

◇ SEDONA/VERDE VALLEY ◇

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

WINTER/SPRING 2026 Schedule

**CALL 928-634-6537
TO REGISTER OR
BROWSE ONLINE!**

www.yc.edu/commed
www.yc.edu/travel

Yavapai
COLLEGE

HANDS-ON LEARNING | SPECIAL INTEREST | TRAVEL & LEISURE

From the Manager of Experiential Learning **Kathleen Freed**



you'll find
inspiring
opportunities
to expand
your skills and
connect with
others."

Welcome to Yavapai College's Winter-Spring 2026 Community Education & Experiential Learning catalog!

Our **Community Education** classes are all about discovery—no tests, no grades—just the joy of learning something new. Whether you're curious about painting, fitness, technology, or a new language, you'll find inspiring opportunities to expand your skills and connect with others. Our instructors live and work right here in our community and are eager to share their knowledge and passion.

Explore our wide range of **health & wellness, creative arts, technology, and language classes** at: www.yc.edu/commed.

Looking for a learning adventure beyond the classroom? Our **Experiential Learning** program (formerly EDventures) offers unforgettable outdoor and travel experiences across central and northern Arizona. Journey through scenic landscapes, discover hidden history, and see our region in a whole new way. Most trips depart from the Yavapai College Prescott Campus, with select opportunities also available in the Verde Valley.

Seats are limited—each trip accommodates only 10 passengers—so be sure to reserve your spot early at www.yc.edu/travel

If you are interested in teaching a non-credit course for Community Education or Experiential Learning, please contact us at: commedsvv@yc.edu.

We hope to see you at Yavapai College this spring! The Community Education office is in Building I, Room 117 on the Verde Valley campus, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit our website or give us a call at **[928] 634-6537** for assistance and to register.

Come learn, connect, and explore with us this season!

Thank you!

Where Lifelong Learning Flourishes

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Experiential Learning - Travel
Educational trips throughout the
Southwest and beyond!

Visit www.yc.edu/travel or
call 928-717-7755 to register

www.yc.edu/commed

Your next adventure in learning is just a click away!

- Browse and pay for classes online
- View instructor biographies
- Find course descriptions, dates, and locations

Visit www.yc.edu/commed and click on the link Browse and Register.

Other Ways to Register:

Register by phone: [928] 634-6537

Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 5 pm

Walk-in registration at Building I, Room 112 on the Verde Valley Campus, Monday through Thursday.

Age Requirements:

Community Education classes are open to the public, ages 14+. Students under 18 attending a class must seek prior approval and have a completed Minor Student Permission form signed by parent or legal guardian.

Call [928] 634-6537 for approval and to request Minor Student Permission form.

Students must be 18 or older to participate in Experiential Learning Trips.

Fees:

Tuition fees are due and payable at time of registration. Fees vary in accordance with class length and other expense factors. Classes must meet minimum enrollment. In the event of any administrative cancellation, you will receive a full refund of your tuition.

Please enroll early. Classes will be cancelled one to two weeks prior to start date if enrollment is too low.

Refund/Cancellation Policies:

Community Education/Experiential Learning

More than 14 days before course start = Full Refund minus a 5% credit card fee

8-13 days before course start = 50% Refund

7 days or less = No Refund

No Refunds given after course start date

Trip Cancellation Policies

21 days or more prior to departure = Full Refund

15-20 days = 75% Refund

14 days or less = No Refund

[Unless substitute student is identified]

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COURSES

ACTIVE MIND AND BODY

■ FUNCTIONAL YOGA & MEDITATION

VCE-WS26-101 • Tues/Thurs, 2/3/2026 - 3/12/2026

8:30am - 9:30am

I-137 • Verde

VCE-WS26-102 • Tues/Thurs, 3/31/2026 - 5/7/2025

8:30am - 9:30am

I-137 • Verde

This class blends traditional yoga postures and philosophy with modern functional movement principles to build muscular strength and flexibility, joint mobility and stability, and balance for daily life. Expect mindful sequencing that emphasizes safe alignment and practical range of motion. Each session integrates breath awareness, mindfulness, and meditative moments to cultivate presence on and off the mat. Movements and mindfulness are designed to improve how body and mind work together—whether walking, lifting, enjoying recreational activities, or simply being human with greater ease. Suitable for all levels, with modifications and progressions offered. Bring your mat and water bottle!

Lisa Jachowicz • \$150

■ YOGA AT THE SOUTHWEST WINE CENTER

VCE-WS26-103 • Sat, 3/14/2026 - 3/14/2026

11:00am - 12:00pm

SW Wine Center Founders Circle • Verde

VCE-WS26-104 • Sat, 4/11/2026 - 4/11/2026

11:00am - 12:00pm

SW Wine Center Founders Circle • Verde

VCE-WS26-105 • Sat, 5/9/2026 - 5/9/2026

11:00am - 12:00pm

SW Wine Center Founders Circle • Verde

Unwind, stretch, and sip your way to serenity in this unique yoga experience at the Southwest Wine Center. Our expert teacher will guide you through a gentle flow of yoga poses designed to release tension, restore alignment, and deepen your breath - all while surrounded by the calming ambiance of our vineyards, stunning mountain and red rock vistas, and subtle notes of fine wine. After a revitalizing yoga session, enjoy a glass of our award-winning wine to complement the calming effects of your practice. Expect a welcoming environment, a focus on mindful movement, and plenty of time to balance your body, mind, and palate. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned yogi, this class offers a perfect blend of relaxation and rejuvenation. Cheers to health, happiness, and a glass of wine in hand!

