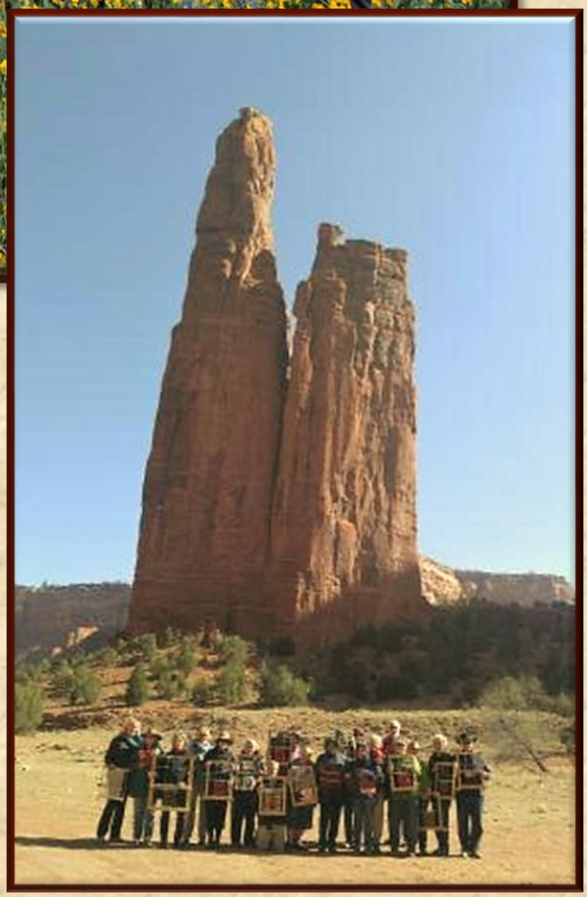
Navajo Weaving in Canyon de Chelly

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

April 2 – 13, 2027





A Total Cultural Immersion

- 4 Days of **exclusive** Navajo Weaving in Canyon de Chelly at the base of the ruins with 5th Generation Navajo Weavers, Linda and Barbara Teller
- "Behind the Scenes" Private Viewing of The Prehistoric Textiles at Mesa Verde with Dr. Laurie Webster
- Evening Receptions with renowned Southwest Historian Dr. Andrew Gulliford and Antonia Clark, Toh Atin Gallery
- Exclusive Trading Post Visits offering an historical perspective of the Southwest
- Train trip aboard the historic Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
- Visiting Aztec Ruins National Muonument







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.

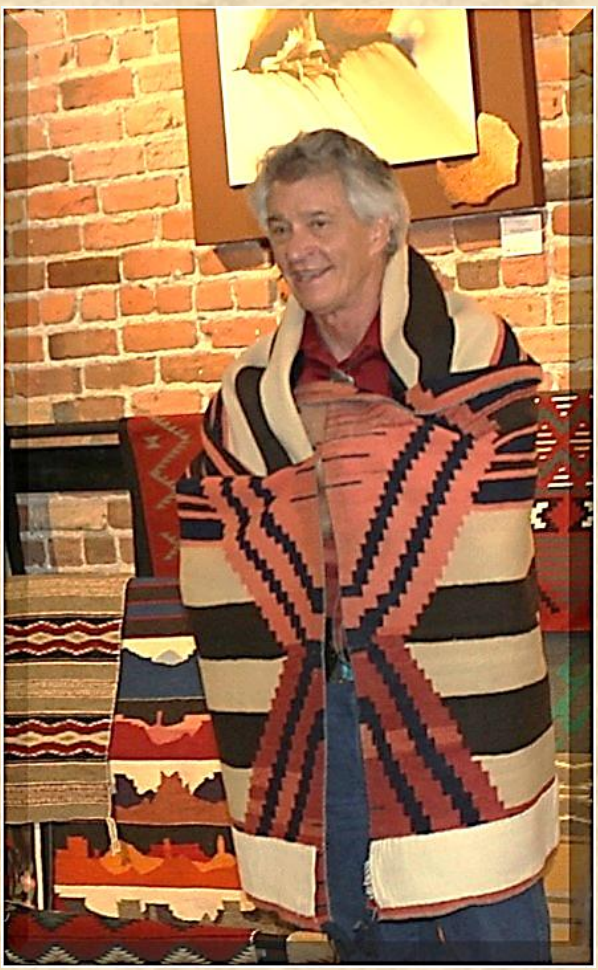
Lynda's maternal grandmother, Susie Tom and her paternal grandmother, Nellie Peshlakai Teller made sure their daughters and granddaughters learned the art of weaving. They emphasized many practices, such as respecting the loom; preparing one's own wool via shearing, carding, and spinning; the production 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, imbued with their hopes, their dreams, their tears, and their laughter.

