

Bandelier National Monument and Puye Cliffs

Visit Bandelier National Monument, where Pueblo people's ancestors built thriving communities some 600 years ago. Walk a moderate 1.2 mile-loop trail through excavated archaeological sites on the floor of the Frijoles Canyon. Climb ladders into small human-carved alcoves and ascend narrow stone stairways to stone dwellings. Add an additional half-mile each way to visit Alcove House, 140 feet above the canyon floor. You can climb four wooden ladders and a series of stone stairs to see a reconstructed kiva. (NOTE: Alcove House is not recommended for people afraid of heights. Also, all ladder climbing at Bandelier is optional.)



Did You Know?

The Ancestral Pueblo people carved petroglyphs into the soft tuff rock above many of the dwellings built along the cliffs.

Puye Cliffs is also a National Historic Landmark which consists of ancient cliff and mesa top dwellings that were home to the ancestors of present-day Santa Clara Pueblo from the late 1100s to 1580 A.D

Puye Cliffs consists of two levels of cliff dwellings cut into the cliff face, as well as dwellings on the mesa top. The first level is over one mile long and runs the entire length of the base of the mesa. The second level is about 2,100 feet long. Stairways and paths were cut in the face of the rock to connect the two levels and to allow people to climb to the top of the mesa. Dwellings on the mesa top are examples of Pueblo architecture and were part of a single, multi-storied complex built around a large, central plaza. The complex is known as the Community House or Great House.

While the actual number of rooms is unknown, the south part of the complex had 173 rooms on the ground floor, with multiple stories in various places, similar to modern-day Taos Pueblo.



AGENDA

8:00 am	Depart Hotel Santa Fe
9:00-12:15 am	Arrive Bandelier National Monument Guided Tour Main Loop Trail
12:30 pm	Depart, box lunches will be provided en route to Puye Cliffs
1:30-4:00 pm	Puye Cliffs dwellings and ruins for tour of Puye Cliffs visitor center, cliff side dwellings and top mesa ruins
4:00 pm	Depart for Hotel Santa Fe

Things to Know

Weather

Frost and chance of snow storms from October through May. Wear layered comfortable sportswear type clothing appropriate for the season, with sturdy walking shoes.

Elevation and Climbing

The elevation in Frijoles Canyon is 6,000 feet and can cause breathing difficulties for some people visiting from lower elevations. Climbing ladders should not be attempted by people with heart problems or severe fear of heights. Children should be accompanied by adults at all times.

Wildlife

Hikers should be aware of the danger posed by wildlife. Enjoy the view but don't get too close. Don't harrass the wildlife, this is their home! Don't feed the wildlife as fed wildlife is more likely to pose a threat to humans.

Cost is \$125.00 per person; this includes transportation, guide, entrance costs and lunch.