Lisa Jachowicz • \$30

■ BOOTCAMP FITNESS

VCE-WS26-106 • Wed, 2/18/2026 - 3/11/2026

8:30am - 9:30am

I-137 • Verde

This bootcamp-style class is instructor-led and designed for all fitness levels. Exercises will be illustrated at 3 levels of exertion and you will be challenged to work at your level. You will increase strength and cardio capacity and improve agility and flexibility. Each hour-long class will include a warm-up, workout, and cool-down. Instructor priorities are to keep you safe, help you work hard, and ensure you have fun. A variety of music will be integrated into the class. Exercises and formats will vary for each class. Have the most fun you have ever had getting into tip-top shape. Students should bring yoga mats.

Alma Rodoni • \$85

■ TAI CHI CHUAN FOR RELAXATION AND HEALTH

VCE-WS26-109 • Tues/Thu, 2/17/2026 - 3/12/2026

10:00am - 11:00am

I-137 • Verde

VCE-WS26-110 • Tues/Thurs, 3/31/2026 - 5/7/2026

10:00am - 11:00am

I-137 • Verde

Tai Chi Chuan is the ancient practice of bringing body and mind together through slow, gentle movement. Today we practice Tai Chi to promote improved health and well-being. You will learn Sun style Tai Chi, one of the newest, most gentle, and flowing of the five major styles of Tai Chi practiced today. We will focus on the mechanics of the movements, the internal aspects, as well as the principles that are the foundation of all forms of Tai Chi. Students report improved mindfulness, better balance, and more vitality. And we have fun! All you need are loose-fitting clothes and comfortable, non-slip shoes.

Hamilton Wallace • \$104 (Winter) / \$130 (Spring)

■ BEGINNER LEVEL LINE DANCING

VCE-WS26-111 • Thurs, 2/5/2026 - 3/12/2026

1:00pm - 2:00pm

I-137 • Verde

These beginner level line dance classes are a fun and easy way to get your heart pumping, "find your feet" AND improve your mental acuity. This social dance style requires no partner or previous experience. An easy form of dance and a great way to get a good workout, improve posture & coordination, balance and mood. As you learn country-western, iconic, rock and roll, urban & soul line dances, you will discover dancing is the best medicine. See you on the dance floor!

Sally Gebler • \$102

■ TAP DANCE

VCE-WS26-112 • Wed, 2/4/2026 - 3/11/2026

10:00am - 11:30am

I-137 • Verde

VCE-WS26-113 • Wed, 4/1/2026 - 5/6/2026

10:00am - 11:30am

I-137 • Verde

This course introduces the fundamental skills and techniques of both Broadway and Rhythm tap dance styles. Students will learn foundational steps, rhythms, terminology, and tap combinations while developing musicality, clarity of sound, coordination, and gaining confidence. No prior dance experience. Tap shoes required.

Danielle Dodds-Stewart • \$118

■ HEALING FLOW SOMATIC YOGA

VCE-WS26-114 • Thurs, 2/12/2026 - 3/12/2026

5:15pm - 6:15pm

I-138 • Verde

VCE-WS26-115 • Thurs, 4/2/2026 - 5/7/2026

5:15pm - 6:15pm

I-138 • Verde

Healing flow somatic yoga combines elements of gentle vinyasa and restorative yoga with deep breathing and mindfulness. It strengthens your mind-body connection. It may ease pain by encouraging hyaluronic acid flow through your highly innervated fascia. It may also help improve your mental health by soothing your central nervous system to reduce anxiety and stress. Each session begins with easy, flowing movements, segues to more passive restorative stretching, and concludes with a body scan meditation based on the rotation of consciousness from the yoga nidra tradition. Mat required; blanket and pillow(s) highly recommended for the closing meditation.

Jennifer Stefanow • \$90

ARTS – VISUAL & PERFORMING

■ FLORAL WATERCOLORS

VCE-WS26-116 • Tues, 3/31/2026 - 5/5/2026

1:00pm - 3:00pm

I-138 • Verde

Explore the beauty of flowers using watercolors. We will paint unique and stunning flowers each week, using the delicate and sensitive media of watercolor painting. Each session, students will paint gorgeous flowers, from local samples to exotic ones, but all beautiful. Students should have a basic understanding of watercolor painting, including materials, and application techniques. Students will purchase own materials. A supply list will be provided upon registration.

