



Wednesday - Sunday October 10-October 14, 2018

Chaco Canyon Car Camp and Day Hikes

Approximately 420 Miles and 6.5 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack".

Type: See Desc.	Max Rating/Points: See Desc	Elev. Change: See Descr.	Length: See Descr.
Start Time: See Descr.	Duration: See Descr.	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		
Home Ph	602-943-6104	
Email	t_hiker@centurylink.net	tsishams@centurylink.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. The camp ground is approx. one hour from the nearest town. If staying in the campground, then tent or trailer. Campground reservations are needed.

Recommended Equipment: Rain gear and camera.

Cautions and Special Preparations: Let me know in advance if you are planning on going. It is recommended that we all stay at the Gallo Campground though not required. There are several hotels approximately an hour away. We can meet to discuss the upcoming day's hikes.

General Description:

Wed Oct 10 Travel to Chaco Canyon.
4PM meet at Visitor Center. 4:30PM, hike Wijiji trail (3 miles RT).

Thurs Oct 11 Hike Bisti / De Na-Zin Wilderness. Maybe go to Angel Peak scenic area (BLM) to see Kutz badlands overlook before returning to Chaco Canyon. **Hiking here is exploratory and the distance will be determined after the hike.**

Fri Oct 12 8AM hike South Mesa trail and view the Tsin Kletsin great house. (4.1 miles RT).
Ranger tours of Great House sites at 10AM. 12:30PM visit Great House sites not on Friday's ranger tours.
2PM hike Penesco Blanco trail to see petroglyphs (7.4 miles RT).

Sat Oct 13 7:30AM hike Pueblo Alto trail (5.6 miles RT).
Ranger tours of Great House sites at 10AM, 12:45PM, and 3PM.
Night Sky program 8:30PM

Sun Oct 14 Travel to Phoenix

The Great House sites are: Casa Rinconda, Chetro Ketl, Pueblo Bonito, Pueblo Arroyo, Hungo Pavi, Kin Kletso. We will know which Houses we will tour after we get there and see the Ranger schedule.

Below are links to a map of Chaco Culture National Historical Park NPS website. A link is included in the website for a map of the Park.

<https://www.nps.gov/chcu/index.htm>

Backcountry Hiking Trails

Hiking permits are required for these trails. They are free and available at all trailheads and at the Visitor Center. Trails are open from 7am to sunset. Pets are permitted on leashes. Carry water, snacks, and sun protection.

Pueblo Alto Trail

Trailhead - Pueblo del Arroyo parking area; Elevation Gain - 250 feet
Distance - Entire loop trail - 5.4 mi roundtrip (3-4 hours)
Pueblo Alto - 3.2 mi roundtrip (2 hours)
Pueblo Bonito Overlook - 2.0 mi roundtrip (1 hr)

This trail provides spectacular overlook views of Pueblo Bonito, Chetro Ketl, and Kin Kletso, enters Pueblo Alto and New Alto, passes by Chacoan stairways, ramps, and roads, and affords panoramic views of the San Juan Basin. This trail is an excellent introduction into the Chacoan world. Add time to explore the sites.

Peñasco Blanco Trail

Trailhead - Pueblo del Arroyo parking area; Elevation Gain - 200 feet

Distance - Peñasco Blanco roundtrip 7.4 mi (5-7 hrs)

Petroglyph Trail only roundtrip 3.5 mi (2 hours)

Supernova Pictograph roundtrip 5.8 mi (4-6 hours)

The longest trail - relatively level - includes the Petroglyph Trail to view numerous Pueblo and Navajo petroglyphs and historic inscriptions. The trail continues to the "Supernova" pictograph site and Peñasco Blanco, an unexcavated great house with a unique oval design and a spectacular natural setting. Hot summer sun and soft sand can make this a long and difficult hike. Carry plenty of water, snacks, and sun protection. Add extra time to explore the sites.

South Mesa Trail

Trailhead - Casa Rinconada Trail, Stop 10; Elevation Gain - 450 feet

Distance - Entire loop trail - 4.1 mi roundtrip (3-4 hrs)

Tsin Kletzin - 3.0 mi roundtrip (2-3 hrs)

This trail leaves from Stop 10 on the Casa Rinconada trail, climbs to a high point on South Mesa, and leads to the great house Tsin Kletzin. Spectacular views of the surrounding landscape are visible at the site. The loop trail descends into South Gap, follows the Chacoan South Roads, and re-enters the canyon near Casa Rinconada. Add extra time to explore the site and enjoy the vistas.

Wijiji Trail

Trailheads - Wijiji parking area and campground; Elevation Gain - Insignificant

Distance - Wijiji roundtrip from parking area - 3.0 mi (2 hrs)

Wijiji roundtrip from campground - 3.2 mile (2 hrs)

This trail leads to Wijiji, a later-period Chacoan great house built around AD 1100. Wijiji differs from sites like Pueblo Bonito and Chetro Ketl in that it appears to have been built at once rather than several building periods; with exceptional symmetry and the uniform masonry. Wijiji lacks typical Chacoan features such as enclosed plazas and great kivas. Add time to explore the site and visit a short (0.2 mile roundtrip) petroglyph spur trail.

Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area

The Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness is a rolling landscape of badlands which offers some of the most unusual scenery found in the Four Corners Region. It is located north of the Chaco Culture NHP. Time and natural elements have etched a fantasy world of strange rock formations made of interbedded sandstone, shale, mudstone, coal, and silt. The weathering of the sandstone forms hoodoos - weathered rock in the form of pinnacles, spires, cap rocks, and other unusual forms. Fossils occur in this sedimentary landform. Translated from the Navajo language, Bisti (Bis-tie) means "a large area of shale hills." De-Na-Zin (Deh-nah-zin) takes its name from the Navajo words for "cranes."

A link to the BLM website for this wilderness area is below. A link to a map of the area is included in the BLM site.

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/bisti-de-na-zin-wilderness>

Driving Directions: From Phoenix go to Flagstaff on I-17. Then go east on I-40 until you get to Thoreau, NM just east of Gallup. Take exit 53 for NM-612/NM-371 toward Thoreau. Turn left onto NM-371 N/NM-612/Bluewater Rd. Continue to follow NM-371 N approximately 28.5 mi. Turn right onto NM-57/ Navajo Service Route 9. Note that the signs directing you to turn off of Hwy 371 onto Highway 57 are missing. After 13 miles, turn left to stay on NM-57/ Navajo Service Route 14 at the former Seven Lakes Trading Post. Continue to CR7950 to the Gallo Campground. The route can vary from very rough to impassable. Not recommended for RVs. If you are traveling from the south, please call ahead for the latest conditions. Call the park (505-786-7014) for current road conditions. It is important that you are clear on the directions to the Chaco Culture NHP area where the campground is located. If the entry from the south is too rough or impassable, entry from the north is a good option. The map below shows that route.

My understanding is that there is no cell phone reception. Any questions, call the hike leader. I will verify road conditions with the Park before the trip and let everyone know.

