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ARIZONA

HIGHWAYS

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AUGUST 2021

PARK YOURSELF

A Guide to Arizona's National Parks, Monuments,
Historic Sites, Recreation Areas and More

August 2021

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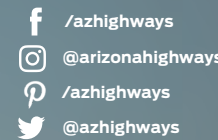
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► Layered buttes anchor a view of puffy clouds at Petrified Forest National Park in Northern Arizona. *Dawn Kish*

📷 NIKON D750, 1/160 SEC, F/20, ISO 320, 120 MM LENS

FRONT COVER: A stand-up paddleboarder navigates Lake Powell, part of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, in the shadow of Lone Rock. *Dawn Kish*

📷 OLYMPUS OM-D E-M1 MARK II, 1/320 SEC, F/9, ISO 320, 16 MM LENS

BACK COVER: Wildflowers blanket a hillside beneath the rising moon and distant Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, near Flagstaff. *Peter Coskun*

📷 CANON EOS 6D, 1.6 SEC, F/16, ISO 100, DOUBLE EXPOSURE



Smokey Says...
**DON'T KEEP IT
 LIT,
 EXTINGUISH
 IT**

FOLLOW THE RULE, STAY  UNTIL ASHES ARE COOL

SMOKEYBEAR.COM



editor's
LETTER



I wasn't sure what my grandmother was thinking as we cruised through the billowing terrain of Southeastern Arizona. Her poker face had been stymying me since the fourth grade, when she taught me how to play five-card draw. I remember her humming along to the songs of *Harvest Moon* — “Somewhere on a desert highway ...” — but she wasn't saying much.

Although she had the focus of all great poker players, my grandmother was one of those people who wouldn't notice a Nubian ibex sitting on her davenport. The rhyolite hoodoos, though ... she didn't miss those.

“Oh, boy!” she whispered when she caught her first glimpse. And then came the tears. She couldn't stop them. Water flows downhill. By that time, my grandmother was well into her 80s, and I'd already taken her to the Grand Canyon, Cathedral Rock and Saguaro National Park. But the Chiricahuas affected her on a higher level. It was more divine. As if for the first time in her life she had some sense of what the promised land might be like.

Chiricahua National Monument was established on April 18, 1924, exactly one year before this magazine premiered. In our sixth issue, in September 1925, we published a story about the newest National Park Service site. It was titled *In the Valley of Graven Images*. Ninety-six years later, a Senate bill is pending that would reclassify the monument as our nation's 64th national park. The bill, S. 1320, was introduced by Senator Mark Kelly and co-sponsored by Senator Kyrsten Sinema.


“Protecting Arizona's public lands and national parks strengthens our tourism and outdoor recreation industry,” Ms. Sinema says, “boosting opportunities for Arizonans and creating good-paying jobs.”

There's precedent for that. Late last year, the New River Gorge in West Virginia was elevated from a national river to a national park, and visitation is expected to increase by at least 20 percent this year. The same thing would likely happen at Chiricahua, which is one of the least-visited parks in Arizona. But it's always been quiet there.

“Although this great pinnacle forest has been more or less known for years ... only within the last eighteen months have they been receiving the attention they deserve,” A.H. Gardner wrote in 1925. Mr. Gardner described how a miner named John Hand had accompanied a Mr. and Mrs. Welch into “The Pinnacles” in 1911: “They left a paper, with their names and date. This paper was placed in a salmon tin, and a monument of rocks was erected as its home. The monument was erected at what is now called Inspiration Point. At that time the party felt sure that someday this would be a mecca for sightseers, and the tangible evidence was left so that in after years there would be proof of this visit.”

Inspiration Point is a landmark at the end of a trail that begins at Massai Point, which is where I took my grandmother on that indelible autumn day. On our way out of the park, she asked if I'd buy her a poster of Chiricahua National Monument. It's still hanging in my mother's guest room. And if S. 1320 makes its way through Congress, it'll become a collectors item. I think my grandmother would be happy about that.

— ROBERT STIEVE, EDITOR

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PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL MARKOW

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 GIFT SHOP: 602-712-2200

- PUBLISHER** Kelly Mero
- EDITOR** Robert Stieve
- SENIOR EDITOR/
 BOOKS EDITOR** Kelly Vaughn
- MANAGING EDITOR** Noah Austin
- ASSOCIATE EDITOR/
 VIDEO EDITOR** Ameema Ahmed
- PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR** Jeff Kida
- CREATIVE DIRECTOR** Keith Whitney
- ART DIRECTOR** Lisa Altomare
- MAP DESIGNER** Kevin Kibsey
- PRODUCTION DIRECTOR** Michael Bianchi
- DIRECTOR OF SALES
 AND MARKETING** Karen Farugia
- WEBMASTER** Victoria Snow
- CIRCULATION DIRECTOR** Nicole Bowman
- DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** Matthew Bailey
- OPERATIONS/
 IT MANAGER** Cindy Bormanis

**CORPORATE
 SALES MANAGER** Lisa Karnatz

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@arizonahighways.com
 2039 W. Lewis Avenue
 Phoenix, AZ 85009

GOVERNOR Douglas A. Ducey

**DIRECTOR,
 DEPARTMENT
 OF TRANSPORTATION** John S. Halikowski

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ON PAGE 21 OF THE JUNE 2021 ISSUE

is a 50-year-old photograph of a boy fishing on the Black River. I can't be sure, but he looks just like my little brother, Fred, who would have been about that size 50 years ago. We're really missing Fred because he passed away in December of cancer. We all love fishing the streams of the White Mountains. I'd love to find out if that's him or not. At any rate, it sure brings back some great memories. Thank you.

Mike Nelson, Sahuarita, Arizona



June 2021

I started my subscription in the summer of 2013 — that was about a year before my wife and I moved to Phoenix. I was so excited when our first issue arrived in the mailbox. Needless to say, I read through the entire magazine that evening. The next day, I looked through the magazine again, this time absorbing the beauty of the pictures. I've continued my subscription for eight years now. I love *Arizona Highways*! What's so great about your magazine, aside from the pictures, is that it offers so much more. It's a history book, delving into the past. It's a travelogue, taking us on wonderful trips throughout Arizona. It's a nature guide, an art brochure, a culinary sampler leading us to delectable entrees prepared by the many independent restaurants scattered throughout Arizona. Your magazine offers us quaint accommodations, some located in the most beautiful settings. Most of our travel destinations have been discovered through your magazine. I just received my June issue, so this evening, I'll once again travel through your articles, essays and illustrations.

Charles Meason, Goodyear, Arizona

About four years ago, my husband and I moved to Green Valley from San Francisco. Two blocks from our home in San Francisco is a large statue of Juan Bautista de Anza [*The Journal: Around Arizona*, June 2021]. We had no clue about the significance of the statue until we moved to Green Valley, where the Anza Trail runs two blocks behind our

home. History is incredible and joins us together.

Kathy Arnold, Green Valley, Arizona

The April 2021 column [*The Journal: This Month in History*] seems to be missing one very sad but significant event in Arizona's history: the Massacre at Camp Grant on April 30, 1871. One hundred forty-four Apaches, mostly women, children and elders, while camped near the site and believing they were protected by the U.S. Army, were killed and mutilated in the early morning hours. Some ranchers, Tucson residents and Tohono O'odhams were responsible for the attack on the Apache group. Several books and numerous articles have detailed the horrific event. April marked the 150th anniversary of the tragedy.

Richard Kelley, Goodyear, Arizona

Your May 2021 issue is a delightful combination of great writing and great photography, enveloped in the all-encompassing, all-important and ever-timely essential ingredient of life and geology: water. Perhaps no state is more obviously attuned to the presence, or lack thereof, of water in all of its forms than Arizona. Thanks for treating us to a remarkable issue!

Wes Timmerman, Jackson, Wyoming

We have two homes in Arizona, one in the mountains and one in the desert — we've enjoyed more than 50 years in this state. Your May 2021 issue dealing with water availability

around the state was so refreshing. It's so good to know that even with global climate change and the negative publicity that goes with that, there are still beautiful and wonderful places around the state to enjoy water. At a time of so much negative news, I really appreciate your positive spin in this current water issue.

Ginny Roberts, Tucson

As I read the issue about saguaros [March 2021], it took me back to the early 1990s. As the lead archaeologist, my crew and I were conducting archaeological surveys in Lake Pleasant Regional Park along the Agua Fria River. One summer day, as we stopped for our lunch break, there wasn't a mesquite tree in sight for us to get shade from the sun. One lone and tall saguaro stood among the rocks. We got our lunches and sat in a row within the linear shadow produced by that saguaro. As we sat there eating our lunch, a gentle breeze came across the desert. It felt great. When we stopped talking to eat, we heard a beautiful humming sound. It was the wind gently blowing through the spines of that saguaro, like the strings of a guitar. That saguaro provided us not only shade on a hot summer day, but also beautiful music.

Carol Telles, Safford, Arizona

contact us If you have thoughts or comments about anything in *Arizona Highways*, we'd love to hear from you. We can be reached at editor@arizonahighways.com, or by mail at 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. For more information, visit arizonahighways.com/contact-us.

THEY
NEED WATER.
WE
NEED YOU.



Arizona's drought continues to impact our wildlife. To help give these animals a chance at survival, the Arizona Game and Fish Department maintains 3,000 lifesaving water catchments around the state. These catchments cost nearly \$1 million to operate, and because the Department receives no general tax funds, we need your help. Please donate today. You're not just giving wildlife a drink of water, you're giving them a sip of life.

Text SENDWATER to 41444 or visit SendWater.org

Park Yourself

A guide to Arizona's national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and more.

EDITED BY ROBERT STIEVE
ILLUSTRATION BY JEN BANCINO

Although Ken Burns is usually credited with the quote, it was Wallace Stegner who first proclaimed, "National parks are the best idea we ever had." If you've ever watched a sunset from Point Sublime or hiked to the ancient ruins at Keet Seel or photographed goldpoppies in Organ Pipe, you get it. Some of Arizona's most important people, places and things are preserved within our national parks. This month, the National Park Service celebrates its 105th anniversary, and we're joining in with a focus on Arizona's 22 national parks, which range in size from 40 acres to 1.5 million. Because there's some jurisdictional crossover in the management of the parks, we included only those units managed by the Park Service. Therefore, you won't see anything about Agua Fria, Ironwood Forest, Sonoran Desert or Vermilion Cliffs national monuments, which are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, or Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, which is managed by a nonprofit group. Also, we left out Hohokam Pima National Monument, a Park Service unit that's closed to the public. In addition, please note that at press time, parks on the Navajo Nation remain closed to due to precautions related to COVID-19. Please respect those closures. And please adhere to the Leave No Trace ethics whenever you visit our national parks.

—R.S.



The National Parks of ARIZONA

22 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SITES



I Want To Go Back to Walnut Canyon

AN ESSAY BY KELLY VAUGHN

The memories are starting to chip a little. Like nail polish on fingers that have plunged too many times into the dishwasher or planted too many things into too-hard layers of earth. I do remember, though, that we spoke sometimes with snacks. Eye contact in the rearview mirror or the revelation of a furrowed brow and the inklings of a *how much longer?* would lead to baggies of Goldfish crackers being passed around as we ticked off mile after mile after mile on our first road trip as a party of three. My son was 7, and my daughter was 5, and I decided that — that summer, at least — we'd be brave.

We went to Southwestern Colorado by way of the Grand Canyon, Navajo National Monument and the Four Corners. We stayed, the three of us, in my two-person backpacking tent, for nights on end, first at the Canyon's Mather Campground, where we saw an elk that came to drink from the community spigot. He was massive and backlit, and his antlers were draped in velvet. He was mythical. He was real. Even now, years later, he comes up in dinnertime conversations.

We spent two nights at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, where Ancestral Puebloans built intricate dwellings into cliffsides, as if *that* were something easy. We ate spaghetti that I pre-prepared and stored in gallon-sized Ziploc bags, then heated up in my tiny little propane-powered backpacking pot. We listened to a lot of John Prine.