We dedicate this tour to the memory of our dear friend,

Jackson Clark II

March 21, 1950 – August 28, 2025



It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the recent passing of Jackson Clark, owner of Toh-Atin Gallery in Durango, Colorado. The world has lost a truly remarkable human being. He became a friend of Loom Dancer Odysseys many years ago. Many people were lucky enough to meet Jackson during our Canyon de Chelly Navajo weaving journeys which always ended with an informative, and always entertaining, reception at the gallery.

Jackson was recognized and widely respected as a leading expert on, and historian of, Native Arts. He was especially committed to preserving and promoting Navajo weaving. He had a genuine connection with all the artists he worked with and demonstrated this bond through his word as well as his altruistic actions on behalf of the Navajo community.

I was lucky enough to call Jackson a dear and treasured friend for the past 13 years. It is hard to imagine this world without his quick wit, beautiful smile, generous heart and warm hugs. He had a way of knowing just what you needed to brighten your day and make you laugh. I will deeply miss him.

We thank you, Jackson, for all the wonderful lessons you taught us. Your light will always shine brightly.

Blessings,
Cari

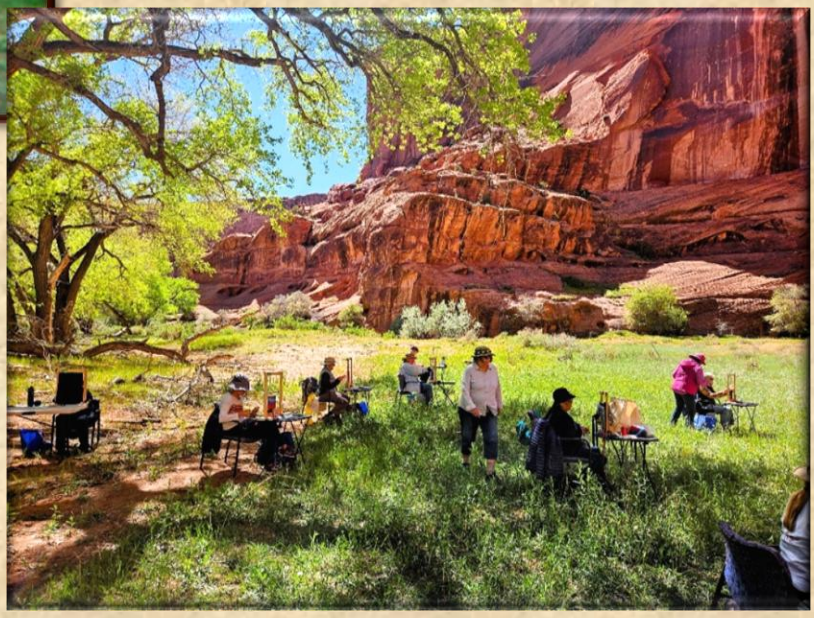
Remembering a life well lived and a man truly well loved.



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 over the years. 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

Loom Dancer Odysseys Owner and Director

The Spirit of the Canyon Beckons…











Come weave
with us

in the Spiritual Heart
of the Navajo Nation



Friday, April 2
Arrive in Scenic Durango, Colorado

Fly from your home to Durango, Colorado. Nestled in the mountains along the Animas River, Durango is the terminus of the famous 19th century Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. It feels like we take a step back in time in this former mining town where over the years, Durango has inspired actors and directors to film award-winning movies and famous authors penning Western novels. Upon arrival, you transfer on your own via taxi to your hotel. There will be a "welcome packet" waiting for you. Overnight at the historic General Palmer Hotel. (No meals included)



Note: You may wish to arrive a day or two early to explore Durango and its surroundings further. Here, you could spend weeks discovering the ancient history and culture of the southwest and still have plenty left to see. With more than 2,500 preserved archeological sites, four nearby national monuments, 13 historic sites, two members of the UNESCO World Heritage List and one national park, Durango boasts unbeatable access to some of the country's best-conserved history. **Please note that we will not be visiting Mesa Verde National Park as a group.** We will be happy to make a recommendation to arrange a tour there independently.

