

The Heard Guild presents

Chaco Canyon & Mesa Verde Tour

Tour Includes:

Oct. 6th - 11th, 2019

Come explore two of the most significant archeological sites in the United States. Guided by Fred Nials, world class educated geologist, Native American historian, and authority in the fields of archaeology and anthropology.

Our tour will focus on Puebloan archeological sites of the southwest. We'll spend two full days at Mesa Verde, with more than 5000 individual sites, including 600 cliff dwellings. It is the largest archaeological preserve in the U.S. and is best known for structures such as Cliff Palace and Spruce Tree House.

We'll also spend a full day exploring Chaco Canyon, the center of Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) culture 1000 years ago and one of the most impressive archeological sites north of the Rio Grande. The magnificent masonry ruins of this UNESCO World Heritage site encompass six large Pueblos containing over 1600 multi-story rooms, more than 90 Kivas and numerous Great Kivas. Ancestral Puebloans blended work and worship; they were master artisans, farmers, astronomers, traders and skilled engineers, creating an extensive trade network of Pueblos with connecting roads throughout the San Juan Basin and beyond.

Our personal guide, geomorphologist Fred Nials, research focuses on subjects as diverse and as interrelated as the Chacoan road system, the influence of streamflow on Hohokam canals and the effects of environmental variation (El Niño in particular) on cultural development in the Southwest. All along the way, Nials describes the science and the theories surrounding the strategies and techniques Chacoan people used to adapt to their often-challenging environment.

Our exploration takes us not only to well-known sites such as Pueblo Bonito, but to other significant sites are also featured in the immediate region including Salmon Ruins and Aztec Ruins National Monument.

This will be a unique opportunity to visit incredibly rich archeological region with expert interpretation, excellent dining opportunities and accommodations.

- Luxury Motor coach. Professional Guides.
 - Hotels and Tour Expense. All Meals. All Gratuities.
- Tour Highlights:* Hovenweep, Mesa Verde National Park Chaco Canyon, Aztec & Salmon House Ruins.



DAY 1 – Sun. 10.6

PHOENIX – CORTEZ, CO

Departure is 7:30 am from the Heard Museum. We travel direct to Hovenweep with a lunch break in route. We'll explore this complex of Puebloan Villages that are estimated to date as old as 8000 BC. We make the short trip to Cortez and our hotel. Dinner tonight at a local favorite restaurant.

DAY 2 – Mon. 10.7

MESA VERDE

This morning we ascend Mesa Verde. We begin our time with a visit to Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum before exploring Spruce Tree House, the third largest cliff house complex. After a picnic lunch, we check into the Far Away Lodge, the only hotel property in the park boundaries. Dinner tonight in the Metate Room.

DAY 3 – Tues. 10.8

MESA VERDE

Today is spent exploring Mesa Verde to include; Cliff Palace, Far View Ruins, and Balcony House. Dinner tonight TBD.

DAY 4 – Weds. 10.9

AZTEC & SALMON HOUSE

This morning we depart the Mesa and cross into New Mexico to visit Aztec ruins. Consisting of over 400 rooms including an impressive reconstructed Great Kiva. After lunch we travel a short distance to Salmon Ruins. Built by the Chacoan culture in 1088, the village was occupied until 1288 and supported up to 300 inhabitants. We check into the Courtyard by Marriott and dine at St. Clair Winery and Bistro.

DAY 5 – Thurs. 10.10

CHACO CANYON

Today we board vans for drive into Chaco. We'll spend the entire day exploring Chaco including famous sites such as Chetro Ketl, Casa Rinconada, Hungo Pavo, Kin Kletso and the iconic Pueblo Bonito. Farewell dinner at 3 Rivers Eatery.

DAY 6 – Fri. 10.11

FARMINGTON TO PHOENIX

This morning we'll depart for Phx. We'll break for lunch on our way to Phoenix. We return to the Heard Museum by 5:00 pm.