The kids slept as I was stuck behind a semitruck driving up U.S. Route 550 between Durango and Ouray, Colorado, in wind and driving rain. I left marks on the steering wheel of our rental car that afternoon, terrified that I'd spin out in the water that coated the highway like spilled paint. We probably camped a few more nights after that, but I very clearly remember double beds and a takeout pizza and a plunge in a natural hot spring at a motel in Ouray before we began the slow drive back to Phoenix.

What remains of a Sinaguan cliff dwelling clings to the canyon wall at Walnut Canyon National Monument. This view is from the Island Trail, which traverses another set of ruins.

TOM BEAN

Eat + Sleep

1899 Bar and Grill

307 W. DuPont Avenue,
Flagstaff; 928-523-1899;
1899barandgrill.com

Arizona Mountain Inn and Cabins

4200 Lake Mary Road,
Flagstaff; 928-774-8959;
arizonamountaininn.com

Arizona Nordic Village

16848 U.S. Route 180, near
Flagstaff; 928-220-0550;
arizonanordicvillage.com

Café Daily Fare

408 E. Historic Route 66,
Flagstaff; 928-774-2855;
simplydeliciousflagstaff.com

Criollo Latin Kitchen

16 N. San Francisco Street,
Flagstaff; 928-774-0541;
criollolatinkitchen.com

Diablo Burger

120 N. Leroux Street,
Flagstaff; 928-774-3274;
diabloburger.com

Elden Trails Bed and Breakfast

6073 N. Snowflake Drive,
Flagstaff; 928-266-0230;
eldentrailsbedandbreakfast
.com

Karma Sushi

6 E. Historic Route 66,
Flagstaff; 928-774-6100;
karmaflagstaff.com

Kendrick Cabin

U.S. Route 180, near Flagstaff;
recreation.gov/camping/
campgrounds/234

Lotus Lounge

106 N. San Francisco Street,
Flagstaff; 928-440-5568;
lotusloungeflagstaff.com

MartAnne's

112 E. Historic Route 66,
Flagstaff; 928-773-4701;
martannes.com

The McMillan Bar and Grill

2 W. Historic Route 66,
Flagstaff; 928-774-3840;
themcmillan.us

Mormon Lake Lodge

7 miles south of Lake Mary
on Mormon Lake Road;
928-354-2227;
mormonlakelodge.com

Pato Thai Cuisine

104 N. San Francisco Street,
Flagstaff; 928-213-1825;
patothai.com

Salsa Brava

2220 E. Historic Route 66,
Flagstaff; 928-779-5293;
salsabravaflagstaff.com

Shift

107 N. San Francisco Street,
Suite 2, Flagstaff;
928-440-5135; shiftflg.com

Starlight Pines B&B

3380 E. Lockett Road,
Flagstaff; 928-527-1912;
starlightpinesbb.com

The Toasted Owl

12 S. Mike's Pike Street,
Flagstaff; 928-774-5326;
thetoastedowl.com

Tourist Home All Day Cafe

52 S. San Francisco Street,
Flagstaff; 928-779-2811;
touristhomecafe.com

Lush vegetation surrounds a row
of the monument's dwellings.
The steep walls of Walnut Canyon
were carved by Walnut Creek over
a period of 60 million years.
PAUL GILL

But the drive back didn't mean we were done. Along the way, we stopped at Petrified Forest National Park and to see that corner made famous by that song that Jackson Browne wrote. And then, we decided to push it, to try to fit in just one more destination, a place none of us had ever been — Walnut Canyon National Monument. The idea? To prove Wallace Stegner's notion that national parks were America's best idea — that they show us at our best, rather than our worst.

When the Sinagua people moved into Walnut Canyon more than 1,400 years ago, they farmed squash, corn and beans below its rim. These crops comprise the "Three Sisters," the nucleus of Indigenous culinary heritage. Although Walnut Creek twists for 34 miles along the Colorado Plateau, from the canyon it cut east of Flagstaff to the tiny town of Winona (which once was called Walnut, too), it is unreliable and often dry.

Sinagua. *Sin agua*. Without water.

And so, the people used dry-farming practices to make it all work, gathering rainwater from terraces built into the canyon walls. As their techniques evolved and the years ticked on, so too did the way the people lived. Pit houses along the rim evolved to alcoves beneath it. Archaeologists tells us that women were in charge of the architecture *and* the construction of their families' homes. They used clay as mortar to seal cracks in the limestone rocks that formed the walls. They turned logs from felled trees into doors. The alcoves were advanced, but the Sinaguans lived in them for only a little more than a century before they moved on. Hundreds of years later, 232 prehistoric sites would be folded into the national monument that now pays tribute to the ancient people. *Hisatsinom*. The people who came before.

Of course, explaining all of this to two children at the tail end of a too-long road trip wasn't easy. But there was something about the Island Trail that they liked. As we hiked the mile-long loop, they asked a lot of questions and imagined themselves living there, largely outside, eating the Three Sisters crops, as well as nuts, wild berries and hunted meat. We named some of the plants and trees — the ones that I knew from memory, anyway: ponderosa pine, Arizona black walnut, yucca, a columbine or two that peeked from the canyon walls. The others, we promised to research when we got home.

As we made our way back to the visitors center, I remembered a story that ran in the November 2010 issue of *Arizona Highways*. It was about writer Willa Cather visiting Walnut Canyon while on leave from her editing duties at *McClure's* magazine. Cather was trying to find inspiration for a book, so she signed in as "Miss Cather" on the visitor register on



May 23, 1912, just months after Arizona became a state.

There's more to the story, of course, but according to the author of the 2010 article, Jane Barnes: "As it turned out, it was the place where she became known to herself. At Walnut Canyon, Cather finally found her own center. She was surrounded by civilization, but free from its demands. She was alone in a great space, but the cliff dwellers had domesticated it so she did not feel overwhelmed."

Cather's resulting novel, *The Song of the Lark*, drew heavily from her experience in Walnut Canyon. She called it by another name, though: Panther Canyon.

"That sounds ... scarier," the kids agreed as we loaded back into the car.

I think that my children were too young to find their centers at Walnut Canyon that day, and they've probably long forgotten the story of Willa Cather, but whatever intuition comes with carrying two children and traveling with them years later tells me that they found something there in the wonder of it all. The expanse of it. The impossibility of building homes from canyon walls and truly, truly living off the land.


In the five years since that first big road trip, we have traveled thousands of miles across the western United States. We've seen a bald eagle fly over the Columbia River Gorge.

We (briefly) lost our car keys in a fast-moving creek somewhere in Idaho. We rode out a thunderstorm in a leaky tent in rural Montana. We found ourselves high-centered in our getting-too-small Subaru at an abandoned campground somewhere in the Sierra Nevada, dug ourselves out, then found a better campsite along the Pacific Crest Trail. We have seen Glacier National Park in the morning light and later in a drizzle. We have run, diving into our tents, to save ourselves from swarms of mosquitoes somewhere in Northern California.

We have been — in alternating cadence — at our best and at our worst on these trips.

Just days after I finish this story, we'll load into the car again for three weeks. There are four of us now. A dog, too, who wears her bandana like a badge. The kids sleep in their own tents. And we've graduated from bagged spaghetti to red beans and rice cooked in cast iron over coals. Little things change. Big things change. The excitement doesn't. And while there aren't any national parks or monuments on our list this year, we never know. Sometimes our roads dead-end. And sometimes that means that the next turn will be better.

No matter what, though, I think I'd like to take the kids back to Walnut Canyon when we get back. Just the three of us. To see what they'll remember. And what new magic they might find.

(For *Jack and Vera*, Summer 2021) 



THE PERFECT WEEK IN
Grand Canyon
National Park
BY ANNETTE MCGIVNEY

The moon rises over the cloud-shrouded buttes of Grand Canyon National Park, as viewed late in the day from the South Rim's Hopi Point.
ADAM SCHALLAU



There's no wrong way to spend time at the Grand Canyon. It is, after all, one of the world's most famous natural wonders and the pride of the Grand Canyon State. The problem is that most people don't spend nearly enough time appreciating this 1.2 million-acre crown jewel. Park statistics show that the average visitor spends less than six hours at Grand Canyon National Park.

To Ed Keable, that's hard to imagine. Back in 1994, Keable, a New York native, saw the Canyon for the first time. Until then, he had believed Mount Everest was the most beautiful place on Earth, but the Canyon changed his mind. "When I first walked out to the South Rim, I was overwhelmed not only by the beauty, but also by the sense of spirituality that the Canyon has," he recalls. "I had the random notion then that it would be amazing to live and work at the Canyon." Keable finally got his wish last year, when he was appointed superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park. After some three decades of commuting to government jobs in Washington, D.C., he now walks to his South Rim office every day. He moved to the park in May 2020 and says he still can't get enough of the Canyon. "I don't have a single favorite place — all of the park resonates with me," he says. "I can be in the middle of a trail anywhere in the Canyon, and it is my favorite place."

While a week at Grand Canyon National Park might only scratch the surface in terms of experiencing the natural wonder, a seven-day visit at least offers enough time to explore the crown jewel from many different vantage points. This itinerary takes you to less-visited corners of the park, both above and below the rim, where you can soak up the beauty at every location. By the end of the week, you'll probably scoff at anyone who thinks they've sufficiently experienced the park in just six hours.



Day 1

Start your week in the Canyon by going below the rim, with a two-night backpacking trip that circumnavigates **Horseshoe Mesa**. This 15-mile hike offers the luxury of camping next to flowing water each night, as well as unbeatable views from the trail. (For an alternative backpacking trip that's a little easier, see below.)

From the South Rim's **Grandview Trailhead**, descend about 2,500 feet in 3.5 miles on the **Grandview Trail** to reach the flat, red expanse of Horseshoe Mesa. Sprawl on the slick-rock for lunch and enjoy views of the Canyon's **Inner Gorge** and distant **North Rim** buttes. Resume your hike with a descent of the **Miners Spring Trail** on the east side of the mesa for 1.9 miles, dropping 1,500 feet to **Hance Creek**. Pitch your tent along the creek. If you have energy left, follow the **Tonto Trail** east for a ramble onto the balcony known as the **Tonto Plateau** for spectacular sunset views.

Day 2

From Hance Creek, hike a mostly flat 4.4 miles on the Tonto Trail to **Cottonwood Creek**. You'll be walking along the northern base of Horseshoe Mesa and peering 2,000 feet down into the Canyon's Inner Gorge. Pitch your tent along the shady creek. Take a nap next to the gurgling water, or set out on a day hike heading west on the Tonto Trail for more canyon views. The riparian oasis of **Grapevine Creek** is 5.5 miles away.

Day 3

Hike 1.5 miles up the west side of Horseshoe Mesa and another 3.5 miles up the Grandview Trail to return to the trailhead. Once you're back at **Grand Canyon Village**, watch the sunset over the South Rim and celebrate your successful backpacking trip with drinks on the veranda of the historic **El Tovar Hotel**.

*For an easier alternative, hike 4.5 miles down the **Bright Angel Trail** to **Indian Garden Campground** (Day 1), day-hike 1.5 miles to **Plateau Point** (Day 2) and hike out on the **Bright Angel Trail** (Day 3).*

OPPOSITE PAGE: Kristen Caldon O'Neill takes in a view of the Canyon atop a rock pedestal along the South Rim's Grandview Trail. DAWN KISH

ABOVE: In a view from Grandview Point, jagged buttes catch the final rays of sunset as the distant Colorado River meanders through the Canyon. JACK DYKINGA

Eat + Sleep

Anna's Grand Canyon Coffee and Café

137 W. Railroad Avenue, Williams; 928-635-4907; grandcanyoncoffeeandcafe.com

Bright Angel Fountain

9 Village Loop Drive, Grand Canyon Village; 928-638-2631; grandcanyonlodges.com/dining/bright-angel-fountain

El Tovar Dining Room and Lounge

South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park; 928-638-2631; grandcanyonlodges.com/dining

Grand Canyon Lodge

North Rim, Grand Canyon National Park; 877-386-4383; grandcanyonforever.com

Grand Canyon Railway Hotel

235 N. Grand Canyon Boulevard, Williams; 800-843-8724; thetrain.com

Hull Cabin

16 miles east of Tusayan, off Forest Road 307; 928-638-2443; recreation.gov

Lodge on Route 66

200 E. Historic Route 66, Williams; 877-563-4366; thelodgeonroute66.com

Pine Country Restaurant

107 N. Grand Canyon Boulevard, Williams; 928-635-9718; pinecountryrestaurant.com

Red Raven

135 W. Historic Route 66, Williams; 928-635-4980; redravenrestaurant.com

Under Canvas

979 Airpark Lane, Valle; 888-496-1148; undercanvas.com/camps/grand-canyon



BELOW: Hopi Point offers a sunrise view of layered buttes and the Colorado River far below.
ADAM SCHALLAU

RIGHT: Long shadows form on the Canyon's rock formations at sunrise in a view from the South Rim.
ADAM SCHALLAU

Day 4

Kick off the day with sunrise at **Shoshone Point**, one of the most secluded overlooks on the South Rim. Located off **Desert View Drive** just west of Mile Marker 246, a small dirt parking area and gate mark the unsigned Shoshone Point access area, from which a gentle 1.2-mile trail leads to the overlook.

