

THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

WITH DR ROBERT WEINER



**FAR
HORIZONS**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS

Updated October 2025





DISCOVER THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

with Dr. Robert Weiner



Tour the Four Corners of the American Southwest: Canyon de Chelly, Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde, Acoma, Zuni, & Santa Fe

The Four Corners area of the American Southwest is one of the most breathtaking landscapes in the world. It is an enchanting land of painted deserts, verdant forests, and towering red mesas visible for miles under the brilliant sunlight. This area tells tales of ancient Anasazi, colonial Spanish settlements, and Native American pueblos, all bearing testament to a heritage deeply connected with nature and rich traditions.

Embark on an unforgettable ten-day journey with Far Horizons across the mesmerizing Four Corners, where New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona converge. Starting and concluding in Albuquerque, New Mexico, we'll explore the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and the impressive Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico.

Chaco Canyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, awaits us, followed by visits to Aztec, and Mesa Verde, another World Heritage Site. In Canyon de Chelly, local Navajo guides lead us on exclusive tours to secluded spots rarely witnessed by most visitors. Notable stops also include Acoma, the US's oldest continuously inhabited town; Zuni Pueblo, known for its historic mission church; and Santa Fe, the country's oldest capital city, brimming with cultural stories.

Rob Weiner is a rising star in Southwestern archaeology, and particularly Chaco studies. His work with Chaco roads, charting their deep cosmologies, is informed by his collaborations with Navajo and Pueblo scholars. He's a brilliant archaeologist, a top-notch educator, and a really decent fellow. – Dr. Stephen Lekson, former study leader

Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Albuquerque, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology

Arrive in Albuquerque by 10am. Transfer to the Best Western Rio Grande Inn. After a welcome lunch, we will enter the University of New Mexico's Maxwell Museum of Anthropology where the director will give a talk and bring out artifacts not normally seen by the public. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner of traditional southwestern cuisine. Overnight for two nights at Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town. (L/D)

Day 2

Coronado, Indiana Pueblo Cultural Center

This morning we drive to Coronado Historic Site, just north of Albuquerque. Here we will see the remnants of the ancient Kuaua Pueblo that prospered here from the late 1300s to the early 1500s, characterized by its multi-story adobe dwellings and intricate kivas.

In 1540, Spanish explorer Francisco Vázquez de Coronado and his expedition passed through the area, marking a significant chapter in the site's history (and namesake). We will explore the ruins of the Pueblo, and the museum and visitor center, housing 14 of the restored kiva murals and various artifacts.

In the afternoon we return to Albuquerque and visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, with time to view the exhibits displaying the history, culture and art of the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico, and watch a display of Pueblo dancing. (B/L/D)

Day 3

Chaco Canyon

An early start this morning for a long but memorable day as we explore remote Chaco Canyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. An archaeological survey has recorded over 2,000 ancient architectural remains within the valley and nearby areas. This arid, treeless arroyo was the center for the Pueblo culture a thousand years ago, and magnificent building complexes still stand as mute testimony to its former grandeur.

An important hub for commerce, the immense road system branching out from Chaco Canyon shows the importance of trade to the area. In complexity of community life, in social organization and architecture, the inhabitants of Chaco Canyon reached heights rarely matched and never surpassed by their kindred in the Four Corners Region. Overnight for one night at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Aztec, New Mexico. (B/L/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 4

Aztec National Monument, Private talk on Point Pueblo

Begin today at the multi-storied Aztec National Monument, situated on the north bank of the Animas River. We will walk through this five-hundred-room complex built almost 1,000 years ago. A highlight will be seeing a large and beautifully restored kiva, an underground chamber used for religious rites. Additionally, this thousand-year-old village is claimed to be the terminus of Chaco Canyon's Great North Road.

Later and if available, we will meet with archaeologist, Linda Wheelbarger, for a specially arranged private talk on her work. She's the excavator at Point Pueblo where a great house with attached great kiva has been discovered. Continue to Cortez, Colorado where we overnight at the Holiday Inn Express. (B/L/D)

Day 5

Mesa Verde National Park

Today we go to Mesa Verde, the first national park set aside for its archaeological treasures. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural site in 1978. Around 600 AD, thriving communities of Ancestral Pueblo people built elaborate stone multi-storied "apartment houses" on the mesas and in the cliffs of the towering canyon walls.

