



Visiting Moon House

Know before you go

Moon House is in the Moon House/McCloyd Canyon Recreation Management Zone (RMZ). Special rules apply:

- Day-use permits from Recreation.gov required year-round. Cedar Mesa day hiking passes are not valid.
- No dogs.
- No fires or overnight camping.

Permits or passes are not required for [dispersed camping](#) along Snow Flat Road. For more information about overnight use on Cedar Mesa, visit [Kane Gulch Ranger Station](#) (open seasonally) or contact the [Monticello Field Office](#) at 435-587-1500.



Overlooking the rim of McCloyd Canyon

Route description

Moon House is not an easy hike. Although the hike is short, the trail has sections of moderate exposure, loose sand, and steep slickrock.

The trail is marked by cairns. Please do not add or remove cairns, they are regularly maintained by BLM staff.

Moon House is in a high-altitude desert canyon. Temperatures can reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer or drop well below freezing during the winter. Come prepared with plenty of water, snacks, and appropriate clothing/footwear.

The most difficult section of the trail is located ½ mile from the trailhead. It requires downclimbing a steep slickrock ledge onto an unstable pile of rocks. A fall here could potentially result in serious injury and/or death. A short rope is handy to help lower packs.

If you feel uncomfortable at this part of the trail, use binoculars to view Moon House from a distance.

Expect the hike to take up to two hours one way or four hours round trip.



The "crux" of the hike, a steep sandstone ledge that ends in a four-foot drop. Use friction to help lower yourself.



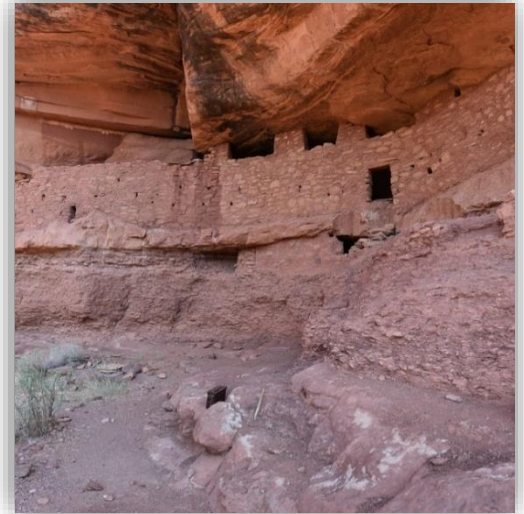
How to minimize your impact

Moon House was built over 700 years ago. Although it is remarkably well preserved, increased visitation and careless use has impacted the site.

As you approach the site, you will notice a large outer wall. This outer wall creates an interior corridor or courtyard. Inside this courtyard are several adobe-plastered rooms, including the "Moon House."

Help protect Moon House by following these rules:

- You are allowed to enter the courtyard; Do not enter any interior rooms.
- Only four people are allowed inside the courtyard at a time.
- Do not touch, deface, or damage walls or rock art.
- Do not disturb or remove any objects from the site.



Moon House outer wall

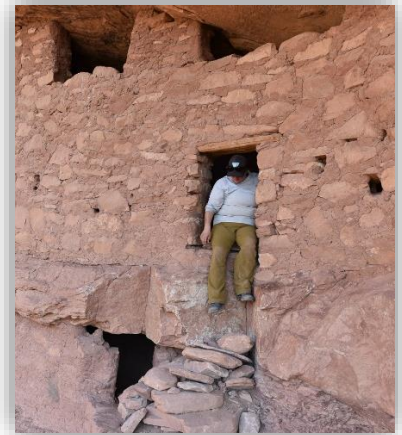
How to exit and enter the courtyard



1: Drop backpacks and other bulky items outside the entrance.



2: Place both your hands on the flat stone at the doorway and push yourself inside.



3: To exit, sit down on the flat stone at the doorway and "scoot" out.

Please do not pull on the walls to enter or exit the courtyard!



A view inside the Moon House courtyard

Visit with Respect

Bears Ears National Monument is home to one of the largest concentrations of pre-Columbian sites in North America. These sites still hold an important place in the cultures of Indigenous people throughout the Southwest.

Please visit Moon House, and other cultural sites you may encounter on your travels, with respect.



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