

Make Reservations at Recreation.gov

Visitation is by reservation only. Visit Recreation.gov and search for “Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument Ticketed Entry” to make your reservations. For visitor safety and resource protection, a limited amount of tickets are available.

America the Beautiful Passes (also known as Interagency Passes or National Parks Passes) are accepted when making reservations to waive fees for the pass holder and three additional visitors. During the reservation process, pass holders will enter their interagency pass number to waive the fee.

Cochiti Pueblo Tribal Access Pass

Prior to entry, visitors must obtain a Cochiti Pueblo Tribal Access Pass. Instructions on how to purchase the Cochiti Pueblo Tribal Access Pass can be found during the Recreation.gov reservation process. America the Beautiful Pass cannot waive the Cochiti Pueblo Tribal Access Pass.

Accessing the Monument

After making reservations on Recreation.gov and obtaining the Cochiti Pueblo Tribal Access Pass, visitors will gather at the Cochiti Visitor Center and follow a pilot car to the monument entry booth.

**Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)**—Organized groups such as weddings and reunions, and commercial operations such as tours, filming, or professional photography, must apply and obtain an SRP or filming permit prior to conducting business.

**Educational Groups** –Please contact the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office for details to reserve your trip.

Hours of Operation

Entry into the monument is by reservation only, between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Visitors are asked to exit the monument by 4:00 p.m.

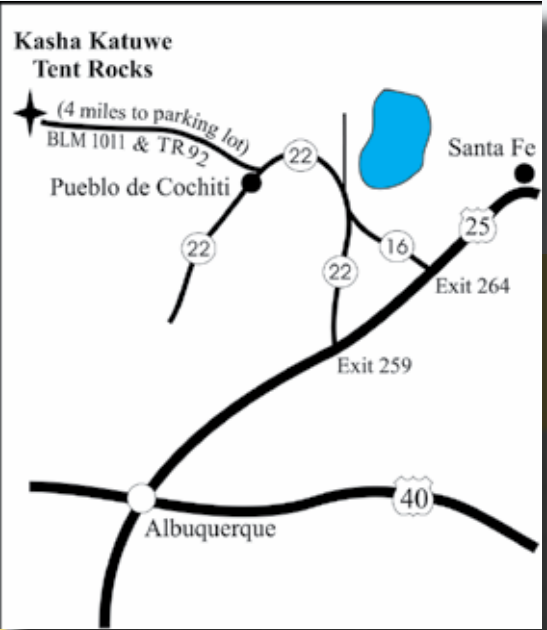
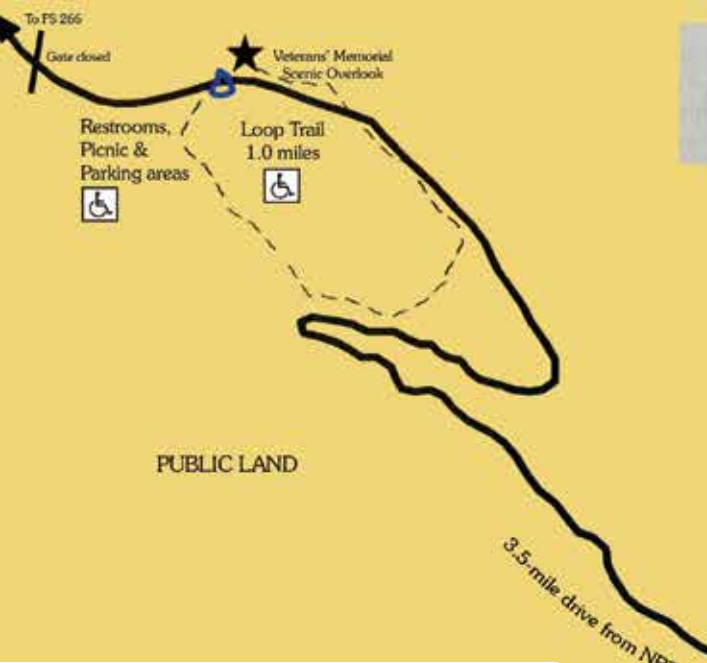
VISITORS MUST BE OUT OF THE ENTRY-BOOTH-GATED AREA BY CLOSING TIME.



