

**2025 SPA FIELD TRIP - A TASTE OF ANCESTRAL PUEBLOAN ARCHAEOLOGY**  
**JULY 6-14, 2025**  
**INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORM (ONE FORM PER PERSON)**

**THIS TRIP STARTS AND ENDS IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING TO ALBUQUERQUE BEFORE OUR ORIENTATION MEETING ON THE NIGHT OF 7/6 AS DESCRIBED BELOW. THERE IS A HOTEL SHUTTLE TO THE BEST WESTERN FROM THE AIRPORT. WE WILL DROP PARTICIPANTS AT THE ALBUQUERQUE AIRPORT/SUNPORT ON THE MORNING OF 7/14 EITHER AT THE DEPARTURE TERMINAL OR AT ENTERPRISE RENTAL CAR (FOR THOSE STAYING ON TO TRAVEL FURTHER).**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

There are only twenty spaces on this trip. We will take the first to register until the spaces are filled, so do not delay, but do read this entire document first. The attached form must be completed by each participant INDIVIDUALLY and emailed to Ken Burkett at [kenburkett@comcast.net](mailto:kenburkett@comcast.net) or mailed to Ken Burkett, Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology P.O. Box 213, New Bethlehem, PA 16242 before **May 15, 2025**. Payment of the \$425 fee for members (\$450 for non-members) is required by **May 15** as well. You may pay online at the SPA website using the PayPal button [www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com](http://www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com) or by mailing a check to Ken. Each member may bring one non-member guest at the SPA member rate. Your fee covers all entrance and speaker fees, seven lunches and one dinner, as well as your share of van rental and gas. All hotels have free breakfast buffets, but most dinners will be the participants' responsibility as will be hotel costs and your transportation to and from Albuquerque. As usual, we are offering this trip at cost to members. Should you have to cancel prior to **June 25, 2025**, we will refund your fee. After that date, we cannot guarantee a full refund.

**GETTING TO ALBUQUERQUE AND BACK:**

The easiest and fastest way to get to Albuquerque is of course to fly. **Each participant will need to book his/her own flights**, and we encourage further Southwest travel if your schedules allow. Economy plane fares from Pittsburgh seem to be below \$500, but book early. Please plan on arrival times that allow for potential delays so that you will have plenty of time to get to the hotel well before our 7:30 PM Orientation meeting on July 6. You can take a hotel shuttle from the airport to the hotel. For departures, if you are departing on July 14, you should plan on an afternoon departure although we expect be able to get you to the airport by mid-morning. Please note that you will need a real ID or a passport to fly.

If by any chance you are planning to drive to Albuquerque, please contact Sarah Neusius at the following email. [sraahneusius@gmail.com](mailto:sraahneusius@gmail.com). We have not arranged for anyone to leave cars in Albuquerque at this point.

Please share your travel plans with us via email as soon as you have made them so we can coordinate as best as possible.

**HOTELS:**

**You must book these hotels yourself. We have reserved a room block in each case which provides a rate deduction. You should call the hotel and indicate that you are with the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology block of rooms. Please note the dates after which you will not be able to get the group rate vary but we recommend you make all reservations by the earliest release date, which is June 19.**

**On JULY 6 (leaving July 7)**

Best Western Airport Albuquerque InnSuites Hotel & Suites  
2400 Yale Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM, 87106  
GROUP RATE: 2 Queens/1King = \$127.46 including tax

**Book by June 19**

Hotel Direct Number [\(505\) 242-7022](tel:5052427022)

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotels-in-albuquerque/best-western-airport-albuquerque-inn-suites-hotel-suites/propertyCode.32066.html](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-albuquerque/best-western-airport-albuquerque-inn-suites-hotel-suites/propertyCode.32066.html)

**On JULY 7 (leaving July 8)**

Best Western Territorial Inn and Suites

415 South Bloomfield BLVD

Bloomfield, NM 87413

GROUP RATE: 2 Queens/1King = \$151.71 including tax

**Book by June 30**

Hotel Direct Number (505) 632-9100

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotels-in-bloomfield/best-western-territorial-inn-suites/propertyCode.32104.html](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-bloomfield/best-western-territorial-inn-suites/propertyCode.32104.html)

