



## First Forest Point

2.1 miles (3.4 km) round trip

Elevation change: approximately 400 ft (122 m)

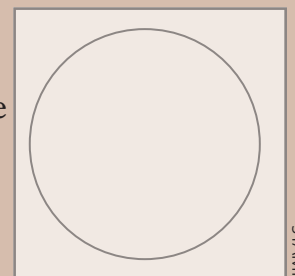
GPS coordinates:

Starting point: N 34°53'16.3" W 109°48'28.1"

Overlook: N 34°53'27.9" W 109°49'49.2"

Your adventure will begin in the parking lot at the Jasper Forest overlook and will end with a spectacular view atop a prominent mesa. Along your route you will see giant sandstone boulders, and spectacular sparkling petrified wood. For the keen observer/adventurer you may even stumble upon a few seldom seen petroglyphs.

In the 1890s and early 1900s this area was called “First Forest”. This is the first stop for early tourists who came by wagon from the train depot at Adamana. What a spectacular introduction to the eroded and still eroding petrified wood that had been entombed in sandstone for millions of years! The geology and fossils (yes, the petrified wood is a fossil) that you will enjoy along the way are about 217 million years old.





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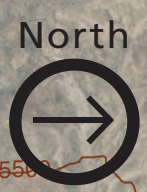
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Jasper Forest Parking Lot  
(Starting Point)

Main Park Road



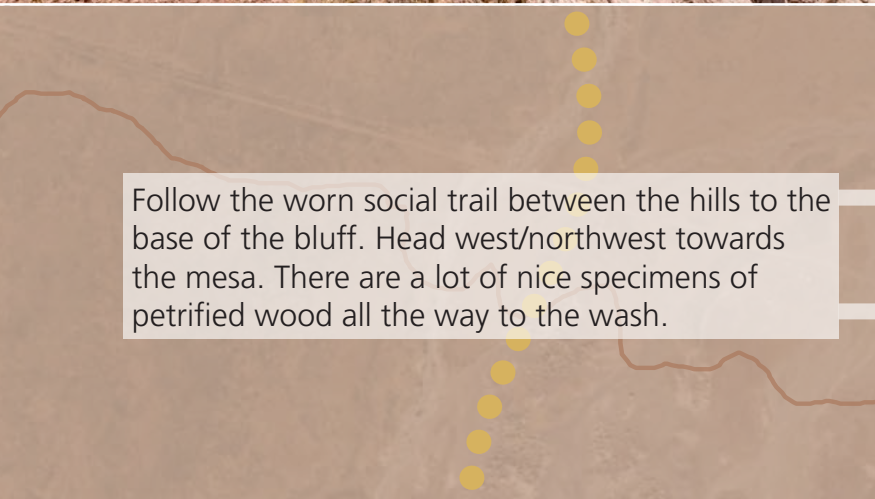
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

0 0.175 0.35 0.7 1.05 1.4 Kilometers

Park at the far end of the Jasper Forest parking lot, left of the overlook. A faint trail leads up a small hill to follow the undulating ridge.



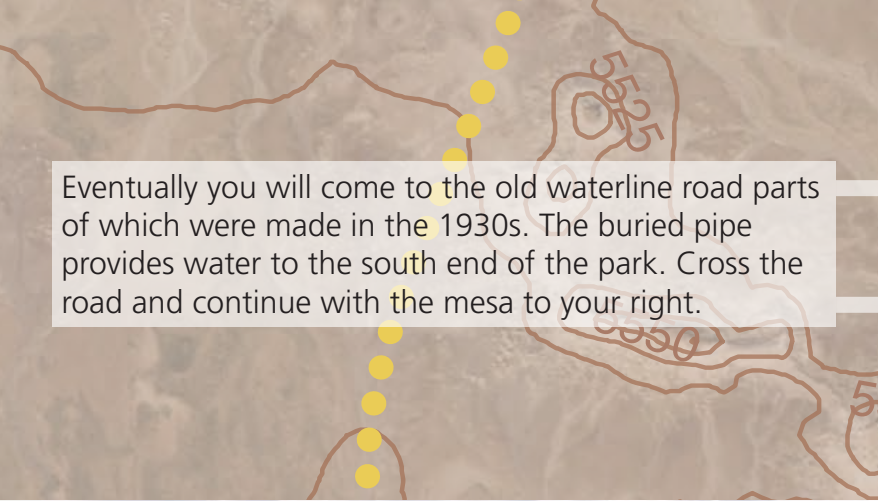
Follow the trail with the drop off to your right until you find a gentle slope descending to the valley below. Be cautious of the small pebbles that cover the ground.



