



Navajo Weaving in Canyon de Chelly

An Exclusive Cultural Odyssey in the Southwest:
Anasazi Ruins, Legendary Trading Posts & Historic Textiles

April 22 - May 2, 2024



A Total Cultural Immersion

- ◆ 4 Days of exclusive Navajo Weaving in Canyon de Chelly at the base of the ruins
- ◆ "Behind the Scenes" Private Viewing of The Durango Collection with over 800 years of Southwest Textiles
- ◆ Two Evening Receptions with renowned Southwest Historians Dr. Andrew Gulliford and Jackson Clark
- ◆ Exclusive Trading Post Visits offering an historical perspective of the Southwest

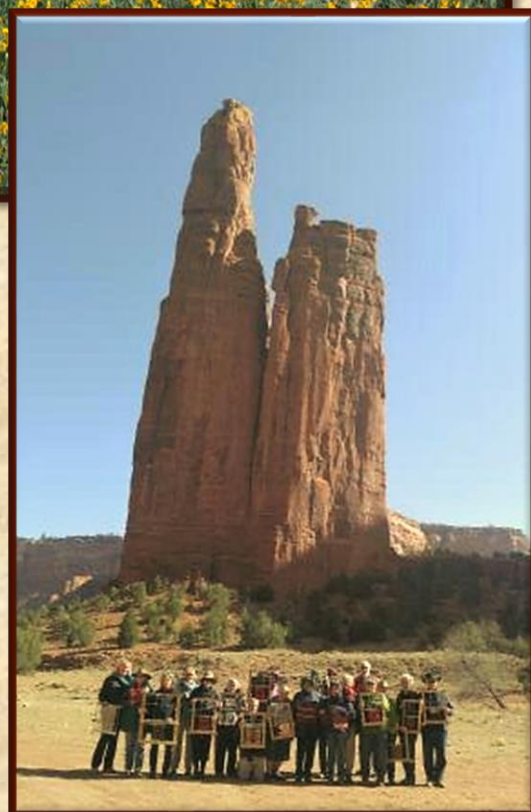




Photo credit ©Joe Coca, Thrums Books



Meet Our Navajo Weaving Mentors...

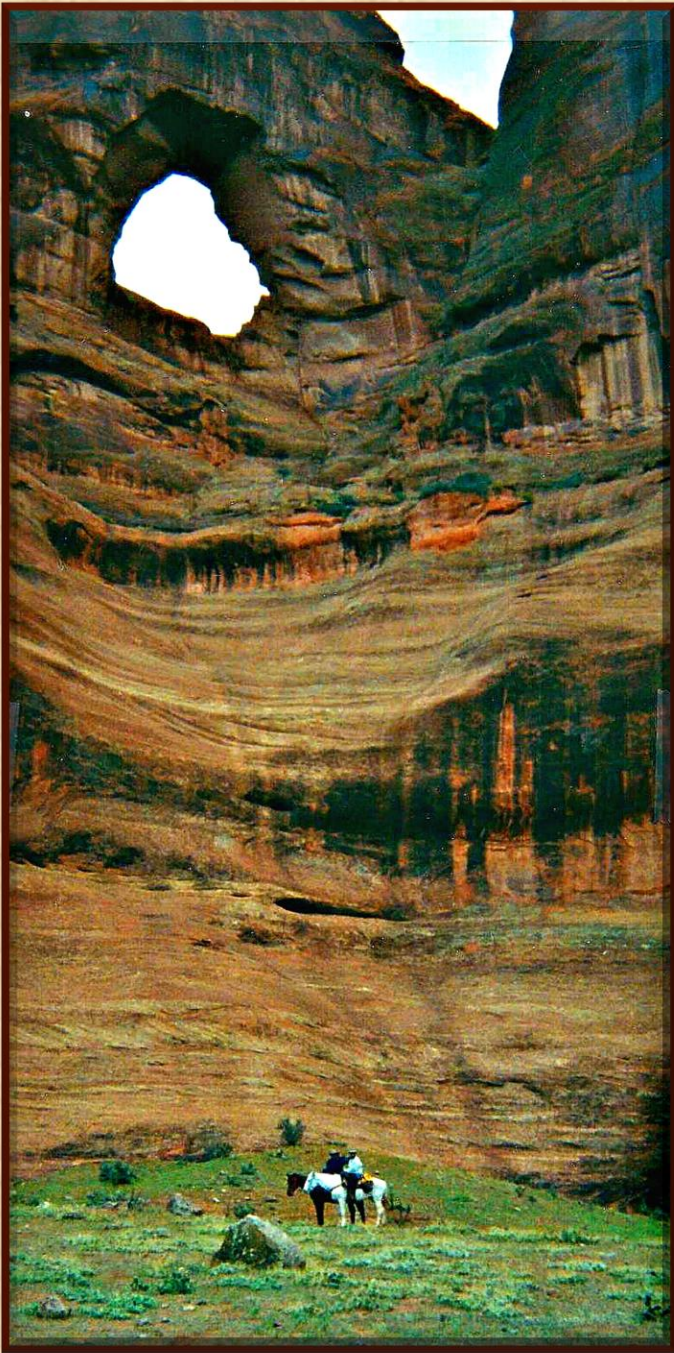
Lynda Teller Pete and Barbara Teller Ornelas are fifth-generation award-winning Navajo weavers garnering international acclaim for their exquisite tapestry weaving. They have been featured in many publications and were the subject of the *Craft in America* television program which Loom Dancer Odysseys helped to set up for filming in Canyon de Chelly on one of our tours. We have been weaving with Lynda and Barbara since 2013.