Art Gecko • \$133

■ WATERCOLOR PENCILS

VCE-WS26-117 • Wed, 2/4/2026 - 3/11/2026

3:15pm - 5:15pm

G-102 • Verde

In Watercolor Pencils with Art Gecko, students will become familiar with basic materials and equipment, understand basic watercolor pencil techniques, execute key topics into basic designs, and find joy in painting and sharing knowledge with one another. Each week will bring a new lesson, learning increasingly advanced techniques, building on previous lessons, including the use of mixed media, pens, pencils, etc. The class will learn about materials, including brushes, brush care, paper, pencil techniques, color choices, and wet/dry techniques. Students will discuss composition as well as what makes a piece compelling, and what makes a piece boring. The class will do sketching, focusing on composition, and values to create a foundation for a great painting. See why students find classes with Art Gecko fun and informative. Students will purchase own materials. A supply list will be provided upon registration.

Art Gecko • \$133

■ WATERCOLOR LANDSCAPES

VCE-WS26-118 • Wed, 2/4/2026 - 3/11/2026

1:00pm - 3:00pm

G-102 • Verde

In Watercolor Landscape Painting with Art Gecko, students will become familiar with basic materials and equipment, understand basic watercolor techniques, execute key topics into basic landscape designs, find joy in painting, and share knowledge with one another. Each class will be dedicated to producing a landscape painting as students learn increasingly advanced techniques, building on previous lessons, including the use of mixed media, pens, pencils, etc. The class will also go over washes, glazing and layering, lifting, using frisket, and more. Students will learn about the materials, including brushes, brush care, paper, paints, [tubes vs. pans], color choices, and wet/dry techniques. The class will discuss composition as well as what makes a piece compelling, and what makes a piece boring. The class will do sketching, focusing on composition, and values to create a foundation for a great painting. See why students find classes with Art Gecko fun and informative. Students will purchase own materials. A supply list will be provided upon registration.

Art Gecko • \$133

■ WATERCOLOR PORTRAITS

VCE-WS26-119 • Tues, 3/31/2026 - 5/5/2026

3:15pm - 5:15pm

I-138 • Verde

We will use watercolors to create portraits, starting with animals, and moving into people. Each week will paint a new piece, with the subject being chosen by the instructor. Students should have a basic understanding of watercolor painting, including materials, and techniques. Students will purchase own materials. A supply list will be provided upon registration.

Art Gecko • \$133

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COURSES

■ PLAY GUITAR NOW

VCE-WS26-121 • Thurs, 2/5/2026 - 3/12/2026

5:00pm - 7:00pm

M-203 • Verde

VCE-WS26-122 • Thurs, 4/2/2026 - 5/7/2026

5:00pm - 7:00pm

M-203 • Verde

Join us for an exciting journey into the world of guitar playing! This beginner-friendly course is designed for those who are getting started with playing the guitar. It should be fun, and no experience is needed. Over the span of several weeks, you will learn the fundamentals of guitar including tuning, strumming, picking, music theory, and tab notation. Each session will focus on building your skills progressively, in order to develop a solid foundation. Students should bring a guitar and electronic tuner to class.

Richard Pierce • \$135

■ RETURN TO THE SACRED

VCE-WS26-120 • Thurs, 2/12/2026 - 3/12/2026

6:00pm - 8:00pm

28 • Sedona

Return to the Sacred is a four-week creative immersion designed to reconnect you with your inner wisdom through art, reflection, and ritual. Each week explores a new theme—self-discovery, play, stillness, and transformation—through hands-on projects that blend symbolism, storytelling, and sacred practice. From flower studies to fables, from mystery vessels to golden repair, you'll create meaningful works that reflect your journey. This course offers a supportive space to embrace vulnerability, awaken imagination, and discover beauty in both wholeness and brokenness. Students will purchase approximately \$75 in supplies for the course. **No class February 26.**

Ellen Benfatti • \$107

COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY

■ PLAYING WITH PROMPT POWER: A GENTLE INTRODUCTION TO CHATGPT

ZCE-WS26-126 • Thurs, 4/2/2026 - 4/16/2026

11:30 - 12:30

Zoom

Join our Intro to ChatGPT and Writing Prompts class, designed for anyone curious about how AI can enhance creativity and problem-solving. In this beginner-friendly course, you'll learn how to use ChatGPT to generate fun and thought-provoking writing prompts, brainstorm ideas, and spark your imagination. Whether you're looking for inspiration for a project, a hobby, or just a fun way to explore your thoughts, this class will show you how to interact with AI to unlock new possibilities. No experience with ChatGPT is required—just bring your curiosity and a desire to create! Students will need a free (or Plus) Open AI/ChatGPT account.

Jerry Zaryczny • \$78

FINANCE, ECONOMICS, & LAW

■ HOW TO GET YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER

VCE-WS26-128 • Thurs, 4/2/2026 - 4/30/2026

1:00pm - 2:30pm

G-102 • Verde

Getting your affairs in order is a vitally important task, regardless of your age or health status. And the best time to get your affairs in order is now while you are still healthy. This series looks at several different aspects of getting your affairs in order: recording administrative and financial details, health care and legal documents, ten options for postmortem care, and becoming immortal through digital recording. Getting your affairs in order now gives you the last word, saves your family significant money at the end of life, and is the kindest, most compassionate thing you can do for those you love.