Return to Grand Canyon Village and explore the park's early 20th century history via a self-guided walking tour. A free brochure available at **Verkamp's Visitor Center** will direct you on a path around the **Grand Canyon Village Historic District** as you learn about the origins of **Hopi House**, **Kolb Studio** and other buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Once you've completed the tour, walk east on the **Trail of Time**, a section of the **Rim Trail** between Verkamp's and the **Yavapai Geology Museum**. This self-guided inter-

pretive hike provides signs explaining how the Canyon was formed and includes samples of rock from each of the Canyon's layers.

Have a picnic lunch along the Rim Trail, then head to **Mather Point** to rent bikes at **Bright Angel Bicycles** (bikegrandcanyon.com). Spend the rest of the afternoon cruising the **Greenway Trail**, which is west of Grand Canyon Village and parallels **Hermit Road**. Load your bikes onto the park shuttle bus and get dropped off at **Hermits Rest**. Then leisurely bike east on the rim path, stopping at overlooks along the way. Try to time your tour so you arrive at **Hopi Point**, 5 miles from Hermits Rest, just before sunset. Hopi Point juts farther into the Canyon than any other viewpoint in the South Rim developed area, making it the perfect spot to watch the sunset. Then, catch the shuttle with your bikes and return to Grand Canyon Village.





LEFT: Multiple layers of clouds cradle the ridges of the Canyon's relatively secluded North Rim.
ADAM SCHALLAU

RIGHT: Early morning light streams through Angels Window, a natural arch along the road to Cape Royal.
ADAM SCHALLAU

Day 5

An immersive Grand Canyon experience is not complete without a visit to the North Rim, which is fully open between mid-May and mid-October. The drive from the South Rim takes four hours but is worth the effort. From Grand Canyon Village, head east on Desert View Drive (State Route 64), then north on U.S. Route 89 and west on U.S. Route 89A. Before you cut south on State Route 67 at Jacob Lake, be sure to visit the store at Jacob Lake Inn for fresh-baked cookies and a milkshake. Camping options on the North Rim include the park's **North Rim Campground**, near **Grand Canyon Lodge**, as well as the Kaibab National Forest's DeMotte Campground and primitive camping along the Canyon rim, at overlooks such as Fence Point and Fire Point. Once you get settled at your campsite, head to the Grand Canyon Lodge deck, perched on the lip of the North Rim. Lean back in an Adirondack chair and toast a spectacular sunset.

Day 6

Unlike the park's South Rim, where main roads and overlooks are sometimes as crowded as a mall parking lot on Christmas Eve, the North Rim offers solitude and private moments with the Canyon. Nowhere is this intimacy more palpable than on the 23-mile drive to **Cape Royal**. From the visitors center, head north on SR 67, then east on **Cape Royal Road** as it winds along through **Fuller Canyon**, where you'll see the effects of the 2016 Fuller Fire. When you reach a "Y" intersection, bear right toward Cape Royal rather than left toward



Point Imperial, which you'll visit later. In about 2.5 miles, you'll reach **Greenland Lake**, an ephemeral pond and wildlife oasis, on the right. It's an excellent place to stretch your legs with a short walk around the lake to see a ranching cabin from the 1890s.

As you continue, stop at **Vista Encantada** for a view of **Nankoweap Creek**, then at **Roosevelt Point** for a sweeping panorama of the Colorado River and Little Colorado River confluence. As the road bends south, you'll drive across the **Walhalla Plateau**. At Mile 22, stop at **Walhalla Overlook** to get a view of the Canyon's ancient human history. Not only can you see (with binoculars) the archaeological sites along the Colorado River's Unkar Delta far below, but just across the road is a short path leading to the 1,000-year-old **Walhalla Glades Pueblo**.

A mile later, you'll reach road's end and your ultimate destination. Cape Royal is the North Rim's southernmost overlook and an unmatched vantage point for iconic Canyon landmarks such as Vishnu Temple and Wotans Throne. Pull out your picnic lunch and soak it in. And don't miss a half-mile path from the parking lot that leads to the top of **Angels Window**, a natural arch.

After a long day of driving and gawking, there's one more mind-bending

view waiting for you near Grand Canyon Lodge: the night sky. Grand Canyon National Park is certified as an International Dark Sky Park, and the isolated North Rim is among the darkest places in the park. Grab headlamps and walk the half-mile path out to **Bright Angel Point**. Be careful not to get too close to the edge as you say hello to the universe.

Day 7

Spend your last day at the Canyon greeting the sunrise at Point Imperial. From the visitors center, it's a 10-mile drive to the Canyon's highest-elevation overlook, which sits at 8,803 feet and offers 100-mile views stretching north to the Vermilion Cliffs and Marble Canyon. Top off your week with a day hike on the **Widforss Trail**, which begins 2.5 miles north of Grand Canyon Lodge and leads to **Widforss Point**. The level 5-mile (one way) path follows the top of the Kaibab Plateau through aspen groves, and at trail's end, your eyes can feast on Brahma and Zoroaster temples. On a clear day, you can see beyond the South Rim all the way to the San Francisco Peaks, 100 miles away.

"Everywhere in Grand Canyon amazes me," Superintendent Keable says. And now you know exactly what he means. [AH](#)

Large pieces of petrified wood litter the landscape beneath one of Petrified Forest National Park's otherworldly buttes.
TIM FITZHARRIS

THE PERFECT WEEKEND IN
**Petrified Forest
National Park**
BY ANNETTE MCGIVNEY

Few places in Arizona — or the United States, for that matter — offer a trip as far back in time as Petrified Forest National Park. Giant fossilized logs more than 200 million years old, as well as fossilized remains of some of Earth's earliest creatures, are everywhere in the 147-square-mile park. In fact, it isn't uncommon for park staff and volunteers to stumble upon a new fossil discovery as they roam across the high-desert badlands. "You never know what you will find out here," says Bill Parker, the park's lead paleontologist and chief of science and resource management. During the two decades Parker has worked at Petrified Forest, he and his staff have made numerous fossil discoveries that have changed the scientific understanding of the Earth's late Triassic period.

In 1905, naturalist and author John Muir visited Petrified Forest and was one of the first people to collect fossils from the area. His writing about the scenic and historical value of the land helped persuade President Theodore Roosevelt to create Petrified Forest National Monument in 1906. The preserve was protected as a national park in 1962. Petrified Forest straddles Interstate 40, with the northern end encompassing a wilderness area in the colorful badlands of the Painted Desert and the southern section showcasing some of the park's largest collections of petrified wood. Many prime viewing and hiking spots are easily accessible via the park's scenic, 29-mile-long main road.

Day 1

Start your tour of Petrified Forest's northern end at the **Painted Desert Visitor Center**, where interpretive displays detail the park's unique natural and human history. From the visitors center, head north on the main park road toward the **Chinde Point** trailhead and overlook. On the way, you'll pass the **Painted Desert Inn**, built in the 1930s and redesigned in 1947 for the Fred Harvey hospitality company.

Chinde Point Picnic Area, just beyond the inn, is the perfect place for lunch before embarking on a hike into the colorful hills of the park's **Painted Desert Wilderness**. Chinde Point even has a species of dinosaur named after it: A fossilized partial skeleton of *Chindesaurus bryan-smalli* was discovered here in 1984 by paleontologist Bryan Small and made international news.

While the natural history of the Earth's late Triassic period is impossibly buried across much of the planet, it exists as an open book in the Petrified Forest, where it is preserved in an exposed sedimentary layer called the Chinle Formation. What appears today at Chinde Point and throughout the park's Painted Desert Wilderness as barren gray, blue and pink badlands once was a broad, semitropical river floodplain. Frequent volcanic activity and continental uplift caused the rivers to



LEFT: Morning light highlights the textures of the eroded badlands in the park's wilderness area.

JOEL HAZELTON

OPPOSITE PAGE: The final glow of sunset illuminates sandstone ledges in a remote section of the park.

JOEL HAZELTON

with the 1.6-mile **Long Logs Trail**, which begins at the museum. Along this loop path, you'll encounter one of the largest concentrations of petrified wood in the park. Many of the logs are huge — up to 120 feet long — and crisscrossed in log-jams created by ancient floods.

Once you're back at the museum, take the main park road north to the turnoff, on the left, for the **Jasper Forest Trail**. This 2.5-mile (round-trip) self-guided hike is one of Parker's favorites in the park, and it features plentiful petrified wood specimens, panoramic badlands scenery and relics from modern history. The trail follows an abandoned tourist road, built in the 1930s, that once led to a large sandstone hoodoo (now collapsed) called **Eagle Nest Rock**.

The Petrified Forest also is a rich area for archaeological sites, and the park preserves many ancient ruins. One of the largest prehistoric sites is **Puerco Pueblo**, located along the main park road north of Jasper Forest. Here, you can view the partly excavated remains of an Ancestral Puebloan village, as well as petroglyphs depicting wildlife and geometric shapes; one circular design is believed to be a solar calendar, because early morning light on the summer solstice hits the circle's center.

After your tour of the ruins, drive south on the park road to the **Blue Mesa** turnoff. This 3-mile scenic loop drive offers a raven's-eye view of the **Painted Desert**. Make a point of getting here late in the day so you can witness the landscape's bands of brown, orange and tan transforming into pastel hues of pink, purple and blue in the rays of sunset. **AH**

often flood and change course. Animals were rapidly entombed in silt, creating a prime environment for fossilization.

After lunch, hike north from the Painted Desert Inn into the wilderness area. You'll soon find yourself wandering in a trail-less area called the **Black Forest**, which contains abundant dark fossilized wood and is "the best petrified wood deposit in the park," according to Parker. It may take a bit of route-finding, but keep your eyes peeled

for **Onyx Bridge**, about 2 miles from the road. This fossilized log from a large coniferous tree straddled a wash for millions of years. But in recent months, gravity finally prevailed and the log fell to the ground.

After the hike, finish your day by enjoying the panorama from **Pintado Point**, west of the Painted Desert Inn along the main park road.

Day 2

Get oriented on the southern end of the park at the **Rainbow Forest Museum**. Dinosaur skeletons discovered in the Petrified Forest are on display, and an 18-minute interpretive film provides an excellent way to learn about the park's ancient history. You also can inquire about staff-guided and self-guided hikes. From January through March, a park scientist leads hikes into the Black Forest and points out fossilized remains that the average visitor would otherwise likely miss. If you're creating your own adventure, start

Eat + Sleep

Heritage Inn

161 N. Main Street, Snowflake;
928-536-3322; heritage-inn.net

La Posada Hotel

303 E. Second Street, Winslow;
928-289-4366; laposada.org

The Turquoise Room

303 E. Second Street, Winslow;
928-289-2888;
theturquoiseroom.com

Saguaro cactuses, most of which have not yet sprouted arms, thrive on a hillside in Saguaro National Park's Signal Hill area at sunset.
TIM FITZHARRIS

THE PERFECT WEEKEND IN
Saguaro
National
Park

BY ANNETTE MCGIVNEY

Eating lunch at a great Mexican restaurant and hiking a remote crown jewel of a trail are typically not things you can do in the same day, but Saguaro National Park is the rare exception. The park's two districts, protecting large swaths of the wild Sonoran Desert, flank the Tucson metro area — and in between is some of the best dining in Arizona.