Two Grey Hills tapestry weavers **Lynda Teller Pete and Barbara Teller Ornelas** are Tabaaha (Water Edge Clan) and born for the To'aheedliinii (Two Waters Flow Together Clan). They have been weaving since they were young girls. While they were children, their mother, Ruth, demonstrated weaving and attracted a constant flow of tourists at the Two Grey Hills Trading Post. Indeed, Ruth Teller's rugs were so prized that tourists often purchased them right off the loom. As children Lynda and Barbara learned weaving through observation. They have been teaching Navajo weaving for more than 20 years and are authors of two amazing books, *Spider Woman's Children*, and *How to Weave a Navajo Rug and Other Lessons from Spider Woman*.

Weaving is a legacy in the Teller family. For over five generations, grandmothers, mother, sisters, aunts, and cousins have produced award-winning rugs and are featured in numerous publications. Lynda and her family are known for weaving rugs in the traditional Two Grey Hills pattern which identified primarily by a double-diamond layout, intricate geometric design using natural colored, hand-carded and hand-spun wool.

Lynda's maternal grandmother, Susie Tom and her paternal grandmother, Nellie Peshlakai Teller made sure their daughters and granddaughters learned the art of weaving. They emphasized many practices, such as respecting the loom; preparing one's own wool via shearing, carding, and spinning; the production and proper care of weaving tools; and paying attention to design elements, always emphasizing the importance of intricate patterns and color combinations. Lynda's mother Ruth Teller, her maternal aunt Margaret Yazzie, and her older sisters, Barbara and Rosann instilled the belief that beauty and harmony should be woven into every rug. Today, Lynda and Barbara continue to carry on this tradition.

In Lynda and Barbara's Navajo weaving workshops, they share their family's rich heritage of Navajo Weaving. Telling their stories, they give the workshop participant a glimpse into seven generations of enduring Navajo weaving. Each of their tapestries tells a story. They are imbued with their hopes, their dreams, their tears, and their laughter.



In traditional Navajo stories, Spider Woman was the first to weave her web of the universe. She taught *Din'eh* (Navajo people) to create beauty in their own life and spread the "Beauty Way" teaching of balance within the mind, body and soul. Canyon de Chelly was her home and it certainly lives up to its legendary beauty and spirit. I often liken it to Yosemite with red rocks. I operated horseback trips into the canyon over the past 18 years and Canyon de Chelly has carved a special place deep in my heart.

Canyon de Chelly, the great stronghold of the Navajo people, is home to over 2,700 archaeological sites within the many canyons of Canyon de Chelly National Monument. Only 13 of the 700 standing ruins have been stabilized, re-enforced, or protected from degradation. Passing through its towering sandstone portals is like entering the gates to another world. Massive cliffs dominate over the wide dry riverbeds lined with olive and tamarisk trees. Seemingly around every corner, tucked into the sheer walls, lie ancient ruins and countless petroglyphs. You can almost hear the voices of the ancients and the laughter of children. Maybe it's because Canyon de Chelly is one of the longest continuously inhabited landscapes of North America; a landscape composed of places infused with collective memory. It is one of the most sacred places I have visited on this earth.

