



Mesa Verde, Arches & Canyonlands
May 10-18, 2013

We had just returned from Vancouver at 2am Wednesday morning and thus I had until Friday morning to do a turn around to this hiking trip. It was going to be tight; it became tighter when Tom had a health challenge and ended up Wednesday evening in the hospital with a series of mini-strokes. (Typical of Tom, he recovers fast and he's home and fine later the day I left.) Call it Husband Abuse but I left him there (with his and the doctor's encouragement) and started my trip early Friday morning. By Friday afternoon he was home (with the help of a kind neighbor) and doing well other than left side blurry/kaleidoscope vision which was expected to cure itself in time.

I'd never been to Durango, the starting town of the tour. This was part of the reason for choosing Country Walkers since www.TimberTours.com would start in Moab and I wanted to see Durango. That and they can't seem to decide or reveal who will be the hiking leaders and I'd wanted my favorites Steve and Nola.

Arrival into Durango was through Denver and I was fortunate to get the well-needed first class upgrades on both legs of my flights. Hotel pick up was special if not cute: there's only one door to the airport and the driver referred to me by name and spoke like I was part of the family. The hotel is uniquely better than most Doubletree/Hiltons and sits along the river. A room upgrade was also much appreciated but I left it soon to take a long stroll through Historic Downtown which was only a couple blocks from the hotel. The town was full for an open art studio evening.



<http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/colorado/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-durango-RLDU-DT/index.html>

No report or cut and paste report? Understandably this report is most likely to be written primarily by copying Country Walkers and web links. I still have Vancouver in draft and Amalfi Coast hike looms almost immediately as soon as this one is over.

Fun Facts on Durango - Here starts with fun facts about Durango which has a long and rich history, and a lot of stories to tell!

- The name Durango comes from the Basque word “Urango”, which means “water town”. This name is fitting for Durango, as the Animas River runs through town.

- The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Company founded the town of Durango in 1880, building the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad by July 1882. Laborers were paid an average of \$2.25/day.

- The tracks of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad are only 36 inches apart, while standard gauge rails are 56 inches apart.

- The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad uses approximately 10,000 gallons of water per round-trip and 12,000 pounds of coal, which is shoveled one shovelful at a time.

- Durango is located at the intersection of US Highways 160 and 550 and is only 5.6 square miles.

- There are more Durango restaurants per capita than San Francisco.

- The Ancestral Puebloans (formerly referred to as the Anasazi) were the first settlers in the area, but vanished from the Four Corners region around 1300.

- Mesa Verde National Park, home to thousands of archaeological site including ancient cliff dwellings of the Ancestral Puebloans, was established as a National Park in 1906.

- The original name of the Animas River is “El Rio de las Animas Perdidas”, which when translated from Spanish means “The River of Lost Souls”. The river was named after several Spanish explorers were lost while traveling on the river. Their bodies were never found, and the remaining explorers believed the souls of the lost explorers would be relegated to Purgatory.

- Two miles of the Animas River are “Gold Medal” waters, a classification for the highest quality of fishing for large trout. Fly fishing only on this stretch of water. The river view was everywhere from our hotel with most rooms sporting a balcony.

- The previous legend also explains the original name of Durango’s ski resort, Purgatory. Purgatory Resort has since been renamed Durango Mountain Resort.

- Jack Dempsey fought Andy Malloy on October 7, 1915 at the Jarvis Suites Hotel. Dempsey, born in southern Colorado, became the heavy weight boxing champion in 1919.

- The Iron Horse Bicycle Classic began in 1972, and is the longest continuously run cycling event in the U.S. Road bikers race the Durango-Silverton Train to Silverton over Memorial Day weekend.

- Fort Lewis College was originally an Indian School, located on the Ute Reservation.



- Many of the buildings in historic downtown Durango were constructed with stone and brick due to a city ordinance enacted after a fire in 1889, which damaged several blocks along Main Avenue.

- Durango's newspaper, the Durango Herald, was originally called the Durango Democrat in the 1880s.

- The honeybees at Honeyville live for 6 weeks and work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They can also fly at speeds as fast as 14 mph.

- The Diamond Belle Saloon at the Strater Hotel opened its doors in 1957 and has a bullet hole in the Far East drawer behind the bar.



