

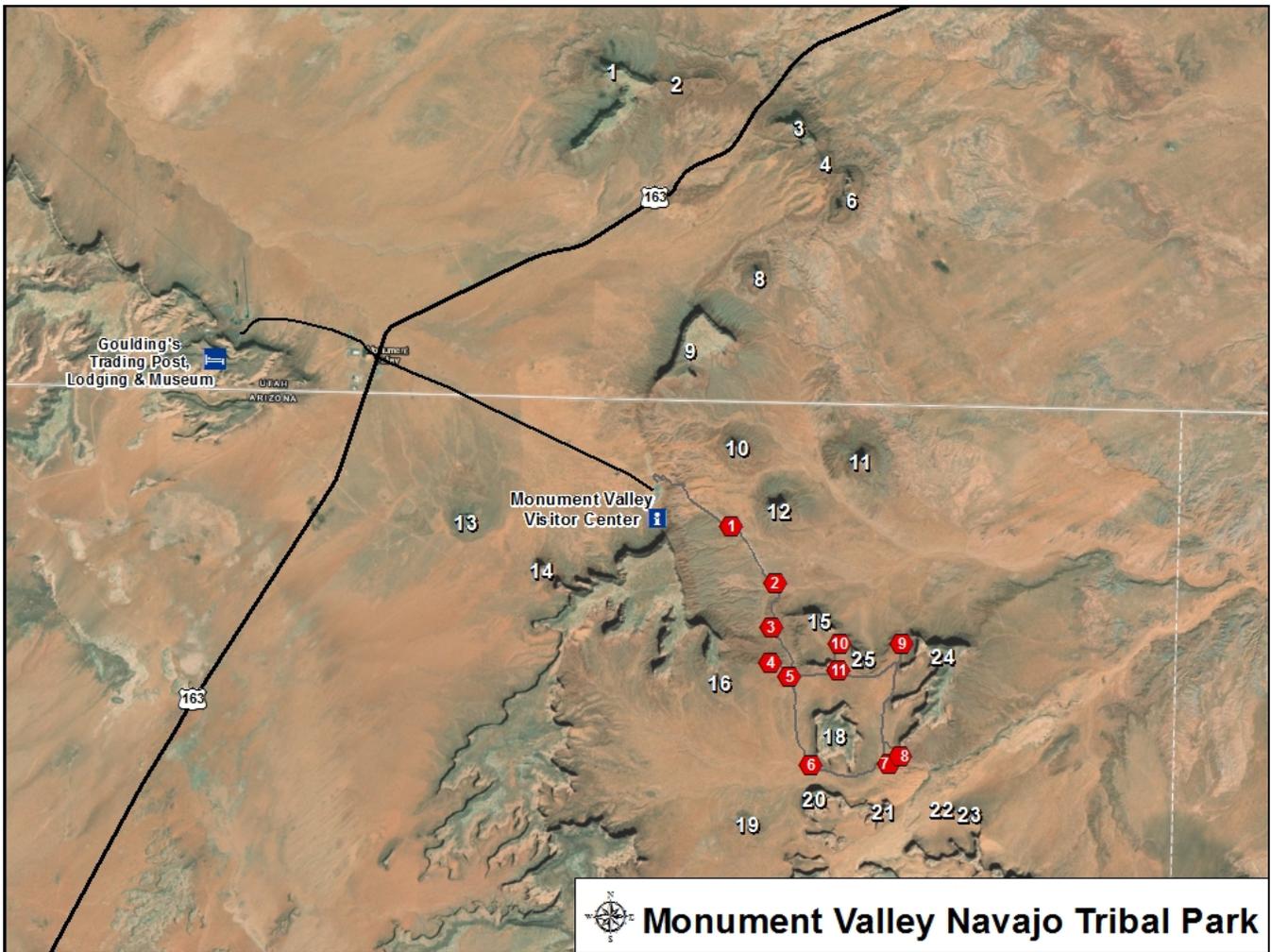


New Mexico, USA

  @CityofAztec

Monument Valley

The park consists of massive mesas, buttes and spire rock structures that collectively form Monument Valley. These rock monuments have descriptive names. Many of the names were created by the early settlers of Monument Valley based on people or creative imagination while other names portray a certain meaning to the Navajo people.



