

# 2023 SCAAS & Planetary Society Adventures

## New Mexico

### Annular Eclipse Expedition

October 10 - 17, 2023

*Including Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon & the International Balloon Fiesta!*

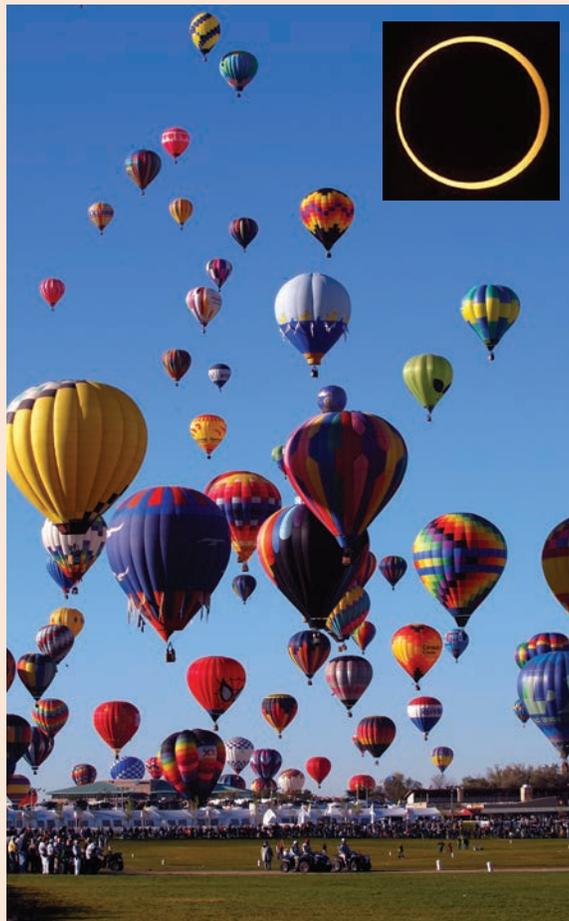
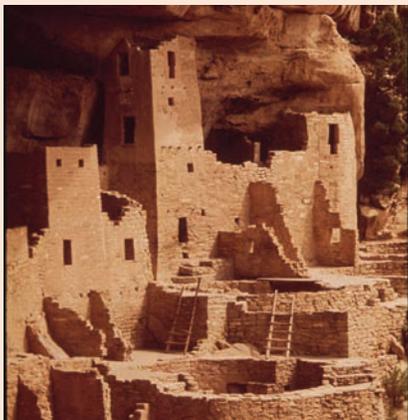
Dear Friends:

We will travel from Albuquerque and the extravaganza of the International Balloon Festival to the stunning mesas of Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado.

Our adventure will begin in historic Albuquerque and Acoma Sky City, the oldest continuously inhabited city in America, founded in 1150.

We will then see the International Balloon Festival, where we can soar in hot air balloons.

Heading north we will explore Santa Fe, and then the dramatic landscapes at Abiquiu Valley and



Ghost Ranch, made famous by Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings. At night, we'll savor this outstanding Dark Sky location.

We will then discover the renowned World Heritage Site of Chaco Canyon, focal point for Pueblo Indian Culture, and will see the Annular Solar Eclipse there.

Our adventure will cross into Colorado to historic Durango, of railroad fame, and at Mesa Verde to discover breathtaking vistas and its cliffside dwellings.

Please join us for an extraordinary experience!



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY  
IN THE  
AMERICAN SWHVEST



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# New Mexico Annular Eclipse Expedition

Itinerary - October 10 - 17, 2023



## Day 1 Arrive Albuquerque, New Mexico

Fly to Albuquerque and arrive by 3 pm. Transfer to our *Hotel (2 nights)*. Then enjoy a welcome dinner and have a briefing about our Balloon adventure tomorrow. D

## Day 2 Balloon Festival Mass Ascension & Acoma Sky City

We'll depart early for the Festival grounds to prepare for our balloon flight! At 7 am, the Mass Ascension of approximately 500 balloons will begin. We'll board our balloons and slowly soar aloft for a dramatic view of the city, and all of the other balloons around us! Photographers get ready! From take off to landing the flight is about two hours. Then head to Acoma Sky City, the oldest continuously inhabited city in America. B

## Day 3 Sante Fe & Bandelier National Monument

Today we'll head north to Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico, founded in 1610. Here you can explore the plaza and museum and delight in this rich cultural center. In the afternoon visit the splendid site at Bandelier, then head to Abiquiu Valley. *Hotel (3 nights)*. B,D

## Day 4 Abiquiu Valley & Ghost Ranch

Today we will explore the Abiquiu Valley and Ghost Ranch, site of famed artist Georgia O'Keeffe's renowned paintings. Abiquiu Valley is one of the most beautiful locations in north central New Mexico. The famous 21,000 acre Ghost Ranch provides wonderful hiking and other opportunities. The Museum at Ghost Ranch features ancient exhibits from the Valley's Paleo Indian



culture 10,000 years ago. The 10-foot long coelophysis dinosaur was discovered here in 1947. In the evening, enjoy an eclipse talk. B,L,D

## Day 5 Chaco Culture World Heritage Site & Eclipse

We'll depart this morning for Chaco Culture National Historical Park which was a center for trade and culture for the Ancestral Puebloans from 850 to 1250 AD. Many buildings are aligned to the sun and moon and show knowledge of astronomical observations. We'll see the Annular Solar Eclipse this morning and

then explore this important astronomical site. Dinner in celebration of the eclipse.

