

Welcome



Hiking the Harmonies

G25030506

with Connie B. Burkhart

April 2-6, 2025

Hello and welcome to 'Hiking the Harmonies of the Land'.

My name is Connie B Burkhart and I am thrilled to have you join me for this unique experience as we hike and explore the heart and soul of Ghost Ranch. With over 28 years of instructing various workshops at Ghost Ranch and decades of leading wilderness/archaeology/geology expeditions with other organizations through the 4-corners region, I am excited to have the opportunity to share this amazing location in the high desert of northern New Mexico with you. Ghost Ranch is indeed a place that begs for exploration, so here we go!

This workshop will be a blend of hiking, stories of the land and its people, and adventure through exploration of rare sites of Ghost Ranch and the surrounding area. You will be led off the marked trails with stories of the history, geology, and archaeology of the region. Hikes will be between 2 to 4 miles in one day. You will be on uneven terrain over 6,500ft elevation.

Time will be given to find quiet space in the wilderness, where the experience is often more about the journey rather than the destination we are heading toward. There will be time to breathe and sit in silence to hear the songs of the desert on the wind. We will pay attention to the ancient stories of the land and people and there will be opportunities to explore and discover the treasures of this land, possibly witnessing fossils or artifacts that speak of ancient days.

The day you are scheduled to arrive, I look forward to meeting you at evening orientation after dinner, where we will circle together and discuss the days to come. Our adventures will start the following morning with an overview of the geology of northern New Mexico. We will then leave for our first adventure and eat our lunch on the trail. We usually arrive back at the ranch around 3 pm. Depending on the weather, we may be away from the dining hall for lunch on multiple days, which means that we will pack our sack lunches after breakfast before we head out in the van for our destination of the day. Of course, food is provided for us, but if you want extra snacks on the trail, you may bring them along.

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GHOST RANCH



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When we have lunch out on the trail, we should arrive back at the ranch around 3 pm so you will have some free time before dinner. During the week, you might enjoy the O’Keeffe Landscape Tour or a horseback ride – find a tour or ride info at ghostranch.org. Thursday is the best day to book afternoon tours or rides since we come back to the ranch for lunch.

Please find below a list of things that would be good to consider having for this adventure. Some items are available to purchase at the Ghost Ranch trading post, down the road at Bode’s General Store, or at the Family Dollar store you’ll see as you near Abiquiu. Also included below is a SAMPLE itinerary. Weather will dictate our final itinerary and length of time out on trails. Hikes will range from 2 to 4 miles, with spring storms being our main focus of concern and safety.

We are going to have a wonderful experience together. I look forward to sharing some of my most cherished areas and stories of the ranch with you. Please don’t hesitate to contact me for any other information that you may need.

Take Care and enjoy your day,

Connie Burkhart ~ 505 484-9887

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Hiking the Harmonies of the Land – Sample Itinerary.

Daily Options may vary due to weather or ranch road access

DAY 1 / ARRIVAL DAY: Evening orientation AFTER dinner and a break out circle to meet one another and begin our journey together. We’ll go over the schedule for the week as well.

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DAY 2:

9 am – 3 pm Pack a lunch after breakfast, then meet at 9 am.

Geology overview lecture, then hike. Bring your water, lunch, and rain gear if needed, and prepare to be out in the wild and return to the ranch for the afternoon free time.

LECTURE - Where am I? A brief orientation of the lay of the land, the rocks, the rivers, and the volcanoes - let the stories begin.

HIKE - Visit one of several AWESOME destinations. Pack a lunch. Prepare for good things!

EVENING – Free

DAY 3:

9 am - Noon: HIKE - Out on one of the spectacular trails and locations - back for lunch at the ranch. Afternoon free.

EVENING – Bluegrass coffee house

DAY 4:

9 am - 3 pm Pack a lunch, bring your rain gear, water, etc and prepare to be out in the wild until about 3pm.

CIRCLE UP/ 4:30 pm- Giving Circle before dinner

EVENING ~ Bluegrass Concert

DAY 5: DEPARTURE after breakfast – I know, I always want it to last longer, too!