

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mesa Verde National Park's 8th Annual Indian Arts & Culture Festival Celebrates Native American Heritage and Regional Traditions**

**Mesa Verde National Park, CO – February 2008** – Mesa Verde National Park, in partnership with the surrounding Colorado communities of Cortez, Dolores, Mancos and Towaoc, will celebrate the destinations' Native American heritage and archeological and historical significance of the region by hosting the eighth annual "Mesa Verde Country® Indian Arts & Culture Festival" from May 24, to May 26, 2008.

The three-day Festival will feature several events including a juried Indian Art Market and live dance performances showcasing the region's history and culture. Half- and full-day guided tours departing from Ute Mountain Tribal Park and Far View Lodge, operated by ARAMARK Mesa Verde Company, will also be available. A special exhibit of Navajo photos, "A Gesture of Kinship," will be featured at the Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores.

Guests visiting Mesa Verde National Park during the Festival can take advantage of a special lodging package at Far View Lodge, whose 150 rooms feature private balconies and views of up to 100 miles across three states.

For \$255 per person (based on double occupancy), the package includes:

- Three nights at Mesa Verde's Far View Lodge including daily hot buffet breakfast
- Admission to Saturday night's featured concert
- A half-day ranger-guided bus tour including Cliff Palace

Highlights of this year's festival—in correlation with May's archeology month in Colorado include:

- Featured Indian Art Market artist, Hopi basket maker, Dorleen Gashweseoma Lalo
- Special festival-only tours at the Ute Tribal Park
- Spectacular Native American rugs on auction at the Navajo Rug Auction

The annual event has been named one of the top 100 events in North America by the American Bus Association and also received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Creative Tourism Initiative.

To learn more about the Festival, visit [www.mesaverdecountry.com](http://www.mesaverdecountry.com). For more information on Mesa Verde National Park or to reserve your lodging package at Far View Lodge, please visit [www.visitmesaverde.com](http://www.visitmesaverde.com) or call (800) 449-2288.

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### **About Mesa Verde National Park**

*Named "The Number One Historic Monument in the World" by Conde Nast Traveler, "One of 50 Places to Visit in a Lifetime" by National Geographic Traveler and a "Top 10 Fodor's Destination," Mesa Verde National Park was established by Congress on June 29, 1906, to preserve from injury or spoliation the ruins and other works and relics of prehistoric humans. The park contains world-renowned dwellings of*

*the Ancestral Pueblo peoples within 52,000 acres, 8,000 of which have been designated by Congress as protected wilderness areas. In 1978, in recognition of the park's significance to the world community, Mesa Verde National Park was named a World Cultural Heritage Site as part of the World Heritage Convention, whose purpose is to recognize natural and cultural areas around the world that have outstanding values of importance to all humankind. For more information, log on to [www.visitmesaverde.com](http://www.visitmesaverde.com).*

*Concessions at Mesa Verde are managed by ARAMARK Mesa Verde Company and authorized by the National Park Service.*