



## Arizona Rocks 81

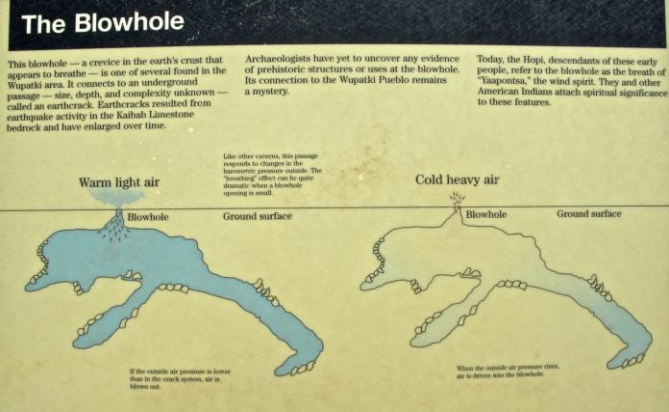
Text and photos by Ray Grant

An unusual geologic feature is a blowhole. Most are found at rocky coastlines and shoot water in the air, but a rare type is one that blows air through a hole on the land surface. There are blowholes at Wupatki National Monument about 30 miles north of Flagstaff. Wupatki is connected to Sunset Crater Monument and when taking visitors, we visit both. The Monument features ruins from pueblos that were lived in 900 years ago. The largest is the Wupatki Pueblo that had about 100 rooms. There is a self-guided ½ mile loop trail that starts at the visitor center and at the end of the trail is a blowhole.

The blowhole is a small opening where air can come rushing out. Kids love it as hats or papers get blown up in the air. I have been there several times and air has been coming out every time but one when there was no flow. The sign says that air can also flow back into the hole depending on the air temperatures and pressures. So when the air pressure in the closed caves system under the hole is higher than the outside air pressure, airflows out, this seems to be most of the time.



Wupatki Pueblo



Blow Hole and getting ready to launch a paper