NATIVE AMERICAN VOICES: THE DAKOTAS, COLORADO, AND NEW MEXICO

MAY 9–17, 2021

Join us on a road trip as we travel through magnificent landscapes exploring iconic Native American sites and meeting with tribal leaders and activists, journalists and artists, seeking a firsthand understanding of their history and of their ongoing fights for justice.

MAY 9: FORT YATES

• Independent arrivals into Bismarck. Meet at the Bismarck Airport at 2:30pm and begin the program with a visit to the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum.

• We will be joined by Dakota Wind Goodhouse, from Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation. He is currently a Native American Studies instructor at United Tribes Technical College, which is owned and operated by five federally recognized tribes in North Dakota.

• Afternoon meeting with Danielle Ta’Sheena Finn. An acclaimed activist and artist, Danielle is the External Affairs Director for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and an associate judge for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

• Check-in to the Prairie Knights Casino and Resort, located in the Standing Rock Reservation.

• Enjoy a welcome reception and dinner with fellow travelers.

MAY 10: FORT YATES

• Depart in the morning and drive along Highway 1806, the Standing Rock National Native American Scenic Byway, an 86-mile route that climbs up and down the Missouri River breaks, past buffalo herds and eagle’s nests. History comes alive on this journey: the great Lakota spiritual leader Sitting Bull lived and died here; Meriwether Lewis and William Clark stopped 14 times along this trail, and it is the final resting place of Sakakawea.

• Accompanied by Dakota Goodhouse stop at the Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. The reconstructed ‘On-A-Slant Indian Village’ provides an excellent introduction to the earthlodges of the Mandan Indians who occupied this site from about 1575-1781. Learn about the 1863-1864 Punitive Expeditions. It was from here that George Armstrong Custer and the Seventh Cavalry rode out on their ill-fated expedition at Little Big Horn.
• Continue on for a visit to **Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site**, a National Parks Service site, which was established in 1974 and preserves the historic and archaeological remnants of bands of Hidatsa, Northern Plains Indians. This area was once a major trading and agricultural area.

• Driving towards Bismarck stop, at the Double Ditch Indian Village, a large earth-lodge community inhabited by the Mandan Indians for nearly 300 years (AD 1490 – 1785) and once a center of trade between the Mandans, their nomadic neighbors, and later, Euro-American traders.

• After lunch in Mandan, meet with **Holly Doll**, a Native American who set up the Five Nations Arts Organization. Founded in 1992, they are a resource to artists and collectors of Native American art. In addition to talking about the art project, Holly will provide a presentation on cultural sensitivity.

• Also meeting the group will be **Cheryl Kary**, co-founder of the Sacred Pipe Resource Center (SPRC) which was founded by a group of residents of the Bismarck-Mandan area who are committed to the mission of maintaining a home-away-from-home for off-reservation Native Americans living in the area.

• Meet with **Scott Davis**, Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, who serves as a cabinet level liaison between North Dakota’s state and tribal governments.

• Dinner at a local restaurant

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**MAY II: KEYSTONE**

• Begin the morning with visits on the Standing Rock Reservation, home to the Lakota and Dakota people. The reservation consists of a land base of 2.8 million acres spread over North and South Dakota. Meet with **Phyllis Young**, a former council member for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, was one of the principal coordinator/organizers for Central Oceti Sakowin camp, the main camp of Water Protectors at Standing Rock.

• Nearby is the community of Cannon Ball where we will meet with **Rev. John Floberg**, who, for 25 years, headed congregations in Cannon Ball, Fort Yates and Selfridge. Floberg is deeply committed to the DAPL protests and, with the endorsement of the national Episcopal Church, Floberg provided supplies to campers and hosted protestors in his church.

• Drive to Fort Yates, the main town of Standing Rock and enjoy a locally cooked lunch at the Community Center.

• After lunch visit the original burial site of Sitting Bull who was assassinated on the western part of the reservation on December 15, 1890. Sitting Bull was a strong advocate for maintaining the land, rights and ways of the Lakota people.

• Close by is the Standing Rock Monument overlooking Oahe Reservoir. The name of Standing Rock derives from a stone held sacred by the Dakota/Lakota people. There are many stories about the revered stone but all speak of it as a woman or woman and child who turned to stone.
• End the afternoon with a meeting of the Standing Rock Tribal Council in their offices, designed following authentic Native American architectural elements. The goal is to gain a deeper understanding of their current initiatives and challenges.

• Visit Sitting Bull College and Library. Founded in 1973, it is one of 34 tribal controlled-colleges nationwide.

• Drive about 3 hours to Keystone and the K Bar S Lodge, tucked deep in the Black Hills. Rooms have been reserved each with balconies offering views over Mt. Rushmore, an iconic symbol to many but a painful reminder to the Lakota Sioux of sacred land illegally annexed and as a celebration of presidents involved in the destruction of tribal life.

• Dinner at the hotel.

**MAY 12: KEYSSTONE**

• This morning meet with Sequoia Crosswhite, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and a descendant of Chief War Eagle and Chief Swift Cloud. He is an accomplished musician, grass dancer and historian, and his handmade flutes and musical recordings uphold the traditions of his Lakota ancestors.

• Drive just over an hour to Kyle, stopping at the inspiring Thunder Valley Community Center, which began 10 years ago when Jerome and Nick Tilsen decided they wanted to “create models of change that will overpower intergenerational poverty and build momentum towards regional equity.”