We have the rare opportunity to weave in this ancient utopia among the ruins. Imagine sitting at your loom inspired by the view that has influenced countless Navajo weavers from the beginning of time. Immersing ourselves in the spirit of Canyon de Chelly, we will enjoy four days of hands-on weaving with two Navajo master weavers. At the end of these remarkable days, we will each have our own completed weaving saturated with the magic of this mystical realm. I invite you to join us for a weaving adventure like no other!

Cari Sample Malver
Director



Perfect Itinerary for Non-Weavers, too!

**Additional activities are available
for those not participating
in the weaving workshops...**

*Horseback Riding,
Hiking,
Photography
Monument Valley Visit
and more...*



The Spirit of the Canyon Beckons...



**Come weave
with us**

**in the Spiritual Heart
of the Navajo Nation**



Monday, April 22 To Durango, Colorado

Fly from your home to Durango, Colorado. Upon arrival, you transfer on your own via taxi to your hotel. In the evening, we'll gather for an informative orientation to the history of the Southwest by renowned historian Andrew Gulliford, PHD, Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College (read more about Dr. Gulliford on Page 12) followed by dinner at a local restaurant (included). (D)



Tuesday, April 23 The Durango Collection's Private Vault

This morning is at your leisure to wander around the quaint town of Durango with its many shops and interesting sites. This afternoon, as a group, we will have the opportunity to view the historic weaving exhibit stored in a vault at local Fort Lewis College which represents **The Durango Collection**. This vault will be opened for an exclusive viewing only for our group followed by a welcome reception. Dinner is on your own tonight to enjoy one of the many dining opportunities in Durango. Overnight in Durango. Read more about The Durango Collection at www.swcenter.fortlewis.edu/DurangoCollection/durangocollection.html



Wednesday, April 24

Toadlena Trading Post / Gallup New Mexico

This morning we hit the road bound for **Toadlena Trading Post** for a privileged tour of this unique piece of Western lore with its owner Mark Winters. This historic landmark still operates in the same way trading posts have since the 1870s—directly with the weaver and her family.

We will have a private and exclusive visit here. The story of the Toadlena Trading Post is intricately woven within the story of Two Grey Hills rugs, which



are the specialty of our weaving instructors, Post, trade is carried on locals pay accounts monthly when wool is sheared or when a rug is finished. The trading post works closely with the local weavers of Two Grey Hills continuing the support, encouragement and relationship that was established by the traders before him.

Linda and Barbara. At Toadlena Trading as it has for more than 100 years; the

From here, we travel to **Gallup, New Mexico**, the largest Indian center in the Southwest and the ceremonial capital of Native America. When Francisco Vasquez de Coronado led the Spanish Conquistadors into the Gallup region in 1540, they found a thriving, highly civilized Native American culture already well established. Gallup's modern origins can be traced to the railroads and trading post entrepreneurs of the late 19th century. There are 110 trading posts, shops and galleries in Gallup, making the town the undisputed Southwestern center for original Native American art. We'll spend the late afternoon visiting several of these historic and iconic landmarks. Tonight, we stay at the historic El Rancho Hotel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Loaded with local colorful lore and the charm of the Old West, this atmospheric hotel was the home to many movie stars while filming in the area. John Wayne, Gregory Peck, Katherine Hepburn, Humphrey Bogart and many others chose this hotel. In fact, every room has been named after one of the stars that stayed here. Dinner is on your own tonight. Overnight at the historic El Rancho Hotel. (B,L)

