

2012 TRAVEL ADVENTURES

# BACKCOUNTRY ARCHAEOLOGY

## HIKING IN CANYON DE CHELLY

*Discover the rich histories of the Pueblo and Navajo peoples in northeastern Arizona*

**September 16–22, 2012**

The sheer cliffs of Canyon de Chelly have borne silent witness to thousands of years of human history in what today is northeastern Arizona: Pueblo, Navajo, and Euro-American peoples have all left their mark on this mesmerizing landscape. Join archaeologist Kimberly Spurr and local Navajo guides on this hiking tour that examines not only the ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi) occupation of the canyon, but also the significant role that, for more than 500 years, the Navajo (*Diné*) have played in the human history of the Four Corners region. It's an extraordinary opportunity to explore the archaeology of the area with a veteran researcher—and to learn from local Navajo residents about their sense of connection to the ancient sites, the impact of Euro-American expansionism on indigenous cultures, and Navajo life in the canyon today.

*Note: Although Canyon de Chelly is a national monument, it is also home to Navajo farmers and sheepherders who have lived off the land for generations. The monument is jointly managed by the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation.*

### SCHOLAR



**Kimberly (Kim) Spurr**, bioarchaeologist and research director at Past Peoples Consulting, LLC, in Flagstaff, Arizona, has worked on the western Navajo Reservation for more than 15 years, where she has directed several multiyear excavation projects at Archaic, Basketmaker, Kayenta Anasazi, and Sinagua sites.

In addition, local Navajo guides will accompany us on our hikes into the canyons.



**CROW CANYON**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER  
Discover the Past, Share the Adventure

800.422.8975, ext. 160 or 146 • [www.crowcanyon.org/travel](http://www.crowcanyon.org/travel)

**Dates:** Sunday, September 16–Saturday, September 22, 2012

**Tuition:** Member\* \$2,495 • Nonmember \$2,620

**Deposit:** \$400 • Balance due: July 16, 2012

\*Minimum \$100 membership required. For information on membership, visit [www.crowcanyon.org/membership](http://www.crowcanyon.org/membership).

## EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

- How indigenous peoples have adapted to a challenging landscape
- The ancestral Pueblo occupation of Canyon de Chelly, and the rapid depopulation of the canyon in the late thirteenth century A.D.
- Navajo use of the canyon as a refuge from raiding tribes, Spanish explorers, and the U.S. military
- The breadth and beauty of Navajo culture, and what traditional life is like in Canyon de Chelly today
- The irreplaceable nature of archaeological sites, and the importance of cultural resource preservation

## TOUR DETAILS

**Tuition:** Tuition is per person and based on shared accommodations. Tuition includes accommodations, meals listed, entry fees and permits, most gratuities, and transportation from arrival in Flagstaff, Arizona, on September 16, 2012, until departure from Flagstaff on September 22, 2012. Transportation to and from Flagstaff is your responsibility.

**Accommodations:** All nights are spent in comfortable motels or lodges, including four nights at the historic Thunderbird Lodge at the mouth of the canyon. Accommodations are double-occupancy; single accommodations are available for an additional fee of \$440. The dining facility at the lodge is located in the old trading post built in 1896 and offers cafeteria-style dining; because the monument is on the Navajo Reservation, no alcoholic beverages are permitted. During full-day hikes, participants will carry their own lunches.

**What to Expect:** All travel is by Crow Canyon vans and four-wheel-drive vehicles; expect drives on rough dirt roads. This program involves several hikes of up to 6 miles roundtrip, over uneven and difficult terrain, at elevations above 6000 feet. When hiking in canyons, you may encounter precipitous edges or sloping canyon sides. Some trails are not maintained, and you must feel comfortable traversing uneven sandstone, talus slopes, and sand dunes. On two days, we will hike all day and then be driven out of the canyon in 4-wheel-drive vehicles. A commensurate level of physical endurance and hiking skill is required. If you have any doubts about your ability to participate, please contact us and consult your physician.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Sunday, September 16:

Arrival in Flagstaff • Introduction

Arrive in Flagstaff, Arizona, by 4:00 p.m. for dinner and introductions. Kim sets the stage with an overview of the week's activities and a general history of the area. Overnight, Flagstaff. (D)

### Monday, September 17: Flagstaff to Canyon de Chelly • White House Trail and Ruin

As we drive from Flagstaff to the town of Chinle, gateway to Canyon de Chelly National Monument, we begin to appreciate both the human and natural history of the western Navajo Reservation. Our introduction to Canyon de Chelly begins with a hike on the White House Trail, which has long been used for transferring Navajo livestock in and out of the canyon and which also leads to one of the largest and most impressive archaeological sites in the canyon—White House Ruin. Occupied by ancestral Pueblo Indians between A.D. 1070 and 1300, the site is also revered by the Navajo, whose oral tradition identifies it as a home of the *Yé'ii* (holy people or deities). Overnight, Canyon de Chelly. (B, L, D)

