

# **PCC October Chaco Canyon Field Trip**

## **Where:**

Chaco Culture National Historic Park (aka Chaco Canyon) is one of the world historic sites in the southwest, and was linked to Mesa Verde and Canyon de Chelly by trading routes in its day. It is an extraordinary archeological site, but it is not very easy to get to.

## **When:**

Friday through Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Cost:**

There is an \$8/car entrance fee good for 7 days, plus lodging or camping costs.

## **RSVP:**

Please let Pete know if you'll be going on this trip, when you'll be coming and whether you'll camp or stay in a hotel. That way we can try to plan to rendezvous at least once as a group during the weekend.

## **Meeting Place:**

The park isn't huge so you can look for familiar faces and vehicles. Also, cell reception will likely be laughable, so bring an FMRS radio and tune it to channel 3.3. If all else fails, stop by the Gallo Campground when you arrive and look for a campsite with a PCC sign. Use it as a note board. You can also look for Pete's blue Jetta or Mark's tan Yukon in the campground.

I'm also working on a night photography option where we pay the rangers to allow us into one of the ruins for after-dark photography. There will be a cost for this and I'll let you know the details as we get them worked out.

## **Directions:**

The following directions are listed on the Chaco NPS web site. I'll check road conditions with the rangers and send an email to those who are going during the week before the field trip.

*Chaco Canyon is located in northwestern New Mexico. The preferred and recommended access route to the park is from the north, via US 550 (formerly NM 44) and County Road (CR) 7900, and CR 7950.*

*Warning: Some of the local roads recommended by map publishers and services using GPS devised to access Chaco are unsafe for passenger cars. Please use our written directions below to avoid getting lost or stuck.*

*From the north, turn off US 550 at CR 7900--3 miles southeast of Nageezi and approximately 50 miles west of Cuba (at mile 112.5). This route is clearly signed from US 550 to the park boundary (21 miles). The route includes 8 miles of paved road (CR 7900) and 13 miles of rough dirt road (CR7950).*

*From the south, two routes access Chaco from Highway 9, which runs between Crownpoint, Pueblo Pintado, and Cuba. Both routes can vary from very rough to impassable. Not recommended for RVs. If you are traveling from the south, please call ahead for the latest conditions.*

*Via Hwy 57(Hwy 14 on some maps): This turnoff is located on Highway 9, 13 miles east of Highway 371, at the former Seven Lakes Trading Post. (20 miles of dirt)*

*Via Pueblo Pintado: At the community of Pueblo Pintado, turn north on Navajo 46 for 10 miles (rough dirt). Turn left on County Road 7900 for 7 miles (some rough dirt). Turn left on County Road 7950, and follow the signs 16 miles to the park entrance (3 miles paved and 13 of rough dirt road).*

*The northern and southern routes include 13, 20, and 33 miles of dirt roads, respectively. These sections of road are infrequently maintained, and they can become impassable during inclement weather. If you have an RV and are not planning on camping in the park, you may want to leave the RV and drive a car into the park. Call the park (505-786-7014) for current road conditions. [Click here for a map of routes into Chaco.](#)*

## **Lodging**

You can camp at Gallo Campground in Chaco Canyon NP, or you can get a hotel in either Gallup NM or Grants NM. If you choose to stay in a hotel, you'll have a 90 minute drive each way to Chaco Canyon.

## **Temperature**

Chaco is at 6200ft elevation. You can expect the nightly low to be sub-freezing in late October, and daytime highs in the 50's or 60's. With a wind, it can be very cool. Bring plenty of warm clothing, especially if you decide to camp. Just as a point of reference, the average date for a first measurable snowfall for northern AZ is 10-24. Think cold.

## **Solar & Lunar Times**

Sunrise: 7:20am    Sunset: 6:20pm

Moonrise: 12:31pm    Moonset: 10:30pm (first quarter moon)

## **Maps & Web Information:**

NPS Chaco Canyon Website:

<http://www.nps.gov/chcu/index.htm>

**See you there!**

**Pete, Mark and Ron**