



# Friday - Saturday March 30-April 1, 2018

## Petrified Forest NP & Painted Desert Day Hikes

Approximately 224 Miles and 4 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack".

Type: See Desc.	Max Rating/Points: 4 / 1	Elev. Change: 400 ft	Length: See Descr.
Start Time: See Descr.	Duration: 3-5 hours	Max No. of Part: N/A	Last Scouted:

Check all that apply  
(give details in Desc.)

- Major Hike:
- Cross-country:
- Exploratory:
- Individual Effort:
- Options :
- Pass/Fees Rqd:

### Contact Information

Coordinator		Alternate
Name	Tom Isham	
Work Ph		
Station		
Mobile	602-943-6104 Voice and Text	
Email	t_hiker@cox.net	tsishams@cox.net

**Required Equipment:** For all days, Lunch, trail snacks, enough water for 5 hours of hiking, sturdy boots, hiking poles, camera, layered clothing, sunscreen, moleskin and hat.

**Recommended Equipment:** Rain gear for both days.

**Cautions and Special Preparations:** Let me know in advance if you are planning on going. It is recommended that we all stay in Holbrook. There are numerous hotels and several RV locations. We can meet for breakfast early on Saturday and Sunday to discuss the upcoming day's hikes.

### Description

Friday is hiking trails in Petrified Forest. We will visit several visitors centers at both locations. Below is link to trails in Petrified Forest NP. The list of trails is tentative as of now. We will talk to the Rangers for their opinion and do as many on the list as we can.

<https://www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/trails.htm>

#### Puerco Pueblo

**Length:** 0.3 mile (0.5 km) loop  
**Trailhead:** Puerco Pueblo parking area  
 A paved walk amidst the remains of a hundred room pueblo, occupied by the ancestral Puebloan people over 600 years ago. Petroglyphs can be viewed along the south end of the trail. Please do not climb on the boulders or walls and do not touch the petroglyphs.  
*Suitable for strollers and various mobility equipment (power and manual), except on short trail spur*

#### Blue Mesa

**Length:** 1 mile (1.6 km) loop  
**Trailhead:** Blue Mesa sun shelter  
 Descending from the mesa, this alternately paved and gravel trail loop offers the unique experience of hiking among badland hills of bluish bentonite clay as well as petrified wood. Numerous plant and animal fossils have been found by paleontologists in the sedimentary layers of Blue Mesa.  
*Steep grade at beginning of trail*

#### Crystal Forest

**Length:** 0.75 mile (1.2 km) loop  
**Trailhead:** Crystal Forest parking area  
 Named for the presence of beautiful crystals that can be found in the petrified logs, this trail offers one of

the best opportunities to experience the petrified wood deposits. Please leave the petrified wood for others to enjoy. Report any removal of petrified wood or other materials to park staff.

### **Giant Logs**

Length: 0.4 mile (0.6 km) loop

Location: Behind Rainbow Forest Museum

*Trail guide available at Rainbow Forest Museum*

Giant Logs features some of the largest and most colorful logs in the park. "Old Faithful", at the top of the trail, is almost ten feet wide at the base!

*Grade: 4.8%, max 19.1%*

*Cross Slope: 2.5%, max 13.4%*

**Long Logs and Agate House Trails can be combined for a total of 2.6 miles (4.2 km) round trip.**

### **Long Logs**

Length: 1.6 mile (2.5 km) loop

Trailhead: Rainbow Forest Museum parking area

Long Logs is one of the largest concentrations of petrified wood in the park. Explore this ancient log jam at the base of gray badlands. Please leave petrified wood for others to enjoy. Report any removal of petrified wood or other materials to park staff.

*The first half-mile of this trail is paved and suitable for mobility equipment and strollers. Strollers may be negotiated on the loop, but it is not recommended for most wheelchairs and other mobility equipment due to its narrow turns and rough surface. Stairs to shade shelter can be avoided.*

### **Agate House**

Length: 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip

Trailhead: Rainbow Forest Museum parking area

Archeologists believe that this small pueblo was occupied for a short time about 700 years ago. Agate House was an eight room home with entered through the ceiling. Please leave any archeological artifacts for all to enjoy. Do not climb or sit on site walls.

*The first half-mile of this trail is paved and suitable for strollers and various mobility equipment (power and manual). The rest of the trail may be negotiated over rough surface.*

Saturday & Sunday is hiking off trail in Painted Desert. According to the website, we can ask the ranger about suggested routes. Below is a link to photos of off trail hiking in the Painted Desert and a link to off trail recommended hikes.

<https://www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/hiking.htm>

<https://www.nps.gov/pefo/off-the-beaten-path.htm>

### **Painted Desert Rim Trail**

Length: 1 mile (1.6 km) round trip

Trailheads: Tawa Point and Kachina Point

This unpaved trail winds through the rim woodland, a place for chance encounters of many species of plants and animals and spectacular views of the Painted Desert.

I will send out more details near the time of the trip.

**Driving Directions:** The most direct route is to drive to Flagstaff on I-17 and then east on I-40 until you get to the Petrified Forest exit (311). There are several other routes to get to Holbrook if you live on the east side of the Valley. Any questions, call the hike leader.