

Title: Touch the Past, Touch the Plenty – Mesa Verde Country® Archaeology and Agritourism Individual 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 some of the nation's oldest archaeological sites. 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.

Trips include visits to the following sites/locations:

- Shadow Ranch Alpacas, to get up close and personal with an alpaca
- Anasazi Heritage Center for an introduction to the area's Ancestral Puebloan culture and an overlook of the fertile Montezuma Valley
- Tour Mesa Verde National Park, including the lesser-visited Far View site, an agricultural village
- Hovenweep National Monument, famous for its spectacular Ancestral Puebloan towers.
- Local wine tasting
- Indian dances at the Cortez Cultural Center
- Visit to the Cortez Farmers Market
- Other possible agricultural adventures based on story assignment

Dates: May-September, 2011

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, and check out a local brewery and winery. 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: Located in southwest Colorado, Mesa Verde Country® 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 (Far View Lodge at Mesa Verde National Park and in Cortez, CO)
- Meals during the trip
- Air transportation to and from Cortez, Colo.
- 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)