

TRACKING IN THE SOUTHWEST

An Intensive Tracking Course in northwestern New Mexico

August 22 - 29, 2015
with John Stokes and the staff of The Tracking Project



Wild and simple, tough but gentle, the Southwest desert calls. A model for our lives, it reveals its mysteries only if we slow down long enough to really listen and observe. This hiking, camping and tracking journey to the heart and soul of the mountains and desert of northern New Mexico, crossroads of ancient North American migrations, is led by tracker, musician and storyteller **John Stokes**. The journey offers participants a unique opportunity to learn about animal tracking, nature skills, Native cultures and the **Arts of Life**, while camping out in the land of the Anasazi.

Participants arrive in Albuquerque and are transported to the Circle A Ranch Hostel (<http://www.circlearanchnm.com/>) near Cuba, New Mexico which serves as base camp for the trip. Camping is encouraged, but rooms at the hostel are available for an additional fee. The Circle A Ranch sits on 350+ wild acres within the Santa Fe National Forest on the western flank of the San Pedro mountains. It offers the opportunity to track a multitude of animals from mule deer, elk and coyote to mountain lion, bear, turkey, fox, and beaver.

We embrace a simple way of being, focusing on the art and science of hard ground tracking and the survival skills that facilitate the tracker's ability to travel lightly through the landscape — tracking techniques from North America and Australia, movement skills, camouflage, skills to quiet inner turmoil, advanced awareness exercises, edible/medicinal/utilitarian plants, as well

as fire making, archery, and other primitive technologies. Evenings are spent exploring the **Arts of Life** — music, dance, storytelling and humor around the fire.

In addition to John Stokes and Keith Strever, the staff for this year's course will include: **Cary Odes**, professional stand-up comic from Los Angeles, who will be on hand to help us laugh at ourselves; **Karen Coombs**, herbalist; **Lisa Bennett Matkin**, yoga therapist and **Able West**, doctor of Oriental Medicine and martial artist. Guest presenters will include **PAZ & Rita Zamora** of the dance troupe **Ehecatl**, who will introduce us to the world of Aztec energy through dancing and **Joel Glanzberg**, permaculturalist and author.

During the week, we will make a day trip to Chaco Canyon, center of a great complex of Anasazi ruins. We will visit Pueblo Bonito, the Great Kiva, Casa Rinconada, and other ruins in the Chacoan system, using the sandy trails to the ruins to track the abundant wildlife that resides in the park. At week's end, we celebrate with a party, enlivened by comedy and great music.



Participants must be in good physical condition and camping experience is preferred. The trip takes place at altitudes of 5,000 - 7,500 feet and is physically demanding. Participants only carry day packs, but we will move quite freely around the mountains.

The trip is limited to 25 people. Fee for the trip is \$850.00 (**\$750.00 special price if registered before June 1**), which includes all land costs except airfare to Albuquerque. (Deposit \$425.00.)

To reserve a place on the trip, please contact:
The Tracking Project, P.O.Box 266, Corrales, NM 87048
phone/fax (505) 898-6967; thetrackingproject@earthlink.net

For more information on the Circle A Ranch Hostel visit:
<http://www.circlearanchnm.com/>



