

Mesa Verde

For information call: (303) 529-4461 or (303) 529-4475
 For EMERGENCIES call: (303) 529-4469

Mesa Verde National Park

National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior

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to Cortez (10 mi.)

to Mancos (7 mi.)
 and Durango (36 mi.)

REGULATIONS

The Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 prohibit the appropriation, injury, or destruction of any ruin on Federal land. Entering a cliff dwelling without a park ranger present will result in a citation and fine up to \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 5 years. Feeding, capturing, or teasing wildlife and picking, cutting, or damaging any wildflower, shrub, or tree is also prohibited.

Pets must be physically restrained at all times; they are not allowed in public buildings or on trails.

Be careful with fire. One careless match can wipe out the growth of a lifetime.

Firearms are prohibited. They must be broken down or otherwise packed while in the park.

Motor vehicles are allowed only on roadways, turnouts, or parking areas. All accidents or injuries should be reported to a park ranger.

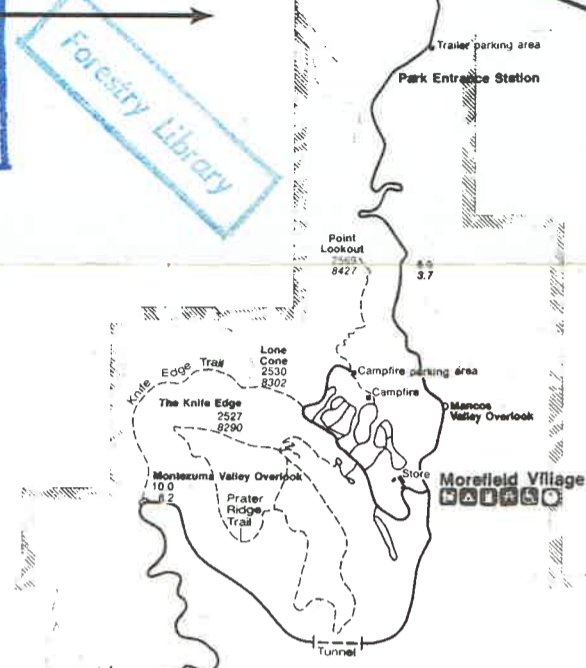
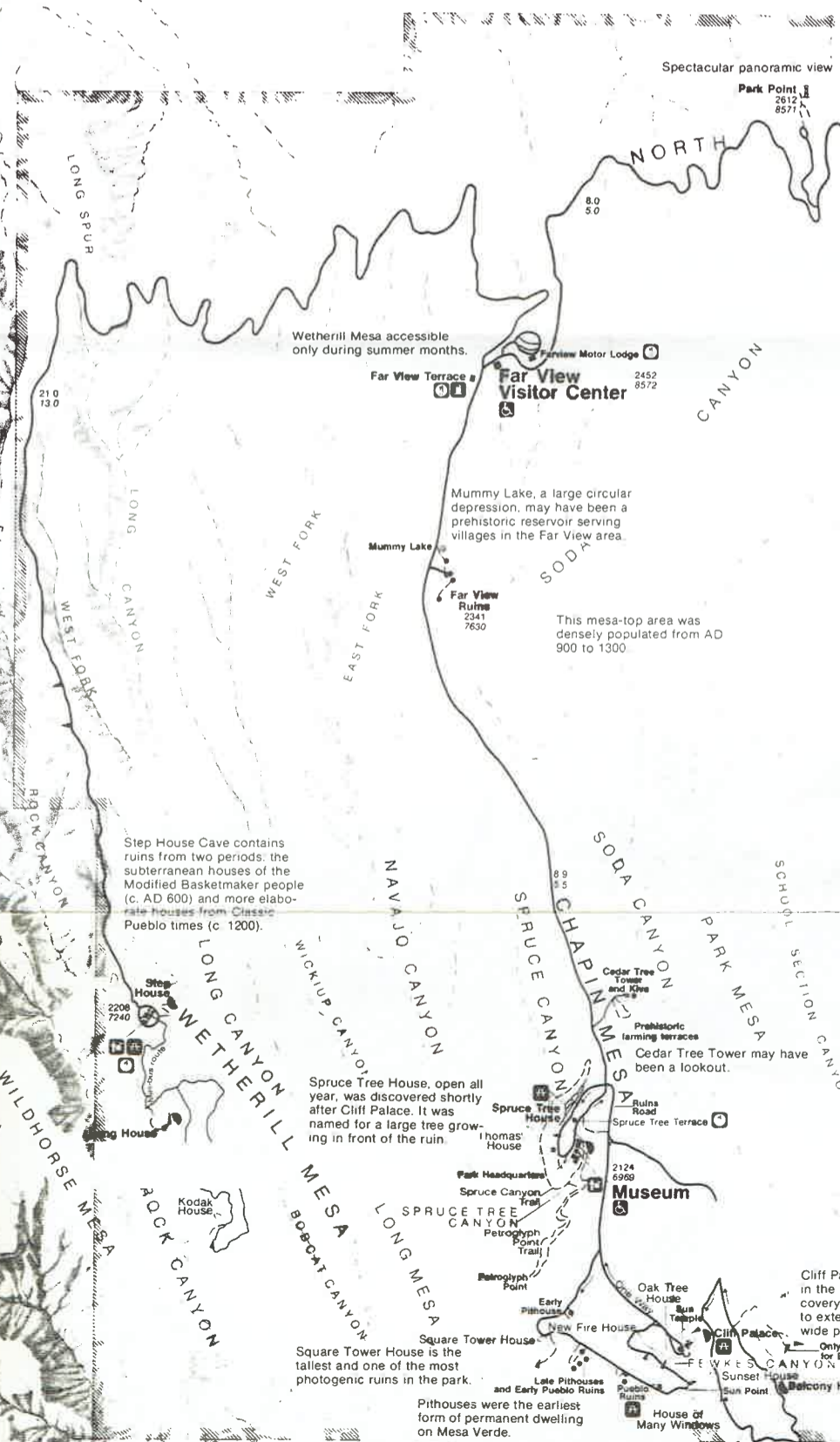
Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds.