<http://www.toadlenatradingpost.com/index.html>



Thursday, April 25

Hubbell Trading Post / To Chinle



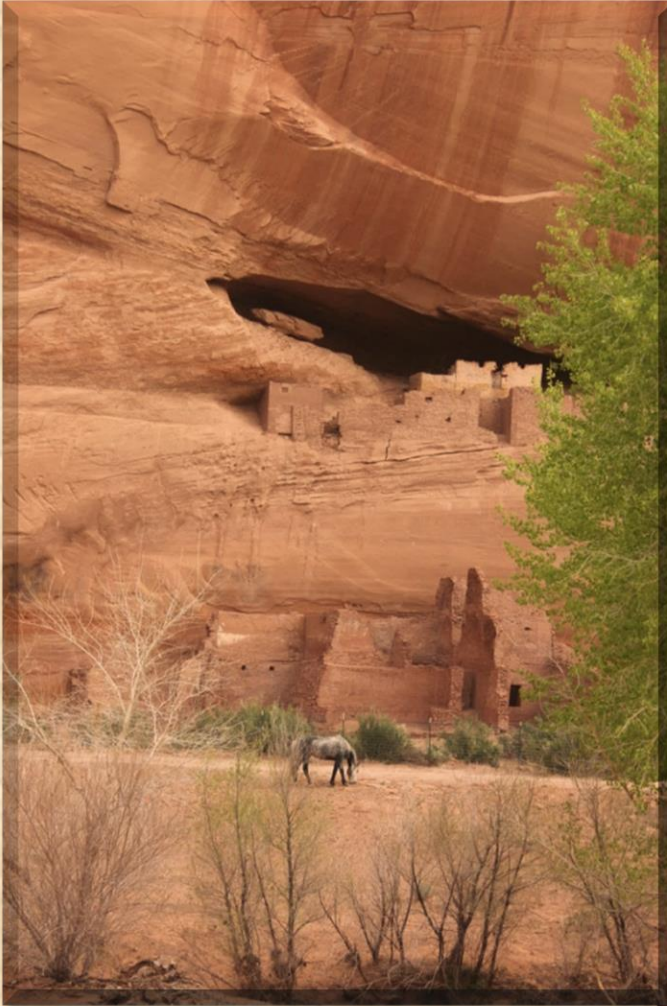
We leave Canyon de Chelly today and travel about 45 minutes south to the **Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site**, the oldest operating trading post on the Navajo Nation. Hubbell's has been serving Ganado selling groceries, grain, hardware, horse tack, coffee and Native American Art since 1878. John Lorenzo Hubbell purchased the trading post in 1878, ten years after Navajos were allowed to return to their homeland from their terrible exile at Bosque Redondo, Ft. Sumner, New Mexico. Hubbell had an enduring influence on Navajo

rug weaving and silversmithing, for he consistently demanded and promoted excellence in craftsmanship. He built a trading empire that included stage and freight lines as well as several trading posts. Nearly everything the Hubbell family owned is preserved for your enjoyment. The buildings are furnished with their belongings and the artifacts are available for researchers. The collection contains over 350,000 individual items including the family archive of 264,000 business records. Here at Hubbell, we can shop for authentic Navajo rugs, jewelry and baskets. We can visit the bullpen of the trading post where the community still shops for food and dry goods. We'll take time to wander through the grounds of the Hubbell homestead and see the barn, bunkhouse, guest Hogan, historic farm equipment, horses, chickens and Navajo Churro Sheep.



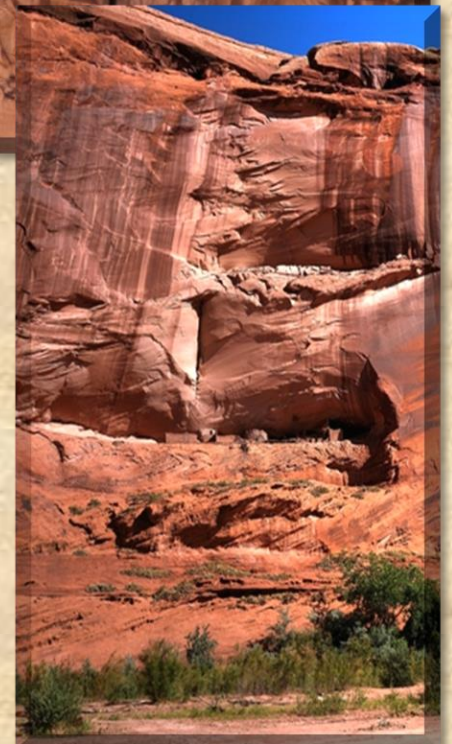
From here we continue on to **Chinle**, the town closest to the entrance to Canyon de Chelly. The name in Navajo means "flowing out" and is a reference to the location where the water flows out of Canyon de Chelly. Overnight at Holiday Inn. (B,L) *(Please don't expect 5 Star accommodations on the Navajo Reservation. The hotels are basic, clean and adequate. The magic is the Canyon itself, not the properties or town.)*

Friday, April 26 Canyon de Chelly Rim, Ruins and Rock Art Tour



This morning we enjoy a **tour around the rim by private van**. Here we will be rewarded with spectacular birds-eye views down into the Canyon which we will explore for the next four days in our weaving workshops. This route provides an entirely different perspective of the splendor of the Canyon. Much of its beauty and significant sites can be seen from the many viewpoints along the two major roads that parallel two canyons.

