

Tentative Itinerary For:

Canyon de Chelly Safari Photographing with Native People May 12th through May 16th, 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 photographers of all skill levels wanting to create original images with skilled teachers and guides getting them to locations few people ever see. *Only 6 photography participants.*

Focusing on the people and their 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. Three of these days we will have a variety of local people as our subjects—both as posed living elements in the landscape photos, and as native people interacting with each other and the land, using their unique skills, or in family and friend relationships.

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 types of people you wish to photograph, and we will do our best to give you a variety of individuals that you would never meet on other guided tours to the area. There will be some instruction in technique, lighting, posing, 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 May 12, 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, May 13, 2010: Tour the Canyon to take photos of the landscape and get oriented to the lay of the land. Depending on the spring moisture, the foliage should be very green 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, White House Ruin, 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. We usually have at least one local helper that comes along and will be available for "modeling" and demonstration of photographing people in these locations. Evening for reviewing the day's images and discussion over our evening meal.

Day Two, May 14, 2010: Photograph with people in and around the canyon from first light to dark. Our subjects will vary depending on their availability and the logistics. You will have input into your preferences. We usually work our way up towards Spider Rock and then ease our way out of the canyon with the dramatic late day light. Evening review, meal, and discussion time.

Day Three, May 15, 2010: We will once again photograph with the people. By now all participants will have a better idea of personal projects they want to complete.

This will be an intense day focused on creating more interesting images, many of which will manifest right before your eyes—so you need to be prepared and stay focused at all times. We may even make it to the incredible arch made famous in David's photograph, "*Watchman of the Valley*". Evening review, meal, and discussion time.

Day Four, May 16, 2010: A day for landscape with the possibility of including people. We may explore some of the incredible photo possibilities of the geological formations outside the canyon in the area close to Chinle, Arizona. Several families have contacted Carmen and are anxious to work with us.

When we are finished, you are welcome to head for home, or stay another day or two to capture more images on your own.

The cost for this workshop is \$1795 per person with \$895 down to reserve your spot and the balance due by April 15, 2010. This trip is organized by Southwest Photo Safaris and 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, the people you will photograph (not counting any tips you may want to give them personally), permits and fees from the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation Film Office, and "lunch-on-the-go" each day. You may want to tip the people we photograph in exchange for non-commercial model releases or for carrying your gear on one 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 Inn Canyon de Chelly, Holiday Inn, or 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 some 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. 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!