

Mesa Verde & the San Juan Mountains

Discover Archaeological Wonders & Dramatic Landscapes
including the Canyons of the Ancients & Hovenweep

Canyonlands & Arches National Parks

September 18 - 26, 2021



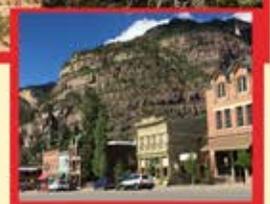
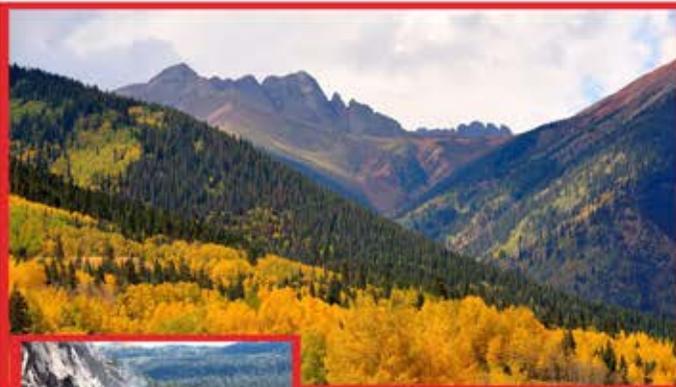
Join us as we explore popular and little visited archaeological sites at Mesa Verde plus the dramatic, volcanic San Juan Mountains.

From historic Durango, Colorado, we'll take the renowned Durango/Silverton narrow gauge railroad high into the San Juan Mountains. In a dramatic setting in a volcanic crater, Silverton is surrounded by rich red and gold peaks.

We'll then continue down the San Juan Skyway ("Million Dollar Highway") to charming Ouray and Telluride. Our visit will coincide with the peak of the gold fall aspen color.

We'll explore Mesa Verde in SW Colorado and pueblo Indian archaeological sites in SE Utah, including the Canyons of the Ancients and Hovenweep and will delight in the dramatic rock formations in Canyonlands and Arches national parks.

With leadership by an excellent naturalist and archaeoastronomer Bryan Bates, discover the rich cultural and natural heritage of this fascinating region.



Betchart Expeditions Inc.

www.betchartexpeditions.com

For more information call Terri 800 - 252 - 4910

or Email: BetchartTerri@gmail.com



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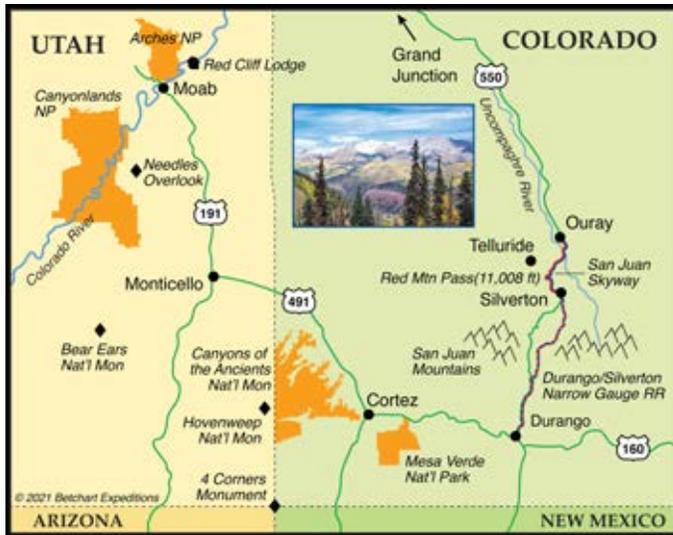
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THE BEST OF MAN AND NATURE WORLDWIDE SM

MESA VERDE & THE SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS

September 18 – 26, 2021

DAILY ITINERARY



DAY 1 ARRIVE DURANGO, COLORADO

Arrive at the Durango, Colorado Airport by 2 pm and meet your trip naturalist, Bryan Bates. We'll journey to Durango and have a historic tour of the downtown prior to our 5:30 pm reception and dinner. Durango was founded in the 1880's when the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad started coming here and is a National Historic Landmark.

Hotel (1 night). D

DAY 2 DURANGO - SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

In the late 1800's miners flocked to the southern Rockies looking for gold. The California gold rush and numerous other fevered gold rushes had played out. In the southern San Juan Mountains of Colorado, there wasn't any gold but

there was "silver by the ton". This morning we'll board the narrow-gauge railroad to Silverton, situated in the San Juan Mountains in a volcanic crater at around 9,000 feet, surrounded by red and gold peaks. We'll explore historic Silverton including the Mining Heritage Center and learn about its rich mining heritage. We'll then head by coach down the San Juan Skyway to Ouray, a charming western town surrounded by dramatic peaks. *Ouray lodging (1 night). Dinner and optional hot springs soak. B, L, D*

