



NORTHEASTERN ARIZONA

1 DAY ONE & TWO – MONUMENT VALLEY

Drive Phoenix ➤ Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park **5 hrs 15 mins**

This isn't just a road trip. It's a journey through living history. Here, the land tells stories that stretch back thousands of years, shaped by the people who have called it home for generations. It's less about checking off landmarks and more about understanding place...where every canyon, mesa, and horizon carries a deeper sense of connection.

Just off Highway 69 heading North toward Monument Valley, the historic **Cameron Trading Post** beckons with its authentic Navajo rugs, handcrafted jewelry, and legendary frybread—your perfect, unforgettable stop in the heart of the high desert. [visitarizona.com/directory/cameron-trading-post-american-indian](https://www.visitarizona.com/directory/cameron-trading-post-american-indian)

What to do

You've seen it in films, photos, and probably your imagination, but nothing quite prepares you for the real thing. The Mittens rise from the desert floor alongside Merrick Butte, forming one of the most recognizable landscapes in the American Southwest.

Maintained by Navajo Nation Parks & Recreation, **Monument Valley** invites you to explore at your own pace, or with a little guidance. The 17-mile Valley Drive winds through the heart of the park, with multiple stops that bring you face-to-face with its most iconic formations. Prefer to stretch your legs? The Wildcat Trail loops four miles around Mitten Butte, the only public hike in the valley, and well worth it.

For a deeper experience on your second day, join a **Navajo-guided Jeep or horseback** tour to access remote areas, ancient cliff dwellings, and natural arches you won't find on your own. Along the way, you may also meet local silversmiths, potters, and weavers, artists who continue to preserve Navajo traditions through their work. [visitarizona.com/places/parks-monuments/monument-valley-navajo-tribal-park](https://www.visitarizona.com/places/parks-monuments/monument-valley-navajo-tribal-park)

Where to stay

The View Hotel (Monument Valley): There's a reason it's called The View. Set within Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, every guestroom faces the iconic Mittens: best enjoyed from your private balcony, preferably at sunrise or sunset. Upgrade to a StarView Room and the night sky becomes part of the experience, with some of the best stargazing you'll find anywhere. A place that rewards simply being present. monumentvalleyview.com

Where to dine

The View Restaurant (Monument Valley): Here, the view shares the spotlight with the menu. Set within Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, this dining room pairs sweeping views of the Mittens with a menu that blends Navajo-inspired dishes and traditional American fare. Start your day with a quiet continental breakfast or settle in for dinner as the light shifts across the valley. It's a setting that invites you to take your time dining. monumentvalleyview.com/the-view-hotel/dining/



MONUMENT VALLEY TRIBAL PARK



MONUMENT VALLEY GUIDED TOURS



THE VIEW HOTEL



3 DAY THREE – CANYON DE CHELLY

Drive Monument Valley ➤ Canyon De Chelly 1hr 45 mins

What to do

Some landscapes impress. This one imprints.

A 26-mile canyon system on Navajo land near Chinle, **Canyon de Chelly** is one of the most continuously inhabited landscapes in North America, with more than 5,000 years of human presence etched into its walls.

From the rim, the views are sweeping, most notably **Spider Rock**, an 800-foot sandstone spire rising dramatically from the canyon floor. For a closer look, the 2.5-mile round-trip hike to White House Ruins offers the only self-guided access into the canyon, leading to a 1,000-year-old cliff dwelling tucked into the rock.

Beyond that, access opens with a Navajo-authorized guide. **Jeep, horseback, and hiking tours** take you deeper into the canyon, where history, culture, and present-day life unfold together, layer by layer.

Stay at Thunderbird Lodge, the only lodging within the monument, set at the canyon's edge in a former trading post, and give yourself time to take it all in. The Trading Post offers a wide selection of contemporary and traditional American Indian Art, memorabilia of Monument Valley, and souvenirs of Hollywood movies shot on location within view of your guestroom.

You don't leave with just photos; you leave with Navajo-crafted mementos...and a sense of what's endured.

visitarizona.com/places/parks-monuments/canyon-de-chelly-national-monument

Where to stay:

Gouldings: Just across the Arizona border, on the other side of the iconic Rock Door Mesa, is **Goulding's Monument Valley**. The lodge began as a trading post in the 1920s, and founder Harry Goulding was instrumental in bringing film production to the area. Today, Goulding's hosts guests seeking the authentic West — while honoring its history with a museum and tours led by local Navajo community members. Wake up to John Ford-worthy views, relax by the pool, and get out the popcorn to watch Monument Valley-set films in the Earth Spirit Theatre. gouldings.com

Thunderbird Lodge (Chinle): The only lodging within Canyon de Chelly, this charming accommodation offers a simple, meaningful way to experience this sacred landscape. Navajo-owned and operated, it sits on the site of a historic trading post and welcomes you with genuine hospitality and a deep sense of place. thunderbirdlodge.com

Where to dine:

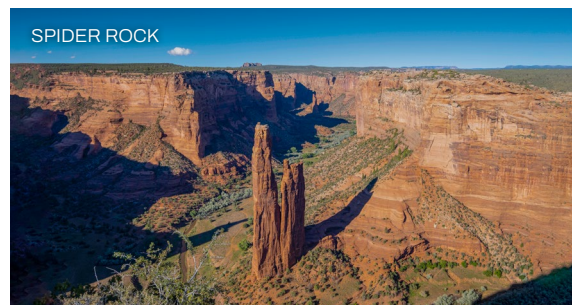
Thunderbird Lodge Restaurant (Chinle): Dine where history still lingers. Set inside the original 1896 trading post, this relaxed, cafeteria-style spot serves Navajo specialties alongside familiar favorites. Navajo chefs bring both tradition and training to the menu, with specialties from Fry Bread to Navajo Tacos. Look around and you might notice the old jail at the center of the room. It's the kind of meal you'll remember for more than just the food. thunderbirdlodge.com/restaurant-and-historic-trading-post/

Gouldings: Located a hilltop above Goulding's lodge is its **Stagecoach Restaurant**, named after one of the most famous films shot in the region. You can stare out over topographic wonders while feasting on a fusion of Southwestern and Navajo favorites, served all day long. (Yes, you can get Navajo tacos on house-specialty frybread from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.) gouldings.com

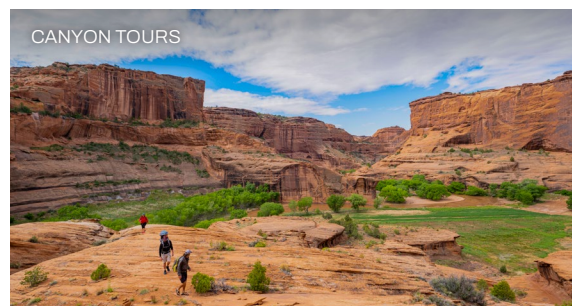
CANYON DE CHELLY



SPIDER ROCK



CANYON TOURS



THUNDERBIRD LODGE



CANYON DE CHELLY JEEP TOUR



4 DAY FOUR – PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK

Drive Canyon De Chelly ➤ Petrified Forest National Park **1hr 35 mins**

Drive Petrified Forest National Park ➤ Phoenix **3hrs 45 mins**

What to do

Just when you think you've figured out Arizona, this happens.

At the southern edge of Northeastern Arizona, just off I-40 near Holbrook, is the **Petrified Forest National Park**. Here the landscape shifts into something entirely unexpected. Scattered across the Painted Desert are 225-million-year-old petrified logs, remnants of an ancient forest turned to stone, set against one of the most otherworldly environments in the state.

Start at the **Painted Desert Inn**, a 1924 National Historic Landmark where original Harvey House murals add another layer of story to the setting. Then head out to the Blue Mesa Trail, a one-mile loop through blue and purple badlands that feel more like walking through a painting than a park.

Along the way, pause at **Newspaper Rock**, where more than 650 Ancestral Puebloan petroglyphs are etched into a single sandstone boulder. Binoculars help bring the details into focus. And don't miss **Agate House**, a 900-year-old pueblo built entirely from petrified wood, because here, even the building materials have a backstory.

[visitarizona.com/places/parks-monuments/petrified-forest-national-park](https://www.visitarizona.com/places/parks-monuments/petrified-forest-national-park)

Just west of the Petrified Forest National Park—where removing even a single rock is strictly prohibited—the legendary **Rock Shop** in Holbrook invites you to satisfy your craving with an incredible selection of legally sourced petrified wood, fossils, and colorful geodes from across the Southwest. An iconic must-stop treasure trove for rockhounds and adventurous road-trippers.

[visitarizona.com/like-a-local/walk-in-the-shadows-of-arizona-dinosaurs](https://www.visitarizona.com/like-a-local/walk-in-the-shadows-of-arizona-dinosaurs)

Where to stay:

Wigwam Motel (Holbrook): 25 minutes southeast of the park is a Route 66 icon listed on the National Register of Historic Places: The Wigwam Motel in Holbrook. One of only three surviving Wigwam Villages from the midcentury's road-trip heyday, the motel features 15 "wigwams" made of concrete and steel — and still open to guests today. Their 1950s kitsch has been lovingly preserved (with added amenities, like AC), and classic cars dot the grounds to add to the ambiance. [sleepinawigwam.com](https://www.sleepinawigwam.com)

Where to dine:

On your way back to Phoenix, don't miss **Josephine's Modern American Bistro** (Flagstaff): Nestled in vibrant downtown Flagstaff, Josephine's Modern American Bistro delivers a warm, upscale twist on comfort classics - perfect for a delicious pause before returning to Phoenix. [josephinesrestaurant.com](https://www.josephinesrestaurant.com)

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK



PAINTED DESERT INN



AGATE HOUSE



NEWSPAPER ROCK



ROCK SHOP