Jan Kraft Leinweber • \$133

HISTORY & CURRENT AFFAIRS

■ CULT DYNAMICS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

VCE-WS26-123 • Tues, 3/31/2026 - 5/5/2026

5:15pm - 7:15pm

G-104 • Verde

We explore undue influence and the psychosocial dynamics that shape us-versus-them mindsets. Everyday cult dynamics will be defined and analyzed using a diverse array of examples. We will examine how colonialism continually shapes leadership norms and everyday expressions of power. Students will leave with a greater understanding of high-demand influence and be better equipped to spot and respond to cult-like red flags in real-time. Research and interviews with survivors and world-renowned cult researchers directly inform this course.

Candice Schutter • \$129

■ ARIZONA MINING HISTORY

ZCE-WS26-124 • Tues, 2/10/2026 - 3/10/2026

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Zoom • Zoom

This course will focus on the history of mining throughout Arizona. From minerals mined by Native Americans to the mineral discoveries made by European settlers followed by the United States during its westward expansion. Learn why copper is one of the 5Cs in Arizona. Coverage includes some of the individuals who sought to exploit Arizona's vast mineral wealth. Learn about Arizona's Copper Kings and the towns they founded based upon the mineral wealth extracted. Understand the significance of Arizona's vast mineral wealth and its contribution to industry in the United States and the world.

William Ascarza • \$95

NATURE & THE OUTDOORS

■ EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: FUR, FEATHERS, FANGS, FRONS, AND FINS

VCE-WS26-127 • Tues, 2/3/2026 - 3/10/2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

I-138 • Verde

In this engaging lecture series, Janie Agyagos draws on 31 years as a Forest Service wildlife biologist in the Verde Valley to explore the region's rich fauna. Each session explores a different taxa group (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates) and will include hands-on materials like preserved specimens and natural artifacts, the best field guides and apps for our area, and checklists and cheat sheets for participants to keep. These lectures offer an immersive look at the diverse wildlife we're lucky to have as our neighbors.

Janie Agyagos • \$133

■ THE PRINCIPLES OF PERMACULTURE

VCE-WS26-132 • Thurs, 2/5/2026 - 3/5/2026

1:00pm - 2:30pm

G-111 • Verde

Discover the principles of permaculture and how to design resilient, sustainable systems that work in harmony with nature. This community education course introduces key concepts such as regenerative agriculture, water harvesting, soil health, companion planting, and ecological design. Whether you're a gardener, homeowner, or aspiring land steward, you'll gain practical tools to create abundance while reducing waste and environmental impact. Learn how to think like a permaculturist and apply these principles in your own backyard or community. No prior experience required—just curiosity and a desire to live more sustainably.

Omina (Uma) Shibahara • \$107

PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, & UNEXPLAINED

■ INTRO TO BIRTH CHART ASTROLOGY

VCE-WS26-129 • Mon, 2/9/2026 - 3/2/2026

5:30pm - 7:30pm

G-104 • Verde

For over 6000 years, cultures across the globe have associated the placements of cosmological bodies with the timing of natural and social events for the purpose of understanding their unique significance. Birth chart astrology is the study which marks an individual's birth as one of those events, revealing the karmic root and aim of their life path within the greater context of the universe. This course introduces the methods and techniques for interpreting the birth chart as a tool for spiritual growth and instruction on how to avoid the philosophical errors common to contemporary western astrology.

Britton W Frost • \$107

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

■ LIFEGUARDING

VCE-WS26-130 • Tues to Thurs, 3/17 - 3/19/2026

8:30am - 5:00pm

Cottonwood Rec Center

The American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification course will train and certify participants to be a lifeguard for swimming pools. It includes the following American Red Cross certifications: Lifeguarding, First Aid and CPR/AED for the professional rescuer, valid for 2 years. Courses are all a blended learning course format with online education, classroom, and in-water components. All candidates to complete the American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Online Course prior to the first-class date. Participants must be at least 15 years old at the time of the course. Attendance is required at all class sessions. Course costs: \$47 plus \$150 fee for American Red Cross Certification. Registration deadline March 6.

Julia Root • \$197

SELF-ENRICHMENT & LIFESTYLE

■ UNLOCK YOUR CREATIVE POTENTIAL: HYPNOSIS FOR ARTISTS AND CREATIVES

ZCE-WS26-125 • Thurs, 2/11/2026 - 3/4/2026

5:00pm - 6:30pm

Zoom

In this class, you'll learn how to use hypnosis to access your creativity, overcome self-doubt, and silence the inner critic. With guided hypnosis sessions, explore ways to enhance your focus, boost your imagination, and access a deeper state of flow in your creative process. This course provides you practical tools/techniques to unleash your full creative potential. Enhance focus and mindfulness in your creative practice. Access deeper levels of inspiration. No prior experience with hypnosis needed. Class is open to artists and creatives of all levels.