Our full day here is filled with wonder! Cliff Palace with about 150 rooms is the largest rock face dwelling in the park. To reach Balcony House, the adventurous must climb a 32-foot ladder. Spruce Tree House is the third-largest cliff dwelling in the Park and we will be able to look down on it from an adjoining nearby ridge. In the late afternoon, we drive Chinle, Arizona and overnight for two nights at the Best Western Canyon De Chelly. Dinner is on our own. (B/L)

Day 6

Canyon de Chelly

Part of the Navajo Tribal Land, glorious and vast [Canyon de Chelly](#) lies at the junction of two immense canyons. Sheer ruddy sandstone walls rise up to 1,000 feet, towering over arroyos with white sand stream beds. Within caves and recesses, dramatic masonry dwellings were forged, some of them hundreds of feet from the valley floor and reached only by hand and foot holds carved into the rock. These cliff houses, along with exquisite rock paintings and petroglyphs recall the prehistoric culture that once existed here.



The grandeur of this countryside will be truly appreciated as we ride through remote canyons in four-wheel drive vehicles with our private Navajo guide. He will provide us with fascinating insights into the present-day life of the Navajo, or Diné, who still inhabit and cultivate the lush valley floor. After time to rest in the afternoon, we will drive the rim of the canyon and stop for stunning views of the valley. Dinner is on our own. (B/L)

Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 7

Hubbell's Trading Post, Zuni Pueblo

An early departure takes us to Hubbell's, the oldest, continuously operating trading post on the Navajo Nation lands. It offers a unique glimpse into the time when traders served as the main contact to the outside world for reservation dwellers. John Lorenzo Hubbell purchased the trading post in 1878, and the Hubbell family continued to operate it until it was sold to the National Park Service in 1965. Today, the post store still operates and there will be time to peruse the merchandise after the tour of the museum.



After lunch we drive to Zuni Pueblo to visit Hawikuh Pueblo, established in 1400 AD and the Village of the Great Kivas, considered an outlier of Chaco and replete with pictographs and petroglyphs. Hawikuh Pueblo has the distinction of being the first pueblo to be conquered by Coronado. If open to visitors, we will also enter the Zuni Mission Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe, initial construction of which began in the 17th century.

In the late afternoon, drive to Gallup, surrounded by Navajo, Zuni and Hopi lands. Spend two nights at El Rancho Hotel, located on historic U.S. Route 66. This quaint inn, built in 1937 by the brother of movie magnate D.W. Griffith, became the temporary home for many Hollywood movie stars who filmed Westerns in the area throughout the 1930s to 1940s. Their autographed photos adorn the historic two-story lobby. (B/L/D)

Day 8

Richardson's Trading Post, Acoma Pueblo

Gallup, New Mexico is at the heart of Indian Country and renowned for Native American art. For many Native people, the most trusted non-Navajos in the last century were Lorenzo Hubbell and Bill Richardson. Navajo families would come to these merchants to pawn their most treasured jewelry and rugs, some of which had been in their family for generations. Up until the 1970s, this was one of the main functions of trading posts on reservations, to provide a place to keep these family heirlooms safe.

We will visit Richardson's Trading Post, established in 1913, to peruse the fabulous array of Native jewelry, handmade rugs, and pottery on display (and for sale!). Here, we meet privately with a staff member who will tell us about the history of Richardson's and about the vault that safeguards the most valuable pieces of jewelry for the local Navajo population.

We depart Gallup and drive to Acoma Pueblo, perched atop a striking sandstone mesa 367 feet above the valley floor. Known as 'Sky City' and inhabited since the 12th century, it is reputed to be the oldest continuously occupied community in the United States. In 1629, Acoma Pueblo received its first missionary, Fray Juan Ramirez, and under his direction, the San Estevan de Rey Mission, a monumental adobe structure, was built. Our guided tour of the pueblo takes us into the church and through the village. Here, we learn about the customs and way of life as well as the distinctive and famous black-and-white pottery made by the people who continue to inhabit the mesa and preserve this ancient and living site.

We return to Albuquerque and overnight for two nights in the Best Western Rio Grande Inn. (B/L/D)

Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 9

Santa Fe

Today we drive to Santa Fe, a city whose past is a tapestry of Native American traditions, Spanish colonization, American expansion, artistic expression, and cultural diversity. Led by a museum-trained docent guide, we embark on a walking tour of the downtown quarter to learn about Santa Fe's diverse history and how it continues to shape its cultural identity. Return to Albuquerque in the afternoon, with time for last minute shopping in Old Town. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner in one of Albuquerque's renowned restaurants. (B/L/D)

Day 10

Depart the Southwest

Transfer to the airport for our return flights home. (B)

PLEASE NOTE: Occasionally, due to circumstances beyond our control, itinerary changes may occur. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility should this be necessary.



Why Take This Tour?