**From JULY 8-12 (5 nights leaving on July 13)**

[Best Western Turquoise Inn & Suites](#)

535 E Main Street, Cortez, Colorado 81321

GROUP RATE: 2 Queens/King = \$132.31 with tax (Suite option = \$152 with tax)

**Book by June 19**

Hotel Direct Number (970) 565-3778

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotels-in-cortez/best-western-turquoise-inn-suites/propertyCode.06009.html](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-cortez/best-western-turquoise-inn-suites/propertyCode.06009.html)

**On JULY 13 (Leaving July 14)**

Days Inn by Wyndham

107 North Camino del Pueblo Drive

Bernalillo, NM

GROUP RATE 2 Queens \$117.12 with tax, 1 King \$112.10 with Tax

**Book by June 29**

Hotel Direct (505)-588-0583

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn/bernalillo-new-mexico/days-inn-bernalillo/overview>

**ITINERARY:**

The field trip officially starts at **7:30 PM on Sunday, July 6** at the Best Western Airport Albuquerque InnSuites Hotel & Suites (see #4) in a meeting room TBD by the hotel. We will give a brief introduction to the archaeology of the Four Corners area, and we will distribute a detailed itinerary at that time.

**Our current plans are as outlined here, but it is important to recognize that they are not finalized, and details may change. This year federal archaeology activities and NPS/BLM staffing are especially uncertain. Fortunately, much of what we have planned is self-guided or at non-federal facilities, and we have some back-up plans if all else fails. We are monitoring the situation for closures and cancellations. Please bring your patience and flexibility and trust we will do our best to make this a worthwhile and fun experience.**

**Sunday, June 6** – Orientation Meeting at 7:30 PM as indicated above.

**Monday, July 7** - We will check out and leave quite early and then drive to Chaco Culture National Historical Park, where we will spend the day. We plan to participate in a ranger-led tour of Pueblo Bonito, have a picnic lunch, and otherwise guide ourselves around the loop visiting other great houses, Casa Rinconada and what interests us in small groups. Late in the afternoon we will drive to Bloomfield, New Mexico, check into our hotel, and find dinner, possibly in Farmington, New Mexico's Old Town.

**Tuesday, July 8** – We will visit Salmon Ruins Museum and Site and have a guided tour of the site, historic homestead, and heritage park. There is also a small museum and gift shop. For lunch, we plan to take you to a highly recommended restaurant in Farmington for classic New Mexican fare. After lunch we will drive to the Four Corners Monument which is part of the Navajo Tribal Parks. We will view the only place in the US where four states meet as well as visit the Navajo vendors at this not to be missed tourist attraction. Then we will drive on to Cortez, Co where we will check into our hotel for our 5-night stay. Dinner and the evening are on your own in Cortez; restaurants are mostly walkable from our hotel.

**Wednesday, July 9** – We will visit the Canyon of the Ancients Visitors Center and Museum (CANM) in Dolores, CO. There are great exhibits here, a large archaeological collections facility as well as information about the large Canyon of the Ancients National Monument. We're still working on activities hoping to include a tour of the collections area, but we will take the short hike to Escalante Ruin and look at the Dolores River Valley, where the Dolores Archaeological Program, with which both Sarah and Phil Neusius worked in the early 1980s, was conducted. We will have a picnic lunch at the picnic area and in the afternoon drive to visit at least two Ancestral Pueblo sites within the monument. Dinner is on your own in Cortez again. We will rendezvous after dinner and view the free Native American dance program that takes place at the Cortez Cultural Center downtown on summer evenings after dinner.

**Thursday, July 10** – We will spend this day with the folks at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (CCAC) on the outskirts of Cortez. This non-profit educational and research center has a mission to make the human past accessible through archaeological research, educational programs, and tribal partnerships. It is a fabulous and fascinating place that has contributed to knowledge of Ancestral Puebloan archaeology significantly. We will spend the morning visiting their lab and other facilities, learn about their programs and research, be served lunch in their dining hall, and then go out to the Haynie site, where their college field school will be excavating. We can spend much of the afternoon meeting the students and staff and learning about this pueblo site. In the late afternoon, we will return to our hotel, and everyone can get dinner on their own in Cortez, but there is an option to return to Crow Canyon after dinner for an evening lecture given to the field school students (topic TBD).