Saturday, April 3 Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad



Today we enjoy an iconic Southwestern treat on the Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, voted "One of the World's Top Ten Most Exciting Train Rides" by the Society of American Travel Writers. Departing from the Durango Depot, this 5-hour round trip through the San Juan National Forest takes us up into the Rocky Mountains of Southwest Colorado as we travel alongside the beautiful Animas River while relaxing in heated coaches. Our destination is unique Cascade Canyon and is the perfect setting for a fire-side lunch, photo opportunities, or a walk along the Animas River during our 60-minute layover. We'll return to Durango at around 3PM. After a time to relax and freshen up, we will gather for a mandatory orientation to go over what to expect from the trip. Dinner is on your own to try one of Durango's wonderful restaurants. Overnight at General Palmer. (B)





Sunday, April 4 A Free Day and a Reception

Today is a free to explore Durango on your own. The historic Main Avenue in downtown Durango features 19th-century brick buildings, mountain views, local shops, and restaurants. At 5PM, we'll walk from our hotel to nearby historic Gable House where we gather for a reception and an historic orientation with Dr. Andrew Gulliford, PHD, Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College (read more about Dr. Gulliford on Page 13). A good friend of Loom Dancer Odysseys, Dr. Gulliford is a renowned Southwest historian and author of five books. He will offer us a historical context for our upcoming cultural immersion. Overnight at the historic General Palmer Hotel. (B, Heavy Appetizers)

Monday, April 5 Exclusive Prehistoric Textiles with Dr. Laurie Webster/ Aztec Ruins / Gallup New Mexico





This morning we will drive to the Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center for a behind-the-scenes visit with Prehistoric Textile Expert, Laurie Webster. She will show us some amazing and rarely seen examples of textiles from the Mesa Verde vault.

From here, we travel to Aztec Ruins National Monument, a UNESCO World Heritage Site preserving monumental Ancestral Puebloan architecture built in the 11th to 13th centuries along the Animas River. Flourishing roughly between A.D. 1050 and 1300, the settlement served as a major ceremonial, economic, and political center situated between Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde. We will have time to wander the ruins on a walking trail. We can also view the museum exhibits and a 15-minute film.

Our destination is Gallup, New Mexico, the largest Indian center in the Southwest, the ceremonial capital of Native America and undisputed Southwestern center for original Native American art. 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. Tonight, we will 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. Dinner is on your own tonight. Overnight at the historic El Rancho Hotel. (B)

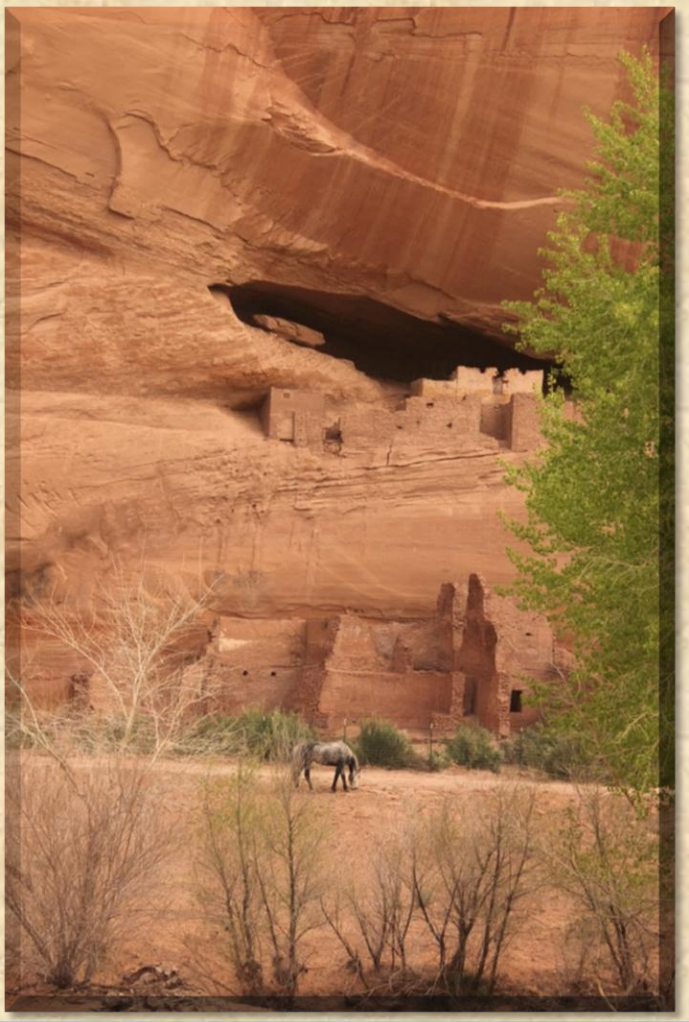


Tuesday, April 6 Perry Null and Hubbell Trading Posts / To Chinle

This morning, we will visit Perry Null Trading Company, an authentic Trading Post that continues a tradition started in 1939. Next, we will visit 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 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.)*