Jerry Zaryczny • \$95

■ PURPOSE LAB

VCE-WS26-131 • Mon, 3/30/2026 - 5/4/2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

39 • Sedona

Purpose Lab is a small-group course designed to help you discover and follow your life's purpose. Through guided reflection, discussion, writing prompts and creative exercises you'll uncover personal values, strengths, weaknesses and inner wisdom. This course is led by LightNet, a Sedona-based nonprofit that interviewed 100 individuals and identified a seven-stage pattern for discovering one's purpose.

Julia Rotella • \$133

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COURSES

WRITING, LITERATURE, AND LANGUAGES

■ INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATIONAL ITALIAN

ZCE-WS26-133 • Mon, 2/2/2026 - 3/9/2026
4:00pm - 6:00pm
Zoom

ZCE-WS26-135 • Mon, 3/30/2026 - 5/4/2026
4:00pm - 6:00pm
Zoom

Our most popular course for nearly a decade running, Conversational Italian with Sandy Immerso is a showcase for what makes community education so powerful: An excellent teacher, an engaged class-room community, and a fantastic subject. Join one of the most exciting groups of learners west of the Mississippi (but only a hop, skip, and a jump from Italy) today! Please note: This class is intended for individuals with an intermediate-level conversational grasp of the language. This is not a beginner course; if you are interested in Beginning Italian, please contact us at 928-634-6537.

Sandy Immerso • \$118

■ INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH

ZCE-WS26-134 • Mon, 2/2/2026 - 3/9/2026
2:00pm - 4:00pm
Zoom • Zoom

ZCE-WS26-136 • Mon, 3/30/2026 - 5/4/2026
2:00pm - 4:00pm
Zoom

After years of teaching the incredibly popular Conversational Italian, beloved instructor Sandy Immerso began teaching a similarly-styled Spanish course in 2019. To no one's surprise, it immediately became a massive hit. Come learn with a welcoming community of Spanish enthusiasts – learn to speak better to communicate with Español speakers every day, or use the occasion to plan for your next trip to a Spanish-speaking country! Please note: This class is intended for individuals with an intermediate-level conversational grasp of the language. This is not a beginner course; if you are interested in Beginning Spanish, please contact us at 928-634-6537.

Sandy Immerso • \$118

ONLINE CAREER TRAINING

Prepare for a new career or career advancement in some of today's top fields. **Learn from anywhere, anytime in a self-paced, flexible format.**

Course Features:

- 6-18 month duration
- All materials included
- Prepare for industry certification
- Student advisor support

Categories Include:

Arts and Design
Business
Computer Applications
Computer Programming
Construction and Trades
Health and Fitness
Hospitality
Information Technology

View all courses at:

careertraining.ed2go.com/yavapai

ONLINE SHORT COURSES

Learn a new skill from expert instructors in our online professional development and personal enrichment courses. **Choose from hundreds of highly interactive courses offered in an instructor-led or self-paced format.**

Course Features:

TWO OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- 6-week format
- Monthly start dates
- OR
- Self-paced
- 3-month duration

Popular Courses:

Speed Spanish
Accounting Fundamentals
A to Z Grant Writing
Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2019/Office 365
Discover Sign Language
Project Management Fundamentals
Computer Skills for the Workplace

View all courses at:

ed2go.com/yavapai

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - TRAVEL

TRAVEL. LEARN. EXPLORE.

In Experiential Learning, our tour leaders are eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the colorful local history, fascinating cultures, and inspiring natural features when you travel with us! See trip notes for trip pick up availability in: Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, Camp Verde, and Verde Valley Campus.



EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY



Our home county, one of the original counties of Arizona Territory, has both an incredibly interesting natural landscape, ranging from desert to pine-covered highlands, and a long and fascinating human history that dates back thousands of years. These programs will take you to many varied and remote places down the backroads of the Yavapai County. Some include several miles of hiking; others just short, easy walks. Several of these trips are half-day journeys, returning to campus by lunchtime.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: THE WESTERN DESERT

Wednesday, February 18 • EL021826

Reserve by 2/4

As one travels to southwestern Yavapai County, the landscape drops off from mountains and plateau into deep desert, complete with Saguaros and Joshua Trees (and warm winter days). As you look out from the high country, this desert stretches to the horizon like a great gray-green sea, with islands of isolated and rugged mountains looming above. We'll spend a day exploring this fascinating desert landscape, including a little-known oasis of permanent water at Hidden Tank. We'll visit the site of the old Congress Mine and Cemetery and the Nella Meda Mine, in recent years much restored under the name Robson's Mining World, along with a huge collection of vintage mining equipment. Some light hiking (up to a mile) included. Along the way we'll make a brief stop at the trailhead to the Prescott Hotshots Memorial. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$215 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch entrance fees and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott campus.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: HISTORIC CAMP DATE CREEK