To protect fragile ruins, hiking is restricted to five trails within the park.

Please don't litter. Use the trash cans located throughout the park.

ADMINISTRATION

Mesa Verde National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado 81330, is in charge.



FOR YOUR SAFETY

Visits to cliff dwellings are strenuous. Altitudes in the park vary from 6,040 to 8,572 feet. Steps and ladders must frequently be climbed. Hiking is not recommended for persons with heart or respiratory ailments. All major cliff dwellings can be viewed from overlooks on the canyon rims. Parents should be alert for their children's safety when near the canyon rims. Do not throw rocks or other objects into the canyons — there may be people below. Your safety is of concern to us and should be to you, too. Please keep your children under control, especially in the ruins and near cliffs. Be aware of your physical limitations, and if you have any doubts about an activity, ask a ranger for advice. Information on access for the handicapped is available upon request.

Bicycling is permitted in the park, but there are no designated lanes.

Emergency first aid is provided at the Chapin Mesa and Morefield ranger stations.

Park roads and trails may be hazardous in winter. Stop at the entrance gate for current information on road conditions and tour schedules.

CRIME PREVENTION

Park visitors can be the target of professional thieves who rob locked vehicles and campsites. Take your valuables with you or leave them in a secure place. Locked cars and trunks are not completely safe. Report all thefts immediately to the nearest ranger station.



Lookout tower
 Elevations are given in meters with feet in italics

- Ranger station
- Food service
- Handicap access
- Campground
- Picnic area
- Gasoline station



- Cliff dwelling open to public
- Cliff dwelling closed to public
- Mesa-top dwellings
- Hiking trail
- Ruins viewpoint

Cliff Palace is the largest ruin in the park. Its chance discovery in December, 1888 led to extensive explorations and wide public interest.

Balcony House, one of the last cliff dwellings occupied, has an easily defended entrance way