

Title: Touch the Past, Touch the Plenty – Mesa Verde Country® Archaeology and Agritourism Press Trip (southwest Colorado)

Company: Ore Communications

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Description: Experience the expanse, history, beauty and bounty of Colorado's Mesa Verde Country® in the southwest part of the state. The area is a unique blend of agritourism and the nation's oldest archaeological finds. In fact, Colorado's agricultural tradition is at its oldest in Mesa Verde Country. The Ancestral Puebloans, the first agriculturalists in this part of southwestern Colorado, farmed the valleys and the mesas of the area until around 1300 AD. Growing corn, beans and squash, and raising turkeys, they laid the agricultural foundation for today's farmers and ranchers.

June 16: After arriving in Cortez, you'll lunch at The Farm, serving locally grown – and primarily organic – food. At Shadow ranch Alpacas, you'll get up close and personal with an alpaca before heading to the Anasazi Heritage Center for an introduction to the area's Ancestral Puebloan culture and an overlook of the fertile Montezuma Valley. From there, it's on to Mesa Verde National Park for the night – and dinner in its award-winning Metate Room, featuring sustainable and local heritage foods including game, locally raised meats, produce and legumes.

June 17: Tour Mesa Verde National Park, including the lesser-visited Far View site, and Cedar Tree Tower, with agricultural-check dams. You'll then head to nearby Mancos to the Crabapple Tree Farm, a Navajo-Churro Sheep Farm offering breeding stock, local grass-fed lamb, and wool for fiber artists, while promoting the threatened breed of sheep. Dinner will take place at the Dolores River Brewery, one of three local breweries in Mesa Verde Country.

June 18: You'll visit Hovenweep National Monument, famous for its spectacular Ancestral Puebloan towers. Then you'll travel into McElmo Canyon for lunch and an afternoon at Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch, a working 2,000 acre farmstead (part of the homesteaded Zwicker Ranch). You'll be able to visit an Ancestral Puebloan rock art site on the grounds before heading out for a stop at Guy Drew Vineyards. Back in Cortez, you'll see Indian dances at the Cortez Cultural Center.

June 19: After a visit to the Cortez Farmers' Market, get ready for a day at a working cattle ranch. Enjoy a cowboy cookout dinner on your last night of the trip.

Dates: June 16-20, 2010

If these dates do not work into your schedule, we would be happy to include another appropriate staff person or freelance writer on assignment, or arrange an individual trip at another time.

Journalists are invited to: Experience the expanse, history, beauty and bounty of Colorado's Mesa Verde Country® in the southwest part of the state. You'll visit farms growing their own organic produce, meet an alpaca, shop at local farmer's markets, dine at award-winning restaurants, check out a local brewery and winery – and even saddle up for a day at a working ranch. The tour weaves in the area's rich archaeological history with visits to one of the nation's oldest national parks, a national monument and a national scenic byway.

Web site: www.mesaverdecountry.com

Location: Mesa Verde Country, located in southwest Colorado, surrounds Mesa Verde National Park. The area, including the towns of Cortez, Dolores, Mancos, and Towaoc, comprise the archaeological center of America. Cortez itself is located in the Four Corners area of Colorado. It

is 382 miles southwest of Denver, 348 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, 410 miles northeast of Phoenix and 274 miles northwest of Albuquerque.

Inclusions:

- Lodging (June 16: Far View Lodge at Mesa Verde National Park; June 17, 18 and 19 in Cortez, Colo., at a TBD motel)
- Meals (June 16: lunch, dinner; June 17 – breakfast, lunch dinner: June 18 – breakfast, lunch, dinner; June 19 – breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Air transportation to and from Cortez, Colo.
- Transportation to and from the Cortez airport
- Note: If your media outlet does not permit you to participate in complimentary trips, we are happy to work out an acceptable form of payment.

Exclusions:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Gratuities
- Rental car
- Items of a personal nature

Journalist requirements: Journalists with major travel, food/beverage, history, archaeology, or other related media outlets; writers on assignment for travel, food/beverage, history, archaeology or other related articles.

For more information: Call or email Gaylene Ore (970-887-2536, gaylene@orecommunications.com)