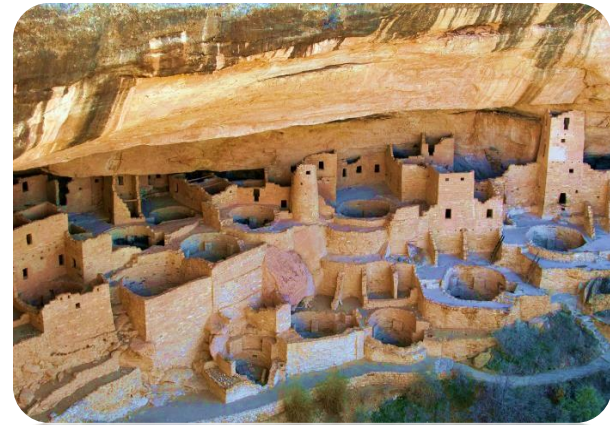




**NATIVE SOUTHWEST
PILGRIMAGE
ITINERARY
SEPTEMBER 2023**



DAY — DATE

SCHEDULE — LODGING

WEDNESDAY/9-20 ARRIVE IN ALBUQUERQUE/WELCOME

Everyone should plan to arrive at the Best Western Plus Rio Grande hotel by 4pm for evening Hors d'Oeuvres, a meet & greet and Pilgrimage orientation. The hotel has an airport shuttle bus for your convenience.

EVENING IN OLD TOWN ALBUQUERQUE

A chance to get your first taste of New Mexican culture in its most authentic Old Town founded in 1706. This is where tourists realize that they are going to be immersed in a wonderfully different culture. Your only job will be to choose from among unique New Mexican cuisine and local craft stores that surround the old town plaza.

LODGING

Our first night at the Best Western Rio Grande is only a ten minute walk from colorful Old Town so you can pace yourself and decide when to turn in...



THURSDAY/9-21 PUEBLO CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

BREAKFAST INCLUDED (Cooked to Order)

Morning Breakfasts will be included at our hotel in Albuquerque.

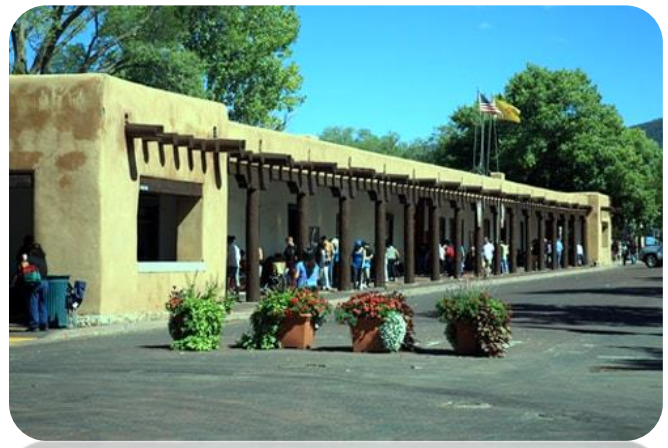
BUS TRIP TO ACOMA PUEBLO

We take our first trip east of Albuquerque to the oldest inhabited site in North America – Acoma, the Sky City. A Native Pueblo guide will guide us through the remarkable history of the pueblo. You will have a chance to visit with local Pueblo artisans and historians while respecting local pueblo customs regarding sacred sites and

LODGING

One more night at the Best Western Rio Grande allows everyone to revisit native craft shops & restaurants of Old Town on your own...





FRIDAY/9-22

A TREK THROUGH THE FABLED RIO GRANDE RIVER VALLEY

GROUP BREAKFAST

Another cooked to order Breakfast is included before departure

TRIP THROUGH THE TURQUOISE TRAIL

We will follow the Sandia Mountains and historic Turquoise Trail towards Santa Fe following the fabled Rio Grande River. Scenic sites will include some of the nineteen Pueblo communities each with their own unique pottery and crafts.

