



New 2011 Hikes

Gain a glimpse of Ancestral Puebloans' lives while exploring the landscape. These adventures are an opportunity to journey into the quiet beauty of Mesa Verde's backcountry.



Purchase tickets in advance online at www.mesaverdeinstitute.org

*****Tickets are not refundable*****



Four guided hikes will be offered:

Oak Tree/Fire Temple Yucca House
Square Tower House Spring House

Flip this card over for a description of each hike.

Be Prepared, or Be Turned Away

NOT prepared, NOT going, NO refund

Trail Conditions

Trails are at 7,000 ft (2134m) elevation, uneven, unpaved, and most include steps and ladders. Many traverse narrow paths along cliff edges and move through tight passages.

Your Health

Consider your physical health before joining a hike. Hiking is not recommended for those with heart or respiratory problems, or other physical difficulties.

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Oak Tree House and Fire Temple

This is a moderately strenuous, 2-hour, 1-mile (1.6km) round-trip hike. Includes walking along cliff edges, climbing a 15-foot (4.6m) ladder and hiking a narrow dirt path to visit two cliff dwellings.

Tour offered May 29 through September 5

Price: \$20.00 per person, limit of 10 hikers

Tour begins at 8:00 am on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Location: Sun Point Overlook on Mesa Top Loop Road

Yucca House

This is an easy to moderate 1-hour, 1/2-mile (0.8km) round-trip hike. Step into the footprints of early explorers while discovering a large, unexcavated 800 year old Ancestral Pueblo site with a park archeologist.

Tour offered once a month in April, May, August, September

Price: Free, 15 person limit

Tour begins at 4:30 pm on 4/20, 5/18, 8/17 and 9/21

Location: Colorado Welcome Center in Cortez, then carpool to site.

Square Tower House

This is a strenuous 2-hour, 1-mile (1.6km) round-trip hike. Includes hiking along exposed cliff edges, scrambling down rocky slopes, climbing three ladders (one that is 20ft/6.1m), to enter a stunning cliff dwelling.

Tour offered September 1 through October 15

Price: \$20.00 per person, limit of 10 hikers

Tour begins at 8:00 am on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Location: Square Tower House Overlook on Mesa Top Loop Road

Spring House

This is a very strenuous 8-hour, 8-mile (12.9km) round-trip hike along an unpaved, uneven trail that has an elevation change of 1,500 feet (457m) and includes steep drop-offs and switchbacks. Hikers will have stunning views of other archeological sites perched in the sandstone recesses of Navajo and Wickiup Canyons.

Tour offered September 1 through October 15

Price: \$40.00 per person, limit of 14 hikers

Tour begins at 8:00 am on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

Location: Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

You will need to bring water, snacks and a lunch for this hike.