Private tour of
Canyon de Chelly
with a Navajo guide

Private tour at
Aztec Ruins
National Monument

Private talk by the
archaeologist at
Point Pueblo

Private viewing
of artifacts in the
Maxwell Museum
of Anthropology

Visit **Chaco Canyon**,
a **UNESCO World**
Heritage Site

Explore **Mesa Verde**,
a **UNESCO World**
Heritage Site

Maximum
14 participants



Tour Information

Tour Cost & Inclusions

Price based on double occupancy and includes:

- Internal flights during the trip (if applicable)
- The accompaniment of your scholar throughout the entire trip
- Local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodations (3 or 4 stars; or best available based in the area)
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers for arrivals and departures
- Most meals as noted in the itinerary
- Entry fees to all included sites and museums
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and restaurant and hotel staff
- Coordination for any private presentations or tours

Trip prices are based on a minimum number of participants. If this minimum number is not met, trip prices are subject to change. Should the prices need to change, Far Horizons will reach out to registered guests to discuss directly.

Single Supplement

Should a roommate be requested and one not be available, the single supplement must be charged.

Exclusions

- International round trip airfare
- A separate donation check of \$150.00 per person to a designated donation project
- Passport or visa fees
- Required vaccines or tests
- Airport or departure taxes
- Alcoholic drinks, beverages or food not included on set menus
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal tips and hotel incidental expenses
- Laundry or other items of a personal nature

Donation Checks

As a tour company that benefits from the cultural and natural riches of our destinations, we have a policy of donating to the scientific and cultural sites and projects which we visit. This has created a bond between Far Horizons and the academic and local communities that has helped us establish an extensive list of lecturers and contacts in each of our destinations. We ask that each participant donate to the noteworthy project we designate. The donation amount is \$150.00 per person. Note that the donation is required as part of your registration for the trip and that it is non-refundable.

Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Prices are based on currency exchange rates keeping below a projected level. While it is unlikely, if the exchange rates should change substantially, Far Horizons reserves the right to charge an additional amount to the trip cost.

Registration

A deposit of \$1000 per person is required along with your registration & health forms, which will be linked in the email confirmation you receive once you pay your deposit on our booking platform. Final payment is due 120 days before departure. Prior to departure, you will be sent a reading list and a tour bulletin containing travel information.



Tour Information *(cont'd)*

Cancellation

Cancellations received in writing at least 120 days before departure will receive a refund less a \$500 per person administrative fee.

Cancellations received less than 120 days before the departure date will not receive a refund. If for any reason you are unable to complete the trip, Far Horizons will not reimburse any fees. Upon registering for the tour, the purchase of travel protection with both trip cancellation and emergency evacuation is strongly advised. Links to recommended insurance policies will be included in the email you receive confirming receipt of your deposit.

Expectations During Travel

This tour is designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active, have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. We have designed this trip to be as comfortable as possible, while also aiming to visit some remote or unique sites that other companies do not attempt to include in their itineraries. There may be days where we have very long drives and the conditions of the roads may vary. Hotels and transportation in some remote areas may not be up to western standards. There may be times when no bellhops are available; please pack with the understanding that you need to be able to handle your own luggage at times. Sometimes we may be walking over uneven trails for a mile or more; hiking boots are strongly recommended. Not every meal will be haute cuisine and several lunches may be picnics or box lunches. By maintaining a flexible attitude we will soon be captivated by the beauty of the natural scenery, the hospitality of the local people, and the fascinating sites we will see. Your flexibility and patience will be appreciated.

Air Ticketing

International round trip flights are not included in the cost of the trip. If Far Horizons must change the trip dates or cancel the trip for any reason, Far Horizons is not responsible for any air ticket you may have purchased. Please send your complete air schedule as soon as you have it. NOTE: Please contact Far Horizons if you would like for us to handle your air ticketing.

Private Tours and Talks

The private tours of archaeological sites and talks by specialists are scheduled in advance and include a donation to each. Specialists working at these sites are excited about showing their work to interested enthusiasts. However, please be aware that there may be times when the director or a member of the staff may not be on site when our groups arrive due to other commitments.

Walking and Standing

Far Horizons expects all participants to be physically active and able to walk and climb independently throughout the full touring days. This includes walking over uneven terrain (uphill and downhill) for 2 miles or more at each site. You should expect to be on your feet for much of each day, averaging as much as 5 miles of walking per day. **As such, each participant should be able to walk unaided at a pace of 3 miles per hour for at least an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 60 minutes.** Bearing this in mind, we suggest that, if you have not already done so, you begin walking several miles every day, ideally including stairs and hills. If you have questions about your ability to keep up with the group or the strenuous nature of this trip, please contact the Far Horizons staff.



