

# San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

a Colorado Nonprofit Corporation



## Field Trip Report

Destination: Canyon de Chelly

Date: June 6 – 7, 2019

Leader(s): Randy Graham

Number of Participants: 9

Participants:



Pictured: Tom Darnell, Lydine Hannula, Ruth Guarino, Susan Hicks, Chris Merlier, Don Hicks

Not Pictured: Thomas Hannula, Randy Graham, Mary Morehead.

**June 6, 2017**

## Thunderbird Lodge Trading Post



Our adventure began meeting our Navajo guides at the Historic Thunderbird Lodge & Trading Post which is on the site of the original trading post built in 1896. Some of our participants stayed at the lodge, one camped at the Cottonwood Campground next to the lodge and one couple stayed at a hotel in Chinle.

### June 6, Tour of the Canyon & Group Dinner

At 2:00 pm, our group met our Navajo guides who drove two Pinzgauer army troop carriers, built in Austria to begin our canyon tour. The four-hour trip included visits to following ruins: Kokopelli Cave, Petroglyph Rock, First Ruin, Junction Ruin, Ceremonial Cave, Ledge Ruin, Antelope House Ruin in Canyon De Muerto and the White House Ruin in Canyon De Chelly.



Our drive in the canyon was bumpy but fun and challenging partly due to the high-water levels from the winter snowmelt. It was beautiful in the canyon and we passed several small farms where families were planting corn, grazing cattle and horses.



At the end of the day we enjoyed an evening meal at the Junction Café in Chinle which offered some local Navaho specialties such as Sheep herders, Navajo taco on fry bread.

**June 7, 2019**

### **Hike to Whitehouse Ruin**

At 9:00 am, we met in at the Thunderbird Lodge and traveled to the White House trail head on the south rim. White House was built and occupied about 1,000 years ago and was named for the long, white plaster wall in the upper dwelling. This is one of the few trails that visitors are allowed to hike into the Canyon without a Navajo guide. We traveled 2.5 miles round-trip and descended 600 ft. to the canyon bottom. We complete our hike in about 2 hours.