Wednesday, March 11 • EL031126

Reserve by 2/25

In 1863, one of the early parties of gold-seekers traveling to the Prescott area followed an otherwise obscure desert wash eastward from the Colorado River. They discovered, on the way, what leader Abraham Peeples (after whom Peeples Valley is named) called a "Garden of Eden". This drainage, rising high in the Weaver Mountains of western Yavapai County, became known as Date Creek, after the date-like fruit of the Yucca found along its course. Shortly after this a military post, Camp Date Creek, was established where the upper forks of the creek join, also an important early wagon road junction. We'll talk about this early history, and about the Yavapai people displaced by settlers, while hiking into the old fort site and into part of the upper canyon of Date Creek, where water flows year-round. We'll see ancient rock art in the canyon, and to the north of Date Creek an interesting and little-known historic rock art site. About two miles total hiking, largely with no visible trail and some rocky and steep sections. **Activity Rating: Level 3.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$190 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: STEWART RANCH AND THE UPPER VERDE RIVER

Friday, March 27 • EL032726

Reserve by 3/11

Not many are aware that there was once a road, the Verde River Road, which followed the Verde from Granite Creek, near the headwaters, down to Duff Springs, about ten miles downstream. This road connected a series of early homesteads, most of which are now abandoned. We'll hike into the old Stewart Ranch site, the uppermost of these homesteads, using the long-abandoned original wagon route into the canyon. Along the way we'll have beautiful views, visit prehistoric sites, and finally the old ranch site, now an Arizona Game & Fish property: The upper Verde River Wildlife Area. The hike is about 4 miles, mostly over easy terrain, although the old wagon road is pretty rocky. We do gain about 300 feet elevation on the walk out. **Activity Rating: Level 3.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$180 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - TRAVEL

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: ASH CREEK AND HECLA (NEW)

Monday, March 30 • EL033026

Reserve by 3/13

Just north of Highway 169 and east of Humboldt-Dewey is the ruins a little-known stage stop and settlement from territorial times. After General George Crook established the military road from Fort Whipple to Camp Verde, a fortified stage station was constructed where this road crossed Ash Creek. Miners then hopefully worked the area [without much result] and it became the short-lived community of Hecla. On this half-day trip we'll be hiking into the stage stop, whose wall is still 6-8 feet high, overlooked by huge Cottonwood trees, while learning about the local history. The hike is fairly flat and easy and under a mile round trip. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$115 per person - Tuition includes transportation and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott campus.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: HIKE THE VERDE RIVER HEADWATERS

Wednesday, April 1 • EL040126

Reserve by 3/13

The headwaters of the Verde River, just northeast of Chino Valley, is a fascinating area. The springs there are the source of the only perennial river flowing entirely within Arizona. We will hike some distance along the rim and enter the canyon about a mile downstream from the confluence with Granite Creek, hiking upstream to the headwaters springs and a large and little-known rock art site which incorporates both Hopi and Yavapai winter solstice observatory features. We will discuss geology, natural history and prehistory along the way. Total hiking distance about four miles. The climb out, several hundred feet elevation gain, is steep and rocky. We will ford the river once, 12-18 inches deep; suitable barefoot or light water shoe/sandal wading. **Activity Rating: Level 3.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$190 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: CROWN KING AND THE SOUTHERN BRADSHAW

Thursday, April 9 • EL040926

Reserve by 3/25

In 1904 Frank Murphy, a renowned railroad builder, built a railroad that many believed was impossible. This railroad ran from Mayer to the silver mines at Crown King over an unimaginably rugged landscape. This railroad was so amazing that folks today come from all over the world to view its route. While the railroad has been gone since 1924, its route is closely followed by a gravel road. We'll journey to Crown King, visiting old sites along the railroad route, and talking about the history of the area. We'll stop at the site of Bradshaw City, once with a population of 5,000, the Crown King Saloon, dating from 1898, the old Middleton town site, and the Cleator Yacht Club (not to be missed). Lot's of short easy walks, but a long bumpy road. **Activity Rating: Level 1.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$190 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus.



■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: DRAKE, PERKINSVILLE & JEROME

Wednesday, April 15 • EL041526

Reserve by 4/1

This back road exploration will take you from Drake, just off Highway 89 north of Chino Valley, across to Perkinsville on the Verde River, then down to Woodchute Mountain. There we encounter the grade of the old narrow gauge railroad that once connected Jerome with the railroad from Ash Fork to Phoenix near Chino Valley, site of the long-gone town of Jerome Junction. We'll follow the narrow gauge railbed to Jerome, then return to Prescott over the mountain. Along the way we'll talk about geology, natural history, the Verde River, the Perkins Ranch, the old railroad, and the mines of Jerome. Lots of short walks but no serious hiking. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$190 per person - Tuition includes ground transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8:30AM from Prescott Campus. [See the April 24 trip for a Verde Valley Campus pick-up option].