• Head towards the town of Pine Ridge stopping at the site of the Massacre of Wounded Knee in 1890. The “battle” was actually a massacre where hundreds of unarmed Lakota women, children, and men, including Big Foot, were shot and killed by U.S. troops. The history of Wounded Knee would spur American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) activists to occupy the site in 1973.

• In Pine Ridge we have requested a meeting with Julian Bear Runner, who in 2018 became President of one of the largest tribes in the nation, the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Bear Runner ran on a platform promoting new generation leadership and a concerted effort to tackle corruption.

• Stop in at the Oglala Tribe Justice Center which opened in 2015 to house new courtrooms, a short term correctional holding facility, offices for law enforcement and justice officials, and a “peacemaking” room for family and group disputes. Chief Judge Charles Abourezk and Bette Goings, the Tribal Court Administrator, will join us for a meeting.
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• Meet with artist Joe Pulliam Buffalo Dreamer whose work is in the permanent collection of the National Museum of the American Indian. Pulliam has dedicated his art to preserving Lakota culture and his pieces are very similar to the earliest depictions of ledger art.

• Return to Keystone in the late afternoon. Dinner at the hotel.

MAY 13: DENVER

• Accompanied by Sequoia Crosswhite spend the morning visiting the Badlands National Park, or “makosica” as it is known to the Lakota people. This is a place of mystery, spirituality and natural beauty.

• Stop at the Wind Cave National Park, an important spot in the Emergence Story. In Lakota culture, history is passed down to new generations through the spoken word. There are many different versions of the Emergence Story, varying from band to band and family to family.

• Continue by road to Denver making a stop in Boulder to meet with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF). Since 1971, NARF has provided legal assistance to Indian tribes, organizations, and individuals nationwide who might otherwise have gone without adequate representation, prevailing in hundreds of major cases involving tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, natural resource protection, and Indian education.

• Continue on to Denver and the Downtown Renaissance Hotel, which features a series of murals focusing on early Indigenous history and painted by Allen True, commissioned in 1923.

• Dinner at leisure.

MAY 14: DEL NORTE

• We have requested a meeting with Ernest House Jr., former executive director of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA) who created educational resource guides, organized a dramatic apology for a centuries-old massacre and led politicians through tours of his tribal home as he worked to address the wounds of colonization.

• Attend panel discussion hosted by Rose McGuire, formerly of the Indian Education Program in the Denver Public School system, on the life of young Native Americans off the reservation.

• After lunch, drive through spectacular landscapes stopping at the Great Sand Dunes National Park, home to the highest sand dunes in North America. The mountains, forests, and dunes in the park are sacred to the Apache, Navajo, Ute, and Pueblo Indians.

• Continue on to Del Norte and the Windsor Hotel, one of Colorado’s oldest hotels. Its construction started soon after the town was founded in 1871.

• Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

MAY 15: IGNACIO

• This morning drive about two hours to Chimney Rock, an intimate, off-the-beaten path archaeological site located at the southern edge of the San Juan Mountains. The site was home to the ancestors of the modern Pueblo Indians 1,000 years ago and is of great spiritual significance to these tribes.

• Continue on to Bayfield and lunch at the Bottom Shelf Brewery which is located in the heart of the Pine River Valley, nestled in the quaint downtown area of Bayfield.
After lunch drive to Durango and the Native American Center (NAC). The center provides academic, cultural, social, and transitional support for undergraduate Native American students.

Drive to Ignacio and the Sky Ute Casino Resort, located on the Southern Ute Reservation. The oldest continuous residents of Colorado are the Ute Indians, who came into the present day United States along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

Late afternoon discussion focusing on the social and economic impact of Indian gaming. Of the 567 federally recognized tribes, 238 tribes operate 474 gaming facilities in 28 states. Gaming has had a significant positive economic impact on the Native American community, yet is not without its detractors. We’ll hear from tribal experts on the economic and political realities.

Dinner at leisure this evening.

MAY 16: IGNACIO

This morning visit the Southern Ute Cultural Center led by your subject expert, Linda Baker, who is also the director of the Southern Ute Cultural Center. Owned and operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, it was established in 1971 to preserve and promote Ute culture. The group will also meet with Edward Box III who is the culture director of the Southern UTE Cultural Preservation Department.

Lunch at Fox Fire Farm, a winery and nine hundred acre ranch.

Proposed meeting with the staff at the Southern Ute Drum, the tribe’s biweekly community newspaper.

Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening.

MAY 17: IGNACIO

Independent transfers for return flights home from Durango.

POST-TOUR OPTIONAL EXTENSION IN SANTA FE
MAY 17–19, 2021

See the Aztec Ruins National Monument; meet with woman at Tewa Women United, a multicultural and multiracial organization founded and led by Native women; visit the Pojoaque Pueblo, the Poeh Cultural Center, Institute of American Indian Arts, Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, and the Indigenous Language Institute.

Hotel Santa Fe

Extension price $1,295 per person based on double occupancy (single supplement $310)
PRICING
Per person double occupancy: $4,790
Single supplement: $970

INCLUDED
• Breakfast daily
• Meals as listed in the program including a welcome and farewell reception/dinner with wine
• Bottled water on the bus
• Sightseeing and excursions as listed
• Entrance fees to all exhibits, museums, parks, etc
• Transportation in a deluxe motor-coach with air-conditioning
• Services of a tour manager and subject expert
• All gratuities

DOES NOT INCLUDE
• Airfare to Bismarck and from Durango
• Transfers to and from arrival and departure airports
• Luggage charges
• Drinks excluding at welcome and farewell receptions
• Personal insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation
• Items of a purely personal nature
• Any items not specifically listed as included