Day 1

Start your weekend in the park's 24,000-acre **Tucson Mountain District**, on the west side of Tucson, with a sunrise ramble through a forest of saguaros on the **Desert Discovery Nature Trail**. Like many paths and picnic areas in the park, this half-mile trail is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, so people of all abilities can experience the Sonoran Desert. "You can get so up close and personal with the saguaros on this trail that you can feel the heat coming off of them," says Cam Juarez, the park's community engagement and outreach coordinator. Juarez has a congenital heart defect and has made it his mission to increase the park's accessibility.

Next, take a short drive to the **Signal Hill Picnic Area**. Enjoy a picnic breakfast, then scramble up a short path to view boulders covered with 800-year-old petroglyphs. Finish off the morning with a hike through more recent history on the 2.4-mile **King Canyon/Gould Mine Loop**, which is Juarez's favorite west-side trail. While this route is located almost entirely in the park, the trailhead is just outside the park boundary, on Kinney Road in the adjacent Tucson Mountain Park. Start on the Gould Mine Trail, which climbs a gentle incline to ruins of an old copper mine. Then, pick up the **Sendero Esperanza** and **King Canyon** trails to complete the loop. As you descend a desert wash, take in the expansive views of the Tucson Mountains and saguaro-filled Avra Valley.

After an action-packed morning, head 30 miles across town to the park's **Rincon Mountain District**. But first, stop for lunch at one of Tucson's many authentic Mexican restaurants. Juarez, a lifelong Tucson resident, recommends Teresa's Mosaic Cafe for chicken mole and fresh tortillas made right in the dining area.

The Rincon district is the oldest part of Saguaro National Park, established in 1933 by President Herbert Hoover to protect the abundant stands of saguaros from urban development and cactus poaching. The park's 67,000-acre east side sits at a higher eleva-



tion than the west side and offers a range of ecological zones, from lush Sonoran Desert all the way up to Douglas-fir habitat high in the Rincon Mountains. Begin your tour of the east side on the 8-mile **Cactus Forest Drive**. This loop was built in the late 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps and has plenty of strategically placed viewpoints and picnic areas overlooking lush bajadas filled with saguaros, ocotillos and paloverdes. It takes about 10 years for the slow-growing saguaro to reach just 1 inch in height, and reaching 25 feet can take a century.

When you're done contemplating the amazing fact that these forests of towering sagua-

ros existed long before modern-day Tucson, take the spur road off Cactus Forest Drive to the **Mica View Picnic Area** for a rest stop. And near the end of the loop drive is the **Javelina Rocks** pullout, an excellent place to watch a panoramic Sonoran Desert sunset.

LAURENCE PARENT

Day 2

While Saguaro National Park does not have developed campgrounds, it does offer one of the best backpacking experiences in Southern Arizona via the **Tanque Verde Ridge Trail**. The 11-mile trail, which

begins at the Javelina Picnic Area, follows part of the ridge of the same name, which climbs from 3,100 feet at its western end to 8,668 feet on the Rincons' **Mica Mountain**. On the trail, you experience many of the ecological zones present in Southern Arizona, from desert to grassland to pine forest. And the higher you get, the more you feel like you're looking out an airplane window at the sprawling Tucson Basin, surrounded by distant mountain ranges. Hiking 7 miles (one way), to **Juniper Basin Campground**, with 3,000 feet of elevation gain along the way,

makes for an excellent overnight trip. (Camping permits are required.)

If you're not up for backpacking, Juarez recommends a 6.4-mile loop hike that includes historic **Garwood Dam**. The route begins at the **Douglas Spring Trailhead**. Follow the signs to Garwood Dam, a relic of the park's ranching days. The trail then climbs a ridge as you wander through one of the densest saguaro forests in the park. As you circle back toward the trailhead, enjoy sweeping views of the Santa Catalina Mountains to the north. [AH](#)

Eat + Sleep

5 Points Market and Restaurant
756 S. Stone Avenue,
Tucson; 520-623-3888;
5pointstucson.com

Baja Café
7002 E. Broadway Boulevard,
Tucson; 520-495-4772;
bajacafetucson.com

Ball-Paylore House
Tucson; preservetucson.org/ball-paylore-house

Charro Steak
188 E. Broadway Boulevard,
Tucson; 520-485-1922;
charrosteak.com

Divine Bovine
1021 N. Wilmot Road,
Tucson; 520-203-8884;
divinebovineburgers.com

Gourmet Girls
5845 N. Oracle Road,
Tucson; 520-408-9000;
gourmetgirlsglutenfree.com

La Mesa Tortillas and Tamales
7823 E. Broadway Boulevard,
Tucson; 520-298-5966;
lamesatortillas.com

Lodge on the Desert
306 N. Alvernon Way,
Tucson; 520-320-2000;
lodgeonthedesert.com

Prep and Pastry
2660 N. Campbell Avenue,
Tucson; 520-326-7737;
prepandpastry.com

Reilly Craft Pizza and Drink
101 E. Pennington Street, Tucson;
520-882-5550; reilypizza.com

Renee's
7065 E. Tanque Verde Road,
Tucson; 520-886-0484;
reneestucson.com

Rincon Creek Ranch
14545 E. Rincon Creek
Ranch Road, Tucson;
520-760-5557;
rinconcreekranch.com

The Downtown Clifton
485 S. Stone Avenue,
Tucson; 520-623-3163;
downtowntucsonhotel.com

The Hub Restaurant and Creamery
266 E. Congress Street,
Tucson; 520-207-8201;
hubdowntown.com

Union Public House
4340 N. Campbell Avenue,
Tucson; 520-329-8575;
uniontucson.com

White Stallion Ranch
9251 W. Twin Peaks Road,
Tucson; 520-297-0252;
whitestallion.com



Storm clouds swirl at sunset over Gunsight Butte, Lake Powell and distant Navajo Mountain in a view from Alstrom Point at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.
LARRY LINDAHL

THE PERFECT WEEKEND IN
Glen Canyon National
Recreation Area
BY ANNETTE MCGIVNEY

When photographer Gary Ladd moved to Page in 1981, he had every intention of disliking Lake Powell. The second-largest reservoir in the United States had finally reached full capacity the year before, flooding 180 miles of the **Colorado River** and a slick-rock wonderland of some 200 side canyons. Ladd says he had studied the history of **Glen Canyon Dam** and “learned to hate the lake.” Yet he also was drawn to the entrancing photos of the reservoir and its vast expanses of rock, water and sky. “I gradually began to put up with the lake and appreciate it for the access to amazing places it provided,” Ladd says. “And then, after a period of years, I came to see **Lake Powell** itself as quite beautiful.”

After four decades of documenting the reservoir, Ladd has become the preeminent Lake Powell photographer. He also is a seasoned expert on the best places to experience the beauty of the reservoir, as well as the sections of Glen Canyon that are still available to be explored. The 1.25 million-acre Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, which extends into Arizona and Utah, encompasses not only Lake Powell but also **Horseshoe Bend**, on the Colorado River, and offers access to **Rainbow Bridge National Monument**. There is more dry ground than lake in the recreation area, offering infinite opportunities for combining water- and land-based adventures.

Day 1

Horseshoe Bend is an Instagram darling and one of the most photographed viewpoints in the Southwest. Located off U.S. Route 89, 5 miles south of the **Carl Hayden Visitor Center**, Horseshoe Bend is especially scenic at sunrise and an amazing way to kick off a perfect weekend. Parking spaces can be sparse at this popular spot, so arrive well before dawn to secure a spot. The half-mile path from the parking lot is a gentle climb to the slick-rock overlook. From this precipice, you can look 1,000 feet straight down to the emerald-green

Colorado River as it makes a 270-degree meander between orange sandstone cliffs. The rising sun kisses the tops of the cliffs with a golden light. Enjoy a breakfast picnic with the view, then head north to experience other facets of the recreation area.

At press time, the visitors center and tours of Glen Canyon Dam were closed indefinitely due to COVID-19, but you can access a close-up view of the 710-foot-tall dam from the park’s **Dam Overlook Trail**. To get to the trailhead from U.S. 89, turn west onto **Scenic View Road**, which is about 1.5 miles south of the visitors center. Take the first road on the right, and follow it to a parking area. Slick-rock stairs lead to a vantage point just above the top of the dam. Nearby is a 1-mile (round-trip) hike to a tiny oasis called **Hanging Garden**, where a natural spring drips from a fern-decked alcove. The turnoff to the trailhead is on U.S. 89, a quarter-mile east of **Glen Canyon Dam Bridge** on the opposite side of the bridge from the visitors center.

Ladd has spent the better part of his adult life searching for the best place



LEFT: Strange color patterns, the result of natural processes, mark the shoreline in Lake Powell’s Last Chance Canyon. GARY LADD

OPPOSITE PAGE: A blade of sunlight reflects off the lake’s surface to dance on an overhanging wall of sandstone in Clear Creek Canyon. GARY LADD



at Lake Powell to set up his tripod. His favorite so far is **Alstrom Point**, on the north side of the lake. The point offers unmatched vistas, as well as prime backcountry camping 1,000 feet above the reservoir. “This is one of the greatest views in all of the Western U.S.; it is just staggering,” Ladd says. From Page, it’s a two-hour, 44-mile drive to the point, which is on the Utah side of

Eat + Sleep

Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge
644 N. Navajo Drive, Page;
928-645-0007;
bluebuddhasushilounge.com

Shash Diné Eco Retreat
U.S. Route 89, 12 miles south
of Page; 928-640-3701;
shashdine.com

the lake. The route is passable for two-wheel-drive vehicles, except for the last few miles. There are no services or shade at the point, so be prepared with water and supplies. For directions, visit alstrompoint.com.

Day 2

Over the past 20 years, as prolonged drought and water demands from Western cities have kept Lake Powell far below full pool, hundreds of miles of side canyons long buried by the reservoir have resurfaced. The ideal way to explore these twisting slick-rock narrows is by kayak. Ladd says the best spots, in terms of marina access and sheer awesomeness, are **Labyrinth**, **Mountain Sheep** and **Wetherill canyons**. Because the upper reaches of these canyons are too narrow for motorized boats, kayakers can have intimate moments with towering slick-rock in places

where the slot canyons are more than 100 feet tall and only 5 to 6 feet wide. When the water ends, scramble onto the shoreline muck and set out on foot for a hike that could be several miles.

Kayaking across open bays to get to these locations is nearly impossible because of boat wakes and strong winds. The best strategy is to rent a motorboat at **Antelope** or **Wahweap marina** and anchor it at the canyon mouth, where you can launch your kayaks. These beaches also are excellent camping spots. If you’d rather have an experienced guide take care of trip logistics, several outfitters, including **Hidden Canyon Kayak** (lakepowellhiddencanyonkayak.com), offer slot canyon tours.

Once back in civilization, rinse the mud off your feet and enjoy a sunset dinner and drinks at **Latitude 37**. The floating restaurant at Wahweap Marina is open from May 13 to September 8. Pitch your tent along the lake’s turquoise shores at **Lone Rock Beach Primitive Camping Area**; for more-developed facilities, go to **Wahweap Campground and RV Park**.

Day 3

Take your bucket-list weekend full circle with a paddle down the **Colorado River** through Horseshoe Bend. The Marble Canyon-based outfitter **Kayak Horseshoe Bend** (kayakhorseshoebend.com) will meet you in the morning at **Lees Ferry**, off U.S. Route 89A. You then will be taken by motorboat up the Colorado with kayaks in tow. From here, you can launch your kayaks and paddle around the beautiful bend and back toward Lees Ferry, 1,000 feet below the place where you were standing two days before. **AH**



THE PERFECT WEEKEND IN
Organ Pipe
Cactus National
Monument

BY ANNETTE MCGIVNEY

A young organ pipe cactus grows amid saguaros and ocotillos in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument's Alamo Canyon. PAUL GILL

When European immigrants ventured into the southwest corner of Arizona Territory in the late 19th century, they considered the Sonoran Desert a barren wasteland and saw little of value except the gold, silver and copper they were seeking. But eventually, the land became treasured for something else: cactuses. In 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt established Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to protect one of the richest Sonoran Desert habitats in the United States. And in 1976, the park was named an International Biosphere Reserve for its abundance of unique plant life. Within the monument's 330,000 acres are 31 different cactus species, including the only large stands of organ pipe cactuses in the nation. There also are vast expanses of saguaros and rarer senita cactuses.