DAY 3 OURAY - TELLURIDE - MESA VERDE

Following a pleasant stroll through one of Ouray's parks, we'll drive back into the San Juans to Telluride, now a charming ski resort and historically famous for mining Tellurium. This rare metal is used to vulcanize rubber, tint glass, in solar cells, in rewritable CDs and DVDs because of its semiconductor properties, and is a catalyst in oil refining. Today, Telluride is best known for excellent skiing, rugged mountains and vacationing. We'll have time to explore Telluride and see the Sheridan Opera House and Historic Museum. We journey on to Mesa Verde National Park for dinner. *Far View Lodge (3 nights). B*

DAY 4 MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK - CLIFF PALACE & BALCONY HOUSE

This morning, we venture out to explore Mesa Verde from dramatic mesa top overlooks. If possible, we will explore Cliff Palace and Balcony House with a Park Ranger as our guide. These hikes involve going up and down stairs with handrails and at Balcony House climbing an "ancestral style" ladder. They give us an incredible look at life in Mesa Verde in the early 1200's. Our Expedition Leader Bryan Bates will provide additional insights from his research at Mesa Verde.

After lunch we'll have an hour to explore the Museum and/or take the short hike to Spruce Tree House. We'll continue on the Mesa Top loop stopping at pre-cliff house structures and then having an in-depth look at potential astronomical alignments of Sun Temple based on research our leader did in 2009. Following dinner, Bryan will host a 1-hour presentation on his research in cultural astronomy. **B**

DAY 5 MESA VERDE - LONG HOUSE & BADGER COMMUNITY HOUSES

Today we join a Park Ranger led tour of Long House and our own exploration of the Badger Community houses. We drive a 20-mile dirt road to get to these sites and will periodically stop for other sites and vistas. We'll have a picnic lunch then return to explore Far View Community houses prior to having some down time before dinner. Weather permitting, Bryan will lead a night-sky watching adventure, with a focus on the Navajo constellations. Bryan taught junior and senior high school to Navajo children for ten years. B

DAY 6 CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS & HOVENWEEP

We will depart Mesa Verde to explore the cultures and remnants of the southern portion of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and Hovenweep National Park. The first archaeological sites in the U.S. to be protected were in this region and proclaimed by President Teddy Roosevelt under the 1906 Antiquities Act. *Overnight in Cortez, Colorado.* B, L, D

DAY 7 CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS & BEAR EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

We'll leave Cortez this morning and explore several archaeological sites in the northern portion of the Canyons of the Ancients. Time permitting, we'll also go into Bear Ears National Monument. *Overnight Monticello.* B, L, D

DAY 8 CANYONLANDS - ARCHES NATIONAL PARK- MOAB

We'll leave Monticello to drive out to the Needles overlook for an overview of Canyonlands National Park. This region has been geologically rippled by numerous earthquakes revealing waves in geologic strata. The Colorado River has sculpted its channel through this marvelous land, which is a story in itself. We will continue on to Arches National Park where the geologic uplifting and erosional sculpturing created more than 2,000 arches. We overnight 12 miles up the Colorado River from Moab at a unique rustic resort, the *Red Cliffs Lodge.* B, L D

DAY 9 DEPART

Having had a tremendous journey, we pack our bags and head to the Grand Junction airport. With innumerable photos we'll keep in touch with old and new friends looking forward to another adventure with Betchart Expeditions. B

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Questions, Reservations, Deposits, and Payments: To reserve your place on the Mesa Verde trip, please phone Terri at Betchart Expeditions Inc. (800) 252-4910 or email: betchartterri@gmail.com.

Please mail the reservation form and your deposit check for \$500 per person to: Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014. The final payment is due June 15, 2021.

Expedition Fee: \$3,895 per person twin share + air fare to Durango, Colorado, with return from Grand Junction, Colorado. Singles are \$795 additional.

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport by coach or van and half-day train; group airport transfers by hotel shuttle or taxi; accommodations twin share; meals as indicated; entrance fees; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare from your home to Durango, Colorado, with return from Grand Junction; 3 lunches, 3 dinners; gratuity to expedition leader and bus driver; personal items such as laundry, alcoholic beverages; snacks, personal insurance; or optional activities.

What to Expect: This expedition is for travelers who would like to explore the archaeological and geological heritage of SW Colorado and SE Utah, including superb national parks and national monuments. Take the historic train from Durango to Silverton high in the San Juan Mountains and travel by coach or 15 passenger vans on the rest of the trip. Traveling with an excellent naturalist with expertise in the area will provide a superb experience. Walks of 1 to 2 miles daily will be at a reasonable pace for discovery and exploration. No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals please.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: All passengers should arrive in Durango by 2:30 pm September 18, 2021, and depart Grand Junction after noon on September 26, 2021.

Accommodations: Are in comfortable first class hotels or lodges. Limited single accommodations are available for a supplement of \$795.

Reservations, Deposits & Payments: To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of \$500 per person with the completed reservation form. Balance of land fee is due 90 days before departure (June 15, 2021).

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 90 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund after the 90-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.

----- **cut off & mail** -----
RESERVATIONS **#1637**

YES! I/We want to join the **Mesa Verde & San Juan Mountains Expedition, September 18 - 26, 2021** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Please reserve _____ double _____ twin or _____ single accommodations.

**Please mail to: Mesa Verde & San Juans 2021
 Betchart Expeditions Inc.
 17050 Montebello Road
 Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercises every care possible. Betchart can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident, or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.