

PAINTED DESERT
PETRIFIED FOREST

5/23/2023

THIS WAS OUR FIRST STOP IN 1988. OTHER THAN A SMALL CROWD AT THE VISITOR CENTER WE WERE USUALLY ALONE AT THE SITE-STOPS. IT WAS MUCH BUSIER 35 YEARS AGO.

LIKE MESA VERDE, MANY AREAS OFF LIMITS TO EXPLORING BEYOND THE BARRICADES. MAYBE IT'S AN AZ THING BUT IT FEELS TOURISTY. MOST OF THE SITES HAD VIEW AREAS AND THE VISITOR CENTER TRAIL IS WELL WORN CIRCLING THE LARGE LOGS WHICH APPEAR TO BE THE BIGGEST ATTRACTION.

SITE STOPS INCLUDE PUERCO PUEBLO, NEWSPAPER ROCK AND THE LOG TRAIL. THE PUEBLO HAD SOME KACHINA MASK PETROGRAPHS 😊 AND NEWSPAPER ROCK WAS GOOD BUT..MY FAVORITE HIKE WAS TO THE ONYX BRIDGE PETROGLYPHS. ON THIS HIKE THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF PETRIFIED LOGS IN NATURAL STATE AND I FOUND THE AREA BREEZY TO HIKE IN. SIMILAR TO ANY HIKE IN CANYON COUNTRY THE HARD WORK IS EXITING.























TRAILHEAD



