From <http://www.strater.com> – Built in 1887, the Strater Hotel is one of Durango's prominent down-town landmarks and is located two blocks north of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. A Cleveland pharmacist named Henry Strater had the vision and faith that Durango would prosper, and with its prosperity, it would need a grand hotel. The Strater Hotel opened after an expenditure of \$70,000 and placement of 376,000 native red bricks and hand-carved sandstone cornices and sills. As the hotel evolved, it



proved to be a popular winter retreat for Durango town folk who would close their own homes during the cold winter months and move into the hotel. Currently, the Strater Hotel houses the world's largest collection of American Victorian Antiques, many of which decorate the hotel's 93 rooms.

- The headquarters of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is located in Ignacio, located 25 miles southeast of Durango.

- The water of Trimble Hot Springs contains the following minerals: zinc, sulfate, sodium, potassium, phosphate, nitrogen, manganese, magnesium, lithium, iron, fluoride, chloride, calcium and boron.

- Durango is the hometown of the original Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. That's almost as fun as Vancouver being the hometown of the original Lulu Lemon.

- Several well-known movies were made in Durango, including Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, City Slickers, Cliffhanger, National Lampoon's Vacation, Night Passage, Ticket to Tomahawk, Around the World in Eighty Days, How the West Was Won, and Trucker.

Overview of Durango - With more than 16,000 residents, Durango is the largest town in southwest Colorado. It's also certainly one of the happiest. Locals are fond of saying that those who choose to live in Durango do so not for fame and fortune, but for the superb quality of life.

Colorado Sightseeing - Durango is situated a short drive from "Four Corners" – the spot where New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado meet. The surrounding landscape of Durango is diverse and often dramatic, spanning from red sandstone bluffs of the Animas River Valley to jagged peaks of the San Juan Mountains, a few of which rise to elevations over 14,000 feet. To the west lie arid desert lands, and to the south of Durango lies the southern border of the vast 2 million acre San Juan National Forest.

Durango Outdoor Activities - Durango is Colorado's year-round playground! In the spring and summer, hike through fields of Colorado wildflowers, mountain bike endless miles of Colorado bike trails and raft the waters of the Animas River. Feed your adventurous side on a Jeep or dogsled tour of the rugged San Juan Mountains. Ski the locals' favorite terrain at Durango Mountain Resort, home to some of the most spectacular views you'll see from any ski resort in Colorado. You will be amazed by how much there is to do, see, and experience in Durango! Check out all our exciting Durango activities, or browse mountain activities by season: spring, summer, fall and winter.

Local Favorites and World-Class Attractions - Durango offers an endless variety of year-round activities and world-class experiences for the entire family. Check out all of Durango's local favorites and world-class attractions or call us to find out more!

- Take a trip through the breathtaking canyons of the San Juan National Forest, aboard the historic Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.
- Retrace the ancient footsteps of the Ancestral Pueblo people, who once lived in the amazing cliff dwellings which you can visit in nearby Mesa Verde National Park.
- Take a stroll back in time, with a walking tour of, historic downtown Durango exploring Durango's eclectic shops, art galleries, and excellent restaurants.
- Enjoy the thrills and romance of 'Old West' entertainment under the stars at the Bar D Chuck wagon.

Durango Arts and Culture - Visit any of Durango's art galleries, museums, and cultural centers and enjoy Durango's vibrant art scene. From local artisans to fine performing arts, from public murals and sculptures to intricate Western jewelry, get inspired by Durango's rich arts and culture scene. I saw them all, surely, but who at this stage of life has room for anything extra?

Elevation and Climate - Durango sits at 6,512 feet above sea level. The lovely Durango climate is quite mild and moderate, with typical summer daytime highs in the 70s-80s, and nighttime lows in the 50s. I would see highs in 60s and lows in 30s.

History - If these mountains could talk! Durango has a long and rich history that both history buffs and curious folks of all ages will enjoy. Durango was founded in 1880 by the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. By July of 1882, tracks to Silverton were completed and the train began transporting both freight and passengers. The Durango-Silverton Railroad was originally constructed to haul silver and gold ore, but passengers soon realized that it was the view that was truly precious. The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad celebrated its 125th year of continuous operation in 2006 and continues to be a favorite attraction on a Colorado sightseeing vacation!

