

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument



Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument is in southwestern New Mexico near the town of Silver City. It's administered by the [National Park Service](#). The scenes above and at the bottom of the next page give an idea of what this country is like. When I was there in 1989, it was hot in the open land, but cooler in the shaded canyons. The caves were built by the Mogollon people in the 13th century. They could give good shelter from sun and rain, and the canyons look like they could provide protection from attack. The walls were perfect places for artwork.

Unlike most of the other sites I visited, Gila has pictographs, rather than petroglyphs, on its walls. The designs are different from other sites - like Three Rivers, for example - in that there were hardly any examples of sun symbols. Most of the pictures were of human-like forms.



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