

Paquime and Mata Ortiz Tour September 25-28, 2017

Join us as we explore one of the archaeological gems of the international borderlands and its inspiration for a modern spectacular artistic ceramic tradition. Paquimé (also known as Casas Grandes) in northwestern Chihuahua was a unique center that influenced hundreds of communities south and north of the border. The Amerind Foundation's excavations revealed over a ton of shell, the remains of hundreds of parrots, hundreds of pieces of copper, as well as other rare and exotic goods, which reflect this community's wealth and power. The massive, multistory room blocks, ceremonial mounds, and ball courts further attest to Paquime's grandeur. We will not only visit this UNESCO World Heritage site, but we will also view the artifacts at the site's museum. Paquimé was the center, but there are hundreds of other villages and hamlets in the surrounding area. We will make a visit to Cueva de la Olla in the Sierra Madres. This site has one of the last surviving large crop silos dating to the time of Paquimé.

The ancient potters of the Casas Grandes tradition inspired a modern ceramic revival in Mata Ortiz, a small town south of Paquimé, with hundreds of potters. In addition to visiting potters and viewing a pottery firing, there will be ample opportunity to purchase ceramics.

The Casas Grandes region is more than Paquimé and Mata Ortiz. We will also pass through and learn about the last two Mormon towns in northern Mexico, see the Mennonite colonies, and sample the local cuisine.

Our tour leaders:

Paul E. Minnis (Ph.D., University of Michigan) is a professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Oklahoma. He conducts research on the prehispanic ethnobotany and archaeology of the U.S. Southwest and northwest Mexico. He has co-directed research projects on Casas Grandes/Paquimé in northwest Chihuahua beginning in 1989. He is the author or editor of twelve books and numerous articles. He is a past president of the Society of Ethnobiology, treasurer and press editor for the Society for

American Archaeology, and co-founder of the Southwest Symposium.

Patricia Gilman (Ph.D., University of New Mexico) has done archaeological field work and research in the Mimbres region of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona for more than 40 years. Her initial research interests were architecture and the transition that ancient people made from living in pithouses to inhabiting pueblos. Recently, Dr. Gilman and her colleagues have been investigating two topics - Mimbres chronometrics and the scarlet macaws at Mimbres sites. She has published on both of these research topics as well as on social variations within the Mimbres region, Mogollon Great Kivas, and Mimbres iconography and religion. She is co-editor of the book, *Mimbres Society* and co-author of the upcoming volume entitled *Mimbres Life and Society: The Mattocks Site of Southwestern New Mexico*. Dr. Gilman recently retired from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma where she taught for 25 years and chaired the department for 10.

Cost:

Members: \$2,175 (double occupancy, single supplement of \$225 required for solo travelers)

Non-members: \$2,475 (double occupancy, single supplement of \$225 required for solo travelers)

A nonrefundable, \$200 deposit is due upon registration. The nonrefundable full payment is due by August 25, 2017.

The tour is limited to 16 people, so you are encouraged to sign up early.

Contact Amerind at 520.586.3666 or amerind@amerind.org to register or for more information.