Many of the more famous rock monuments can be viewed from a distance from Goulding's Lodge / Trading Post or closer from the Monument Valley Visitor Center. To get the real experience, a drive on the scenic drive loop is a must. On this 17 mile loop, are several stops to provide visitors with great photographic opportunities.

View from Goulding's Lodge / Trading Post

Map	Named Formation	Description
1	Eagle Rock	The west end of this butte looks like an eagle perched.
2	The Setting Hen	This rock formation appears like a sitting hen.
3	Brigham's Tomb	Named after Brigham Young, the famous Mormon leader.
4	The King and His Throne	This butte looks like a king sitting on his throne and viewing the valley to the south.
5	Stagecoach	This butte looks like a stage coach with luggage atop.
6	Bear & Rabbit	This twin butte looks like a bear and rabbit sitting together.
7	Castle Butte	This butte looks like a castle in silhouette.
8	Big Indian	Look carefully and you can make out the face of a native American viewing the valley to the south/southeast.

View from Monument Valley Visitor Center

Map	Named Formation	Description
9	Sentinel Mesa	The main mesa which oversees the front of Monument Valley. It is considered by the Navajo as one of the "door posts" to Monument Valley.
10	Left Mitten	The western most mitten butte. For the Navajo, it represents the male spiritual being as he looks to the east towards the female.
11	Right Mitten	The eastern most mitten butte. For the Navajo, it represents the female spiritual being as she looks to the west towards the male.
12	Merrick Butte	Named after two soldiers, Hearndon Mitchell and Robert Merrick, serving under Kit Carson. They became prospectors and were killed in 1879 for attempting to mine silver in one of the sacred places.
13	Mitchell Butte	
14	Gray Whiskers	A translation of the Navajo word dághaa' libáí meaning gray whiskers, it is named after a Navajo medicine man. It is considered by the Navajo as the second "door post" to Monument Valley.

Scenic Drive Loop

Stop	Named Formation (Map #)	Description
1	West Mitten Butte (#2) East Mitten Butte (#3) Merrick Butte (#4)	The most famous and photographed formations in Monument Valley. The Mittens stand nearly 1,000 feet above the valley floor and look like hands. However, for the Navajo these buttes represent spiritual beings watching over the valley.
2	Elephant Butte (#15)	From this stop, this butte looks like an elephant in profile.

Stop	Named Formation (Map #)	Description
3	Three Sisters (#16)	The three columns at the end of Mitchell Mesa resembling three nuns or "sisters."
4	John Ford's Point	This point is named in honor of legendary Hollywood director John Ford, who directed the 1939 classic Stagecoach plus nine other Westerns among the buttes of Monument Valley. It was used by Ford in a scene for the 1956 movie, <i>The Searchers</i> .
5	Camel Butte (#17)	Sandstone butte that from this perspective looks like a camel sitting and facing west.
6	Rain God Mesa (#18)	This mesa marks the geological center of the park. Navajo medicine men pray and give thanks to the Rain God, who stores water for the people. On the south side, you can see dark painted streaks from the natural aquifer that seeps out at the base of the sandstone.
	The Hub (#19)	Symbolizes a hub of a wagon wheel. Navajos see it as a fire place in the center of a gigantic Hogan (a Navajo home).
	Thunderbird Mesa (#20)	Not visible from the stop, this mesa is named for an outline on the east side of the mesa that is shaped like a thunderbird. This insignia can be viewed if one takes a special guided tour.
	Big Chair (#21)	Looking to the southeast, this formation looks like a sofa chair.
7 & 8	Totem Pole (#22)	The tallest of the spires (400 feet) located on the right (south) side of the cluster of pinnacles. It was climbed by Clint Eastwood and George Kennedy in Eastwood's 1975 film, <i>The Eiger Sanction</i> .
	Yei Bi Chei (#23)	The northern pinnacles which are named for their resemblance to the dancers who emerge from the Hogan on the last night of the Navajo winter religious ceremony called "the Night Way."
9	Artist Point	Is a place where artists can create landscape and bring them to life on their canvas.
	Spearhead Mesa (#24)	Name is derived from a spire that looks like a spear of an arrow.
	Cly Butte (#25)	Cly which is Navajo for "Left", is named after a well known Navajo medicine man, he is buried at the foot of the formation.
10	North Window	Overlooks the northern view of the lower valley. On the left is Elephant Butte (#15) and on the right is Cly Butte (#25).
11	The Thumb	A free standing spire to the east and apart from Camel Butte (#17) which looks like a thumb.