From here, we will drop down into the canyon for our first look at its ancient magnificence up close. We'll explore some of the fascinating rock art and visit some of the remarkable ruins. Overnight at Chinle Holiday Inn (B,L)



Saturday - Tuesday, April 27 - 30

Weaving in Canyon de Chelly

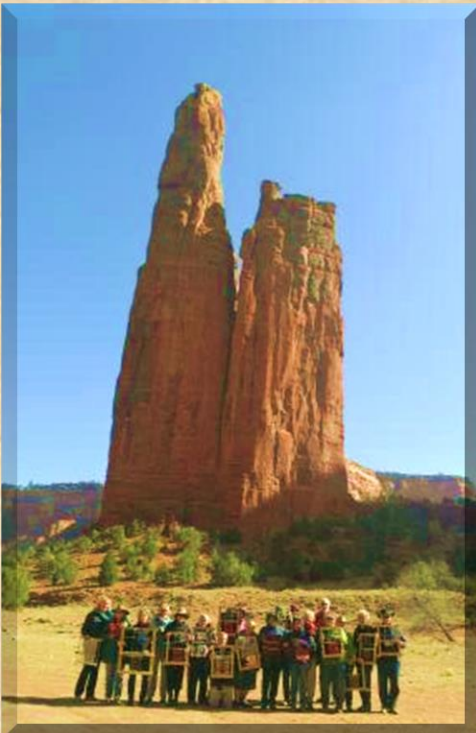


We will spend four remarkable and awe-inspiring days weaving deep in the canyon surrounded by ancient ruins. Our weaving instructors are Lynda Teller Pete

and her sister, Barbara Teller. Both are magnificent and award-winning weavers that weave in the Two Grey Hills tradition. They are fifth generation weavers with vast teaching experience (see their biography on Page 2).

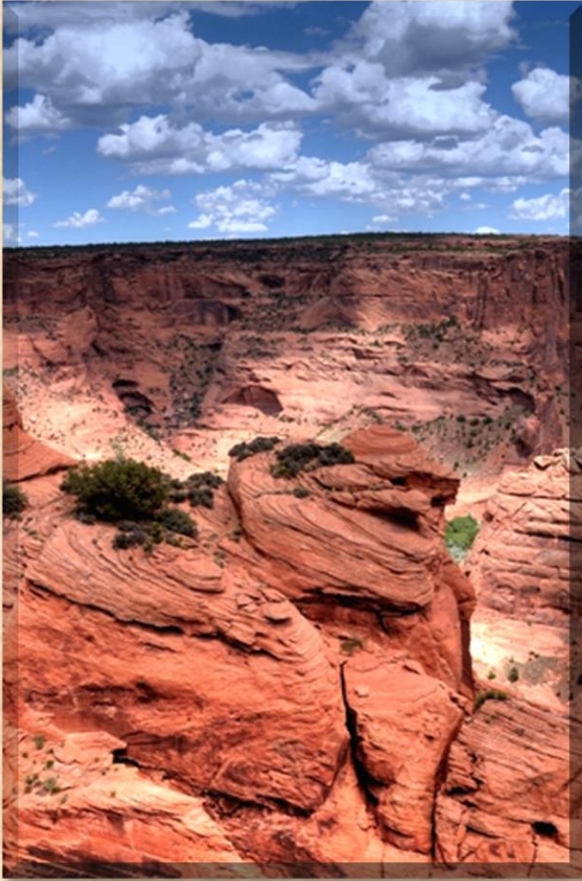
We will spend entire days immersed in our craft and return to Chinle for the night. By the end of the four days, we will each have a completed weaving created in the Navajo tradition. When we pull our creations off the loom, Lynda and Barbara will provide a special blessing of each weaving sending it forth into the world in harmony. The looms are made by Lynda's husband,

also Navajo and from a weaving family. The use of the looms is included in the cost of the tour. However, should you fall in love with your loom, you will have the opportunity to purchase one. Overnight at Chinle Holiday Inn. (B,L)



