



CROW CANYON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER

Ancient Cultures of the Green River

Program Details

Limited to 10 registered participants.

Meals, lodging, and transportation provided. Itinerary subject to change.

Sunday, September 29: Arrive in Green River

A group shuttle is offered by staff from Grand Junction airport to Green River, UT. Gather in the evening to meet the group and hear presentations from our scholars to set the stage for the upcoming week. Opening dinner to follow located next to our hotel. *Overnight River Terrace Inn, Green River (D)*

Monday, September 30: Book Cliffs and Green River

Travel into the Book Cliffs to explore a variety of petroglyph and pictograph panels in two separate canyons. This stark and remote landscape dictates how cultures used remote corridors for ritualistic journeys away from the Green River.

Afterward, we visit sites directly along the Green River to understand connectivity from site to site.

Overnight River Terrace Inn, Green River (B, L, D)

Tuesday, October 1: San Rafael Swell

Spend the day exploring a variety of rock imagery tucked into the remarkable geologic upwarp known as the San Rafael Swell. Here we investigate the variety of people that moved through this complex country and ones that came to settle the area. Be prepared to hike across sandy and rocky terrain up to a mile to access sites.

Overnight River Terrace Inn, Green River (B, L, D)

Wednesday, October 2: Prehistoric Museum in Price and Nine Mile Canyon

Pack up for transfer to Nine Mile Ranch. Spend the morning at the Prehistoric Museum in Price, examining artifacts such as the remarkable Pillings Figurines, and enjoy a behind-the-scenes visit to the curation room with our experts. We also understand how Fremont peoples' homes were constructed and what foods were prepared. The afternoon takes us into Nine Mile Canyon where an overwhelming and varied array of rock imagery awaits us. Settle in to our backcountry-style accommodations at the Ranch with a Dutch-oven cookout. Special guests join us here for our remaining days.

Overnight Nine Mile Canyon Ranch, Nine Mile Canyon (B, L, D)

Thursday, October 3: Nine Mile Canyon

Learn the varied history of this important corridor that hosts hundreds of sites related to multicultural peoples. We see remnant histories that the rock imagery portrays, with nods to Ute, Pueblo, Paiute, Shoshone, Apache, and Navajo in this mixing zone called the Green River Fremont. Return to the Ranch in mid-afternoon for storytelling and relaxed time in the shade. Enjoy an evening with our hosts for another cookout with fireside stories.

Overnight Nine Mile Ranch, Nine Mile Canyon (B, L, D)

Friday, October 4: Price River area

Depart the Ranch for our last day in the field. We explore the Price river area on our journey back to Green River. Our discussions wrap up with parallels of farming practices along certain waterways, contrasted to other corridors we visited that contain ritual sites. Wrap up our journey in Green River with a closing dinner celebration.

Overnight River Terrace Inn, Green River (B, L, D)

Saturday, October 5: Departures out of Green River

Plan your departure for anytime in the morning. A group shuttle is offered by the staff to Grand Junction in the morning.
(B)

**(B, L, D) indicates meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Is This Trip For You?

We travel to remote areas surrounding Green River, UT to include the Book Cliffs and the San Rafael Swell. Access to these areas requires remote travel on two-track roads with stops along the way. Some sites require hiking across sandy valleys and rocky hillslopes for up to one mile at a time. Our travel into Nine Mile Canyon involves walking along roadways and improved trails to access sites.

The itinerary is designed for energetic people in good health who like to be active and have a spirit of adventure. Expect to be outside most of the day embarking on short, moderately challenging hikes to visit sites. A couple of the hikes will be up to two miles long on uneven and sometimes rocky terrain. Note that some routes may be steep for short sections and have loose rock and no shade. While staff members are available for assistance, you should be comfortable using your hands to steady yourself and be able to take steps higher than a standard staircase step to navigate around boulders and bedrock. Walking sticks are encouraged for steep sections.

This program involves van travel to access sites and trail heads. Some days will include van rides of one hour or more. Other days will include van rides that last 20 to 30-minutes to access hikes and sites.

Team spirit and a good sense of humor are vital! If you have questions about your ability to handle this sort of challenge, please contact us.

Accommodations

The program begins and ends in Green River, UT. We are based out of two very different accommodations, the River Terrace Inn, a hotel along the Green River; and Nine Mile Ranch with its "off-the-grid" cabins, communal bathrooms, and central family lodge. Here we bring our own sleeping bags (which can be provided by Crow Canyon if desired) as we enjoy our backcountry component of this seminar.

Frequently Asked Questions

How strenuous is the program? This is a moderately strenuous program where most site visitation is accessed by hiking from our vehicles across somewhat rocky terrain. Expect a longer hike each day of up to two miles where you will carry a pack with water and any other items such as camera, sunscreen and a trail snack. Binoculars are very handy for those who opt out of scrambling up close to view rock imagery.

How long are the hikes on the trip? Our longest planned hike is just under two miles. Most access involves a short walk or hike from the van.

How much elevation gain do the hikes have? One hike involves an elevation gain of 300-feet on rocky terrain.

What time does the program start on the first day? We will gather at 5:30 p.m. at the River Terrace Inn, Green River, Utah on the first day. Check in between 3:00–5:00 p.m. under your name.

What time does the program end on the last day? Plan your departure for anytime in the morning. If you fly out of Grand Junction, staff will offer shuttles to Grand Junction airport.

Can I drive myself during the program? No, we prefer that you travel with us, as a group, in Crow Canyon vehicles each day.

What if I have a dietary restriction? Breakfasts are buffet-style at the hotel. Lunches will be picnic or bagged sandwiches. Dinners will be at restaurants in Green River and cookouts at Nine Mile Ranch. Please fill out your medical form and check with your Program Manager. We will do our best to accommodate dietary restrictions to your satisfaction.

Do I need any camping gear on this trip? You may wish to bring your own sleeping bag and pillow for our time at Nine Mile Ranch. They are known as a comfortable “Bunk and Breakfast” guest ranch where we are lodged in clean historic cabins. We will do our best to make you feel comfortable in the more rustic accommodations. This trip requires a sense of adventure, which is eminent at the Guest Ranch, an authentic cowboy ranch.

What Next?

Register online or contact Tayler Hasbrouck at travel@crowcanyon.org. Prior to the program start date, we will provide trip details, a packing list, and forms for you to complete. Please direct specific questions and concerns to the Program Manager, Kate Thompson at ktompson@crowcanyon.org.