

# Tentative Itinerary For:

## Canyon de Chelly Landscape Safari October 27<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

If you have ever wanted a photographic experience that takes you into the heart of the American Indian culture from the view of an insider this is the workshop for you. This is a no frills photographic adventure that allows you to create intimate images that commercial tours and association outings can never match. This rare opportunity is offered to professional photographers and knowledgeable amateurs. *Only 6 photography participants.*

Focusing on the land in the Canyon de Chelly area of Arizona, this safari workshop is for people interested in photographing the beauty of the landscape and the people living there. This is the spiritual center of the Navajo people—the heart of the Navajo culture.

We will spend four days photographing locations rarely visited by outsiders. Most of these locations will be in the canyon, but we will also explore other areas around Chinle, Arizona that are just as beautiful and have a unique appeal to those wanting to photograph areas not seen in published photos.

Our group will be small enough to accommodate personal attention for each participant from our local guide, resident, and accomplished photographer, Carmen Hunter, and master photographer, David Davis who has been photographing on the Colorado Plateau for over thirty years. Master photographer, Roger Daines, may join us to share his expertise in seeing light and composition from the commercial photographer's perspective. And, another master teacher may join us as well!

As a participant, you will have input on the areas you wish to photograph, and we will do our best to give you a variety of areas that you would never see on other guided tours to the area. There will be some instruction in technique, lighting, composition, and recognizing a great photo opportunity—although the primary reason for this time together is to give you the chance to take photographs you could

never get on your own. We especially welcome your ideas during the workshop or want you to be free to create on your own when that seems like a better idea.

**Arrive in Chinle** on the afternoon of October 27, 2010, for a brief evening orientation and to have a group meal at the Junction Restaurant. We will meet each evening for debriefing and possibly a group meal to make sure we are on the same page for the following day. There will be opportunities for modifying the itinerary to accommodate the group's personality. This "go-with-the-flow" type of planning is necessary for all successful photography, and is especially important with a group like ours operating within the Navajo Nation.

**Day One, October 28, 2010:** Tour the Canyon to take photos of the landscape and get oriented to the lay of the land. Depending on the autumn moisture and temperatures, the foliage should be very colorful in all parts of the canyon. The temperatures varying from cool in the morning hours to warm in the afternoon. We will visit First Ruin, Antelope House, Mummy Cave, and other interesting locations featuring petroglyphs and great views. You will want to be ready for action at all times when we encounter horses, deer, and other interesting creatures. Evening for reviewing the day's images and discussion over our evening meal.

**Day Two, October 29, 2010:** Sunrise possibilities abound and will be determined by the weather. Then, we will work in the lower end of the canyon early exploring some of the details along the cliff bases including petroglyphs rarely seen by other visitors. We work our way up past White House Ruin all the way up to Spider Rock and then ease our way out of the canyon with the dramatic late day light. We may even make it to the incredible arch made famous in David's photograph, "*Watchman of the Valley*"—or save this delight for day three. Evening review, meal, and discussion time.

**Day Three, October 30, 2010:** A day for landscape with the possibility of including people in some of our photos. We may explore some of the incredible photo possibilities of the geological formations outside the canyon in the area close to

Chinle, Arizona. Many choices from sand dunes to the mysteries of Three Turkey Canyon, and areas just as picturesque but less photographed. And, if we didn't make it to "the arch", this will be our afternoon project. Evening review, meal, and discussion time.

**Day Four, October 31, 2010:** This is our "pick-up" day to revisit favorite locations, capture views from the rim, maybe add people to our photos, and explore. There is always more to see and photograph than time allows, so this people's choice time allows each participant an equal input to the plan. If indecision happens, your leaders will do what they do best—point you in the right direction! When we are finished, you are welcome to head for home, or stay another day or two to capture more images on your own. We generally finish about lunch time to give travelers the opportunity to leave without missing out on the morning session.

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The cost for this workshop is \$1495 per person with \$795 down to reserve your spot and the balance due by September 30, 2010. This trip is organized by Southwest Photo Safaris & Facerock Productions, LLC for the benefit of raising funds for aspiring American Indian photographers—one of these photographers being our co-leader, Carmen Hunter. Carmen has worked with many Arizona Highways Workshops and well-known photographers. Carmen has recently been contracted by a Santa Fe publisher to write and use her photographs for a children's book. Last September, one of her images took "Best of Show" at the Navajo Nation Fair, she was asked to hang her work in the Trails West Gallery in Santa Fe, and has several images in the 2009 *Indian Country Calendar*.

These fees will cover the costs of your guides and instructors, permits and fees from the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation Film Office, and "lunch-on-the-go" each day. You will want to tip the people who help you carry your gear

on one or more of our hikes. If you choose to do this, *bring extra cash* for this purpose and for other incidental purchases you may want to make while we are in the canyon. **Cash is always better for transactions on the reservation** although some vendors will accept credit cards.

You are responsible for your travel to Chinle, lodging at the Best Western Canyon de Chelly Inn, Holiday Inn, Thunderbird Lodge, and other meals. Many people bring their own four-wheel-drive vehicle knowing that it will need moderately high clearance in the Canyon for traveling through the sandy wash during our first four miles of travel. This makes for ease of transporting your gear.

We will take the fewest vehicles possible, but enough to travel and carry our photo equipment and incidentals comfortably. You will get all the details when you sign up. There will be moderate hiking for some of the photo opportunities, and at least one hike that will require a photo backpack for a twenty-minute, uphill hike you won't want to miss.

You can sign up by calling David at Southwest Photo Safaris and Facerock Productions in Grand Junction. This number is 1.877.245.6042 and you can leave a message after business hours or email David at [davis@facerockproductions.com](mailto:davis@facerockproductions.com). We accept MasterCard®, VISA®, American Express®, Discover®, and PayPal® plus business or personal checks mailed to Southwest Photo Safaris, 1340 Ouray Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

**You deserve to experience this fun and meaningful event!**