

Bandelier National Park

In 1916 – nearly 90 years ago -- Bandelier National Park was named for Adolph Bandelier, an anthropologist who came to the area in 1880 and was the first to study the Ancestral Pueblo dwellings in Frijoles Canyon. In 1890 he wrote a novel that first began to focus attention on the ancient people of the Pajarito Plateau, and now nearly 300,000 people visit the park each year.

Located in north central New Mexico, Bandelier is known for its ancient ruins, petroglyphs, and the thousands of ancestral Pueblo dwellings inhabited from the 1100s into the 1500s. The Park also includes more than 23,000 acres of designated Wilderness out of its 32,000 acres, and contains more than 70 miles of hiking trails.

In 2006 in celebration of its 90th anniversary, Bandelier provided special events and activities planned in the park and the local community. These events and activities afforded the opportunity to reflect on Bandelier's accomplishments and showcase the significance of Bandelier's past, present, and future.

For ten thousand years, people have been drawn to Bandelier's abundant resources. Bandelier also evidences the link between its pre-historic past and today's Pueblo people. The Park is a preeminent attraction in the southwestern national monument group because it encompasses an array of archeological, historic, and natural features.

Bandelier has one of the highest densities of archeological sites in North America and the largest collection of Civilian Conservation Corps structures, woodwork, and tin ware in the National Park Service, but visitors also come simply to hike or camp in the natural beauty and solitude in the pristine environment.

The range of elevations in Bandelier provides habitat for a variety of birds and animals and hundreds of species of native plants. Depending on fortune, season, and time of day, one might see anything from a wild rose to a black bear, a tarantula hawk wasp, a canyon wren, or elk. Traces of the Ancestral Pueblo people are everywhere, including petroglyphs, crumbled structures, and bits of broken pottery. All these resource are protected and enveloped in the famous New Mexico light and weather.

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Things to do at Bandelier National Park:

- Take a guided walk to an ancient pueblo.
- Take the "Nightwalk." Once a week during the summer months, park rangers lead a short stroll in the dark and share the cultural history of the Pueblo people.
- See Native artisans at work. Every weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day, a local traditional artist demonstrates a handicraft dating back centuries.
- Take a self-guided walking tour of the Civilian Conservation Corps Historic District and enjoy its structures, intricate tin light fixtures, and fine wood carvings.
- Gaze 1000 feet down White Rock Canyon at the Rio Grande, the Jemez and Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Española Valley, and the Caja del Rio.
- Enjoy the views of mountains and valleys from Tsankawi, a large unexcavated Ancestral Pueblo village located in a detached portion of the park, where you will also find petroglyphs and cliffside homes.
- Browse the visitor center's bookstore and tour its museum.