From local history and railroad museums of historic downtown Durango to the ancient cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park, Durango is truly where the old west survived, and where the new west thrives.

Summary tour description from www.CountryWalkers.com - As a Guided Adventure this trip is one of our signature travel experiences and has been designed to leave all your cares behind—from 24/7 guides and accommodations to meals, transportation and local wine or beer with dinner—you are assured an exceptional active travel group adventure. Walking in this breathtaking region of canyon cliffs and fascinating rock formations is like entering an otherworldly sanctuary—one where eons of natural history are sculpted into the landscape and trailblazing Western adventure beckons. The journey begins in Mesa Verde National Park, where you wander the mesa verde, literally the "green table" along canyon rims and cliff-side paths. Along the way you may encounter such indigenous

species as elk, deer, and diverse bird life. The petroglyph panel at Petroglyph Point inspires close examination, firing the imagination about the passage of geological time recorded in this extraordinary destination. Visits to Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings recall human civilization reaching back more than one thousand years. In Arches National Park, you travel to notable rock formations, such as the renowned Delicate Arch, and in Canyonlands National Park, you explore the Island in the Sky mesa overlooking a dramatic canyon more than 2,000 feet deep. In more remote canyons you wind through a colorful palette of earthen brown trails, crystal blue rivers, and wind-burnished pink stone. You delight in daylight shimmering off red cliff walls, and celebrate in a river-float down the magnificent Colorado River. Superb accommodations showcase the region's spectacular scenery, offering riverside and canyon views from patios and comfortable rooms. While one lodge, nestled in the heart of a National Park, offers immediate access to walking trails, another property features spacious suites nestled beneath cliffs on the Colorado River. After a day of walking you are treated to meals inspired by Native American and Western cuisine - all with lovely sunset views.

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– Edward Abbey, Desert Solitaire, American author, 1927-1989

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures, with moderate terrain and some easy and challenging sections. Most days average 4-7 miles of walking with shorter and longer options available when possible and elevation gains and losses up to 700 feet. The ascents and descents are gradual as opposed to very sharp and steep and our pace is generally slow, approximately 1-2 miles per hour. The highest elevation during the trip is approximately 8,800 feet. The trails are a combination of dirt, sandy paths and slick-rock; some are wooded and others are quite open and exposed. Trails into the cliff dwellings use ladders to ease steep sections. The trails have a combination of flat sections, ascents, and descents. Proper sunscreen and head protection are essential! The high desert presents exhilarating walking and Native American history and culture.

Reading List - I read Edward Abbey's "Desert Solitaire" and National Geographic's "Canyonlands" special edition as well as two 'cowboy' books on living in the area during early days including "Tales of Canyonlands Cowboys" by Richard F Negri.

STOP EVERYTHING!

I'd had a lovely Friday and Saturday in Durango and started re-sorting my luggage into the backpack and hiking clothes going into the suitcase with the tourist clothes and mementos to be left in a duffle bag at the hotel or in the van. It was very late Saturday evening when my phone rang. I recognized Ouida's picture and voice and knew she had been hosting a birthday dinner for the Taurus boys – three plus her son. They would have finished dinner and ready for dessert by this time

"You need to come home" she says. Tom had gone out for a very long time (everyone agrees it was over 5 minutes and more like 10 minutes; they had EMS and the ambulance there already. I talked to a couple of the party-goers, insisted on knowing how much booze had been consumed and further pressed for honesty because I knew better than to believe "maybe two drinks."

EMS-RN Dorothy had been with us in the ER all through the earlier hospitalization, had been the manager of that hospital's ER for ten years, so I quickly called her with hardly a polite anything but "I need you." She went to the party site immediately, met the EMS personnel who knew her well, and followed Tom and the other Taurus boys to the hospital.

By the time Tom got to the hospital he thought he was fine and was insisting that I NOT come home. All the way up to 2am when he was admitted he had the nurse call Dorothy at home to call me and say that I was NOT to come home. Yet this was complicated as if I started my hike the next morning

I'd not be anywhere near transportation, maybe even without phone service, and as it was it would take a full day to get home not to mention the airline change fee, the extra air cost that was triple my original ticket, and the total loss of my hiking week. (Do you suppose I should start taking the insurance option?)

