



MEJDI TOURS

MEJDI Tours Scheduled Departure

Tour: Lessons in Resilience: Indigenous Communities & Cultures of the American Southwest

Included: 9 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Hotel Albuquerque (Albuquerque), The Inn at Halona (Zuni Pueblo), Homestay (Canyon de Chelly), La Fonda (Santa Fe)
1 expert local Diné guide for 9 days
1 expert local tour leader for 9 days
Private coach transportation for 10 days
Departure airport transfer
Meals listed in the itinerary: 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
US-based customer service representatives

Not included: Airfare
Arrival airport transfers
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Gratuities
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

MEJDI Socially Conscious Experiences & Highlights:

- Meet with a representative of one of the local pueblos at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center for an introduction to the history and culture of the nineteen pueblos of New Mexico.
- Sit down with a member of the Zuni tribe for a discussion about the culture and traditions that are deeply rooted to the topographical features and natural resources of their ancient homeland.
- Visit a Zuni craft cooperative for a pottery demonstration.

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability

- Meet with members of the Zuni tribal council and learn about the tribe's clan system, ceremonial groups, and modern-day legal processes put in place to protect and preserve their culture.
- Tour a local farm and learn about the controversy between the United States government and the Zuni farmers, and the governmental policies and regulations that have resulted in the degradation and loss of natural resources for farming.
- Meet with an organization working to revitalize sustainable Zuni farming, based on traditional values and knowledge, combined with modern technology.
- Visit the Navajo National Museum for a private tour with a curator, and explore the extensive holdings of art, ethnographic, archaeological, and archival materials that depict the complex and colorful history of the Diné people.
- Stroll through the Chihootso Marketplace and Flea Market and sample local delicacies.
- Meet with a representative from Northern Arizona University's Chinley Chapter to learn about the joint agreement for cooperative stewardship of Canyon de Chelly, facilitated by the university between the Navajo Nation, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in which all three entities work together to manage the park and preserve its cultural, economic, and historic significance.
- Set off on an exploration of Canyon de Chelly National Monument by jeep with an experienced local Navajo guide. Learn about the canyon's rich history, see rock art and other unique archaeological sites, hear first-hand stories of life in the canyon, and visit a local family still living a traditional Navajo lifestyle in this rural part of the southwest.
- Stay overnight with a local Diné family in Canyon de Chelly.
- Meet with a representative from the Navajo Area Indian Health Service and learn about systemic economic and health struggles.
- Tour the Acoma Pueblo with a local youth and hear about the rich history, culture, and daily life of Acoma.
- Meet with an elder in Santa Clara who has brought to light the impacts of Los Alamos National Labs on her tribe's land and waters and view the private ceremonial house she's building on her land.
- Over dinner prepared by an award-winning Diné chef, hear from an artist and activist who is promoting the cultivation and consumption of a pre-colonial diet.
- Tour the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology and learn about their efforts to further education and inclusion.
- Meet with a representative at the Indigenous Language Institute in Santa Fe, and hear how the organization strives to empower native communities to learn and share their original languages and provides language related services to ensure their individual identities, traditional wisdom, and values are passed onto future generations through language

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival - Albuquerque, New Mexico

Arrive in Albuquerque and transfer to your hotel (on own). This afternoon, meet your guides and **travel with your group to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center where you will**

meet with a representative of one of the local pueblos for an introduction to the history and culture of the nineteen pueblos of New Mexico. This evening, meet the group for a **welcome dinner**.

Overnight: Albuquerque (D)

Day 2: Zuni Pueblo

After breakfast at your hotel, drive west toward the Zuni Pueblo (2.5 hour drive). **Visit the Zuni Visitor Center and meet with a member of the Zuni tribe for a discussion about the culture and traditions that are deeply rooted to the topographical features and natural resources of their ancient homeland.** Traditionally farmers, the Zuni people are known for their corn and wheat production and also for their high quality silver and turquoise jewelry, baskets, beadwork, animal carvings, and pottery. After lunch, explore the picturesque pueblo and **visit a Zuni craft cooperative, attend a pottery demonstration, and learn about the importance of art in recording the past and preserving the memory of the Zuni people.** Over dinner, **meet with members of the Zuni tribal council and learn about the tribe's matrilineal clan system and esoteric ceremonial groups based on ancestral beliefs as well as modern-day legal processes put in place to protect the Zuni people and preserve their culture.**

Overnight: Zuni Pueblo (B, L, D)

Day 3: Window Rock, Arizona - Canyon de Chelly National Monument

This morning we will **visit a local farm and learn about the controversy between the United States government and the Zuni farmers,** and the governmental policies and regulations that have resulted in the degradation and loss of natural resources for farming, reduction in the number of Zuni farmers and their control over farming resources, individualization of rights in farmland, consolidation of farm fields, and declining biological diversity in agriculture. **Meet with an organization working to revitalize sustainable Zuni farming, based on traditional values and knowledge, combined with modern technology.** Later this afternoon, depart for Window Rock, Arizona (1.25 hour drive), the seat of government and capital for the Navajo Nation, or Diné people. **Visit the Navajo National Museum for a private tour with a curator, and explore the extensive holdings of art, ethnographic, archaeological, and archival materials that depict the complex and colorful history of the Diné people.** Stroll through the Ch'ihootso Marketplace and Flea Market and sample local delicacies. Continue on to Chinle (1.5 hour drive), near Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