Day 1

Start your Sonoran Desert weekend on the 21-mile **Ajo Mountain Drive**, a graded loop road east of State Route 85 that leads into the towering **Ajo Range**. Pick up a free interpretive guide for the route at the park's visitors center. The drive itself takes about two hours, but you'll want to allow plenty of extra time for hiking, picnicking and cactus gazing along the way. "This drive is one of my favorite things to do in the park — you get a little bit of everything," says Karen Ceballos, a ranger at the monument. "It showcases so many different plants and takes you way up into the mountains with amazing views into Mexico and of organ pipe stands."

From park headquarters, make your way northeast on the one-way loop through cactus-studded basins, with **Tillotson Peak** on your left. Dead ahead are the jagged volcanic cliffs of the Ajo Range and 4,800-foot **Mount Ajo**. The road twists its way up to the base of the sheer rhyolite cliffs and the **Arch Canyon Trailhead**. Located around the halfway point of the drive, this is a great place to stretch your legs. Scramble up the 1-mile path that leads to the entrance of the narrow canyon, where there are two natural arches: a 90-foot-wide span, and a smaller arch on top of it. The picnic area at the trailhead is a scenic lunch spot.

Continuing on the drive, the road loops back to the south and soon reaches the **Estes Canyon-Bull Pasture Trailhead**. Ceballos recom-



Teddy bear chollas anchor a view of rugged mountains along the monument's Estes Canyon-Bull Pasture Loop. LAURA ZIRINO

United States, exist only in Organ Pipe.

Back on Puerto Blanco Drive, the road becomes gravel and one-way as you wind around **Pinkley Peak**. Drift west, then south through an endless green desert until you reach a "T" intersection at the U.S.-Mexico border. Hang a right on the short spur road to visit **Quitobaquito Springs**. This rare riparian area includes a man-made pond that attracts abundant bird life. It also is home to three species that occur naturally nowhere else in the U.S.: the Quitobaquito spring snail, the Sonoyta mud turtle and the desert caper. Enjoy a picnic here and contemplate that archaeological evidence shows humans have been visiting the springs for more than 16,000 years.

Continue along the border to the junction with SR 85, then make your way back to the visitors center. After setting up camp at Twin Peaks Campground, enjoy one of the best sunset perches in the park on the **Desert View Trail**. The 1.2-mile loop trail leading from the campground climbs a ridge with benches; from there, you can watch the desert bajadas below radiate with the day's last light as stands of organ pipes turn a neon green.

Day 3

Top off your Organ Pipe adventure with one last hike. The 2.2-mile (one way) **Victoria Mine Trail** begins at the campground and leads to the best-preserved mining ruins in the monument. The Victoria Mine produced gold and silver from the 1880s to the 1910s, although mining continued sporadically until the monument received wilderness designation in 1976. The stone remains of a general store are still standing, and abandoned mine shafts and tailings piles surround the store as a reminder of a previous era. [OH](#)

mends the Bull Pasture loop route as the best hike in the park. The roughly 4-mile (round-trip) route climbs 900 feet up to the grassy **Bull Pasture Saddle**, where ranchers once grazed their cattle. The loop then circles back through the riparian oasis of **Estes Canyon**. "I love this hike," Ceballos says. "It is a bit of a strenuous climb, but you are rewarded with incredible views of Mexico's Cubabi Mountains and Mount Ajo. And on the way down through Estes Canyon, there are a lot of wild-life and birding opportunities."

Once you're back at the car, continue driving southwest, into desert basins flanked by the **Diablo Mountains**, until you return to park headquarters. If you can snag one of the four campsites at **Alamo Campground**, pitch your

Eat + Sleep

Guest House Inn

700 W. Guest House Road,
Ajo; 520-387-6133;
guesthouseinn.biz

Ajo Farmers Market & Café

100 Estrella Avenue, Ajo;
520-387-3110; facebook.com/
ajofarmersmarketcafe

tent for the night at this primitive site, which is north of park headquarters and 3 miles east of SR 85. At sunset, the cliffs of the Ajo Range glow pink and orange. The sites are first come, first served, so you may want to claim your campsite before tackling Ajo Mountain Drive. Otherwise, there are plenty of sites that can be reserved in advance at the park's developed **Twin Peaks Campground**, next to the visitors center.

Day 2

Spend the day on a leisurely drive along 37-mile **Puerto Blanco Drive** as it winds its way around the **Puerto Blanco Mountains** and parallels the U.S.-Mexico border.

This road is less traveled than Ajo Mountain Drive and provides a chance to experience the expansive space and quiet of the desert in utter solitude. Some sections of the route are rutted gravel, and a high-clearance vehicle, such as an SUV or truck, is recommended.

From the visitors center, head north on Puerto Blanco Drive; in about 4 miles, you'll arrive at the **Red Tanks-Senita Basin Trailhead**. A 3-mile ramble through this flat desert wash will take you through the natural water catchment **Red Tanks Tinaja**, a desert wildlife oasis. The path then leads into **Senita Basin**, where a 1-mile loop route offers the chance to see wild senita cactuses — which, in the

The Cultural Parks

In addition to protecting scenic landscapes and wildlife, the National Park Service works to preserve the history and culture tied to our nation's many parks. In Arizona, we have eight national monuments dedicated to that purpose.

BY AMEEMA AHMED

Storm clouds and a rainbow punctuate a view of Wukoki Pueblo, one of several major ruins at Wupatki National Monument.
LAURENCE PARENT

The Ancestral Puebloans who resided at Keet Seel, one of the ruins at Navajo National Monument, constructed it in a sandstone alcove for protection from the elements.
LAURENCE PARENT

Canyon de Chelly National Monument

At press time, Canyon de Chelly National Monument was closed to visitors due to COVID-19 restrictions.

While it's on what now is the Navajo Nation, Canyon de Chelly's tribal roots reach back much further. According to Ravis Henry, a park ranger and resident at the canyon, archaeological records indicate that Canyon de Chelly has been continuously occupied for at least 5,000 years. The first group of people to live there, archaic hunters and gatherers, were in the area until about 200 B.C. Around that time, members of the Basketmaker II culture moved into the region and became the first to use the land for farming. "They're the people who brought in the corn and other crops to cultivate across the canyon floor," Henry says.

This group was also the first to build permanent structures, known as pit houses, in the canyon. They used whatever material they could find, including brush, shrubs and dirt, to create these structures. While the pit houses didn't stand the test of time,

Things to Do

- Canyon tours: Private tour companies offer trips into the canyon via vehicles, horseback rides or hikes. Private vehicles are not allowed in the canyon.
- White House Ruins Trail: A moderately strenuous 1.25-mile (one way) hike takes you to the ancient dwelling. This trail does not require a guide.
- North Rim and South Rim drives: Each drive provides access to several viewpoints along the rim, including overlooks of Spider Rock and Canyon del Muerto.

there's still evidence of their existence on the canyon floor, where foundations can be seen today.

Around A.D. 700, the Basketmaker II people gave way to the Ancestral Puebloans, who built many of the still-standing stone and clay structures within the canyon, such as White House Ruins and Mummy Cave Ruins. Next, the Hopis migrated into the canyon to use the land for agricultural and ceremonial purposes. Perhaps their biggest contribution in the region was introducing peach trees, which continue to be a fruitful crop for canyon dwellers. The Hopis stayed in the area from roughly 1300 to 1600, when the Navajo people transitioned into the canyon.

After the Navajos' military-imposed exile in New Mexico ended in the late 1860s, members of the tribe returned to the canyon, and they've been there ever since. Navajos continue to occupy areas within the monument, including the canyon floor and rim. Part of what makes that possible is that Canyon de Chelly is on Navajo trust land, not owned by the federal government, thanks to a collaboration between the Navajo Nation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Park Service. "The Indigenous people at many other parks are not allowed to occupy within the boundaries," Henry says. "The unique setup allows Navajo families to still live within the park."

Today, there are about 40 large families still living at Canyon de Chelly, and while many have adapted to modern agricultural techniques, they still lack access to amenities such as running water and electricity, and most, both on the canyon floor and along the rim, are living off the grid.

"We're not really that different from modern society," Henry says. "But our identity and culture are still very strong."



Navajo National Monument

At press time, Navajo National Monument was closed to visitors due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Navajo National Monument, about 60 miles northwest of Canyon de Chelly, follows a similar timeline of tribal occupation — transitioning from hunters and gatherers to Basketmakers before being inhabited by the Ancestral Puebloans. Like at Canyon de Chelly, agriculture played a key role. Roughly 2,000 years ago, the Puebloans started farming corn and other crops in the region to serve as their main source of food. During this time, they also

learned how to create permanent structures, which are what the monument protects today: Keet Seel, Betatakin and Inscription House, all believed to have been built in the 13th century. They were built into natural alcoves to maintain structural integrity and protect inhabitants from the elements.

While the Puebloans were able to use the canyon beds for farming, an eventual prolonged drought is believed to have caused them to leave the area around 1300. In 1909, the area was protected by the Park Service to preserve what's left of the cliff dwellings and the history of the people who once occupied the region.

Things to Do

- Self-guided trails: Three short trails (Sandal, Aspen and Canyon View) near the visitors center offer the opportunity to explore the area on your own from sunrise to sunset.
- Cliff dwelling tours: Guided tours to Betatakin and Keet Seel are available by making reservations through the Park Service. Keet Seel can also be visited, with a permit, by day hikers and those who stay overnight in the campground near Keet Seel. (Inscription House is not open to the public.)
- Camping: Two free campgrounds are open to visitors on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wupatki National Monument

Considered a melting pot of tribal cultures, what now is Wupatki National Monument was home to a diverse group of people from the time it was inhabited in A.D. 500 until it was seemingly abandoned around A.D. 1250. Part of what attracted a large population to the site may have been the eruption of nearby Sunset Crater around A.D. 1040. The volcanic ash made the ground fertile for growing crops, such as squash and corn.

Wupatki ("tall house") Pueblo is one of the largest in the area, and its more than 100 rooms are believed to have housed hundreds, if not thousands, of people over the years. It's constructed of sandstone, which gives it a distinctive red hue. In addition to the largest pueblo, several smaller pueblos in the 35,000-acre protected area have stood the test of time. Wukoki, Nalakihi, Citadel, Lomaki and Box Canyon pueblos are the ones people can visit and explore today.

As many as 13 tribes are believed to be associated with Wupatki, all having passed down stories of their connections to the site from generation to generation.

Things to Do

- Self-guided trails: There are several trails you can take to explore the different pueblos.
- Guided hikes: Rangers will guide you on trails to see parts of the protected area that are not accessible on your own.

Walnut Canyon National Monument

The impressive cliff dwellings at Walnut Canyon reveal crucial information about the Sinagua people, Ancestral Puebloan descendants who inhabited the area from approximately A.D. 600 to 1400. The name Sinagua, meaning "without water," comes from the old Spanish name for the area: Sierra de Sin Agua, meaning "mountains without water."

When the Sinaguans migrated into the area, they used dry-farming tech-

The Sinaguan complex at Tuzigoot National Monument was built atop a limestone ridge overlooking the Verde River floodplain.
WITOLD SKRYPCZAK/
ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



niques to harvest corn, squash and beans in the arid climate. While Walnut Creek served as a source of water for parts of the year, it was not a reliable source for irrigating crops, so the settlers took to collecting rainwater and creating small dams to support their water supply.

The Sinaguans first made their homes as pit houses along the rim of the 20-mile-long canyon, but as more people arrived, they had to expand their building skills to be able to live along the sandstone and limestone walls of the

beautiful woodland canyon.

Present-day visitors can walk among 25 of the Sinaguan cliff dwellings and marvel at their architectural techniques, which were well ahead of their time. According to the Park Service, Sinaguan women are credited with constructing the dwellings, using limestone rocks cemented with clay, and reinforcing doorways with wooden beams. In an attempt to make the most of daylight hours, the dwellings are located primarily in the southern and eastern portions of the canyon.

The Sinaguans lived in Walnut Canyon for about 125 years before moving to nearby villages around A.D. 1250. They originally left behind more than 80 dwellings with three or four rooms each, but pothunters in the 1880s dynamited some of the area, destroying many of the dwellings.