Follow the worn social trail between the hills to the base of the bluff. Head west/northwest towards the mesa. There are a lot of nice specimens of petrified wood all the way to the wash.



You can use the wash to cross the open grassland and enjoy looking at all the petrified wood. Keep the mesa with the sandstone boulders to your right. When the wash splits at a "Y", stay to the left.




Eventually you will come to the old waterline road parts of which were made in the 1930s. The buried pipe provides water to the south end of the park. Cross the road and continue with the mesa to your right.

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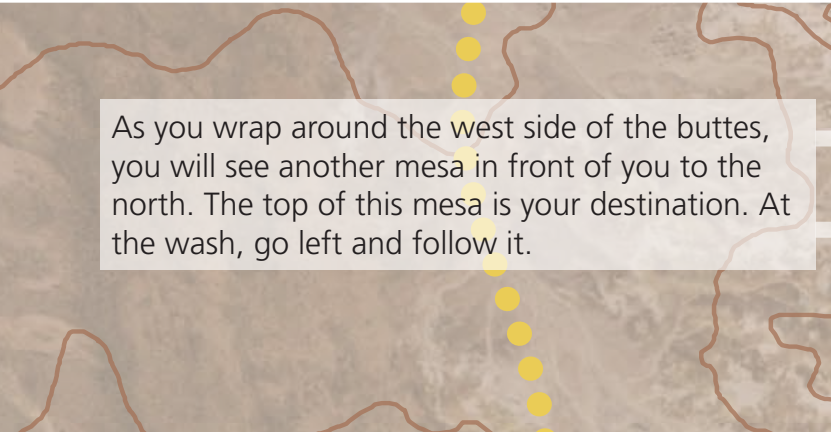


After the dirt road you will have to climb down into a large watercourse: Dry Wash. Cross it and continue heading to the left side of the buttes in front of you.

7



Take the small wash on your left (the buttes will be on your right). When the wash comes to a "Y", go to the right.

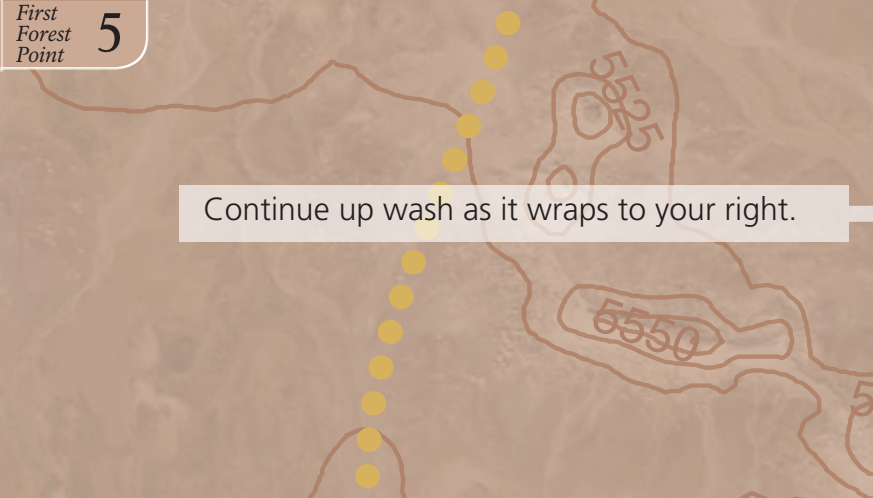


As you wrap around the west side of the buttes, you will see another mesa in front of you to the north. The top of this mesa is your destination. At the wash, go left and follow it.

8



Continue up wash as it wraps to your right.



As the wash gets smaller and smaller, find the soft slope up the mesa.



Cross the mesa top heading towards the east until you reach the rim of the mesa.



Explore along the rim of the mesa. To the east is the Jasper Forest Overlook where you return. To the north, Pilot Rock, the highest point in the park, can be seen in the distance. Retrace your steps to return back to Jasper Forest Overlook.



# Things to Know About Off the Beaten Path Hikes

Hiking off-trail offers the opportunity to enjoy this landscape beyond the experience of the average visitor. These “Off the Beaten Path” hikes are suggested routes; not paved or maintained trails—although you may notice social paths or old road beds. All of the hikes require route-finding skills. Bring a compass and/or GPS tracking device.

