

Welcome



Chacoan World Road Trip

with Dr. Martha Yates

G25050402

May 26-30, 2025

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 to the Bureau of Land Management.

Arrival day is Monday May 26, 2025. Check-in time is after 3pm. You can find information about shuttles to Ghost Ranch from Santa Fe 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. Breakfast is from 7:30am to 8:30, lunch from noon to 1pm, and dinner 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

After dinner on the day of arrival you meet for orientation at 6:45pm. The next day, Tuesday May 27th, is spent at the Ranch with lectures and discussion in the late afternoon and with the morning free to explore the Ranch. Your morning and early afternoon could include visiting the Museums, hiking the 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 O'Keeffe tour. Be sure to sign up soon. Tuesday evening we will meet again to talk about the following day.

Wednesday May 28 we have an early departure for Chaco Canyon where we spend the day exploring Pueblo Bonito, Casa Rinconada and the Canyon's petroglyphs, then on to our hotel in Farmington, NM.

On Thursday May 29 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 Chacoan astronomical observatory. After our picnic lunch we tour the ancient observatory and return to Ghost Ranch for dinner and a final farewell. The last morning, Friday May 30, is departure day with checkout 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 socks and rain gear. RAIN GEAR is important in the high desert where the weather is variable in the spring. 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.

Welcome



Chacoan World Road Trip

with Dr. Martha Yates

G25050402

May 26-30, 2025

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 five years. If it does, I will have a good alternative for us. Also, it will be hot in the canyon so please plan to hydrate—drink lots of water.

You'll be able to leave items in your rooms at Ghost Ranch while we are away on the overnight trip. Dinner on the road is not covered by the Ranch.

My three favorite books about the Southwest are: *Prehistoric Astronomy in the Southwest* (McKim 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 Mesoamerica and then were spread around the world by the Spanish armada (including the chile pepper, tomato, potato, the pineapple and it goes on and on). The third describes how swiftly conditions change in the Southwest -- from drought to flood.

I'll provide a longer bibliography in case it is useful to you. But please don't feel you need to read before you come. I'll be going into the background, history, and archaeoastronomy and giving you a handout as well. And, you'll be able to use the Ghost Ranch library with its superb collection on the Southwest.

If you have any questions, please 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

505.690.2661 myatesarchaeology@gmail.com

Welcome



Chacoan World Road Trip

with Dr. Martha Yates

G25050402

May 26-30, 2025

Workshop Itinerary:

Monday, May 26 Check in at 3pm, dinner and orientation

Tuesday, May 27 9am Museum tour
 11:15 History tour
 3:30-5:30 Lecture in Agape Gathering
 6:45 -8:30 Lecture

Wednesday, May 28 Early breakfast and on the road to Chaco by 8am
 All day at Chaco (picnic lunch)
 Spend the night in Farmington, NM

Thursday, May 29 Morning at Aztec Ruins and afternoon at Chimney Rock, CO
 Back to Ghost Ranch for dinner

Friday, May 30 Check out 10am