Things to Do

- Hiking trails: Two self-guided trails will take you to the cliff dwellings.
-

Montezuma Castle National Monument

The area surrounding Montezuma Castle National Monument is believed to have been inhabited around A.D. 1100. Some of the occupants were Sinaguans who had moved from the Walnut Canyon area in favor of the natural resources available in the Verde Valley.

“We have great major waterways, giving this lush green area its name,” says Paul Santellan, the lead interpretive park ranger at Montezuma Castle. “It

attracts life. Not only animal life, but people, too.”

The Sinaguans used their architectural skills to build the eponymous cliff dwelling at Montezuma. The high location protected them from flooding caused by nearby Beaver Creek, and the south-facing orientation kept them warm in the winter and cool in the summer. While referred to as one “castle,” the dwelling is made up of 20 rooms, which were occupied by several families.

According to Santellan, the Sinagua people continued living at Montezuma

Castle until A.D. 1300. At that time, the land could no longer support the population growth and people started migrating. Some followed trade routes to present-day Mexico, while others headed north, toward what now is Colorado.

“They were a thriving community that helped each other succeed,” Santellan says. “There was no turmoil or war that drove people out.”

Things to Do

- Self-guided trail: This one-third-mile loop allows you to gaze up at Montezuma Castle and get a view of the river.
 - Ranger talks: Daily presentations cover a variety of topics related to the history and geography of the area.
-

Tuzigoot National Monument

Another agriculturally appealing place within the Verde Valley was where Tuzigoot stands now. The Sinagua people were drawn there because the marshy area was ideal for crops, Santellan says. Much like at Montezuma Castle, the Sinaguans started building multi-room pueblos around A.D. 1100. The location, atop a limestone ridge, not only protected them from the floodplain of the Verde River but also gave them clear views of the surrounding area.

The artifacts left behind by the Sinaguans at Tuzigoot shed light on their often-overlooked pottery-making skills. According to Santellan, large water and food storage containers (called *ollas*) provide insight on how carefully Tuzigoot’s residents considered their systems of preserving perishable items.

Unlike the dwellings at Montezuma and Walnut Canyon, the Tuzigoot pueblo was not built into cliffs, which made it vulnerable to weathering. By the 1900s, many of the walls had collapsed, encasing artifacts. An archaeological excavation led by two University of Arizona students in the mid-1930s helped reveal some of those buried arti-



LEFT: A gnarled tree frames the defining feature of Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. The shelter over the structure was built in 1932. LARRY LINDAHL

RIGHT: The Lower Cliff Dwelling at Tonto National Monument is the ruin most accessible to visitors. LAURENCE PARENT

facts, as well as the original architecture of the pueblo.

Today, the pueblo is open for visitors to explore and admire the architectural techniques of the Sinagua people.

Things to Do

- Museum: Learn about the excavation of the pueblo and which artifacts were found inside.
 - Self-guided trail: Take a short walk to the pueblo and walk through the rooms constructed by the Sinagua residents.
-

Tonto National Monument

Also a cultural melting pot, the site now known as Tonto National Monument was one of the most densely occupied areas for the Salado people, who lived in the Tonto Basin region between A.D. 1250 and 1450. The Salado culture came about when members of the Ancestral Puebloan, Ancestral Sonoran Desert and Mogollon cultures moved into the Tonto Basin.

Tonto National Monument protects two Salado dwellings that are believed to have been built around A.D. 1300. While both dwellings are inside caves, the Lower Cliff Dwelling is in a smaller area and has only 20 rooms. The Upper Cliff Dwelling, on the other hand, has 40 rooms and overlooks the Tonto Basin. These days, the upper dwelling is acces-

Things to Do

- Guided tour: Tours to the Upper Cliff Dwelling are offered from November through April. Reservations are required.
 - Lower Cliff Dwelling Trail: A 1-mile (round-trip) trail leads to the Lower Cliff Dwelling. The self-guided trail is open daily.
-



sible only through guided tours.

Both dwellings were built by the Salado people to protect them from the elements. All of the doorways are small — they were constructed that way to make it easier to regulate temperatures.

The climate in the Tonto Basin was favorable for the settlers to cultivate corn, beans and squash, and the geography allowed them to hunt for small game. But the climate shifted around A.D. 1350, making it harder to sustain crops in an area that often suffered from severe drought or flooding. By the late 1300s, the resources were depleted and the settlers had no choice but to move out of the Tonto Basin and merge with other nearby tribes.

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

Casa Grande, or “great house,” is believed to have been built around A.D. 1350 by the Ancestral Sonoran Desert people. To this day, it’s unclear why these desert dwellers constructed such a large compound, which required

Things to Do

- Self-guided tour: You can take a walk around the “great house” and learn about the structure.
 - Guided tours: One-hour guided tours, scheduled in advance, are offered from November through April during non-COVID times.
-

extensive amounts of planning and building materials. On top of developing Casa Grande, the settlers worked on perfecting complex irrigation systems and extending trade connections.

While the ruins left today encompass the entire Casa Grande compound, the main attraction is the four-story “great house.”

Researchers believe that by A.D. 1450, Casa Grande’s inhabitants had abandoned the area. Anything from disease and famine to population growth could have been the reason for their migration. There’s no evidence of these people having a written language, which is why many of the historical accounts of the area weren’t written until the 17th century, when Spanish explorers discovered the ruins. [AH](#)

Obscure References

From rare art at Hubbell Trading Post to an aerial tramway at Fort Bowie, Arizona's national parks are rife with interesting trivia. BY KATHY MONTGOMERY / ILLUSTRATIONS BY ERIC HANSON

1. Canyon de Chelly National Monument

Charles Lindbergh is most famous for making the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean; less known is his contribution to archaeology. In 1929, Lindbergh and his new wife, Anne, conducted the first aerial survey of Canyon de Chelly. Their photographs helped persuade Congress to declare it a national monument in 1931.

2. Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

Protection for Casa Grande predated the Antiquities Act of 1906, which allows presidents to create national monuments. In 1892, after trying for seven years to secure funding for archeological sites, Congress authorized funds to repair only Casa Grande — making it the country's first publicly protected prehistoric site.

3. Chiricahua National Monument

The land inside the present-day monument once contained a hot spring. Bonita Canyon's first Anglo settlers, Ju and Pauline Stafford, used it to irrigate a large garden, and the warm water allowed them to grow vegetables even in winter. The spring disappeared after an 1887 earthquake.

4. Coronado National Memorial

The park commemorating Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's 16th century expedition was designated in 1941 as an international memorial. It was meant to include land in both the U.S. and



Horseshoe Bend overlook and Glen Canyon Dam. At press time, the 6.5-mile trail didn't yet have a name.

7. Grand Canyon National Park

In the mid-1910s, the status of the Canyon, which then was a national monument, was challenged on the grounds that it was *too* grand. The Antiquities Act requires a monument "be confined to the smallest area" compatible with proper management. But in 1920, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld the designation — creating a precedent that, so far, has stood the test of time.

8. Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Primitive campsites at Twin Point allow you to pitch a tent on the Grand Canyon's rim, far from the madding crowd. But don't expect amenities or cell service, and take a four-wheel-drive vehicle with a full tank of gas. Just getting onto this remote monument requires a long drive over gravel roads.

9. Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site

John Lorenzo Hubbell's frequent guests included preeminent artists, who often thanked their host with artwork. Hubbell's impressive museum collection contains many such gifts, including E.A. Burbank's famous "Red Head" sketches of local residents and two paintings by Hubbell's close friend Maynard Dixon.

Mexico, with a museum at the border. When an agreement with Mexico couldn't be reached after more than a decade, new legislation renamed it a national memorial.

5. Fort Bowie National Historic Site

A preliminary plan for this site central to the Apache Wars included a paved road and an aerial tramway. Ultimately, the National Park Service concluded that keeping the bare ruins in a remote, undeveloped landscape would better reflect the hardships endured at this frontier post.

6. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Glen Canyon preserves one of the world's most complete sections of Mesozoic strata, formed during the era when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. Dinosaur tracks are among the highlights of a new trail that links the

10. Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Located where the Colorado River exits the Grand Canyon, Pearce Ferry was a seldom-used crossing, operating for only about 20 years in the late 19th century. With a number of primitive campsites, it remains a lightly visited area in one of the country's most visited national parks.

11. Montezuma Castle National Monument

Named for one of the best-preserved prehistoric cliff dwellings in North America, Montezuma Castle National Monument also protects Montezuma Well. According to the Yavapai creation story, the natural limestone sinkhole is where the first woman emerged, in a hollow log.

12. Navajo National Monument

Surveyor William B. Douglass requested protection for Navajo National Monument's Ancestral Puebloan villages based only on the descriptions of a Paiute guide. When President William Howard Taft designated the monument in 1909, no one in the federal government had ever seen the villages.

13. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Organ Pipe's Senita Basin is the most accessible place in the country to see three columnar cactus species growing together. Saguaro, organ pipe and senita cactuses share the basin with other rarities, including Dr. Seuss-like elephant trees, which give the landscape an otherworldly look, and a formation tantalizingly called Twin Peaks.

14. Petrified Forest National Park

John Muir is most closely associated with Yosemite National Park, but in a little-known chapter of his life, the conservationist spent a year at Petrified Forest in 1905. Many believe Muir's influence with his friend Teddy Roosevelt was behind the monument's designation the following year.

15. Pipe Spring National Monument

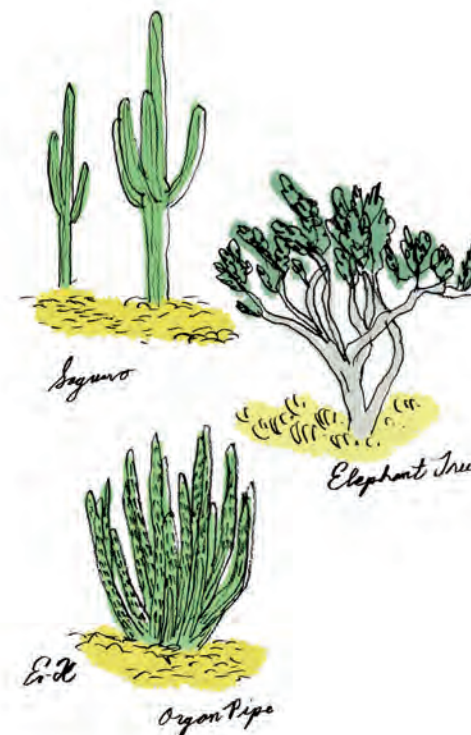
Pipe Spring once served as a tithing ranch for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Part of a system created by the church to manage livestock donated, or tithed, by members, Pipe Spring collected livestock from the faithful from Fillmore, Utah, to the Colorado River.

16. Saguaro National Park

When Saguaro National Monument was created in 1933, it protected land in the Rincon Mountains but not the saguaro forest. Unable to control the saguaro habitat, the Park Service considered abolishing the monument in 1945. A series of land swaps, completed in 1959, ensured the park's future.

17. Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Before taking "one giant leap for mankind," Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and other *Apollo* astronauts took smaller steps on the Bonito Lava Flow at Sunset Crater. Scientists believed the loose, pulverized rock of the cinder cone most closely simulated conditions on the moon.



18. Tonto National Monument

No money or staff accompanied Tonto's designation as a national monument in 1907. The Southern Pacific Railroad developed the monument's first tourist facilities and hired its first caretakers. The railroad promoted the attraction in its promotional magazine, *Sunset* — named for the *Sunset Limited*, which ran from New Orleans to California.

19. Tumacácori National Historical Park

Tumacácori National Historical Park — which protects Guevavi and Calabazas missions in addition to its namesake — also maintains mission records, including baptisms and burials. Called Mission 2000, the electronic database is available to the public on the park's website.

20. Tuzigoot National Monument

Before this monument was created to protect its hilltop pueblo, its land was briefly part of the Rio Verde Reservation. Established in 1871, the reservation was home to 1,500 American Indians until Congress abolished the reservation in 1875.

21. Walnut Canyon National Monument

Like her protagonist in *The Song of the Lark*, Willa Cather found inspiration among Walnut Canyon's ruins. An editor at *McClure's* magazine when she visited in 1912, Cather wrote that Arizona helped her recover from the "editorial point of view." She published her first successful novel the following year.