*3 miles roundtrip; 550-foot elevation change*

### Tuesday, September 18: Canyon del Muerto

We spend the entire day hiking the upper reaches of beautiful Canyon del Muerto, descending into the canyon via the Pine Tree Trail and climbing out on the Middle Trail. Along the way, we discover numerous ancient ruins and rock art panels, as well as a “planetarium cave,” where stars are painted on the ceiling. How “star ceilings” were created on such inaccessible surfaces—and what the images meant to their creators—has long



**B:** Breakfast

**L:** Lunch

**D:** Dinner

mystified archaeologists. We discuss the history of archaeological research in Canyon del Muerto, particularly the early excavations conducted by Earl Morris at Mummy Cave and Yucca Cave. Returning to the rim at the end of the day, we enjoy stunning panoramic views of the slickrock canyons that cut deeply into Defiance Plateau. Overnight, Canyon de Chelly. **(B, L, D)**

*6 miles roundtrip; 800-foot elevation change*

**Wednesday, September 19: Canyon del Muerto • Antelope House**

This morning we hike down the Bare Rock Trail to explore the lower stretch of Canyon del Muerto. As we walk among Navajo homesteads and peach orchards in the canyon bottom, we discuss the turbulent history of the monument's canyons—in particular, how they were used by Navajos seeking refuge from numerous intruders, including Spanish explorers and U.S. military troops. Perhaps the most well-known incursion took place in 1863, when federal troops led by Kit Carson forcibly removed Navajo families, marching them 300 miles across the desert to Fort Sumner, in what is known as the Long Walk. Not until 1868 were the Navajos allowed back, and today about 80 extended families use the canyons within the monument. Hiking upstream, we stop at an ancestral Pueblo site called Antelope House, where we discuss the rapid depopulation of the region by Pueblo peoples in the late thirteenth century. At the end of the day, we return to the

canyon rim via four-wheel-drive vehicles. Overnight, Canyon de Chelly. **(B, L, D)**

*5 miles one-way (return in four-wheel-drive vehicles); 600-foot elevation change*

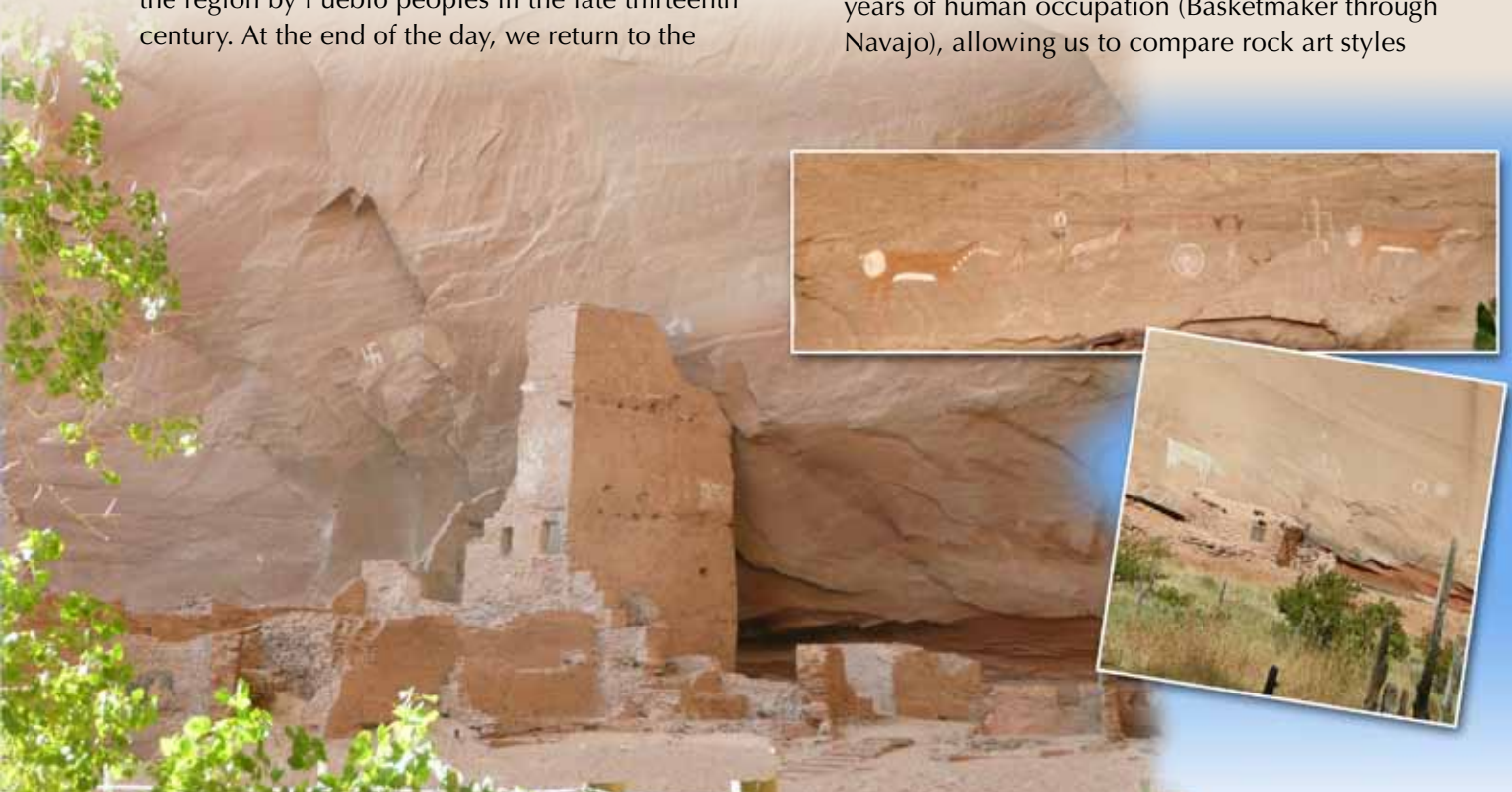
**Thursday, September 20: Spider Rock • Two Ladder House**