I had about 4 hours during the night to repack, clean up, get a shuttle and the first flight to Newark through Denver and I knew it would be on standby since the flights were sold out and there were already standby passengers. But United got me on, a good seat, and totally waived all the extra charges and fees. They DO have heart. I was at the hospital by 7pm where Tom stayed from Saturday night until Monday evening. My trip home wasn't wasted thereafter either as I was the Cab Driver.

Note: In case you didn't read the earlier hospital explanation, Tom's series of mini strokes passed, he was good and seemingly in fine health with no residuals. Maybe not so fine as to go partying, but healthy feeling and looking. And so you don't worry, as I write this he seems very healthy and the same Tom we all know and we are looking forward to leaving to Italy in a few days.

So what might have been is what follows. I'll try again next year.

Sun May 12 - DAY 1

Transfer to Mesa Verde National Park.

Cliff Dwellings and Petroglyph Point; 4 miles, moderate.

You meet in Durango and immediately transfer to Mesa Verde National Park (approximately one hour). Mesa Verde was the first National Park set aside to protect manmade wonders. Today the park is home to more than 4,000 archaeological sites ranging from simple pit-houses to complex cliff dwellings built in large alcoves in the steep sandstone canyons. Your explorations begin with a visit to the park's museum and the Spruce Tree House, an impressive cliff dwelling sheltered by Douglas fir, juniper, and piñon trees.

After a picnic lunch and a short welcome meeting, you embark on a guided tour of the most famous and largest of the cliff dwellings, the Cliff Palace, during which you get an in-depth glimpse at how the Ancestral Puebloans lived during the 13th century. This afternoon's walk takes you on a three-mile loop lined with distinctive canyon vegetation—Douglas fir, Mormon tea, serviceberry, prickly pear cactus, and broadleaf yucca. The trail skirts a deep canyon and culminates at a panel containing the most well-known group of petroglyphs in Mesa Verde. A short climb to the mesa top provides sweeping views on the return leg.

From <http://www.nps.gov/meve/historyculture/index.htm> - In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt established Mesa Verde National Park to "preserve the works of man," the first national park of its kind. Today, the continued preservation of both cultural and natural resources is the focus of the park's research and resource management staff.



Ancestral Puebloans made Mesa Verde their home from about A.D. 550 to 1300. For more than 700 years they and their descendants lived and flourished here.

Today, Mesa Verde National Park preserves a spectacular reminder of this ancient culture. The park contains over 4,000 known archeological sites including cliff dwellings and the mesa top sites of pit-houses, pueblos, masonry towers, and farming structures. Approximately 600 of the over 4700 archeological sites found in Mesa Verde National Park are cliff dwellings. Other sites include mesa top pueblos, farming terraces, towers, reservoirs, and check dams.

Dinner - Tonight you gather for a welcome drink and dinner in the Metate Room, overlooking the surrounding mesas. Here you choose from local specialties such as cactus dip, grilled blue corn trout, stuffed quail with Anasazi beans, or roasted elk.

Hotel Far View Lodge, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado – 1st of 2 nights
Tel (970) 529-4422

Simple rooms in the heart of Mesa Verde National Park offer balconies with views and immediate access to hiking trails and spectacular cliff dwellings. Our group will enjoy the recently renovated kiva rooms, which are tastefully decorated with Native American and Western fabrics and art.



Mon May 13 - DAY 2

Mesa Verde National Park: optional sunrise walk; 1 mile, easy.
Sand Canyon; 6.5 miles, moderate with challenging sections.

This morning you may wish to join the guides on an optional pre-breakfast walk and enjoy the view from Park Point Overlook. As the sun rises in the east, you savor the peace and quiet at this tranquil time of day.

After breakfast, you drive approximately one hour outside the park to Sand Canyon, nestled in the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The walk begins at the Sand Canyon Pueblo; although no standing walls are exposed, this ancient pueblo includes 420 rooms, 100 kivas (round buildings dug into the ground), and 14 towers (this site was excavated in the late 1980s and early 1990s and then backfilled to preserve the buildings). The walk follows the rim of Sand Canyon along a sandy trail. En route you pass several small, fragile cliff dwellings hidden in the shelter of natural alcoves. These sites were occupied by the Ancestral Puebloans during the 13th century.