Wednesday, April 7 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)



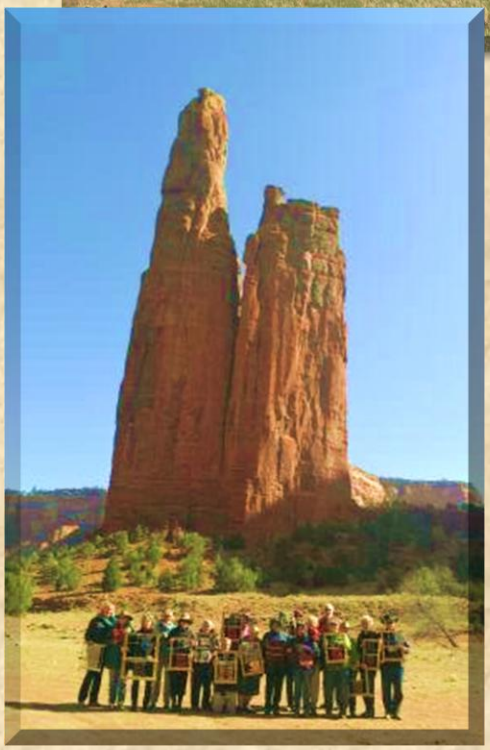


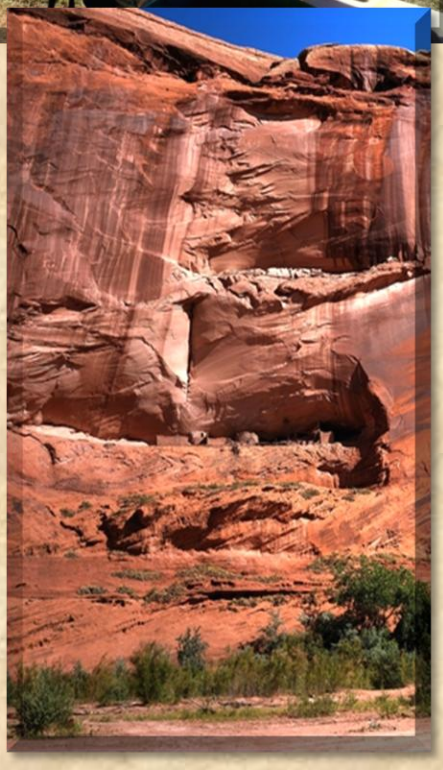




Thursday - Sunday, April 8 - 11 Weaving in Canyon de Chelly





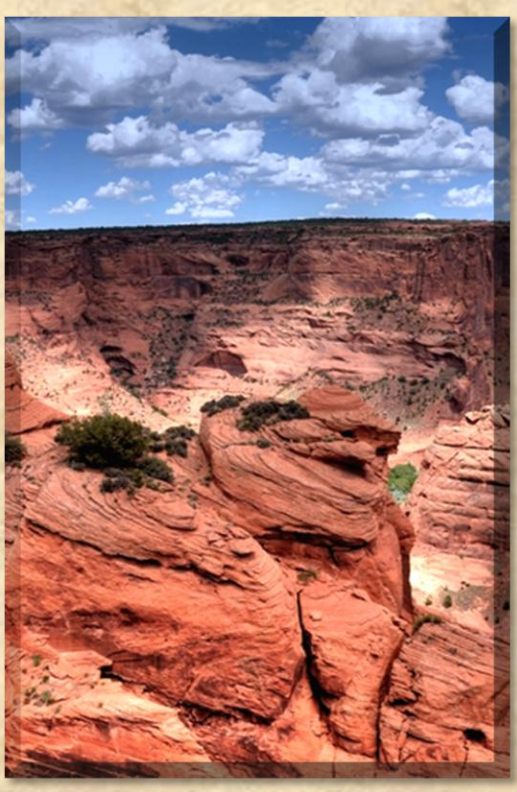


We will spend four remarkable and awe-inspiring days weaving deep in the canyon surrounded by ancient ruins. Our weaving instructors are Lynda Teller Pete and her sister, Barbara Teller Ornellas. Both are magnificent and award-winning weavers that weave in the Two Grey Hills tradition. They are fifth generation weavers with vast teaching experience (see their biography on Page 2).

