha** Espresso Bar is located inside Far View Cafe for a wide selection of made to order beverages.

Spruce Tree Café – a casual café located across from Park headquarters and the Mesa Verde Museum. Lunch and dinner are served year round.

TOURS

ARAMARK Mesa Verde National Park, the authorized concessioner for Mesa Verde, offers half-day NPS ranger-guided interpreted bus tours, step-on guides and private tours of the cliff dwellings and ancient sites. Tickets for ARAMARK tours can be reserved in advance online at www.visitmesaverde.com or by calling 866-292-8295. Tickets are also available at Far View Lodge (starting April 22, 2010), Far View Terrace (starting May 5, 2010) and Morefield Campground (starting May 11, 2010).

Far View Explorer Tour – Driver-guided and fully-interpreted five-hour tour from Morefield Campground - 8:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m. daily. Includes Grab & Go picnic lunch and visits Far View Sites, Mesa Loop overlooks and Mesa Verde Museum. Short exploring hikes to several sites and lunch stop at the Chapin Mesa picnic area. Departs from Morefield Campground only. **\$25.00 adults and \$12.50 for children 11 years and under.** Available May 12 - early October.

Classic Pueblo afternoon tour - Ranger guided and shares contemporary interpretation of archaeology and culture of the Ancestral Puebloans. This 3-hour tour includes Triple Cities, Square Tower overlook, Sun Point, Sun Temple and a walking tour of Cliff Palace dwelling. Departs from Far View Lodge (with pick up at Far View Terrace). Tour length: 3.5 hours. **\$35.00 adults and \$17.50 for children 11 years and under.**

700 Years Tour - A chronological journey from the earliest recorded Pithouse villages (600A.D.) to the Classic Pueblo era of cliff dwellings dated from the 13th century. This tour provides the visitor an overall historical view of the Ancestral Puebloans architectural, horticultural, cultural, and religious dimensions of their lives in the Southwest. Cliff Palace, the largest of cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde



National Park is visited as one of the top ten places to visit in a lifetime. Departs from Far View Lodge (with pick up at Far View Terrace) 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. **\$45.00 adults and \$34.00 for children 11 years and under.**

The National Park Service also operates individual ranger-guided walking tours of specific dwellings in the Park (Balcony House, Long House, Cliff Palace), with admission tickets sold at Far View Visitor Center on a first-come, first-serve basis the day of the actual tour. For specific information about the individual dwellings and ranger tours, visit www.nps.gov/meve.

In addition to guided tours, many of Mesa Verde's sites can be visited independently. The Park offers numerous well-maintained trails.

ACTIVITIES

Hiking – Hiking in Mesa Verde National Park is restricted and allowed only on designated trails. Visitors may not enter cliff dwellings unless accompanied by a uniformed park ranger.

Morefield Trailheads:

- Prater Ridge Trail (7.5 miles roundtrip)
- Knife Edge Trail (1.5 miles roundtrip)
- Point Lookout Trail (2.3 miles roundtrip)

Chapin Mesa Trailheads:

- Petroglyph Point Trail (2.8 miles roundtrip)
- Spruce Canyon Trail (2.1 miles roundtrip)
- Soda Canyon Overlook (1.5 miles roundtrip)

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum – Built in 1924, the museum contains information, exhibits and a bookstore of artifacts of the Ancestral Puebloans. The museum is a five-mile or 15-minute drive from the Far View Visitor Center.

ART, GIFTS & CRAFTS

Gift shops at Mesa Verde are conveniently located in Spruce Tree Terrace, Far View Terrace, Far View Lodge and Morefield Campground.

Handcrafted Southwest jewelry featuring silver and turquoise is available from many Southwestern tribes. Some of the best local and regional artists exhibit and demonstrate their artistry at Mesa Verde during the summer season.

Gift shops feature Native American crafts including distinctive Navajo rugs, handmade flutes, dolls, woven baskets, handmade pottery and native drums of exceptional quality and selection.

The shops also feature a wide variety of apparel, souvenirs, posters, books, magazines, tapes and CDs.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Green Thread®

At ARAMARK, we have a deep respect for and commitment to protecting and improving the environment. We work to reduce our environmental footprint while delivering exceptional operational results. We also offer expertise and practical solutions to our clients to help them reduce their environmental impacts.

Throughout our company, we develop and implement long-term environmental stewardship programs and policies within the areas of Food Purchasing; Supply Chain; Building Operations; Energy and Water Conservation; Transportation and Waste Management. We believe sustainability is a process and have implemented environmental management systems that serve as the basis for continuous improvement.

MANAGEMENT

ARAMARK Mesa Verde National Park, part of ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, manages concessions at Mesa Verde National Park under the authorization of the National Park Service. ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, a division of ARAMARK, delivers authentic and memorable experiences at national and state parks, national forests, specialty hotels, museums, and other tourist destinations throughout the United States. In partnership with its clients, ARAMARK Parks and Destinations seeks to enhance the guest experience by offering industry-leading hospitality, environmental stewardship, recreational, and interpretive programs. For more information on ARAMARK Parks and Destinations and each of its properties, visit www.aramarkparksanddestinations.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about Mesa Verde National Park, visit <http://www.nps.gov/meve/>