Dinner this evening is at the lodge, highlighted by views of Mesa Verde as the sun sets in the distance.

Hotel Far View Lodge, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado – 2nd night

Tue May 14 - DAY 3

Transfer to Moab, Utah. Negro Bill Canyon; 4 miles, easy with moderate sections.

This morning you depart for Moab, Utah (approximately three hours), and following lunch at a favorite local restaurant, stretch your legs on an easy walk en route to the next hotel. The trail skirts a clear canyon stream, where you may hear spade foot toad song, and follows a mixed route of flat, open trails of sandy ground and slick-rock sandstone—with its curious natural gripping effect. After 1.5 miles you leave the stream and follow a side canyon to Morning Glory Bridge, an impressive natural arch that measures 243 feet—the sixth longest natural rock span in the United States.

Late this afternoon you check into your riverside lodgings and relax in the pool or Jacuzzi as you enjoy a dazzling sunset over red cliffs.

Dinner this evening is alfresco (weather permitting) on the resort's deck overlooking the Colorado River.

Hotel Red Cliffs Lodge, Moab, Utah – 1st of 3 nights
Tel (435) 259-2002 or (866) 812-2002

Spacious riverside and creek side rooms offer private patios overlooking the Colorado River. Guests enjoy views of the red rock canyons from virtually everywhere on this property, including the pool, restaurant, and lodge decks. The lodge also offers easy access to rafting and hiking.



Wed May 15 - DAY 4

Colorado River rafting excursion.

Canyonlands National Park; Island in the Sky; 2-4 miles, easy.

Early this morning you meet your rafting guides and embark on a half-day float trip on the Colorado River (some short sections of class I and II rapids). You drift through red rock canyons and past famous rock formations including Fisher Towers, Castle Rock, and the Priest and Nuns. En route you stop to eat lunch on a river beach. Later, you drive approximately one hour to the Island in the Sky Section of Canyonlands National Park, a wilderness area of sheer-walled canyons, sandstone spires, jagged cliffs, and high mesas. Once again, sweeping views accompany a walk to overlooks of the Green River snaking through the landscape in the distance.

Dinner is on your own this evening in the small western town of Moab. Your guides are available to assist you in selecting a restaurant.

Hotel Red Cliffs Lodge, Moab, Utah – 2nd of 3 nights

Thu May 16 - DAY 5

Arches National Park; Double Arch and Landscape Arch; 4.2 miles, moderate;
Delicate Arch; 3 miles, moderate.

Following an early breakfast, you drive the short distance to Arches National Park, home to some of the region's most extraordinary geologic sites. You begin the morning walk at the Double Arch area of the park. This park contains the world's greatest known concentration of natural stone Rock formation along the way arches—more than 2,000. The walk leads to a few of the most impressive arches, including Landscape Arch, its 290 ft. span makes it the longest in the park (and possibly the world).

Following a picnic lunch amidst the red rocks, you continue toward Delicate Arch, one of the most recognized arches in the park. The trailhead begins near Wolfe Ranch, a historic settlement dating back to 1880 and also the site of a fascinating panel of Ute rock art. The terrain along the trail leading to Delicate Arch is varied; it begins with rocky paths and switchbacks, then yields to portions of slick-rock. Steps have been carved into the sandstone to make ascending some of the steeper sections easier. The final portion of the trail is exposed but wide, so even though it is flanked by sheer cliff drop-offs, the walking is safe and awe-inspiring. Pause to take it all in: sweeping red rock views and the rising La Sal Mountains on the horizon.



From <http://www.nps.gov/arch/index.htm> - A red rock wonderland - Visit Arches and discover a landscape of contrasting colors, landforms and textures unlike any other in the world. The park has over 2,000 natural stone arches, in addition to hundreds of soaring pinnacles, massive fins and giant balanced rocks. This red rock wonderland will amaze you with its formations, refresh you with its trails, and inspire you with its sunsets.

History - While the sandstone landscapes may seem timeless and inhuman, there is a rich human history at Arches that spans over 10,000 years.