22. Wupatki National Monument

Inconceivable as it would be today, the first rangers assigned to Wupatki in the 1930s lived in two rooms of the ancient pueblo, storing water from a spring in a 55-gallon barrel behind their "beautiful, sunny little kitchen." For the privilege of living there, they paid \$10 a month. **AH**

The Historical Parks

Arizona's five historical parks commemorate places that helped shape the Grand Canyon State. Their stories were developed over many years. This month, though, we focus on a single day in each park.

BY NOAH AUSTIN

Clouds drift over weathered reminders of the past at Fort Bowie National Historic Site. The building in the background is the site's visitors center.
EIRINI PAJAK



Fort Bowie National Historic Site

The End of the Bascom Affair | February 19, 1861

Fort Bowie might never have existed if not for a misunderstanding, which began when a group of Apaches kidnapped Felix Ward, the stepson of a Southern Arizona rancher, during a live-stock raid in early 1861. Wrongly assuming that Chiricahua Apaches were responsible, Lieutenant George Bascom led a group of U.S. Army infantry to Apache Pass, where Bascom met with Chiricahua Apache leader Cochise but was unconvinced when Cochise said he knew nothing of the raid. Bascom then captured Cochise and several members of his family, but Cochise escaped alone and later took three Americans from another group hostage, offering to exchange them for his relatives. When Bascom refused — demanding instead the kidnapped boy, whom Cochise did not have — Cochise killed the American prisoners, and on February 19, the Americans

Things to Do

- Take an easy 1.5-mile hike from Apache Pass Road to the ruins of Fort Bowie, passing numerous historic sites along the way.
- See which of this biodiverse area's numerous bird species you can spot among the fort's ruins.
- On the way back to the road, consider taking the Overlook Ridge Trail, which is more strenuous but offers excellent views of the fort.

retaliated by hanging Cochise's brother and nephews. Cochise's resulting campaign of vengeance was the beginning of the Apache Wars, which would last until the mid-1880s; an early engagement in that conflict, the 1862 Battle of Apache Pass, spurred the construction of Fort Bowie that year to protect the pass and nearby Apache Spring. Felix Ward, meanwhile, was raised by other Apaches and later became a scout and bounty hunter known as Mickey Free.

Pipe Spring National Monument

The Whitmore Ranch Murders
January 9 (approximate), 1866

The first building at Pipe Spring, a perennial water source north of the Grand Canyon, was a rudimentary dugout constructed by Mormon settler James Whitmore around 1863, during Kit Carson's campaign against American Indians — who, in 1865, began raiding settlements on what's known today as the Arizona Strip. On January 9, 1866, one such raid drove a herd of sheep off the Whitmore ranch at Pipe Spring, and Whitmore, accompanied by Robert McIntyre, pursued the raiders, leaving Whitmore's son in the dugout. The two weren't seen again until a search party discovered their bodies 11 days later; retaliatory killings of Indians followed, and after three more settlers were killed near present-day Colorado

Tumacácori National Historical Park

The Pima Uprising | November 20, 1751

The arrival of Spanish missionaries in present-day Southern Arizona disrupted a delicate balance of power between the area's tribes, who already were in competition for the scarce resources available in the desert landscape. Some of the O'odham people cooperated with the Spanish, but other O'odhams resented the missionaries for disregarding traditional lifestyles and farming techniques. On November 20, 1751, that resentment culminated in what's known today as the Pima Uprising: a coordinated O'odham attack on Spanish missions and settlements that killed

more than 100 people, including two priests who had recently arrived in the area. The Tumacácori mission, at that time a small adobe structure on the east side of the Santa Cruz River, was not a direct target of the uprising, but the incident led to Tumacácori and other missions being abandoned for a time. When the Spanish returned, they founded Mission San José de Tumacácori on the west side of the Santa Cruz. The church now known by that name, and for which Tumacácori National Historical Park is best known, began to rise around 1800 but was never completed before the mission was abandoned in 1848. Today, the National Park Service works to preserve this decaying piece of history, along with two other mission sites to the south.

Things to Do

- Join one of the park's guided tours, which focus on the area's nature and history. A full schedule of tours is available on the park's website.
- Hike along the Santa Cruz River, a vital source of nourishment for early inhabitants of this land.
- Visit the park's visitors center and museum, which features unique artifacts and images related to the history of the Santa Cruz River Valley.

ABOVE: A figure glides past the entrance of Mission San José de Tumacácori, the centerpiece of Tumacácori National Historical Park.
MARK LIPCZYNSKI

RIGHT: Winsor Castle, the defining man-made feature of Pipe Spring National Monument, was completed in 1872.
JEFF KIDA





The interior of Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site offers vivid reminders of Navajo trading traditions.
LARRY LINDAHL

Things to Do

- At the visitors center, view exhibits on the history of the Kaibab Paiute Tribe, Mormon settlers' activities in the area and more.
- Sign up for one of the guided tours of Winsor Castle, offered year-round.
- Visit the garden and orchard to sample a variety of pioneer and American Indian crops.
- Hike the half-mile Ridge Trail, which offers excellent views of the surrounding Arizona Strip.

City, Mormon leader Brigham Young urged his followers to abandon the area's small settlements in favor of the safety of larger towns. Four years later, Young called for the area to be resettled and for a fort to be built to protect Pipe Spring; the resulting Winsor Castle — made of sandstone blocks hewn from a nearby cliff, and named for its first caretaker, Anson Winsor — was completed in 1872 and today looks about the same as it did nearly 150 years ago. But because relations between the settlers and the tribes had improved, the fort, which today is surrounded by the Kaibab Paiute Tribe's land, never came under attack.

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site

The Death of Don Lorenzo
November 12, 1930

“The first duty of an Indian trader, in my belief, is to look after the material welfare of his neighbors,” John Lorenzo Hubbell once said. That philosophy, and a corresponding penchant for fair dealing and honesty, made Hubbell's Navajo Nation trading post a hub of commerce for more than half a century. A native of New Mexico Territory, Hubbell purchased the post from another trader in 1878, two years before the area officially became part of Navajoland; he had the name of the

community changed to Ganado, in honor of friend and Navajo leader Ganado Mucho. Hubbell later served two terms as Apache County sheriff and was a member of the first Legislature after Arizona became a state, but the trading post, one of two dozen he and his sons owned at various times, was a constant in his life. Historians cite Hubbell's enduring influence on Navajo rug weaving and silversmithing, and claim that his nickname, “Don Lorenzo,” reflected the respect he earned from his business associates. Hubbell died at the Ganado trading post on November 12, 1930 — two weeks shy of his 77th birthday — but the Hubbell family continued to operate the post until it was sold to the Park Service in 1967. Today, it's operated by the nonprofit Western National Parks Association, which maintains many of the trading traditions Hubbell and his family pioneered.

Things to Do

- View Navajo hogans, a historic barn and livestock on a walk around the Hubbell homestead.
- At the trading post, shop for authentic Navajo rugs, other American Indian arts and crafts, and a variety of other gift items and books.
- Take a hike on the Veterans Trail, which follows Pueblo Colorado Wash and offers lovely landscape views.

(Note: At press time, this site remained closed due to COVID-19.)

Coronado National Memorial

A Dream Becomes a Reality
November 5, 1952

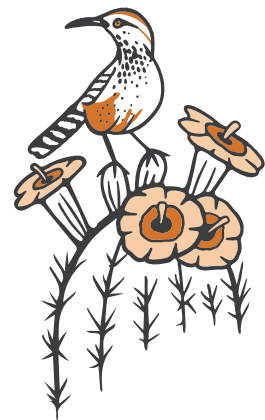
Grace Sparkes probably is best known for her 25 years on the Yavapai County Chamber of Commerce — during which she became known as a champion of Arizona tourism. But in 1938, after a falling-out with

Things to Do

- Drive a steep, winding road to Montezuma Pass and take in the view of the San Pedro River Valley to the east and the San Rafael Valley to the west. The drive is suitable for any vehicle.
- Explore Coronado Cave, a 600-foot-long, 70-foot-wide cavern that is one of the few open and undeveloped caves in Southern Arizona.
- Stop by the visitors center, which sits in the shadow of Montezuma Peak, to view exhibits on the memorial's natural and human history.

the chamber, Sparkes headed south and tried her hand at operating her family's State of Texas Mine, located not in the Lone Star State but on the south side of the Huachuca Mountains. That endeavor was less than successful, but Sparkes also took an interest in the area's historical ties to Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's expedition, which is thought to have followed the San Pedro River into present-day Arizona in 1540. Via her prolific letter writing, Sparkes became the driving force behind a campaign to designate a national monument honoring that history. As Don Dederer, who later became editor of *Arizona Highways*, wrote in *The Arizona Republic*: “She has influenced congressmen. She has brought rival chambers of commerce to a common cause. She is on a first-name basis with most of the big and little politicians of Arizona. ... She has worked her wonders with only the authorities found in persistence and gumption and pleasantness.” Those qualities paid off on November 5, 1952, when President Harry Truman established Coronado National Memorial. Sparkes was hired as the first “ranger-historian” at the memorial, and she also provided a cabin for the site's superintendent to use. She died in 1963, and the Park Service later acquired the State of Texas Mine, which today is home to thousands of lesser long-nosed bats. [AH](#)

Arizona National Parks Guide



ILLUSTRATIONS
BY JEN BANCINO

Canyon de Chelly National Monument



Note: At press time, this site was closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Year Designated: 1931

Area: 83,840 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Spring through fall

Directions: From Holbrook, go east on Interstate 40 for 46 miles to U.S. Route 191 (Exit 333). Turn left (north) onto U.S. 191 and continue 74 miles to Indian Route 7. Turn right onto IR 7 and continue 2.7 miles to the monument visitors center.

Entrance Fees: None for overlooks or White House Trail; backcountry hikes and horseback rides require hiring a Navajo guide.

Lodging: Yes, at Thunderbird Lodge; 928-674-5842, thunderbirdlodge.com

Camping: Yes, at Cottonwood Campground; 928-674-2106

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only at overlooks, campground and parking lots

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-674-5500

Website: nps.gov/cach

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument



Year Designated: 1892 (prehistoric and cultural reserve), 1918 (national monument)

Area: 473 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: October through March

Directions: From Phoenix, go south-east on Interstate 10 for 36 miles to State Route 387. Turn left (east) onto

SR 387 and continue 7.5 miles to State Route 87. Turn right onto SR 87 and continue 7 miles to Arizona Boulevard. Turn right onto Arizona Boulevard and continue 0.5 miles to the monument entrance, on the right.

Entrance Fees: None

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash)

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 520-723-3172

Website: nps.gov/cagr

Chiricahua National Monument



Year Designated: 1924

Area: 12,025 acres

Wilderness Acreage: 10,462 acres

When to Visit: Spring and fall

Directions: From Willcox, go east on State Route 186 for 31 miles to State Route 181. Turn left (east) onto SR 181 and continue 4 miles to the monument entrance.

Entrance Fees: None

Lodging: No

Camping: Yes, at Bonita Canyon Campground; 877-444-6777

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only where cars may go

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 520-824-3560

Website: nps.gov/chir

Coronado National Memorial



Year Designated: 1941 (international memorial), 1952 (national memorial)

Area: 4,830 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Fall through spring

Directions: From Sierra Vista, go south on State Route 92 for 13.5 miles to Coronado Memorial Road. Turn right (south) onto Coronado Memorial Road, which turns into Montezuma Canyon Road, and continue 5 miles to the memorial entrance.

Entrance Fees: None

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only where cars may go and on the Crest Trail

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 520-366-5515

Website: nps.gov/coro

Fort Bowie National Historic Site



Year Designated: 1960 (national historic landmark), 1972 (national historic site)

Area: 999 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Spring and fall

Directions: From Willcox, go east on Interstate 10 for 23 miles to Bowie (Exit 362). Continue onto the I-10 business route and go 2 miles to Apache Pass Road. Turn right (south) onto Apache Pass Road and continue 13 miles (the last mile is unpaved) to the Fort Bowie Trailhead. From there, it's a moderate 3-mile (round-trip) hike to the site.