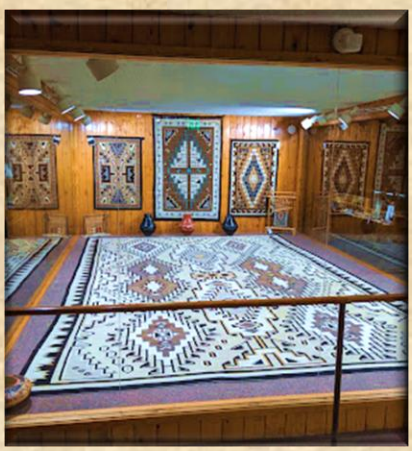
We will spend entire days immersed in our craft and return to Chinle for the night. By the end of the four days, we will each have a completed weaving created in the Navajo tradition. When we pull our creations off the loom, Lynda and Barbara will provide a special blessing of each weaving sending it 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)



Monday, April 12
Return to Durango / Notah Dineh Trading Post / Toh-Atin Gallery Reception



This morning, we will drive from Chinle through the beautiful southwest Rockies countryside bound for Durango with stops along the way.



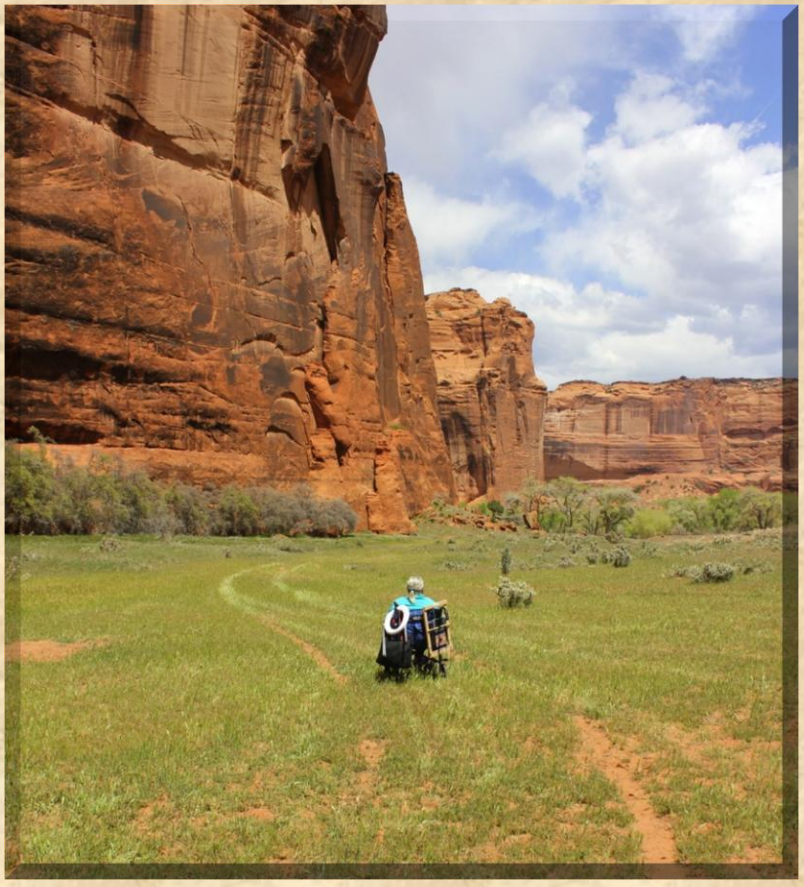
In Cortez, Colorado we'll visit Notah Dineh Trading Company. Established in 1961, the gallery features the largest collection of Navajo Rugs in the Four Corners area, such as "Two Grey Hills" and "Ganado Red." Classical and other traditional Native American weavings are also available. The largest known 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 back 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, who owned and operated the gallery for many years, recently passed away. He was a dear friend of Loom Dancer Odysseys, and it is hard to imagine the world with him and his vast knowledge. However, Jackson's sister Antonia, will provide us with an amazing historic wrap-up to our fantastic textile adventure in the Southwest. Overnight at the General Palmer Hotel. (B) **http://www.toh-atin.com/**