Tour Information *(cont'd)*

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider purchasing travel insurance. Should illness or an unforeseen event force you to cancel your travel plans after your final payment or during your trip, it would be doubly unfortunate to incur a significant financial loss. Trip cancellation protection will enable you to be reimbursed for the loss of your payment if you are unable to travel for any of the covered reasons in the "Outline of Coverage" section, or should you have an accident or suffer from any medical conditions during the trip.

Far Horizons offers customized protection plans through Travel Insured International (a Crum & Forster Company) with the following benefits:

- Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption for covered reasons
- Trip Delay
- Baggage Loss and Baggage Delay
- Emergency Medical Expenses and Emergency Medical Evacuation
- 24-Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- 24-Hour Travel Assistance & Concierge Services
- Option to upgrade to 'Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR)

We recommend reviewing the language in detail so you are aware of specific parameters; Depending on the policy, to waive the Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion or to upgrade to CFAR coverage, the plan must be purchased within 14 to 21 days of the initial trip deposit, full trip cost must be insured, and traveler is medically fit at time of plan purchase. Otherwise, coverage may be purchased at any time prior to departure.

To obtain a personalized quote and/or purchase a plan through Far Horizons/Travel Insured International, simply click [HERE](#). For specific questions regarding the Worldwide Protector Plan, please contact Travel Insured International's Customer Care Center at 1-800-243-3174 or by email at customercare@travelinsured.com, and refer to Far Horizons' account number: 54070.

Itinerary Changes

Changes in our itinerary, accommodations, and transportation schedules may occur. While we are committed to keeping as close to the published details as possible, sometimes it is simply not possible. Weather events, government affairs, or other factors out of our control sometimes come into play. A good book to read as well as patience, flexible attitude, and a sense of humor are essential.





Meet Your Study Leader...

Dr. Robert Weiner

Robert S. Weiner is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Dartmouth Society of Fellows and Lecturer in the Department of Religion.

His research interests include the archaeology of religion, ritual movement, sacred landscapes, Indigenous North America, Chaco Canyon, Diné (Navajo) oral traditions, monumentality, sensoriality, cross-cultural comparison, and cognition and mind.

His research has been featured on the cover of American Archaeology magazine and in Science magazine. He has also been interviewed for several documentaries on PBS and the History Channel, including most recently Written on the Landscape: Mysteries Beyond Chaco Canyon. Dr. Weiner has directed an archaeological mapping project in the Four Corners since 2019. He has also been a crew member on excavations and surveys in New Mexico, Arizona, and Turkey. Dr. Weiner is the author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. His work has appeared in such journals as Antiquity, American Antiquity, and World Archaeology.

Dr. Weiner received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2023. Dr. Weiner also holds an A.M. in Archaeology and the Ancient World from Brown University and an A.B. in Archaeology and the Ancient World & Anthropology from Brown University.



Journeys That Change Your Perspective

✦ **PHD-LEADERS: Your Scholar Is Your Travel Companion**

We place scholars at the heart of each journey, accompanying you throughout your trip. Our experts transform passive tourism into immersive intellectual adventures, offering insights into ancient civilizations through narratives shared over meals, during site explorations, and in evening discussions.

✦ **EXCLUSIVE ACCESS: Venture Beyond the Velvet Ropes**

We negotiate entry to restricted archaeological sites, private artifact collections, and untold cultural stories, creating experiences that transcend traditional tourism and reveal hidden historical wonders.

✦ **TRANSFORMATIVE TRAVEL: Artifacts to Epiphanies**

We believe the most meaningful souvenirs are invisible. Our expertly guided explorations of ancient sites catalyze deeper understandings of human ingenuity and cultural complexity, creating moments of clarity that forever change how you see past civilizations and contemporary society.

✦ **KINDRED COMMUNITY: Small Groups, Lasting Bonds**

We foster intimate interactions where archaeological passion creates unexpected connections. Through shared discoveries at remote ruins, animated discussions over local cuisine, and collective moments of wonder, our travelers forge friendships that extend far beyond the journey's end.

✦ **BESPOKE JOURNEYS: Crafted, Never Common**

We architect each trip as a masterwork of scholarly travel, balancing intellectual depth with comfort and discovery. Our itineraries reflect research, planning, and refinement to ensure every moment offers something meaningful for the curious mind that standard tours simply cannot deliver.

✦ **LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE: Countless Returning Travelers**

Our 40+ years of archaeological exploration and support for preservation have fostered a deeply personal relationship with our guests, resulting in an exceptionally high return rate that speaks to our individualized attention, and the lasting connections we create with each member of our travel family.



GET READY TO TRAVEL TO THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

WITH DR ROBERT WEINER

Email with Questions

journeys@farhorizons.com

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