Overnight: Canyon de Chelly National Monument (B, L, D)

Day 4: Canyon de Chelly National Monument

This morning, meet with a representative from Northern Arizona University's Chinle Chapter to learn about the joint agreement for cooperative stewardship of Canyon de Chelly, facilitated by the university between the Navajo Nation, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in which all three entities work together to manage the park and preserve its cultural, economic, and historic significance. This afternoon, **set off on an exploration of Canyon de Chelly National Monument by jeep with an experienced local Navajo guide.** Learn about the canyon's rich history, see rock art and

other unique archaeological sites and hear first-hand stories of life in the canyon. **Then, visit a local family still living a traditional Navajo lifestyle in this rural part of the southwest.**

Overnight: Canyon de Chelly National Monument (B, L, D)

Day 5: Kayenta - Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park

This morning, transfer to Kayenta (1.25 hour drive), the gateway to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, and the heartland of the Navajo Nation, supplying most of the nutritional and medicinal supplies to the surrounding Diné communities. **Meet with a representative from the Navajo Area Indian Health Service and discuss how the relationship between the U.S. government and these indigenous communities has led to systemic economic and health struggles.** Discuss the effects of Covid-19 on the Navajo Nation. Learn about the shortage of grocery stores and the scarcity of food and resources across the Navajo Nation that has made it a “food desert.” Discuss the steps being taken to remedy the resulting problems of malnutrition, obesity, diabetes, and other community health crises. After lunch, **set out on a tour of Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park.** Experience these majestic monuments and learn how to best capture photos of these rock formations. Return to Canyon de Chelly this evening.

Overnight: Canyon de Chelly National Monument (B, L, D)

Day 6: Canyon de Chelly – Acoma – Santa Fe, New Mexico

This morning, transfer to Acoma Pueblo (3 hour drive). Known worldwide as Sky City, Acoma is perched high on a mesa top and is known to be the oldest continually inhabited community in North America, dating back to 1150 AD. Here we **will visit the Haak’u Museum and tour the pueblo with a local youth who will share about the rich history, culture, and daily life of Acoma.** In the afternoon, travel to Santa Fe (~2 hours) where you will settle into your hotel and have free time to explore this beautiful and historic city. Meander along quaint, winding streets featuring charming boutiques, restaurants, bookstores, and art galleries tucked into every block. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Overnight: Santa Fe (B, L)

Day 7: Santa Fe

This morning, set out on a **walking tour of Santa Fe’s historic district**, renowned for its eclectic art and Pueblo-style architecture. Founded as a Spanish colony in 1610, Santa Fe is the second oldest capital in the U.S. Walk through Santa Fe Plaza, past the Palace of the Governors and the former site of the obelisk, a controversial war monument removed by protestors on Indigenous Peoples day in 2020. **Visit the New Mexico History Museum, a museum dedicated to preserving the unique multicultural heritage and history of the people, cultures, and communities of the Southwest**, see the oldest church in the United States., and San Miguel Mission. Enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on your own.

Overnight: Santa Fe (B, L)

Day 8: Santa Clara Pueblo

This morning, **visit Santa Clara Pueblo and meet with an elder who has brought to light the impacts of Los Alamos National Labs on her tribe's land and waters.** Santa Clara pueblo (in Tewa: Kha'po Owingeh or "Singing Water Village", also known as "Village of Wild Roses") is a member of the Eight Northern Pueblos of New Mexico. **Experience an intimate look at the women's ceremonial house that our host is establishing on her property.** After lunch, **lend a hand with a community service project,** and then **travel with our host to the nearby Puyé Cliff Dwellings, an extensive archeological site that was the home of the ancestral Tewa people.** Over dinner prepared by an award-winning Diné chef, **hear from an artist and activist who is promoting the cultivation and consumption of a pre-colonial diet.**

Overnight: Santa Fe (B, L, D)

Day 9: Santa Fe

This morning, tour the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology and learn about their efforts to further education and inclusion and to promote the recognition of and appreciation for the diverse peoples of the Native Southwest. **Meet with a representative at the Indigenous Language Institute, and hear how the organization strives to empower native communities to learn and share their original languages and provides language related services to ensure their individual identities, traditional wisdom, and values are passed onto future generations through language.** After lunch on your own, **enjoy an easy hike in the mountains** near Santa Fe, or spend time exploring Santa Fe on your own. Share a final farewell dinner with the group this evening.

Overnight: Santa Fe (B, D)

Day 10: Departure

After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to Albuquerque (1 hour drive) for departures. *(B)*