ARRIVAL IN OLD TOWN SANTA FE

Santa Fe, known as the “City Different,” is New Mexico’s cultural capital and sits in the Sangre de Cristo foothills. It is renowned for its Pueblo-style architecture and a world acclaimed center for the creative arts. Founded as a Spanish colony in 1610, its heart is a traditional Plaza with surrounding historic district’s crooked streets that wind past adobe landmarks like the Palace of the Governors, the New Mexico History and Georgia O’Keeffe museums. On arrival, our group will have a walking orientation of the historic district.

LODGING

People the world over make reservations at the historic La Fonda Hotel on the Plaza in the heart of historic Santa Fe. Staying at this Property is truly a step into the past and an experience in itself—where New Mexican art and culture are blended with five star amenities. Google their website to see what you can look forward to...



SATURDAY/9-23 SANTUARIO DE CHIMAYO



BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN BEFORE OUR BIG DAY ADVENTURE

You will want to be well fortified for today's special trip.

TRIP TO THE HEALING PILGRIMAGE SHRINE OF CHIMAYO

A bus trip north of Santa Fe will take us into the enchanting, scenic Pohoaque Valley, canyon lands and historical village of Chimayo. The Santuario of Chimayo will be a special highlight of our Pilgrimage. Here the history of Old and New worlds meet—around an ancient healing site that has had significance for Pueblo, Jewish and Christian traditions. Appreciating the ancient Chimayo healing soil has been an essential part of the Sacred Art of Living teachings. We will also have time to visit some of the unique chili growing, wool weaving, woodcarving and silver-smith crafts carried on by families here since the 16th century.

FIESTA AT RANCHO DE CHIMAYO RESTAURANTE

The unique New Mexican cuisine is featured at this world famous Dining site which has received international awards for authentic Culinary diversity. Experience how traditional New Mexican cuisine differs from stereotypical Mexican food.

LODGING

Yet another night back at La Fonda in Santa Fe...where you will have been staying at the oldest continuously used lodge in North America. You will be surrounded by its unique Santa Fe art gallery throughout every corner, including your own room!



SUNDAY/9-24 FREE DAY TO EXPLORE SANTA FE

BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN

We suggest starting your day with a La Fonda legendary breakfast.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SANTA FE

A day for your own exploration or join us for an optional walking tour of the Old Town will point out the many cultural highlights of Santa Fe. We will visit some locations that have special meaning for our Pilgrimage group like the old historic Cathedral with its Jewish and Moorish influences and the Loreto Chapel with its fabled Miraculous Staircase. You will also be able to note special places to return to that appeal to particular tastes in art, culture and souvenir hunting!

FREE AFTERNOON IN SANTA FE

A chance to create your own 'city different' experience in one of the world's great art capitals with Native, Hispanic and World Art.

LODGING

Final night at the La Fonda on the Plaza. A good night to savor a special meal or drink in the famous glass ceiling restaurant or lounge.



MONDAY/9-25

TRIP TO NORTHERN NEW MEXICO & SOUTHWEST COLORADO

After a Santa Fe style breakfast our bus will depart for the picturesque Sangre de Cristo Mountains and world famous native community of Taos.

TAOS PUEBLO TOUR



No trip to New Mexico is complete without a guided visit to the 1000 year old Pueblo de Taos, one of the great UNESCO World Heritage Sites, is an ancient pueblo belonging to a Tiwa-speaking Native American tribe. Its multi-storied pueblos are considered to be one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in the United States. Our private tour will include an intimate look at the life, culture and living heritage of Taos. When Carl Jung visited Taos in the 1920s he called it "Perhaps the single most impressive spiritual community on the planet."

COLORADO'S ROCKY MOUNTAINS & MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

Our trek into the Southern Rockies of Colorado takes us through extraordinary mountain scenery with stops along the way like the 19th century Western Railroad town of Durango in the San Juan Mountains.