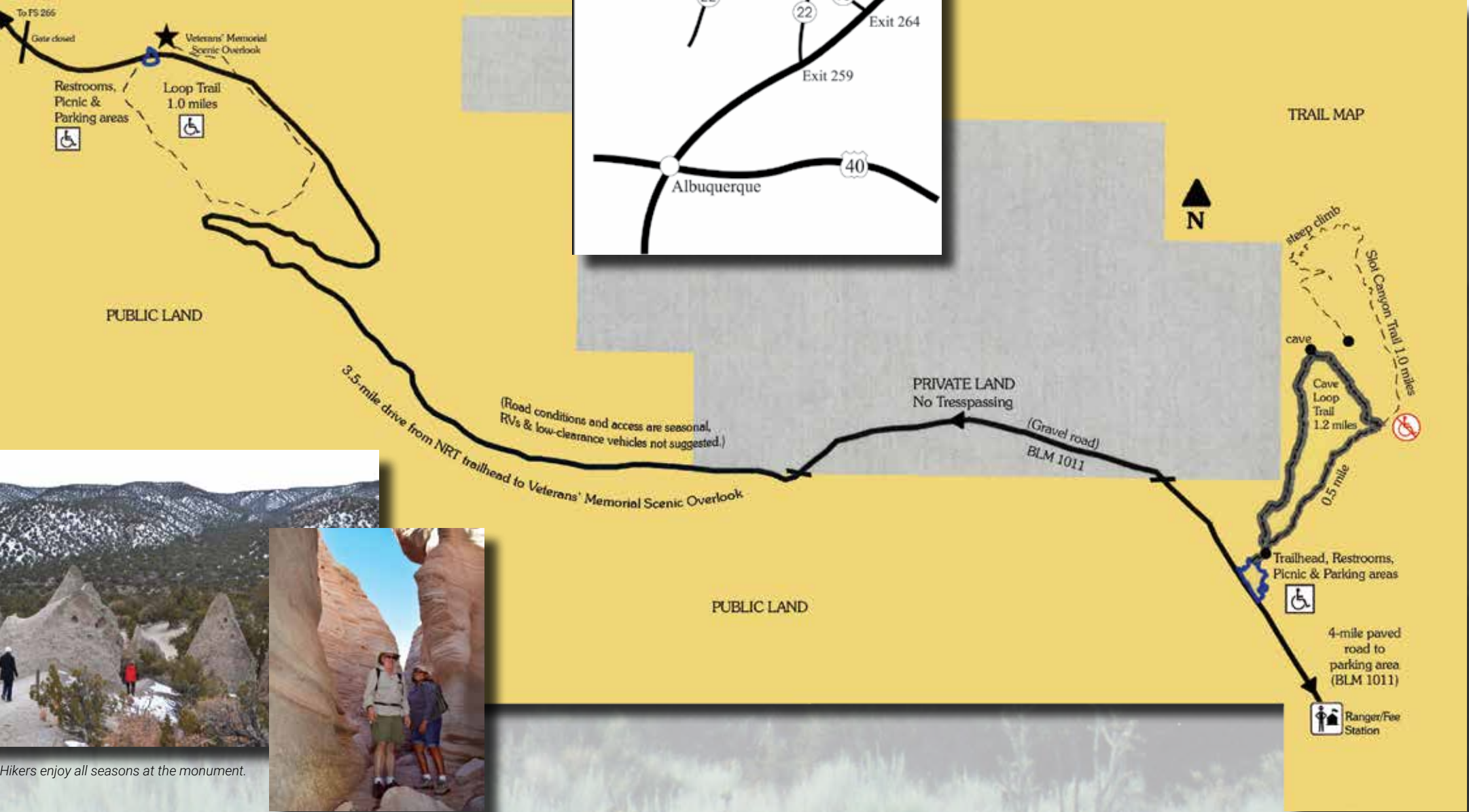
**Closure Days**  
Available visitation days are noted on Recreation.gov as visitors make reservations. Plan ahead, as tickets are limited and may sell out.



From the Veterans' Memorial Scenic Overlook, you can see spectacular vistas of Camada and Peralta Canyons, the Dome Wilderness, and Jemez Mountains.



Children view the hoodoo formations from the Cave Loop Trail.



Hikers enjoy all seasons at the monument.