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: VERDE VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY

Friday, April 17 • EL041726

Reserve by 4/3

Yavapai County's Verde Valley has hundreds of prehistoric village sites, ancestral to both the Hopi of northeastern Arizona and the O'odham peoples of southern Arizona. We'll visit a number of these sites, including Tuzigoot, Montezuma Castle and Montezuma Well [where we'll enjoy lunch under lush Cottonwood and Sycamore trees] as we learn of the prehistory of these ancestral residents of the valley and the story of why they left this seemingly beautiful environment. We'll also visit the Verde Valley Archaeology Center in Camp Verde. Up to a mile or so of walking on mainly paved trails. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$200 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch, park entrance fees and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott campus.



■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: HIKE AND EXPLORE THE HASSAYAMPA RIVER

Wednesday, April 22 • EL042226

Reserve by 4/8

The middle section of the Hassayampa River, which drains the west side of the Bradshaw Mountains south of Prescott, is a beautiful, interesting, and little-visited area. We will spend a day exploring along the river (generally east of Wilhoit) including several short hikes totalling about three miles. One of the hikes has a short and rugged (and optional) scramble at the end. During the day we'll explore a canyon narrows (with waterfall), historic hydraulic mining areas, prehistoric settlements along the river, and take a moderate hike (about 2 miles) into "The Bend" of the Hassayampa. Along the way we'll talk about the archaeology, history, geology and ecology of the area. **Activity Rating: Levels 2-3.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$190 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: JEROME, PERKINSVILLE AND DRAKE

Friday, April 24 • EL042426

Reserve by 4/10

This back road exploration will take you from Jerome along the old narrow gauge railroad bed that once led to Chino Valley (formerly known as Jerome Junction), then down to the Verde River at Perkinsville. From there, we'll head across to Drake, just off Highway 89 north of Chino Valley. From Drake we'll skirt around Prescott and Prescott Valley and back to campus via Mingus Mountain. Along the way we'll talk about geology, natural history, the Verde River, the Perkins Ranch, the old railroad, and the mines of Jerome. Lots of short walks but no serious hiking. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$190 per person - Tuition includes ground transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8:00AM from Prescott Campus. ***Verde Valley Campus pick-up available.**

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: COPPER BASIN, SKULL VALLEY AND WALNUT GROVE

Saturday, April 25 • EL042526

Reserve by 4/10

This road trip will take us out Thumb Butte Road, along the crest of the Sierra Prieta Mountains above Prescott, the setting for Gail Garner's famous cowboy poem, "Tying the Knot in the Devil's Tail", then down through Copper Basin to Skull Valley for lunch. We'll then head over to Walnut Grove on the Hassayampa River, returning to Prescott via Highway 89. Along the way we'll see incredible scenery, historic mining activity, the Skull Valley Historic Museum, the historic Hassayampa River Bridge, and the site of the Walnut Grove Dam. This dam failed in 1890, killing over 100 people and causing downstream devastation as far as Wickenburg. There will be a few short walks of up to a quarter mile, but no serious hiking. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$190 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch, museum fees and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: LITTLE HELL CANYON

Monday, May 11 • EL051126

Reserve by 4/27

Little Hell Canyon, north of Chino Valley, is actually Hell Canyon, upstream from the high bridge, where the canyon is much smaller. There are two interesting early transportation-linked sites in the area: an old stage station site and stage road from the early 1880s and an airmail contractor directional sign from about 1920. The latter is a extremely unusual site. We'll visit both of these sites in this half-day trip, as well as stopping by a second old stage stop, incorporated into a residence near Del Rio Ranch. About a half-mile of walking over mostly easy terrain. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$115 per person - Tuition includes transportation and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott campus.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: WILLIAMSON VALLEY AND BEYOND

Saturday, May 16 • EL051626

Reserve by 5/1

This road trip will take us out Williamson Valley Road, all the way to Seligman. We will return via Ash Fork and Highway 89. We'll be visiting the areas of many early historic sites, including the town site of Simmons, old Camp Hualapai and, of all the strange things, an iron mine. On our way back down from Ash Fork we'll be stopping at the old Little Hell Canyon stage stop and a mysterious and unique signpost from the earliest days of air travel in the county (this will be an unusual surprise). Along the way we'll discuss the geology and natural history and touch on many aspects of the human history of the area. There will be a few short walks of up to a quarter mile, but no serious hiking. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$190 per person - Tuition includes ground transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - TRAVEL

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: LIMESTONE CANYON

Monday, May 18 • EL051826

Reserve by 5/4

When Frank Murphy built his railroad from Ash Fork to Phoenix via Prescott in 1892, near Hell Canyon he chose a route through Limestone Canyon; the route had over 4 miles of wood trestle in six miles of track. An Ohio man, George Puntenney, then established a limestone mine and lime kilns near these tracks. In 1907 the Limestone Canyon route was abandoned and the line relocated to a steel bridge over Hell Canyon. Puntenney then opened a new mine and built a cement plant on the south side of Hell Canyon, creating the community of Puntenney. In this half-day trip we'll visit the ruins of the lime kilns, explore some of the old railroad grade, and visit the Puntenney townsite. Less than a half-mile of hiking, although some a little rocky and steep. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$115 per person - Tuition includes transportation and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott campus.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: THE NORTHERN BRADSHAW