We will end the day in Mesa Verde National Park where we will step back in time and encounter the world famous, ancient Puebloan cliff dwellings. The panoramic canyon views are dotted with archeological sites and the dwellings of the Anasazi Culture of the desert Southwest.

LODGING

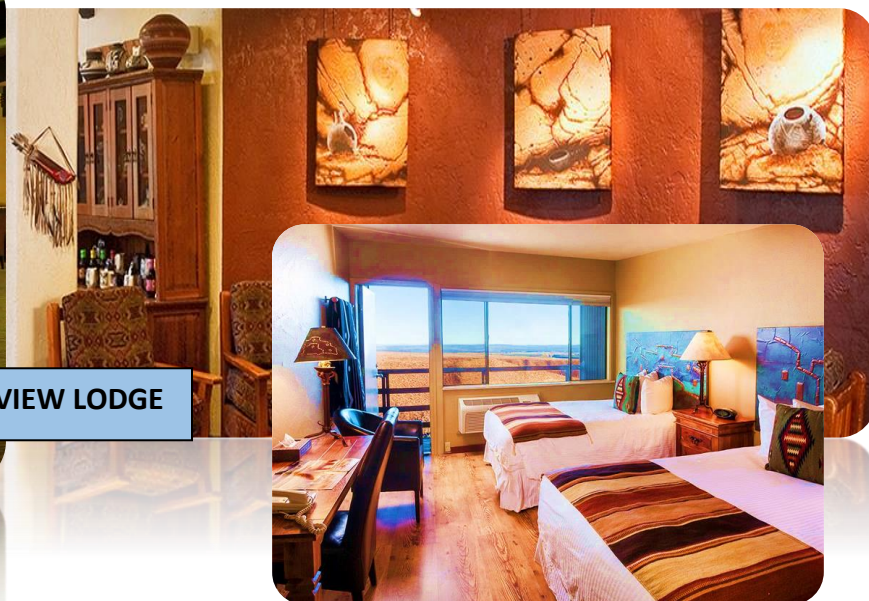
We will end the day at the remarkable Far View Lodge, the only overnight accommodations within Mesa Verde National Park. Our Kiva Deluxe Suites open to a panorama of expansive scenery and the cliff dwellings that will be explored the next day.

EVENING FOR SHARING

A chance to share stories and insights from the Pilgrimage...