Wednesday, May 1

Navajo Trading Posts / Return to Durango / Toh-Atin Gallery Reception



This morning, we will drive from Chinle through the beautiful southwest Rockies countryside bound for Durango. Along the way, we stop at **Teec Nos Pos Trading Post**, an old fashioned trading post established in 1905 on the Navajo Nation. It has faithfully maintained the ancient trading post traditions initiated by the Noel and Foutz families. Hamblin Bridger Noel was the first white man the Navajos permitted to establish a post in this section of the reservation. Acclaimed author Tony Hillerman (1925-2008) used the Teec Nos Pos Trading Post in several novels, including his first *The Blessing Way*. This unique site is where the local Navajos still shop for their daily needs and sell their unique artistic creations; rugs, silver and turquoise jewelry, Kachinas, bead work, and a variety of other crafts. Buckskins and baskets for Navajo traditional ceremonies are bought and sold (recycled). The Teec Nos Pos Trading Post has become a valuable resource for the Navajo sheep herders who sell their wool and mohair. It is the only remaining buyer on the Navajo reservation. Typically, over 160,000 lbs. of wool and mohair are purchased each year from Navajos who come from as far away as Page, Lake Powell, and Grand Canyon, Arizona. Teec Nos Pos is known for being the childhood home of Peter McDonald, former chairman of the

Navajo Nation, and for its Navajo rug weavers. Collectors prize Teec Nos Pos rugs for their skilled artisanship and intricate designs. The trading post has a unique back room with an extensive supply of rugs featuring a wide variety of weaving styles. The back room also has an extensive supply of other Native American art.

Next is a stop at the **Four Corners Monument**, one of the most unique in the Southwest. This is the only place in the United States where four states intersect at one point: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. The original marker erected in 1912 was a simple cement pad, but has since been redone in granite and brass.

We'll also visit **Notah Dineh Trading Company** in Cortez, Colorado. Established in 1961, the gallery features the largest collection of Navajo Rugs in the Four Corners area, such as "Two Grey Hills" and "Ganado Red." Classical and other traditional Native American weavings are also available. The largest known Two Grey Hills rug is showcased in the Notah Dineh Museum where you can learn about the unique story behind Native American Rachel Curley's impressive weaving. Notah Dineh also specializes in sand paintings, hand carved wooden Kachinas, beaded baskets, cradle boards, beadwork, and jewelry.



In the late afternoon, we arrive in Durango where we have a treat! We'll enjoy a private farewell evening reception at the lovely Toh-Atin Gallery. Considered Colorado's premiere gallery of Native American and Southwestern art, it was established in 1957 and run by the Clark family. Jackson Clark II now owns and operates the gallery and is a renowned local historian himself and a wealth of information (read more about Jackson Clark II on Page 12). Dr. Andrew Gulliford will also rejoin us here with an historic wrap-up to our fantastic textile adventure in the Southwest. We finish up the evening with an optional farewell dinner at a local restaurant (not included). Our accommodations are at the **Strater Hotel** built in 1887. One of the West's most iconic hotels, the Strater is adorned with beautiful handcrafted woodwork, period wallpaper, and the largest collection of American Victorian walnut antiques which are used to decorate the hotel and guestrooms. Overnight at the Strater Hotel. (B)



<http://www.toh-atin.com/>

Thursday, May 2 Homeward Bound

After breakfast this morning, it is time to say farewell to the unique magic of the Southwest. You will transfer to the airport via taxi on your own for your flights home. (B)



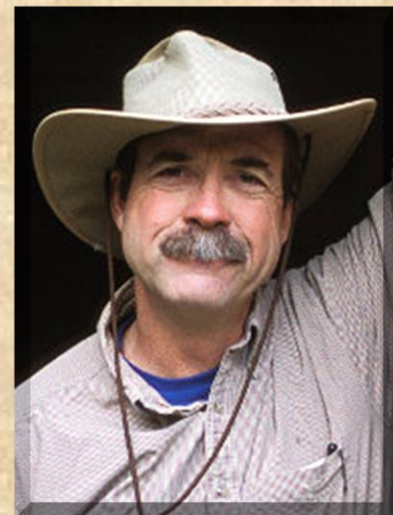
Meet Our Southwest Historians

Dr. Andrew Gulliford, Ph.D.

Dr. Andrew Gulliford is a Professor of History at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. He teaches popular college courses in wilderness and environmental history and is the author of *America's Country Schools*, *Sacred Objects and Sacred Places: Preserving Tribal Traditions*, and *Boomtown Blues: Colorado Oil Shale*, which won the Colorado Book Award. He also edited *Preserving Western History*, which was voted one of the best books on the Southwest by the Tucson-Pima County Library. His articles and photographs have appeared in national publications including *High Country News*, *Preservation*, *American Heritage*, *Colorado Heritage*, and *Montana*.