## Day 6 Aztec Ruins & Durango

We'll head north to Aztec Ruins to see this 900-year-old site including the reconstructed Great Kiva. Many America Indians today have deep spiritual ties with this ancient site.

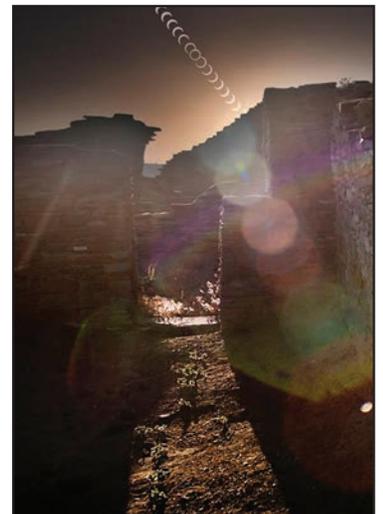
We'll then travel north into Southern Colorado along the Animas River to the charming western town of Durango. *Hotel (2 nights)*. B,L

## Day 7 Mesa Verde National Park & World Heritage Site

We'll depart for Mesa Verde this morning, for an introduction to this extraordinary site. Mesa Verde is on a very high mesa, with piñon pine forests and soaring views toward the 4 corners region. We'll explore the mesa top to see Cliff Palace and other dwellings, with a stop at Sun Point Overlook for panoramic canyon views. B,L

## Day 8 Durango to Home

Have a hug and farewell this morning before we transfer to the airport for flights home. B



# New Mexico Annular Eclipse Expedition

October 10 - 17, 2023

*Including Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon & the International Balloon Fiesta!*

*Come join us for 8 days and 7 nights on a wonderful adventure through southern Colorado and New Mexico, including the "Ring of Fire" Annular Eclipse October 14, 2023, at Chaco Canyon World Heritage Site.*

*Our adventure will discover a land of dazzling mesas and plateaus, pinyon pine forests, star studded skies, and ancient adobe dwellings, with a rich Native American and Spanish cultural heritage. It will give you an opportunity to go aloft in a hot air balloon during a highlight event at the International Balloon Festival.*

## The Itinerary will include:

- The World Heritage Site of Mesa Verde National Park where Native Americans lived for 700 years in cliffside and mesa-top dwellings.
- Historic Durango, Colorado, a true western town near the San Juan Mountains in SW Colorado.
- The Annular Solar Eclipse at Chaco Culture National Historical Park, the center of the ancient world of the Ancestral Pueblo Indians in the San Juan Basin, from 850 to 1250 AD.
- The Abiquiu Valley, an area rich in natural history and culture, from the Spanish Trail along the Rio Chama to the dinosaurs that roamed here 220 million years ago.
- Ghost Ranch, the sanctuary of famed painter Georgia O'Keeffe.
- Santa Fe, the oldest state capital in America, and now a renowned arts and cultural center.
- Acoma Sky City, in a splendid mesa-top location.



**Expedition Fee Includes:** Group transfers, exploration by coach or van; accommodations in first class hotels and lodges; breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners; group entrance fees; tip to coach driver; trip leadership by an excellent Betchart naturalist; administration.

**Fee Does Not Include:** Balloon Ride (quoted separately); air fare; independent transfers; options at Ghost Ranch; some meals, gratuities to expedition naturalist; travel insurance, or other personal expenses.

**Deposit:** \$1,000 per person; final payment due June 1, 2023 (120 days before departure).

## Cancellation Penalty:

Deposit is refundable less \$250 per person until 120 days before departure. Within 120 days of departure payments are nonrefundable. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered.

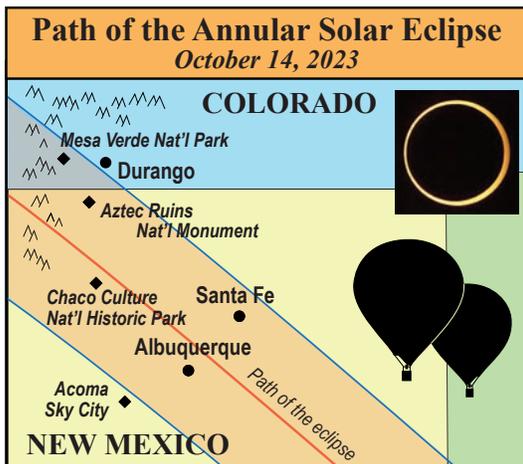


- The International Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, to see 500 hot air balloons aloft at once, including a chance for you to go aloft too!

## Costs:

- \$5,495 per person twin share plus air fare to Albuquerque with return from Durango.
- Single Supplement: \$995 additional.
- Balloon Ride (Mass Ascension with up to 500 balloons aloft): \$795 per person.

**What to Expect:** A fascinating adventure including the Annular Solar Eclipse on October 14, 2023; remarkable Pueblo Indian archaeological sites; historic Ghost Ranch, Santa Fe, and the International Balloon Festival in Albuquerque! Mass Ascension balloon rides are at 7 am and will be reserved in advance. Weather should be good for the Eclipse but cloud cover could obscure it. The expedition will be terrific for travelers with a sense of adventure!



**For Reservations or  
a Fully Detailed Brochure  
please contact Taunya or Terri**

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