

The Pueblo World in A.D. 1200



ITINERARY

SUNDAY, MAY 21

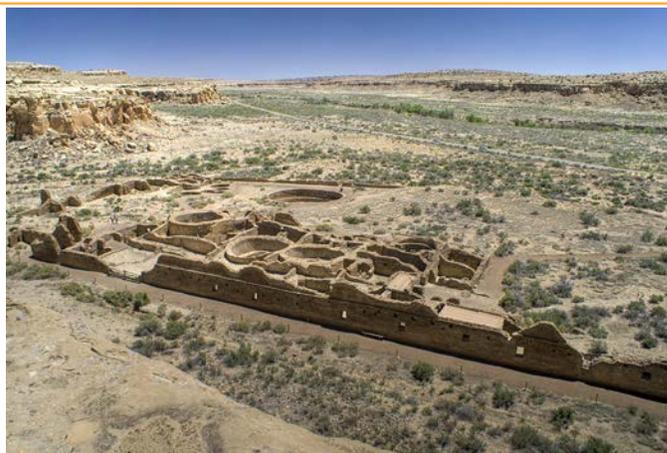
Arrive in Durango, Colorado, by 4 p.m. Drive south to Farmington, New Mexico, for dinner and program orientation. Our scholars introduce us to the history of the ancestral Pueblo people—hunter-gatherers and farmers—who lived in the canyons, mesas, and sage plains of the region between Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon. Overnight, Farmington. **D**

MONDAY, MAY 22

This morning we begin our exploration of ancestral Pueblo culture at Chaco Culture National Historical Park. In the 12th century, this area in what is now northwestern New Mexico was the center of the region's most complex culture; Chaco influenced trade, ceremonial life, and politics throughout the region. We learn about Chaco's great kivas and multistory great houses, as well as the roads that linked Chaco physically and symbolically to other regional centers. This afternoon, we drive north to one of those centers, Aztec Ruins National Monument, where we step into a beautifully reconstructed great kiva. As we hike and explore, we gain an understanding of what archaeologists call "the Chaco phenomenon." Enjoy dinner this evening at St. Clair Winery. Overnight, Farmington. **B L D**

TUESDAY, MAY 23

Returning to Colorado, we explore the remote side of Mesa Verde, the side that lies within the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park. A hundred years after construction ceased in Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde and the surrounding area teemed with activity as Pueblo people built cliff dwellings tucked into natural rock alcoves. Expect a morning of adventure as a Ute tribal member and longtime Crow Canyon educator leads us on a hike to cliff dwellings and rock art panels. Our day concludes with a visit to Notah Dineh Trading Company in Cortez. There, we tour the beautiful museum-



Chaco Culture National Historical Park



Aztec Ruins National Monument



Mesa Verde and its canyons

style showroom and learn about traditional styles of rugs, pottery, and other American Indian arts. Overnight, Cortez. **B L**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

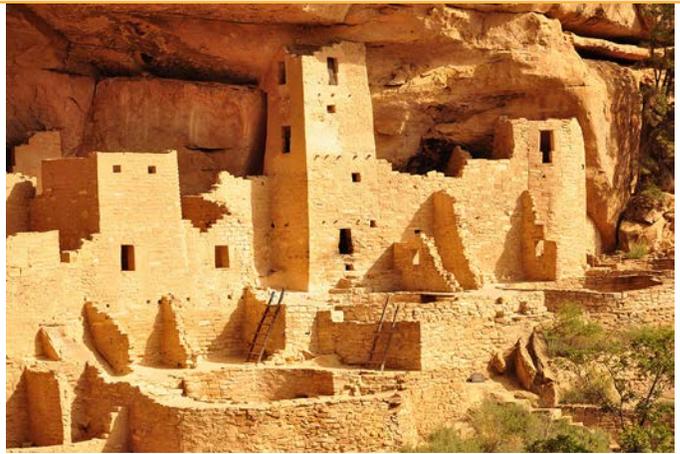
We spend a full day at Mesa Verde National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. After an orientation at the visitor center, we explore more than 600 years of Pueblo history—from mesa-top ruins dating from the earliest Pueblo occupation to cliff dwellings inhabited right before Pueblo people migrated from the region. Our day includes an unforgettable hike to Cliff Palace (1-mile round-trip, with ladders). This evening we enjoy drinks, appetizers, and a sunset view from the patio at Far View Lodge in the park. Overnight, Cortez. **B L**

THURSDAY, MAY 25

Go off the beaten path to Canyons of the Ancients National Monument—a vast area south and west of Cortez. We visit one of the sites where Crow Canyon archaeologists conducted research into the final years of Pueblo occupation in the Mesa Verde region. Back in Cortez, we enjoy a delicious lunch at Crow Canyon, followed by a firsthand look at the Center's archaeological research. Visit a working archaeology lab and tour the Center's new excavation site, a Chaco outlier located just a short distance from Cortez. Here, citizen scientists—members of the public—work alongside archaeologists, contributing to our knowledge of the ancient Pueblo world. Enjoy a farewell dinner in Cortez. Overnight, Cortez. **B L D**

FRIDAY, MAY 26

Transfer to Durango. Depart from Durango anytime after 10 a.m. **B**



Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde



Hiking in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument



A Chaco outlier in southwestern Colorado

B = breakfast, **L** = lunch, **D** = dinner

Itinerary subject to change. Program includes sites that require special permission from the Bureau of Land Management and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

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