

Arizona / North

Petrified Forest NP

DISTANCE: XXX miles

ELEVATION GAIN: XXX feet

ROUTE TYPE: XXX

Painted Desert Rim Trail

1 mile (1.6 km) round trip. Trailheads: Tawa Point and Kachina Point

This unpaved trail winds through the rim woodland, a place for chance encounters of many species of plants and animals and spectacular views of the Painted Desert. This trail does not have stairs, but the waterbars and dirt-gravel surface may make this trail unsuitable for strollers or mobility vehicles.

Puerco Pueblo

0.3 mile (0.5 km) loop. Trailhead: Puerco Pueblo parking area

A paved walk amidst the remains of a hundred room pueblo, occupied by the ancestral Puebloan people over 600 years ago. Petroglyphs can be viewed along the south end of the trail. Please do not climb on the boulders or walls and do not touch the petroglyphs.

Suitable for strollers and various mobility equipment (power and manual), except on short trail spur

Blue Mesa

1 mile (1.6 km) loop. Trailhead: Blue Mesa sun shelter

Descending from the mesa, this alternately paved and gravel trail loop offers the unique experience of hiking among badland hills of bluish bentonite clay as well as petrified wood. Numerous plant and animal fossils have been found by paleontologists in the sedimentary layers of Blue Mesa.

Steep grade at beginning of trail

Crystal Forest

0.75 mile (1.2 km) loop. Trailhead: Crystal Forest parking area

Named for the presence of beautiful crystals that can be found in the petrified logs, this trail offers one of the best opportunities to experience the petrified wood deposits. Please leave the petrified wood for others to enjoy. Report any removal of petrified wood or other materials to park staff.

Giant Logs

0.4 mile (0.6 km) loop. Location: Behind Rainbow Forest Museum

Trail guide available at Rainbow Forest Museum

Giant Logs features some of the largest and most colorful logs in the park. "Old Faithful", at the top of the trail, is almost ten feet wide at the base! This paved trail has several sets of stairs and may not be suitable for strollers or mobility equipment.

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Long Logs

1.6 mile (2.5 km) loop. Trailhead: Rainbow Forest Museum parking area

Long Logs is one of the largest concentrations of petrified wood in the park. Explore this ancient log jam at the base of gray badlands. Please leave petrified wood for others to enjoy. Report any removal of petrified wood or other materials to park staff. The first half-mile of this trail is paved and suitable for mobility equipment and strollers. Strollers may be negotiated on the loop, but it is not recommended for most wheelchairs and other mobility equipment due to its narrow turns and rough surface. Stairs to shade shelter can be avoided.

Agate House

2 miles (3.2 km) round trip. Trailhead: Rainbow Forest Museum parking area

Archeologists believe that this small pueblo was occupied for a short time about 700 years ago. Agate House was an eight room home with entered through the ceiling. Please leave any archeological artifacts for all to enjoy. Do not climb or sit on site walls. The first half-mile of this trail is paved and suitable for strollers and various mobility equipment (power and manual). The rest of the trail may be negotiated over rough surface.

Painted Desert Rim Trail

1.0 miles – Out and back No elevation gain Easy

Another relatively short trail but one that should not be passed up is Painted Desert Rim Trail. The surrounding hills with their red, purple, and blue colors makes this one of the best hikes in Petrified Forest National Park. Tawa Point and Kachina Point make excellent places to snap a picture. The trailhead is next to the Painted Desert Inn on Petrified Forest Road.