**Friday, July 11** – In the morning we will drive over to Blanding, Utah in order to visit the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum, which has a large collection of Pueblo pottery. Again, we are still hoping to arrange a behind-the-scenes activity, but besides the museum exhibits including visible storage there is a Pueblo village site. We will take the interpretive trail and climb into a kiva when we explore this site. We will have a picnic lunch here in the midst of visiting this site and museum. Then we will return to Cortez in the late afternoon and have dinner and the evening on our own.

**Saturday, July 12** – We will spend this day at Mesa Verde National Park. We have not finalized our activities yet, but we expect to at least include a Ranger led tour of a cliff dwelling, and self-guided visits to some of the sites on Chapin and Wetherill Mesas, as well as visit the Mesa Verde Museum. We will have a picnic lunch during our explorations. We also hope to arrange a group dinner in the park to mark our last night in Cortez. If we cannot book a park venue, we will look for a place in Cortez for a group dinner. We have included the estimated cost of this dinner (without any alcohol) in the SPA fee. After dinner, we will return to Cortez.

**Sunday, July 13** – We need to be checked out and leave early this morning. We will be driving to Aztec, New Mexico in order to spend a full morning at Aztec Ruins National Monument in Aztec, New Mexico. We will view their introductory film and attend a Ranger-led program in the reconstructed Great Kiva. There are exhibits to view as well as a large Chacoan outlier village to explore at this site. We will have a picnic lunch at their picnic area before

leaving in the early afternoon. At this point we will head south for Bernalillo, NM where we will check into our hotel and find dinner.

**Monday, July 14** – In the morning, we will check out and drive directly to the Albuquerque airport where our trip ends. It should be about an hour's drive, but early morning flights home will not be possible. If you are staying on to extend your journey, we will be returning the vans to Enterprise Rental Car as well.

**Other Information:**

This field trip will likely be demanding because of the July heat as well as the high altitudes relative to Pennsylvania. You should expect temperatures in the 90s during the afternoons. We will be walking over some uneven ground and though we have no actual hikes planned, we will cover at least a mile or more during several days. Sometimes we will be climbing around the Ancestral Puebloan ruins and standing for lengthy periods in the sun. However, there may be options for more limited participation when visiting sites. In these conditions, it is easy to become dehydrated because this dry heat can be deceiving. The elevations on this trip usually will vary between about 5300 and 7500 feet though some of the highest points at Mesa Verde are still higher. You may need to adjust to these altitudes especially in the first part of the trip.

It is important to pack light as there is not a lot of extra room for luggage in the vans. There is no need for anything but casual clothing such as tee shirts, hiking pants, and lightweight jeans. Temperatures do drop at night more than they do in Pennsylvania so a light sweatshirt might be helpful. Please bring sensible walking and hiking shoes and light clothing that protects you from the intense sun as well as a rain jacket. **All participants should have a hat, and sunglasses, and carry two water bottles which you can fill in the morning and again at midday.**

**Please also bring any NPS passes you may have as they will reduce the group's fees in some cases.**

We request that all participants be fully vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus; we ask you to indicate vaccination status when applying and will use the honor system rather than require proof. If you are not feeling well, please do not attend.

We recommend that you retain this document for your records and trip planning but return the next page to Ken Burkett along with your check or return the form via email or snail mail and make a PayPal payment on the SPA website.

If you have any questions about the details and arrangements or about whether this trip is for you, please contact Sarah Neusius ([sraahneusius@gmail.com](mailto:sraahneusius@gmail.com)) or at 724 388-0459.

Name
Address
Home Phone (for last minute pre-trip updates) Email address Cell Phone Number (for contact during trip)
SPA Member      Yes              No
Are you fully vaccinated against Covid 19? Yes              No
Are you travelling with anyone else for this trip? Please provide names.
Please indicate dietary needs here. We will try to take these into account in ordering bag lunches.
Emergency contact information: Please provide the name, email, and phone number for someone we should contact in case of an emergency.

The form must be completed by each participant INDIVIDUALLY and emailed to Ken Burkett at [kenburkett@comcast.net](mailto:kenburkett@comcast.net) or mailed to Ken Burkett, Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology P.O. Box 213, New Bethlehem, PA 16242 before May 15, 2025.