Today we hike Bat Trail from the canyon rim down to the confluence of Canyon de Chelly and Monument Canyon. There, towering almost 1,000 feet above the canyon bottom, is Spider Rock, home of Spider Woman—the holy being of Navajo legend who used a loom made of sky and earth and tools made of sunlight and white shell to teach the Diné the art of weaving. After exploring sites around the base of Spider Rock, we continue upstream into Monument Canyon to view a seldom-seen ruin, Two Ladder House, nestled inside an alcove high above the canyon floor. Four-wheel-drive vehicles transport us out of the canyon. Overnight, Canyon de Chelly. **(B, L, D)**

*5 miles one-way (return in four-wheel-drive vehicles); 600-foot elevation change*

**Friday, September 21: Newspaper Rock • Navajo Home • Chinle to Flagstaff**

This morning we take a short hike into the canyon by way of the Tunnel Trail, stopping along the way to view Newspaper Rock, one of many rock art panels in Canyon de Chelly. The images span nearly 2,000 years of human occupation (Basketmaker through Navajo), allowing us to compare rock art styles



through time. The rest of the morning is spent with a local Navajo family, listening to their personal stories, traditions, and connections to the sacred landscape. After lunch, we return to Flagstaff for a farewell dinner. Overnight, Flagstaff. **(B, L, D)**

*3 miles roundtrip;  
600-foot elevation change*

### **Saturday, September 22: Departures from Flagstaff**

Departure may be scheduled for any time after breakfast. **(B)**

***Itinerary subject to change.***



## **TOUR RESERVATIONS**

**Phone:** Call **800.422.8975, ext. 160 or 146**, Mon–Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mountain Time).

**Online:** Use the secure reservation form at [www.crowcanyon.org/travel](http://www.crowcanyon.org/travel).

**Please Note:** Online requests are subject to availability. Your credit card will not be charged until your registration is fully processed and confirmed by Crow Canyon.

**Late Reservations:** To secure reservations on a trip for which the final payment deadline has passed, full payment by credit card is required at the time of your reservation. Last-minute reservations are subject to space availability and may require the payment of late fees.

**Cancellation:** All cancellation requests must be made in writing to Crow Canyon Registrar, 23390 Road K, Cortez, CO 81321-9408, or e-mailed to [travel@crowcanyon.org](mailto:travel@crowcanyon.org). Cancellations become effective on the date received. The following penalty schedule applies: On or before July 16, 2012: \$200 handling fee; after July 16, 2012: forfeiture of all payments.

**Group Size:** Our programs are designed for small groups. A minimum number of participants is required for each trip. If this minimum is not reached by the final payment date, you may be offered several options: pay a slightly higher program price, select another program, or receive a full refund. Please contact us to check program status prior to making your travel arrangements.

The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center's programs and admission practices are open to applicants of any race, color, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

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