

Ancient Pueblos and Rock Art of New Mexico Tour

The Ancient Pueblos and Rock Art of New Mexico Tour from Monday, **May 7, 2018** through Friday, **May 18, 2018** was the major Society tour for the year. Twenty-nine members participated. The tour started in Albuquerque with a side trip to Acoma Sky City, the oldest continuously inhabited community in North America. In Albuquerque the group visited three rock art sites in Petroglyph National Monument and the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology. We were fortunate to visit the archives of the Maxwell Museum where pottery abounded. Lunch was enjoyed at Church Street Café in Old Town Albuquerque.



Group at Acoma Sky City*



Rinconada Canyon Rock Art – animal, bird



*Photos provided by Jan Johansen



Boca Negra Rock Art – birds +, macaw and cage



Piedras Marcadas Canyon Rock Art

From Albuquerque the group went to the Gallina region and enjoyed tours of Nogales Cliff House Trail, Huerfano Mesa and Rattlesnake Ridge. Three archaeologists from the U.S. Forest Service led the groups to the sites and painted a picture of life in the area from approximately 1050 to 1300 BP.



Nogales Pueblo Ruins



Huerfano Mesa



Rattlesnake Tower

Chaco Canyon was the next destination. The highlighted tour was conducted by an archaeologist from San Juna County Research Center and Library at Salmon Ruins,. The one-day tour consisted of a van ride from Bloomfield to Chaco Canyon, lunch and a guided walk through Hungo Pavi, Chetro Ketl and Pueblo Bonito. Some of the group returned for a second day of

touring to visit other ruins. Others visited self-selected sites in the four corners area. Chaco Canyon outliers: Salmon, Aztec, Dein and Chimney Rock were the focus of the next days. The guided tours for Aztec Ruins National Monument, Dein and Chimney Rock were outstanding. We saw several reconstructed and unexcavated rooms and kivas.



Pueblo Hungo Pavi rooms, wall and group



Pueblo Chetro Kettle rooms and kiva



Pueblo Bonito room and plaza



Salmon Ruins kiva and rooms



Aztec kiva and wall





Chimney Rock Great Kiva and group at top

On an unscheduled day some participants visited Durango; others viewed rock art in Crow Canyon near Bllomfield and most enjoyed the introduction to Ute culture at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum in Ignacio CO. Enroute to Santa Fe some stopped at Ghost Ranch to view artifacts from Gallina excavations and others visited El Santurio de Chimayó for a change in pace.



Crow Canyon Rock Art

The final area of exploration was Santa Fe. Here we first enjoyed tours of the Center of New Mexico Archaeology and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. We were introduced to the center's archives - baskets and ceramic, new techniques for radio carbon dating requiring very small samples, archeomagnetic dating techniques, and their native American education program. We were delighted to gain insight into educational materials such as atlatls and bows, basketry, pottery, and bones. The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture featured "Pottery Gallery" - Native American pots from many pueblos, "Stepping out" - the evolution of sandals, "Lifeway of Southern Athabaskans", and "Here Now and Always" - Native Americans in New Mexico.



Center of New Mexico Archaeology

Additional visits to Bandelier National Monument, Pecos National Park, and Pueblos San Marcos introduced more reconstructed and unexcavated rooms, kivas, and churches. Bandelier offered viewing of houses and kivas on the canyon floor and rooms in caves accessed by ladders. Pecos ruins from AD 1000 and the Spanish mission church ruins illustrate an area of historical significance over a long period of time. Pueblo San Marcos is the largest unreconstructed pueblo ruins in the U.S. with 1500 to 3000 adobe rooms.



Bandelier rooms on canyon floor and in caves



Bandelier cave and rock art



Pecos Mission Church and kiva



Pueblo San Marcos group

Rock art was highlighted at Mesa Prieta. Here on a three-square mile mesa extending twelve miles in a northeasterly direction over 100,000 rock art images are estimated to exist. The rock images represent three distinct time periods: Archaic, Pueblo IV and Historic.



Mesa Prieta rock art

The tour concluded on a high note with dinner at Mine Shaft in Madrid. Madrid, a sleepy, touristy town on The Turquoise Trail offered a fitting end to the pueblo and rock art journey. The boom of coal mining ended and it became a ghost town by the 1950's only to be reenergized by an array of artists, crafts people and renegades.