Please consider the following and plan accordingly:

You are responsible for your own safety.

Some areas have little to no cell phone coverage.

Understand that you are heading into a wild natural region.

Know your personal limits, and of those in your party.

Wear appropriate shoes and sun protection. Bring food and *plenty of water* (1 gal./person/day).

Follow all park rules and regulations.

Do not create rock cairns or trail markers.

The backcountry of Petrified Forest National Park offers:

- A semi-arid landscape with elevations over 5,500 ft (1,700 m) with no water or shade.
- No marked trails—route-finding skills are necessary.
- Uneven surfaces that may become impassable when wet.
- Steep hills, narrow canyons, and crumbly surfaces.
- Temperatures that fluctuate widely (>100°F/38°C in summer and <32°F/0°C in winter).
- Solitude and beauty.

*Unless you have an overnight Wilderness Area Permit, you are required to be out of the park by closing hours. Backcountry camping must be one mile away from any established trail or road. Camping in vehicles in parking areas is not permitted. Ask park staff for more details on backcountry camping.*

## Using This Guide

This book is a collaboration of staff and volunteers who have wandered these areas to find important landmarks and beautiful vistas. The maps provide the route to destinations. The photos are references to help you find your way. Remember to keep an eye on the weather, find a landmark near where you parked to stay orientated, and be sure to drink plenty of water!

## Onyx Bridge

4 miles (6.4 km) round trip

Elevation Change: 300 ft (91 m)

GPS coordinates

Trailhead:

Onyx Bridge: 35°6'31.0"N 109°47'32.1"W

GPS coordinates are set in:  
Degrees° Minutes' Seconds"

Be sure to set your GPS in the appropriate format to prevent confusion. There may be a margin of error up to 30 meters for the listed coordinates.



Use the cancellation stamps found at the Painted Desert Visitor Center, or Rainbow Forest Museum to date your adventures!

# The Leave No Trace Principles

The Leave No Trace Principles are the bedrock of the Leave No Trace program. They provide guidance to enjoy our natural world in a sustainable way that avoids human-created impacts. These principles have been adapted to they can be applied in your backyard or your backcountry.



The following are a selection from the Leave No Trace Seven Principles. © 1999 by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).

## Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

## Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

In popular areas:

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.
- In pristine areas:
- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

## Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

## Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

## Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

## Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

## Look what I found!

One of the marvelous things about exploring the Wilderness Areas is finding all the unique artifacts.



We cannot stress enough how important it is to leave any fossils, archeology artifacts (i.e. pottery sherds and arrowheads), rocks, plants, or animals exactly where you found them. Much like a forensic scientist at a crime scene, when artifacts are removed or displaced, a wealth of information is lost about that item. Please join the millions

of hikers before you and do not pick up anything you find out on these hikes. Take a picture of the artifact, and one of the surrounding area, and show these to a ranger so we can send a scientist to recover it. Be careful not to post where you found these items online, because those locations may encourage looters.

Petroglyphs are easily damaged by even the softest touch. The oil on your hands will deteriorate the rock art. These ancient symbols cannot be recovered once lost.

Help us protect these awesome resources for future explorers such as yourself!

Petrified Forest National Park  
1 Park Rd, Box 2217  
Petrified Forest, AZ 86028  
www.nps.gov/pefo

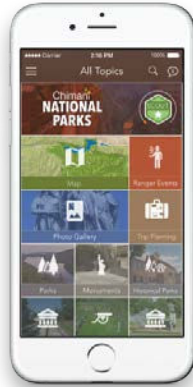
These **free** apps will assist you while you venture through Petrified Forest National Park.

# Chimani

Chimani provides apps for specific National Parks, including Petrified Forest! Features include:

- *GPS-enabled maps*
- *Expert-written details on more than 120 points of interest*
- *Collect points and earn badges for visiting parks and other points of interest*
- *And much, much more!*

\*Be sure to download the features inside the app before heading in the park.



iNaturalist offers a chance to become a citizen scientist! Take photos of flora and fauna with your device and upload. Find out what that critter or flower is with in-depth descriptions. Most importantly, these records give biologists a way to track and monitor life in these ecosystems with your help. Join the iNaturalist community today!

*Both apps available on:*



Sometimes going off the beaten path  
makes all the difference



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