



## WEAVING FOUR CORNERS: THE ART OF NAVAJO BASKETRY

April 20 – 28, 2020

### DAY 1: Monday, April 20, 2020

Arrive Durango, Colorado

Rochester Hotel & Leland House in Durango

Meals: Dinner

Welcome to Durango, our gateway to the Four Corners area! Arrive in time for a welcome reception (3:00 – 5:00 p.m.) at the **Center of Southwest Studies** located on the campus of Fort Lewis College. We'll take a private tour of the collections with director **Shelby Tisdale**, and examine a selection of Navajo baskets and textiles with trader **Jackson Clark** from Durango's Toh-Atin Gallery. Afterwards, we'll enjoy our first dinner together at Cypress Café.

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### DAY 2: Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park

Holiday Inn Express in Cortez, Colorado

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

The 13th century was the “classic” period for the Mesa Verde region and distinguished by the famous cliff dwellings—residences and public spaces ingeniously built into natural rock shelters in steep canyon walls. Today, we'll visit several well-preserved and seldom-visited sites in the **Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park**, a vast and remote area of canyons and mesas located near popular Mesa Verde National Park. Guided by a Ute tribal member, we'll enjoy an exclusive tour of prehistoric Pueblo (Anasazi) cliff dwellings and historic Ute rock art. Please note that participants will need to be in good physical shape to hike and climb tall ladders. At the end of the day, we will enjoy a farm-to-table dinner at The Farm Bistro in downtown Cortez.

### DAY 3: Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Bluff, Utah

La Posada Pintada Boutique Inn in Bluff

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We'll get an early start and travel into the red-rock canyon country of southeastern Utah. Along the way we'll stop at Castle Rock Pueblo, an ancient Pueblo village in **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument**. The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center conducted excavations at Castle Rock in the 1990s. Their work focused on Pueblo Indian culture of the A.D. 1200s, including the conditions that contributed to the depopulation of the Mesa Verde region by the end of that century.

We'll arrive at Bluff in time for lunch at Twin Rocks Café where we will meet our teachers, master-weavers **Evelyn Cly and Peggy Black**. The Simpson brothers, **Steve and Barry**, are owners of **Twin Rocks Trading Post** and they will provide an introduction to the history of basket weaving and contemporary developments in the craft, after which we'll begin our weaving projects with Evelyn and Peggy. In the evening, as the sun sets, we'll enjoy watching how the light changes on the magnificent red rock bluffs, which surround Bluff—this is an inspiring area for photographers and painters.

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### DAY 4. Thursday, April 23, 2020

Bluff, Utah

La Posada Pintada Boutique Inn in Bluff

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today we'll spend the morning working on our projects with Peggy and Evelyn. After lunch, we'll take a break and visit the banks of the beautiful **San Juan River** to identify sumac, the material used for Navajo basket-weaving, in its natural environment, and learn about the techniques for harvesting and preparing basket-weaving materials. We'll also visit nearby **rock art panels with a local archaeologist** who will explain the symbolism behind the petroglyphs and pictographs we'll see. Enjoy dinner on your own and some time at your leisure.

### DAY 5: Friday, April 24, 2020

Bluff, Utah

La Posada Pintada Boutique Inn in Bluff

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we'll spend another morning working on our projects with Peggy and Evelyn. After lunch, we'll take a break and travel to Blanding to visit the exhibits at **Edge of the Cedars State Park and Museum**. We will meet curator **Jonathan Till**, and enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the collections, examining prehistoric baskets, textiles, and pottery. Nearby in **Bears Ears National Monument**, we'll take a hike to an archaeological site near **Comb Ridge**, a spectacular sandstone spine that spans nearly 80 miles and can be seen from space. This evening we'll enjoy dinner at a favorite local restaurant, Comb Ridge Bistro.

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### DAY 6: Saturday, April 25, 2020

Monument Valley

La Posada Pintada Boutique Inn in Bluff

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

We'll have an early start today so that we can enjoy an up-close-and-personal tour of the iconic landscape of **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park**, known to the Diné (Navajo) people as *Tsé Bii Ndzisgaili*, or "Clearing Among the Rock." Guided by a Navajo tribal member, we'll drive through the soaring spires and geologic marvels and learn about the ancient sites and rock art panels created by both ancestral Pueblo and Navajo people. A barbeque lunch is included. At the end of the day, participants will have a chance to relax and enjoy dinner on their own.

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### DAY 7: Sunday, April 26, 2020

Bluff, Utah

La Posada Pintada Boutique Inn in Bluff

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning Evelyn and Peggy will guide us through the completion of our projects. After lunch, we'll take a break and walk across the street to **Cow Canyon Trading Post** where owner and trader **Liza Duran** will talk about her history in the arts and will invite a **featured Navajo artist** to meet our group and discuss his or her work.

Late in the afternoon, we'll drive up the dramatic switchbacks of the **Moki Dugway** to the top of Cedar Mesa in **Bears Ears National Monument** and take in a breathtaking view from the edge of the world. We'll enjoy the view with a picnic dinner (weather

permitting). We'll reflect on our journey of art and culture and bid farewell to our teachers and hosts. On the drive back to our hotel, we'll stop to gaze at the magnificent star-filled night sky.

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### **DAY 8: Monday, April 27, 2020**

Return to Durango

Rochester Hotel & Leland House in Durango

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, we will load luggage and make our way back to Durango. Along the way we've planned a stop at **Hovenweep National Monument**, where we'll spend a couple hours marveling at the extraordinary masonry towers that have withstood the test of time. Hovenweep (Ute word meaning 'deserted towers') is comprised of six prehistoric villages that were once home to 2,500 people in the 13th century. We'll also stop at the **Crow Canyon Archaeological Center** where you can learn about exciting research taking place at the **Northern Chaco Outliers Project** (A.D. 1050 – 1140). The data collected from this project will dramatically increase our understanding of Chaco influence in the Mesa Verde region, changing human/environment relationships during the A.D. 1130–1180 drought, and the emergence and functioning of community centers through time. Then it's on to downtown Durango to enjoy our final dinner at the historic Strater Hotel.

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### **DAY 9: Tuesday, April 28, 2020**

End of program

Meals: Breakfast

Departures following breakfast.