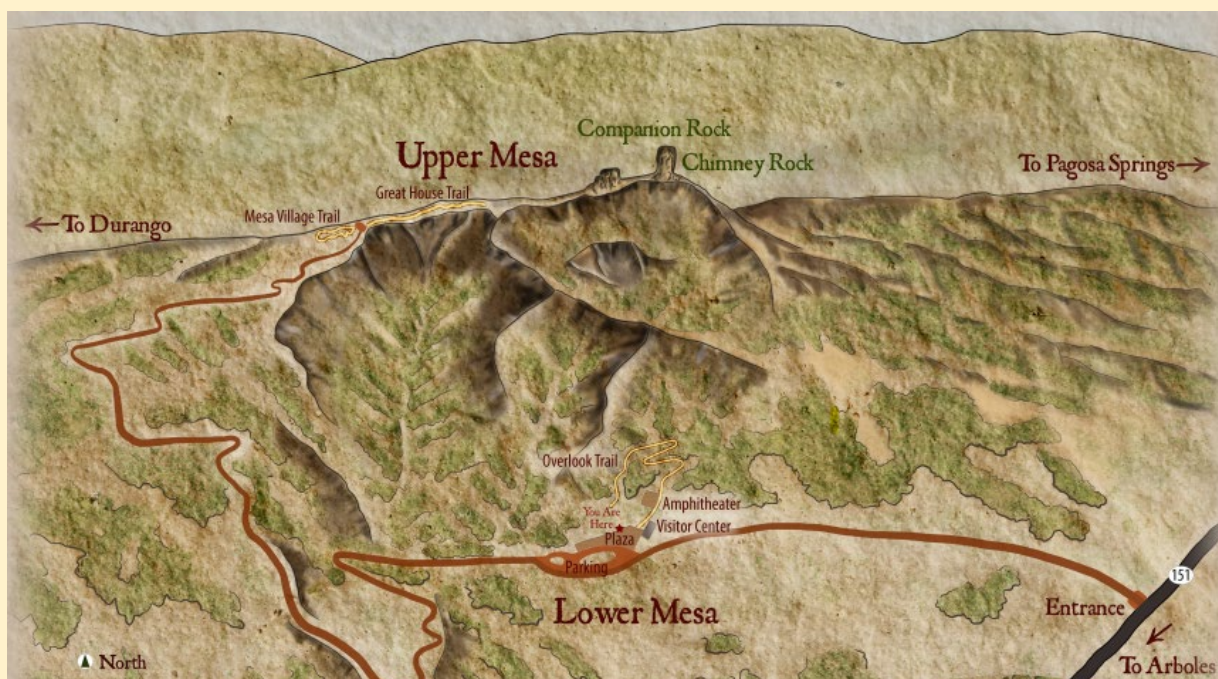


# CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL MONUMENT VISITOR GUIDE



## WELCOME

Welcome to Chimney Rock National Monument. Because of its significance to our shared national heritage, Chimney Rock was designated as a national monument in 2012, one of only 13 managed by the US Forest Service.

A thousand years ago this was home to the ancestral Puebloans. They built extraordinary structures and watched the sky. They traded with other villages up to 150 miles away, and they worked, played, and raised their children here. While much is known about their lives, much more remains a mystery.

## WHAT TO KNOW

The monument is open May 15-September 30, 7 days a week, 9:00-4:30. Gates are shut promptly at 4:30 daily.

The Forest Service's non-profit partner, Chimney Rock Interpretive Association, provides guided tours, special programs, classes, lectures, and events. Inquire at the gift shop for more details.

As dogs are not allowed on the trails and there is not suitable shaded parking at the mesa, complimentary, shaded dog kennels are available. Inquire at Visitor Center.

The following are **prohibited**:

- Ⓞ Removing objects or disturbing any archaeological site
- Ⓞ Climbing to or being on Chimney and Companion Rock, from their bases to their summits
- Ⓞ Camping within the monument
- Ⓞ Riding a bicycle except on a designated open road
- Ⓞ Dogs and horses on the archaeological or overlook trails, year-round
- Ⓞ Smoking on the trails or at the sites

## AMENITIES

Amenities at the monument include restrooms near the Visitor Center, near the picnic area, and near the mesa parking lot. Trash and recycling services are available during the summer season. **There is no potable water.** There are limited food and drink options available for purchase at the gift shop.

## OVERLOOK TRAIL

The overlook trail is a ½+ mile long, meandering, kid-friendly nature trail that traverses a meadow near the visitor center and peaks overlooking the amphitheater. No dogs or horses on the nature trail, please.

## PICNIC AREA

Eating is discouraged while on trails as crumbs attract rodents that may damage the archaeological structures. A picnic area is designated on the valley floor, south of the visitor center. Picnic tables, ample shade, restrooms, and trash services at the picnic area provide a great place to eat a packed lunch.

## ACCESS TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Archaeological sites can be accessed from the upper mesa by driving a graveled road to the upper mesa parking area. The **Mesa Village Trail** is a ¼ mile-long paved loop that is wheelchair and stroller friendly. Visitors will see unexcavated and excavated pithouses and a reconstructed Great Kiva.



The **Great House Trail** is a moderately challenging, unpaved gravel route, with several sections that run along steep drop-offs with no handrails. Visitors can view excavated and unexcavated pithouses and the 35-room Great House. The Great House is at 7,600 feet elevation- please consider your physical health and willingness to be exposed to heights before you hike. **There is no access to Chimney Rock or Companion Rock – hiking to or climbing on the spires is prohibited by law.**

## PROTECT THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE

To help preserve this landscape, keep in mind that:

- 🕒 Archaeological sites are nonrenewable resources; artifacts are fragile pieces of our shared national heritage.
- 🕒 Walking on walls, moving rocks, and touching, picking up or removing any artifact is prohibited. Artifacts in their original context tell stories about the past. When you remove or damage an artifact, we all lose a piece of history.
- 🕒 These sites are spiritually significant to Native Americans, so please treat sites with respect.

