

Welcome



Chacoan World Road Trip

with Dr. Martha Yates

G24060101

June 2-6, 2024

I'm looking forward to being your instructor and guide for the Ghost Ranch Chacoan World Road Trip. I've been an archaeologist and teacher in the Southwest for over 25 years, which includes as District Archaeologist on the Santa Fe National Forest. During that time, the Chief of the US Forest Service presented to me and the Coyote Ranger District the National Windows on the Past Award for exceptional public interpretation of archaeology. In 2008 I was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and the White House to the Resources Advisory Council to the Bureau of Land Management.

The day of arrival is Sunday June 2, 2024. Check-in time is after 3pm and dinner from 5:30-6:30pm. You can find information about shuttles to Ghost Ranch from Santa Fe by calling 505.685.1000. When you arrive, please check at the Welcome Center to learn where our first meeting that evening will be located. Dinner is served from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, breakfast from 7:30am to 8:30, and lunch from noon to 1pm.

After dinner on the day of arrival we meet for orientation at 6:45pm. The next day, Monday, we spend at the Ranch with lectures and discussion in the morning and the afternoon free to explore the Ranch. This could include visiting the Museums, hiking the Ranch's many trails, a trail ride, or going on the Georgia O'Keeffe tour or one of the other Ghost Ranch tours. You will need to register for them through the Welcome Center by calling 505.685.1000. There is a charge for the O'Keeffe tour. Be sure to sign up soon.

On Tuesday June 4 we have an early departure for Chaco Canyon where we spend the day, then on to our hotel in Farmington, NM.

On Wednesday June 5 we visit Aztec National Monument, a Chacoan Great House, with the only rebuilt great kiva in the world, then drive through the Southern Ute Reservation to Chimney Rock National Monument, an internally renowned ancient Chacoan astronomical observatory. After our picnic lunch we tour the observatory and return to the Ranch for dinner and a final farewell. The last morning, Thursday, June 6, our day of departure checkout is by 10am.

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Here are some things to bring: a FLASHLIGHT, good hiking shoes or boots, water containers (be prepared to carry at least 2 quarts), a small daypack, a good hat and sunscreen, clothes for warm and cool weather, a few pairs of socks and rain gear. RAIN GEAR is important in the high desert where the weather is variable in the spring. It will be cool at night, so be sure to bring a warm jacket and sweater.

Please bring your SENIOR PASSES to the National Parks. And BINOCULARS. They will be useful. And, if you like, a bathing suit— there is a pool at the hotel.

I mention rain gear, which brings to mind an aspect of the trip everyone should be aware of.

Chaco (not the other places we visit) is inaccessible in very bad rainstorms. This doesn't happen often -- about once every four years. If it does, I will have a good alternative for us. Also, it will be hot in the canyon so please plan to hydrate—drink lots of water.

Also, you will be able to leave items in your rooms while we are away. Dinner on the road is not covered by the Ranch.

My three favorite books about the Southwest are: *Prehistoric Astronomy in the Southwest* (Kim Malville), *Indian Givers* (Jack Weatherford) and *The Secret Knowledge of Water* (Craig Childs). The first has chapters on Chaco, Chimney Rock, Hovenweep, and Mesa Verde. The second is the story of food: 85% of the world's foods originated in pre-Spanish South and Meso-America and then spread around the world by the Spanish armada (including the chile pepper, tomato, potato, the pineapple and it goes on and on). The third describes how swiftly conditions change in the Southwest -- from drought to flood.

I have a longer bibliography in case it is useful to you. But please don't feel you need to read before you come. I will be going into the background, history, and archaeoastronomy and giving you a handout as well. The day after you arrive you have the chance to use the Ghost Ranch library with its superb collection on the Southwest.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or email me. I'm looking forward to our trip through Chaco country and to meeting you soon.

With Best Wishes,

Martha

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