YOUR ACCOMODATIONS IN THE FAR VIEW LODGE

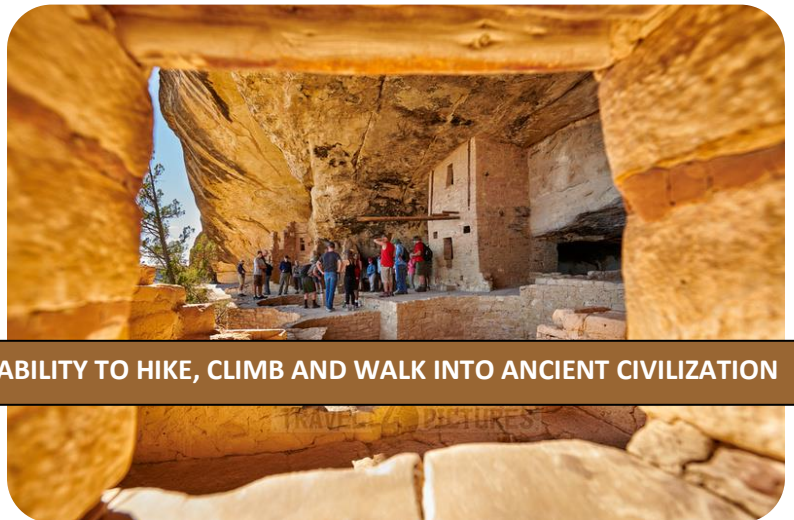




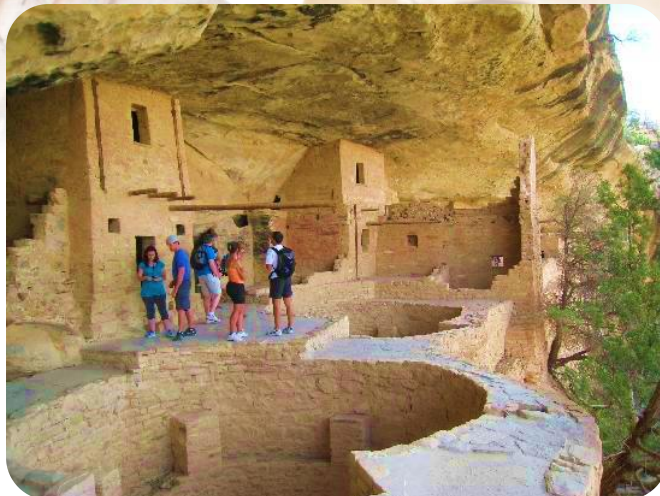
TUESDAY/9-26 EXPLORING MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

ENCOUNTERING A SACRED PLACE: HISTORY & DRAMATIC BEAUTY OF MESA VERDE

For over 700 years, the Ancestral Pueblo people built thriving communities on the mesas and in the cliffs of Mesa Verde. Today, the park protects the rich cultural heritage of 26 Pueblos and Tribes and offers visitors a spectacular window into the past. This World Heritage Site and International Dark Sky Park is home to over a thousand species, including several that live nowhere else on earth. The option to climb cliff side kiva ladders into these sites is unlike any other experience in North America. We will also pace ourselves today as the altitude will vary between 7000 and 10,000 feet!

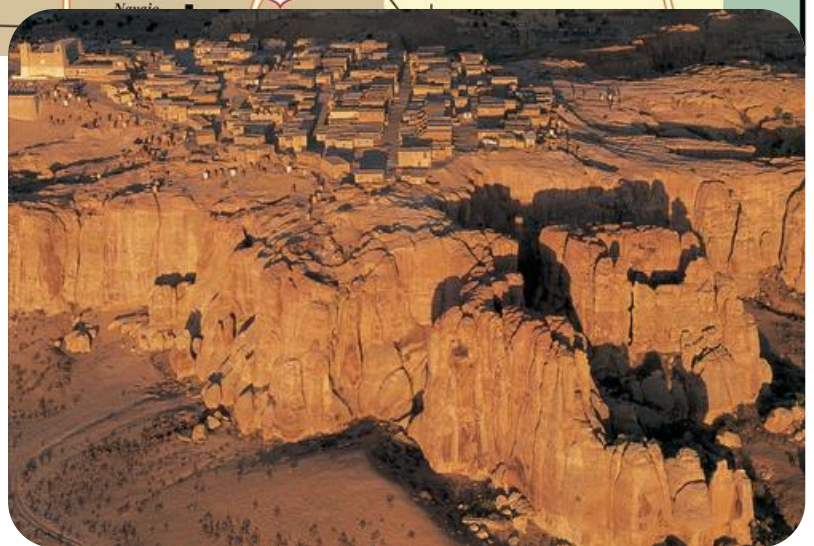


OPTIONS FOR EVERY ABILITY TO HIKE, CLIMB AND WALK INTO ANCIENT CIVILIZATION



WEDNESDAY/9-27 TRAVEL TO THE FOUR CORNERS & THE NAVAJO-HOPI NATION RESERVES

Today we will depart to Monument Valley and Four Corners where the four states of Utah, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico come together. Into dramatic scenery and cultural heritage... the travel today will gradually prepare you for the deep experience at Monument Valley.



THURSDAY/9-28 MONUMENT VALLEY TRIBAL NATIONAL PARK

Our Navajo Tour Guides will take us back in time... where, according to their creation story, the world began. Few places on the planet inspire awe like this massive geography of carved sandstone monoliths. We will awaken to one of the most majestic and photographed sites in the world. Our full day tour will include lunch and many places to stop, listen to stories and encounter the wisdom of an ancient culture that has much to teach us about life on our planet today.

