



Chacoan World Road Trip G220531

Dr. Martha Yates

MAY 19 - 23, 2022

Hi Everyone,

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, an advisory council to the Bureau of Land Management.

The day of arrival is Thursday May 19. Check-in time is after 3pm and dinner from 5:30-6:30pm. You can find information about the **Ghost Ranch shuttle** from Santa Fe to the Ranch 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, Friday, we spend at the Ranch with lecture 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 tours.

On Saturday May 21 we have an early departure for Chaco Canyon where we spend the day, then on to our hotel in Farmington, NM, the Hampton Inn.

On Sunday 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 by 5:00pm for dinner and a final farewell. The last morning, Monday May 23, checkout is by 10am.

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

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socks and rain gear. Rain gear is important in the high desert where the weather is variable in fall. 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. But please be aware of this. If this happens, I will have a good alternative for us.**

Also, there will be **limited space for luggage in the van.** It is an overnight trip so you will need to **bring an overnight bag** and leave your larger luggage 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 chile peppers, the tomato, the 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 don't feel you have 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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