

Welcome



Day of Geologic Exploration

G25050111

with Albert Shultz and Peter Barkman

May 9-11, 2025

Welcome to Ghost Ranch and its amazing geology! We look forward to having you join us on this brief introduction to geologic principles and what stories they reveal in this beautiful setting. We will take advantage of some of the trails leading out from the Ranch buildings to see the colorful cliffs and hills up close, and to discuss their place in the region's geologic history. Hiking will be easy to moderate; no special equipment is needed.

Geologic time is challenging to comprehend. Some rocks in our area formed over a billion years ago, volcanoes erupted in the past million years, mountain glaciers disappeared a mere twelve thousand years ago, and landscapes continue changing through weathering and erosion over a human lifespan. The red strata at Ghost Ranch hold fossils of early dinosaurs that roamed here when this place was a lush floodplain. Desert, shoreline, and seafloor environments followed, as did two major episodes of nearby mountain uplift. So much to discover!

Workshop Itinerary:

As this is the summer rainy season, our exact schedule and itinerary will depend on conditions.

Friday, May. 9 – Arrival and check-in, 3-5 pm.

Dinner 5:30 pm.

Welcome meeting and introductions, 7:00 pm

Saturday, May. 10 – Breakfast 7:30 am, meet at Classroom 9:00 am.

Hiking around Ghost Ranch; box lunches.

Dinner 5:30 pm

Evening presentation on geology of northern NM.

Sunday, May. 11 – Breakfast 7:30 am, 10am check-out and departure afterward.

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What to Bring:

- Outdoor clothes for layering
- Hiking shoes or boots
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Water bottle
- Brimmed hat for sun
- Sunscreen
- Notebook

Optional but recommended:

- Camera / smartphone
- Binoculars
- Daypack or shoulder bag
- Rock hammer
- Hand lens (magnifying loupe)
- Hiking poles