LODGING

We are especially fortunate to have two nights stay at Goulding's Cabins & Lodge, the only accommodations within a hundred miles of 'civilization.' Many of the most famous Western movies were filmed with the giant mesas of Monument Valley in the background. You may never want to leave this place 'in the middle of nowhere.'

EVENING FOR STARGAZING AND DREAMING

Enjoy one of the rare places in the world where more stars of the night sky are visible than anywhere else on the planet. The magic of this location at night will be a lifetime memory!



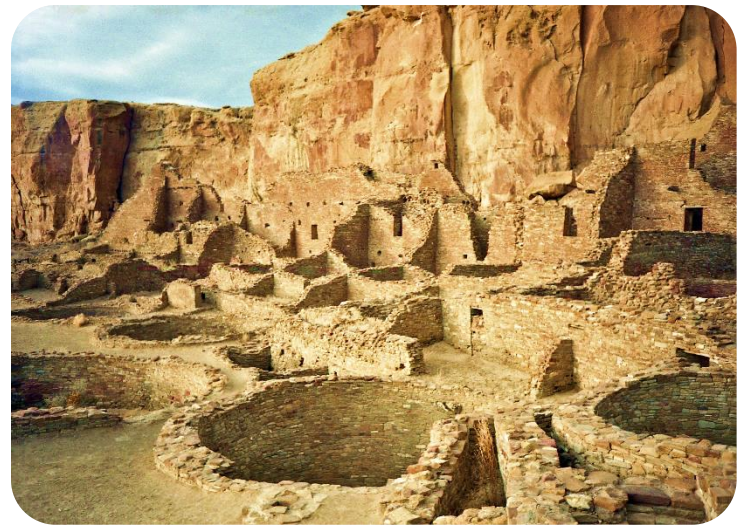
FRIDAY/9-29 FROM MONUMENT VALLEY TO CHACO CANYON WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Today's excursion traverses the picturesque desert landscapes of Arizona and New Mexico. Chaco Culture National Historical Park is a National Historical Park hosting a concentration of ancient pueblos. Located in a remote canyon cut this site contains the most sweeping collection of ancient ruins north of Mexico. The park also preserves one of the most important pre-Columbian cultural and historical areas in North America.

Between AD 900 and 1150, Chaco Canyon was a major center of culture for the Ancestral Puebloans. Chacoans quarried sandstone blocks and hauled timber from great distances, assembling fifteen major complexes that remained the largest buildings ever built in North America until the 20th century. Evidence of archaeo-astronomy at Chaco is a relatively recent discovery with the "Sun Dagger" petroglyph a popular example. Many Chacoan buildings may have been aligned to capture the solar and lunar cycles requiring generations of astronomical observations and centuries of skillfully coordinated construction.

LODGING

Our journey ends back in Albuquerque at our familiar home base, the Best Western Rio Grande allows everyone a final evening in Old Town and a chance to get ready for departures on Saturday. Our hotel can arrange shuttle transportation for you to the airport the next day.



SATURDAY/9-30 PILGRIMAGE CONCLUDES... DEPART FOR HOME



SOME FACTS ABOUT SEPTEMBER SOUTHWEST WEATHER AND HOW TO PACK & DRESS

Our Native Southwest Pilgrimage will take us into high country between 5000 and 9000+ feet in elevation. Normally you can expect dry and warm weather in September with temperatures ranging from 75-85 degrees in the day to near 50 degrees at night. The climate is typical of the Western intermountain region-- dry and rarely humid. Even in the summer months a light jacket is often desirable in the evening.

Everywhere we will visit lends itself to casual dress... even at most restaurants and hotels. Nicer restaurants will prefer no shorts and appropriate tops for men and women. Sturdy foot wear is a must. No one will be required to participate in long, arduous hiking. Some days there will be options for different levels of walking, and transportation options will always be available for persons needing assistance. Because of the high altitude and bright sun, it is good to bring a hat and sun block.