Trail Guide

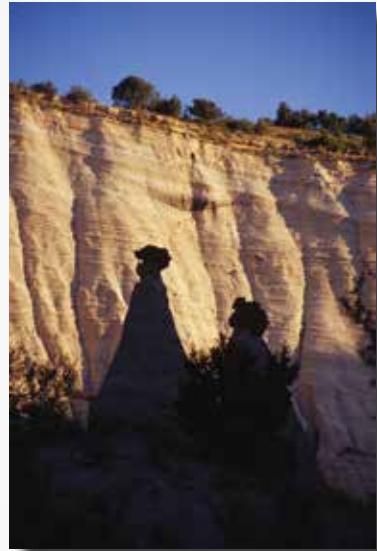
Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument





## WELCOME TO KASHA-KATUWE TENT ROCKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument (monument) to protect its geologic, scenic, and cultural values. The agency works in close coordination and cooperation with the Pueblo de Cochiti to provide access, facility development and maintenance,



The boulder “cap” protects the fragile tent-shaped formation beneath it.

### Of Time and the Rocks

Located on the Pajarito

Plateau in north-central New Mexico, the monument is a remarkable outdoor laboratory, offering an opportunity to observe, study, and experience the geologic processes that shape natural landscapes. The elevation of the monument ranges from 5,570 feet to 6,760 feet above sea level.

The cone-shaped tent rock formations are the products of volcanic eruptions that occurred 6 to 7 million years ago and left pumice, ash, and tuff deposits over 1,000 feet thick. Tremendous explosions from the Jemez volcanic field spewed pyroclasts (rock fragments), while searing hot gases blasted down slopes in an incandescent avalanche called a “pyroclastic flow.” In close inspections of the arroyos, visitors will discover small, rounded, translucent obsidian (volcanic glass) fragments created by rapid cooling. Please leave these fragments for others to enjoy.

Precariously perched on many of the tapering hoodoos are boulder caps that protect the softer pumice and tuff below. Some tents have lost their hard, resistant caprocks and are disintegrating. While fairly uniform in shape, the tent rock formations vary in height from a few feet to 90 feet.

As the result of uniform layering of volcanic material, bands of grey are interspersed with beige and pink-colored rock along the



The monument serves as an outdoor laboratory for students of all ages.

cliff face. Over time, wind and water cut into these deposits creating canyons and arroyos, scooping holes in the rock, and contouring the ends of small, inward ravines into smooth semi-circles.

### Historical and Cultural Perspective

The complex landscape and spectacular geologic scenery of the monument has been a focal point for visitors for centuries. Surveys have recorded many archaeological sites reflecting human occupation spanning 4,000 years. During the 14th and 15th centuries, several large ancestral pueblos were established and their descendants, the Pueblo de Cochiti, still inhabit the surrounding area.

In 1540, the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado made mention of the Pueblo de Cochiti in their diaries. Throughout the 17th century, settlers would follow Juan de Oñate’s route along the Rio Grande Valley, bringing trade, farming and domestic animals, and claiming land grants from the Spanish Crown. In 1680, the Cochiti people joined other pueblos in a rebellion that drove the Spaniards south to El Paso, Texas. By 1870, iron rails stretched into the territory of New Mexico, bringing loggers, miners and others to enjoy its rich natural resources.

### Plants and Animals

In the midst of the formations, clinging to the cracks and crevices high on the cliff face, the vibrant green leaves and red bark of the manzanita shrub stand in sharp contrast to the muted colors of the rocks. A hardy evergreen, the manzanita produces a pinkish-white flower in the spring that adds to the plant’s luster. Other desert plants found in the area include Indian paintbrush, Apache plume, rabbitbrush, and desert marigold.



Manzanita—used for medicinal purposes by Indigenous peoples.

Depending on the season, you are likely to see a variety of birds. Red-tailed hawks, ruby-crowned kinglets, house finches, violet-green swallows, hepatic tanagers, and an occasional golden eagle soar above the area or use piñon-covered terrain near the cliffs.

The ponderosa pine and piñon-juniper woodlands provide habitat for big game and nongame animals. Elk, mule deer, and wild turkey frequent the higher elevations. Coyotes, chipmunks, rabbits, and ground squirrels are also prevalent.

### Getting There

The monument includes 5,610 acres of public land located 35 miles south of Santa Fe and 52 miles north of Albuquerque, with the most direct access from Interstate 25. From Albuquerque, take the exit for Santo Domingo/ Cochiti Lake Recreation Area (Exit 259) off I-25 onto NM Route (SR) 22. Follow the signs on SR 22 to Cochiti Pueblo and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument. Turn right into the Cochti Visitor Center for check-in and wait for a pilot vehicle to escort visitors to the access road, Tribal Route 92, which connects to BLM Road 1011/FS 266. From the entry booth, travel 4 miles to the monument’s designated parking/ picnic area and trailhead. Recreation vehicles (RV’s) are not suggested on the gravel road leading to the Veterans’ Memorial Scenic Overlook and Loop Trail.