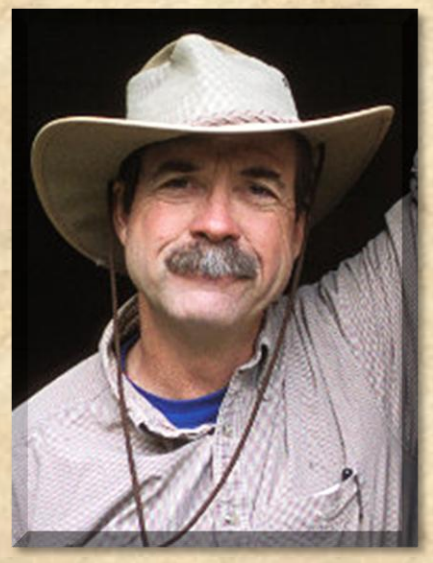


Tuesday, April 13 Homeward Bound

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)

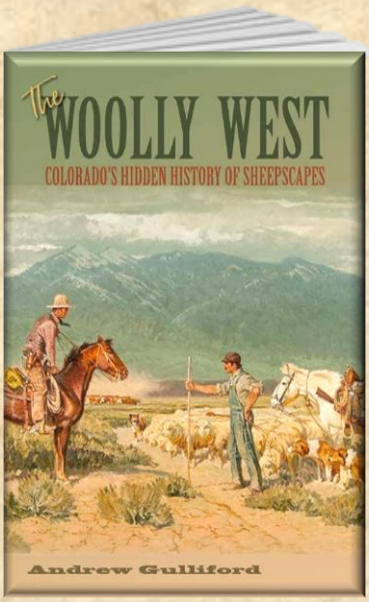


Meet Our Southwest Historians



Dr. Andrew Gulliford,Ph.D.

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*, *Boomtown Blues: Colorado Oil Shale*, which won the Colorado Book Award and *The Woolly West*. 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. a renowned leading textile scholar and highly respected expert on Ancestral Pueblo perishable materials with a focus on woven objects and textiles. 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.

Dr. Laurie Webster, PhD

is a renowned leading textile scholar and highly respected expert on Ancestral Pueblo perishable materials with a focus on woven objects and textiles. Dr. Webster is also an independent researcher with institutional affiliations at the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, the American Museum of Natural History, and Crow Canyon. Laurie consults with Crow Canyon on the perishable materials encountered during the Center's excavations.



Laurie is also a scholar of post-contact and contemporary Pueblo and Navajo weaving. Her research interests include craft production and innovation, technological change, cultural affiliation, and the documentation and interpretation of older museum collections. She has served as a consultant and technical expert about Southwestern textiles and perishable artifacts for museums, federal agencies, tribal entities, and cultural resource management firms.





Land Costs Include:

- 11 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
- **2 Exclusive Private Receptions/Lectures** with Renowned Local Southwest Historians
- Meals as designated in the itinerary
- **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

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 12-16 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

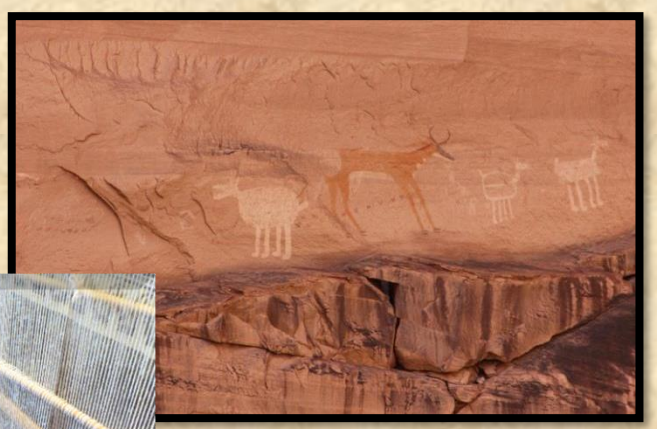
We invite you to join us;
be a creative traveler, not a tourist.

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
- Tips for your guide, ground staff, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional insurance of any kind. We HIGHLY recommend trip insurance.

Cost: $4,395 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy
$1,095 Single Supplement for Single Accommodations









This itinerary is 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. **This is especially true on this tour.** 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, flooding, 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.

Please call us with any questions

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