The governor appointed Dr. Gulliford to two terms on the National Register of Historic Places Review Board for the state of Colorado. Gulliford also has his 3rd federal appointment to the BLM's Southwest Colorado Resources Advisory Council where he represents environmental interests.

Andrew Gulliford has had led tours across the West by canoe, raft, horseback, van, cruise ship, private train, and private jet for the Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Colorado Historical Society.



H. Jackson Clark II and the Toh-Atin Legacy

Jackson Clark II grew up with an appreciation for the Native American crafts, for the land on which they live and for the special and unique way that they look at the earth. His father, Jackson Clark Sr., an Indian trader since 1957 in Durango, Colorado, was recognized as an authority on Navajo weaving. He lectured widely on the subject and founded the Toh Atin/Jackson David Trading Company in Durango. When Jackson Clark Sr. passed away in 1997, H. Jackson Clark II, a third-generation trader, took over the family business and carries on the family traditions of Indian Trader with the Toh-Atin Galley.

When Clark was young, a family vacation was more often than not spent driving around the west, selling Navajo weaving and Indian jewelry to shops and museum stores. Clark's mother was raised at a trading post and he and his sister spent much of their summers at the post. He was born in Durango, Colorado, went to school there. A graduate of the University of Colorado, Clark put himself through college selling Navajo weavings obtained through his father's trading business.

Today, after three decades in the business, Clark is an expert on Navajo weaving and regularly gives presentations on Native American art at conferences, museum gatherings and gallery showings. A member and former officer of the Indian Arts and Crafts Association, Clark has played an important role in promoting quality and authentic Native American crafts. His presentations are a combination of history, technique and stories told with a sense of humor about his experiences with the people he and his family have known and worked with. He examines the difficult times that the Navajo have had as a tribe, the beauty of their culture, art and homeland and the humor and belief in themselves that has brought them to the 21st century, still a proud people. Toh-Atin Gallery specializes in weavings, both antique and contemporary, including museum quality pieces. The gallery also carries impressively detailed beadwork, silver & gold jewelry, bronzes, and unique pieces of hand-crafted furniture that can be found only in their showrooms.

Land Costs Include:

- 10 Nights Hotel Accommodations (we've added an extra night – there's just too much to see!) based on double occupancy; single accommodations available with supplement
- Exclusive, **"Behind-the-Scenes" Viewing of the Durango Private Collection's Vault of Textiles**
- **2 Exclusive Private Receptions** with Renowned Local Southwest Historians
- Meals as designated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- **4 Days of Private Navajo Weaving Workshops in Canyon De Chelly** including all materials and equipment
- Private sightseeing tours and Private Trading Post Visits
- **Exclusive Permits to weave in Canyon de Chelly**, applicable service charges and taxes, pre-departure materials containing destination information, travel tips, and suggested packing list

Land Costs Exclude:

- Airfare and Airport Transfers
- Any item not specifically included in your program including **all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water**, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Excess baggage fees, laundry, phone calls, internet and any other items of a personal nature not specifically indicated
- Tips for your guide, ground staff, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional insurance of any kind

Cost: \$3,195 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy
\$895 Single Supplement for Single Accommodations
Special rate available for non-weavers.



Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain or "ordinary" tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the discerning and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. Our typical group size is limited to 10-14 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

We invite you to join us;
be a creative traveler, not a tourist.





Please call us with any questions at 800-369-3033

As with all true adventures, these itineraries are subject to change without notice based on a variety of factors. Although Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys will do our best to adhere to the scheduled itinerary, we are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions. As is the case with all true adventures, your itinerary should be considered an approximation of activities only. The itinerary or accommodations may be changed subject to unexpected and worthwhile opportunities, weather, group desires, and circumstances beyond our control, etc. Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys and its guides reserve the right to alter the itinerary without prior notice. Also please be aware that any voluntary changes on your part to your itinerary while on the tour will be made at your own expense.



PO Box 2154, Telluride, CO 81435 ~ loomdance@aol.com ~ www.loomdancerodysseys.com ~
800-369-3033 ~ 970-728-6743 ~ Fax 970-728-7081