From Santa Fe, take the Cochiti Pueblo Exit 264 off I-25 onto NM Route (SR)16. Turn right off SR 16 onto SR 22 and follow the signs to Cochiti Pueblo and KKTR.

GPS coordinates: 35°36’52.0”N106°21’33.2”W

A portion of the 4-mile access road to the monument crosses Pueblo de Cochiti tribal land. Neighbors in the vicinity include the Santo Domingo and Jemez Pueblos, private landowners, and the Santa Fe National Forest. Please respect these landowners and their property. Restrictions are posted.

### National Recreational Trail

The National Recreational Trail is for foot travel only, and contains two segments that provide opportunities for bird-watching, geologic observation, and plant identification. Both segments of the trail begin at the designated monument parking area. The Cave Loop Trail is 1.2 miles long, rated as easy and portions are ADA accessible. The more difficult Canyon Trail is a 1.5-mile trek up a narrow canyon with a steep (630-ft) climb to the mesa top for excellent views of the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, and Sandia Mountains and the Rio Grande Valley. Both trails are maintained;



The House Finch is commonly seen at the monument—the male has a bright red chest while the female is brown with bold streaks.



Recreationalists enjoy the unique rock formations along the Slot Canyon Trail.

however, during inclement weather, the canyon may flash flood and lightning may strike the ridges.

### Veterans’ Memorial Scenic Overlook

The Veterans’ Memorial Scenic Overlook was dedicated in 2004. The overlook provides spectacular vistas of Camada and Peralta Canyons, the Dome Wilderness, and Jemez Mountains. From the main trailhead parking area, travel 3.5 miles west on BLM 1011 to the Veterans’ Memorial Scenic Overlook parking area. The overlook offers a quiet area for contemplation and reflection. Road conditions and access are seasonal. At the overlook, you will find Accessible picnic areas, rest rooms, trails, and facilities.

### Your Safety, Our Concern

**STAY ON DESIGNATED TRAILS.  
NO CLIMBING ON ROCK FORMATIONS OR INTO CAVE.**

Volcanic deposits, tuff rock, and vegetation are extremely fragile and easily damaged by foot traffic. *Your two feet may not seem like much, but multiply that by thousands!*

**Emergency Assistance  
Call 911 for the Sandoval County Sheriff’s Office**

### Water

There is no drinking water available at the monument. Please bring your own drinking water. Glass containers can be hazardous and are best left at home.

### Weather

During periods of inclement weather, the access road may wash out or become impassible. Contact the BLM or the monument for current road conditions.

### Pueblo de Cochiti

Please respect the traditions and privacy of the Pueblo de Cochiti. Photography, drawings, and recordings are not permitted in the Pueblo or on Tribal land without permit.

### Rules and Fines

**For the health and safety of all visitors**, please leave dogs and drones at home. Identifiable service animals are welcome.

**Strictly prohibited: climbing and defacing the formations and cave, shooting, collecting plants and rocks.**

The monument is a Day Use Only area—No camping, fires, or cooking is allowed.

Fines range from \$50 to \$250 for violating federal regulations on fees, speeding, damage to the monument’s natural resources, and other infractions. Call BLM Law Enforcement for additional information or a complete list of rules and regulations.

### Visitor Services

#### Lost and Found

Check for lost and found items at the monument fee booth or call the BLM Office at 505-761-8700.

#### Amenities

The monument has ADA compliant rest rooms, picnic facilities, and kiosks; however, there is no drinking water.

### Nearby Convenience Stores

**Pueblo de Cochiti Visitor Center**—Located at the corner of Highway 22 and Route 85 for refreshments.

#### Golf Course, Gas, and Camping Facilities at Cochiti Lake

An ATM machine, refreshments, and gas are available at the convenience store located near the town of Cochiti Lake. Camping, boating facilities, and RV hookups are available at the Cochiti Lake Recreation Area.



Seven Dwarves hoodoo formations with blooming Apache Plume nearby.

Bureau of Land Management  
Albuquerque District, Rio Puerco Field Office  
100 Sun Ave. NE  
Pan American Bldg., Suite 330  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
505-761-8700  
www.blm.gov/new-mexico