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Mesa Verde's New Guided Tours Offer a "Ticket to the Past"

Far View Lodge Celebrates Season Opening with Spring Savings

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, Colo., March 22, 2010 –To kick off the season opening of the Far View Lodge on April 22, 2010, ARAMARK Mesa Verde Company announces new interpretive, guided tours and a spring package with 25 percent savings.

Open mid-April to late-October annually, the Far View Lodge is the only hotel located inside the park and home to the upscale Metate Room Restaurant. The **Spring into Mesa Verde package***, priced at \$139, includes an overnight stay in a standard room at the Far View Lodge and two seats on the new ranger-guided Classic Pueblo tour. Available for booking April 22-June 10, 2010, the package offers travelers 25 percent savings and can be booked by calling 866-292-8295 or visiting www.visitmesaverde.com, using promo code "SPRING10".

Millions of visitors travel to Mesa Verde National Park each year to explore the world-renowned cliff dwellings. Mesa Verde's new and improved guided tours offer unique insight into the Ancestral Puebloan people and their transformation from hunter-gatherers to a culture known for agriculture, intricate artistry, and architecture.

The new "**Classic Pueblo**" afternoon tour provides ranger-guided interpretation and insight into the archaeology and culture of the Ancestral Puebloans. The three-hour tour includes visits to Triple Cities, Square Tower overlook, Sun Point, Sun Temple and a walking tour of Cliff Palace, the largest cliff dwelling in North America. Priced at \$35 for adults and \$17.50 for children 11 years old and younger, the tour is available April 23 – Oct. 20, 2010, departing daily from Far View Lodge at Far View terrace at 1:00 p.m.

The new five-hour **“Far View Explorer”** tour includes a light boxed lunch with trips to popular Far View sites, which span south from the Far View Lodge and include a visit to the archeological museum and Spruce Tree House in the Chapin Mesa area. Guests will enjoy overlooks along the Mesa Top loop before returning to Morefield Campground, where the tours depart daily at 8:30 a.m. Priced at \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for children 11 years old and younger, the tour is available May 12 – Oct. 12, 2010.

Previously known as the half-day morning tour, the **“700 years”** tour allows guests to learn from historical experts and gain insight into the heritage of Mesa Verde National Park. Guests explore sites that represent the Ancestral Puebloan people from 600 AD to 1300 AD. Comfortable couches transport guests during this four-hour tour to Chapin Mesa and Cliff Palace, with short walks on simple trails. Priced at \$45 for adults and \$34 for children 11 years old and under, the tour is available April 23 – Oct. 20, 2010, departing daily from the Far View Lodge, with pick-up at the Far View Terrace at 8 a.m.

“As a World Heritage Site, exploring Mesa Verde’s cliff dwellings is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and the new, interpretive tours are perfect for the entire family,” said Judith Swain, director of sales and marketing, ARAMARK Mesa Verde. “As we remain committed to preserving the heritage of the southwestern region, we invite our guests to enjoy special spring savings at the Far View Lodge while discovering the history of Mesa Verde from our brilliant experts.”

For more information on Far View Lodge, the new tours or the Spring into Mesa Verde package, please visit www.visitmesaverde.com.

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Editor’s note: photos available upon request. Package disclaimer: the price does not include taxes or NPS-approved energy surcharges and is subject to possible availability limits, black-out dates, and is not available with any other offer.

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.

About ARAMARK Parks and Destinations

ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, a division of ARAMARK, delivers authentic and memorable experiences at national and state parks, national forests, specialty hotels, museums, and other tourist destinations throughout the United States. In partnership with its clients, ARAMARK Parks and Destinations seeks to enhance the guest experience by offering industry-leading hospitality, environmental stewardship, recreational, and interpretive programs. For more information on ARAMARK Parks and Destinations and each of its properties, visit www.aramarkparksanddestinations.com.

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