People - Today people visit Arches for the views and trails. Those who came before sought many other things: wealth, adventure, solitude, or a home. Learn more about a handful of characters in the human story of Arches.

Places - Rock doesn't retain the footprints of its travelers, so there aren't many places where Arches' human story is evident. Two popular spots showcase very different stories written on the land. Wolfe Ranch - This one-room cabin housed a family of six, eking out a life in this rocky desert. Courthouse Wash Panel - Layers of stories are visible on this rock wall near the Colorado River.

Facts - There are over 2,000 cataloged arches in Arches National Park. In order to be considered an arch, an opening must measure at least three feet (in any direction).

Dinner tonight: The week is celebrated in style with a final dinner, sampling wines from the lodge's own vineyard.

Hotel Red Cliffs Lodge, Moab, Utah – 3rd of 3 nights

Fri May 17 - DAY 6

Optional sunrise walk; 1-2 miles, easy.
Transfer to Durango for departure.



Early risers may wish to join the guides on a pre-breakfast walk in the hills behind the resort to enjoy a final sunrise in the lovely Southwest.

After breakfast, the drive to Durango takes approximately three hours, stopping along the way to stretch your legs and have a picnic lunch.

Itinerary

Fri May 10

12:12pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#1497
2:23pm Arrive Denver DEN for plane change

3:38pm Depart Denver DEN via UA#4875
4:49pm Arrive Durango CO

Hotel has free shuttle

Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Durango – 2 nights
501 Camino Del Rio, Durango, CO 81301

Located on the Animas River and just minutes from historic Durango, this welcoming hotel offers modern rooms with private balconies. A complimentary shuttle is offered to and from the Durango Airport.

Sun May 12

8:30am Start of hike

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skirts a deep canyon and culminates at a panel containing the most well-known group of petroglyphs in Mesa Verde. A short climb to the mesa top provides sweeping views on the return leg. Tonight you gather for a welcome drink and dinner in the Metate Room, overlooking the surrounding mesas. Here you choose from local specialties such as cactus dip, grilled blue corn trout, stuffed quail with Anasazi beans, or roasted elk.

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Hotel Red Cliffs Lodge, Moab, Utah – 2nd of 3 nights

Thu May 16 - DAY 5

Arches National Park; Double Arch and Landscape Arch; 4.2 miles, moderate; Delicate Arch; 3 miles, moderate. Following an early breakfast, you drive the short distance to Arches National Park, home to some of the region's most extraordinary geologic sites. You begin the morning walk at the Double Arch area of the park. This park contains the world's greatest known concentration of natural stone Rock formation along the way arches—more than 2,000. The walk leads to a few of the most impressive arches, including Landscape Arch, its 290 ft. span makes it the longest in the park (and possibly the world). Following a picnic lunch amidst the red rocks, you continue toward Delicate Arch, one of the most recognized arches in the park. The trailhead begins near Wolfe Ranch, a historic settlement dating back to 1880 and also the site of a fascinating panel of Ute rock art. The terrain along the trail leading to Delicate Arch is varied; it begins with rocky paths and switchbacks, then yields to portions of slick rock. Steps have been carved into the sandstone to make ascending some of the steeper sections easier. The final portion of the trail is exposed but wide, so even though it is flanked by sheer cliff drop-offs, the walking is safe and awe-inspiring. Pause to take it all in: sweeping red rock views and the rising La Sal Mountains on the horizon. Tonight the week is celebrated in style with a final dinner, sampling wines from the lodge's own vineyard.

Hotel Red Cliffs Lodge, Moab, Utah – 3rd of 3 nights

Fri May 17 - DAY 6

Optional sunrise walk; 1-2 miles, easy. Transfer to Durango for departure. Early risers may wish to join the guides on a pre-breakfast walk in the hills behind the resort to enjoy a final sunrise in the lovely Southwest. After breakfast, the drive to Durango takes approximately three hours, stopping along the way to stretch your legs and have a picnic lunch.

Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
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Sat May 18

11:44am Depart Durango DRO via UA#4882
12:56pm Arrive Denver DEN for plane change

4:00pm Depart Denver DEN via UA#1025
9:50pm Arrive Newark EWR