Entrance Fees: None

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash)

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 520-847-2500

Website: nps.gov/fobo

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area



Year Designated: 1972

Area: 1.25 million acres (Arizona and Utah)

Wilderness Acreage: None; however, 588,855 acres have been proposed as the Glen Canyon Wilderness and are managed as a wilderness area.

When to Visit: Year-round

Directions (to Carl Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam): From Page, go north on U.S. Route 89 for 2.5 miles to the Carl Hayden Visitor Center, on the right.

Directions (to Lees Ferry): From Page, go south on U.S. Route 89 for 23 miles to U.S. Route 89A. Turn right onto U.S. 89A and continue 14.5 miles to Lees Ferry Road, just past the Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center. Turn right onto Lees Ferry Road and continue approximately 4.5 miles to Lees Ferry.

Entrance Fees: \$30 per private vehicle, \$15 per cyclist or pedestrian

Lodging: Yes, at Lake Powell Resort; 800-528-6154, lakepowell.com

Camping: Yes, at developed and primitive sites; nps.gov/glca/plan_your_visit/camping.htm

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only in certain areas; visit nps.gov/glca/plan_your_visit/pets.htm for details.

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-608-6200

Website: nps.gov/glca

Grand Canyon National Park



Year Designated: 1893 (forest reserve), 1908 (national monument), 1919 (national park)

Area: 1.22 million acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Year-round

Directions (South Rim):

From Flagstaff, go northwest on U.S. Route 180 for 49 miles to State Route 64. Turn right (north) onto SR 64 and continue 24 miles to the park entrance station.

Directions (North Rim): From Flagstaff, go north on U.S. Route 89 for 110 miles to U.S. Route 89A. Turn left onto U.S. 89A and continue 55 miles to State Route 67 (North Rim Parkway). Turn left onto SR 67 and continue 31 miles to the park entrance station.

Entrance Fees: \$35 per private vehicle, \$20 per cyclist or pedestrian

Lodging: Yes, at several lodges; 888-297-2757, grandcanyonlodges.com/lodging

Camping: Yes, at three campgrounds; 877-444-6777, recreation.gov

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash)

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-638-7888

Website: nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument



Year Designated: 2000

Area: 1.05 million acres

Wilderness Acreage: 147,460 acres

When to Visit: Spring and fall

Directions: Before you attempt to visit this remote monument, go to the Public Lands Information Center (345 E. Riverside Drive) in St. George, Utah, to obtain a map and learn about weather forecasts and road conditions. From there, go east on Riverside Drive for 1.3 miles, turn right

(south) onto River Road and continue 6.7 miles to the Arizona-Utah state line. From there, Bureau of Land Management Road 1069 leads south to several monument access points. For other routes, consult the staff at the information center. The BLM recommends you use a high-clearance vehicle and take plenty of water, food, extra gasoline and at least two spare tires.

Entrance Fees: None

Lodging: No

Camping: Yes, in the backcountry; 435-688-3200

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only in the Park Service portion of the monument

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 435-688-3200 (Public Lands Information Center in St. George, Utah)

Website: nps.gov/para

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site



Note: At press time, this site was closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Year Designated: 1965

Area: 160 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Year-round

Directions: From Flagstaff, go east on Interstate 40 for 134 miles to U.S. Route 191. Turn left (north) onto U.S. 191 and continue 38 miles to State Route 264. Turn left onto SR 264 and continue 0.5 miles to the site entrance, on the left.

Entrance Fees: None

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only in parking lot

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: No

Telephone: 928-755-3475 (visitors center), 928-755-3254 (trading post)

Website: nps.gov/hutr

Lake Mead National Recreation Area



Year Designated: 1964

Area: 1.5 million acres (Arizona and Nevada)

Wilderness Acreage: 185,000 acres

When to Visit: Year-round

Directions: From Kingman, go northwest on U.S. Route 93 for 75 miles (you'll cross into Nevada) to the recreation area's visitors center. Entrance stations are located here and at other locations around the lake.

Entrance Fees: \$25 per private vehicle, \$15 per cyclist or pedestrian

Lodging: Yes, at three resorts: nps.gov/lake/planyourvisit/lodging.htm

Camping: Yes, at several campgrounds; 702-293-8990, nps.gov/lake/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash)

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 702-293-8906 (park information), 702-293-8990 (visitors center)

Website: nps.gov/lake

Montezuma Castle National Monument



Year Designated: 1906

Area: 1,016 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Year-round

Directions: From Flagstaff, go south on Interstate 17 for 49.5 miles to Middle Verde Road (Exit 289). Turn left (east) onto Middle Verde Road and continue 0.5 miles to Montezuma Castle Road. Turn left onto Montezuma Castle Road and continue 2.1 miles to the monument visitors center.

Entrance Fees: \$10 for ages 16 and older (includes admission to Tuzigoot National Monument), free for younger children

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash)

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-567-3322

Website: nps.gov/moca

Navajo National Monument



Note: At press time, this site was closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Year Designated: 1909

Area: 360 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Year-round; tours of cliff dwellings are conducted Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Directions: From Flagstaff, go north on U.S. Route 89 for 66 miles to U.S. Route 160. Turn right (east) onto U.S. 160 and continue 63 miles to State Route 564. Turn left onto SR 564 and continue 9 miles to the monument entrance. From there, it's another 0.3 miles to the visitors center.

Entrance Fees: None

Lodging: No

Camping: Yes, at two campgrounds; 928-672-2700

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only in parking and campground areas

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-672-2700

Website: nps.gov/nava

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument



Year Designated: 1937

Area: 330,689 acres

Wilderness Acreage: 300,000 acres

When to Visit: October through May

Directions: From Tucson, go west on State Route 86 (Ajo Way) for

118 miles to State Route 85 in Why. Turn left (south) onto SR 85 and continue 22 miles to the monument's visitors center, on the right.

Entrance Fees: \$25 per private vehicle, \$15 per cyclist or pedestrian

Lodging: No

Camping: Yes, at two campgrounds and in the backcountry; 520-387-6849, nps.gov/orpi/planyourvisit/camping.htm

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only in the campgrounds and on three designated trails

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 520-387-6849

Website: nps.gov/orpi

Petrified Forest National Park



Year Designated: 1906 (national monument), 1962 (national park)

Area: 221,416 acres

Wilderness Acreage: 52,000 acres

When to Visit: Summer and fall

Directions: From Flagstaff, go east on Interstate 40 for 115 miles to Petrified Forest National Park (Exit 311). Turn left onto the park road and continue 0.5 miles to the visitors center.

Entrance Fees: \$25 per private vehicle, \$15 per cyclist or pedestrian

Lodging: No

Camping: Yes, in the backcountry; 928-524-6228, nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/camping.htm

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash)

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-524-6228

Website: nps.gov/pefo

Pipe Spring National Monument



Year Designated: 1923

Area: 40 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Spring and fall

Directions: From Flagstaff, go north on U.S. Route 89 for 105 miles to U.S. Route 89A. Turn left (west) onto U.S. 89A and continue 85 miles to State Route 389. Turn left onto SR 389 and continue 13.5 miles to Pipe Spring Road. Turn right onto Pipe Spring Road and continue a quarter-mile to the monument, on the left.

Entrance Fees: \$10 for ages 16 and older, free for younger children

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but not in historic structures or on trails

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-643-7105

Website: nps.gov/pisp

Saguaro National Park



Year Designated: 1933 (national monument), 1961 (Tucson Mountain District added), 1994 (national park)

Area: 91,442 acres

Wilderness Acreage: 57,930 acres

When to Visit: October through April

Directions (Rincon Mountain District, east of Tucson): From Tucson, go east on Speedway Boulevard to Freeman Road. Turn right (south) onto Freeman Road and continue 4 miles to Old Spanish Trail. Turn left onto Old Spanish Trail and continue a quarter-mile to the park entrance, on the left.

Directions (Tucson Mountain District, west of Tucson): From Tucson, go west on Speedway Boulevard to its intersection with

Camino de Oeste, where it becomes Gates Pass Road. Continue west on Gates Pass Road for 4 miles to Kinney Road. Turn right onto Kinney Road and continue 3 miles to the park entrance, on the right. Vehicles weighing more than 12,000 pounds are prohibited on Gates Pass Road.

Entrance Fees: \$25 per private vehicle, \$15 per cyclist or pedestrian

Lodging: No

Camping: Yes, in the backcountry; 520-733-5153, nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/permitsandreservations.htm

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only on roadways, picnic areas and paved trails

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 520-733-5153 (Rincon Mountain District), 520-733-5158 (Tucson Mountain District)

Website: nps.gov/sagu

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument



Year Designated: 1930

Area: 3,040 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Year-round

Directions: From Flagstaff, go north on U.S. Route 89 for 12 miles to Forest Road 545. Turn right (east) onto FR 545 and continue 2 miles to the monument visitors center, on the right.

Entrance Fees: \$25 per private vehicle, \$15 per cyclist or pedestrian (includes admission to Wupatki National Monument)

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only in parking lot

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-526-0502

Website: nps.gov/sucr

Tonto National Monument



Year Designated: 1907

Area: 1,120 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: October through April

Directions: From the Phoenix area, go northeast on State Route 87 for 60 miles to State Route 188. Turn right (southeast) onto SR 188 and continue 35 miles to the monument visitors center, on the right.

Entrance Fees: \$10 for ages 16 and older, free for younger children

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only on the Lower Cliff Dwelling Trail, not in the dwelling itself

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-467-2241

Website: nps.gov/tont

Tumacácori National Historical Park



Year Designated: 1908 (national monument), 1990 (national historical park)

Area: 360 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: December through April

Directions: From Tucson, go south on Interstate 19 for 41.5 miles to Tubac (Exit 34). Turn left to cross under the highway, then right onto the I-19 frontage road, and continue 2.7 miles to the monument, on the left.

Entrance Fees: \$10 for ages 16 and older, free for younger children

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only on the Anza Trail

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 520-377-5060

Website: nps.gov/tuma

Tuzigoot National Monument



Year Designated: 1939

Area: 812 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Year-round

Directions: From Flagstaff, go south on Interstate 17 for 52 miles to State Route 260 (Exit 287). Turn right (west) onto SR 260 and continue 12 miles to State Route 89A in Cottonwood. Turn left onto SR 89A, which turns into Historic Route 89A, and continue 4.5 miles to Tuzigoot Road. Turn right onto Tuzigoot Road and continue 1.2 miles to the monument visitors center.

Entrance Fees: \$10 for ages 16 and older (includes admission to Montezuma Castle National Monument), free for younger children

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash)

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-634-5564

Website: nps.gov/tuzi

Walnut Canyon National Monument



Year Designated: 1915

Area: 3,529 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None

When to Visit: Year-round

Directions: From Flagstaff, go east on Interstate 40 for 9 miles to Walnut Canyon National Monument (Exit 204). Turn right onto the entrance road and continue 2.5 miles to the monument visitors center.

Entrance Fees: \$15 for ages 16 and older, free for younger children

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only in parking lot

Scenic Drives: No

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-526-3367

Website: nps.gov/waca

Wupatki National Monument



Year Designated: 1924

Area: 35,422 acres

Wilderness Acreage: None; however, 34,194 acres have been proposed and are managed as a wilderness area.

When to Visit: Year-round

Directions: From Flagstaff, go north on U.S. Route 89 for 12 miles to Forest Road 545, near Milepost 430. Turn right (east) onto FR 545 and continue 21 miles to the monument visitors center, on the left.

Entrance Fees: \$25 per private vehicle, \$15 per cyclist or pedestrian (includes admission to Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument)

Lodging: No

Camping: No

Dogs Allowed: Yes (on a leash), but only in parking lot

Scenic Drives: Yes

Wildlife Viewing: Yes

Telephone: 928-679-2365

Website: nps.gov/wupa [AH](#)

Wave Goodbye

Two men and two women enjoy a water skiing trip on Lake Powell in a Josef Muench photo from the 1960s. The reservoir, formed when Glen Canyon Dam was completed on the Colorado River in 1963, later became the centerpiece of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, which was created in 1972. Lake Powell did not reach full pool until 1980; today, the reservoir is at less than half its capacity.



June 2021
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Answer & Winner
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