Friday, May 29 • EL052926

Reserve by 5/15

The Northern Bradshaw Mountains overlooking Prescott are the highest range in Yavapai County, peaking out near 8,000 feet. We'll explore south through this region on the old Senator Highway as far as the site of the town of Goodwin, then head east to Mayer and return via Highway 69. Along the way we'll visit old mining and homestead sites on Apple Creek, explore the ruins of the Senator Mine, enjoy distant views from the Mt. Union Divide, see historic Palace Station, and other historic and natural features. We'll also pass through the burn area of the Goodwin fire of 2017 and talk about fire management and the role of fire in the natural ecosystem. The trip will include about two miles of moderate hiking. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$185 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8 AM from Prescott Campus.

■ EXPLORING YAVAPAI COUNTY: APPLE CREEK HOMESTEADS AND MINE

Monday, June 1 • EL060126

Reserve by 5/18

Apple Creek (an informal name) is a tributary to the Hassayampa River east of Spruce Mountain and crossed by Senator Highway. Homesteaders and miners have both left their mark on this little drainage. During this half-day trip, we'll hike up the creek (about a mile round trip - fairly easy informal trail) while we visit the old abandoned mine and both homesteads. There's a standing cabin at one, and many blackberries and several apple trees. This time of year, we may find the apples in bloom, although ripe blackberries will have to wait for fall. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$115 per person - Tuition includes transportation and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott campus.



EXPLORING COCONINO COUNTY



Coconino County, our immediate neighbor to the northeast, split away from the original Yavapai County in 1891 and is the largest county in Arizona. It includes the eastern end of Grand Canyon, much of the red rock country of Sedona, miles of lush Ponderosa Pine forest, parts of Navajo Land [Diné'tah] and San Francisco Peaks, the highest mountain in Arizona. These programs explore the remote back road regions of the nearer part of the county. Some include several miles of hiking; others just short easy walks.

■ EXPLORING COCONINO COUNTY: RED MOUNTAIN AND KEYHOLE SINK

Thursday, April 30 • EL043026

Reserve by 4/16

Near the northern edge of the great field of volcanos that surrounds Williams and Flagstaff is an otherwise average cinder cone, about 1,000 feet tall, called Red Mountain. What makes this little mountain unique is how erosion has carved a spectacular amphitheater out of the heart of this extinct volcano, creating a magical landscape of cliffs, spires, and little slot canyons. While talking about the history and dynamics of the San Francisco Volcano Field, and the local ecosystems, we will hike into the heart of Red Mountain, enjoying our lunch inside the volcano. After our main hike, we'll travel back roads south to Parks, then west on Historic Route 66 to Keyhole Sink, hiking into this unusual feature with petroglyphs and a seasonal waterfall. Hiking distance is about 4.5 miles, mostly on well-maintained trail; inside Red Mountain there's some optional off-trail exploring. **Activity Rating: Level 3.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$200 per person - Tuition includes ground transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott campus. ***Chino valley pickup available.**

■ EXPLORING COCONINO COUNTY: JOHNSON CANYON

Wednesday, May 20 • EL052026

Reserve by 5/6

Little visited Johnson Canyon begins near Williams and flows along north of I-40 to near Ash Fork. When the railroad was constructed through the canyon in 1882, two very interesting dams were built, both of which still hold water today. Stone Dam has beautiful red rock construction, and Bainbridge Dam is made of steel, one of only three steel dams ever built in the entire U.S., and the only one still standing today. We'll visit these two remote dams and also Steel Crater, a water-filled sinkhole, and talk about both geology and early railroad history. The steel dam requires about a mile roundtrip hike over an eroded roadbed. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$185 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus.

■ EXPLORING COCONINO COUNTY: SYCAMORE CANYON HEADWATERS

Thursday, May 21 • EL052126

Reserve by 5/7

Sycamore Canyon enters the Verde River near Clarkdale, but begins in the vast Ponderosa Pine forest southeast of Williams. We will travel across to the canyon's headwaters area from Drake, just north of Chino Valley, visiting JD Dam, Sycamore Point (with incredible views down the canyon), White Horse Lake, and Sycamore Falls, where the creek drops over a hundred feet into the beginnings of the canyon. Our journey will reach I-40 just east of Williams and we'll return home. Along the way we'll talk about the geology of the canyon and the varied ecosystems along the way. The trip will include about a mile of easy hiking. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$200 per person - Tuition includes ground transportation, box lunch, and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott campus. ***Chino Valley pickup available.**

■ EXPLORING COCONINO COUNTY: WALNUT CANYON, SUNSET CRATER AND WUPATKI

Wednesday, May 27 • EL052726

Reserve by 5/13

The ancient Sinagua culture, ancestral to the Hopi of Second Mesa, left their picturesque ruins scattered across the landscape east of Flagstaff. Their name comes from the earliest Spanish name for San Francisco Peaks, which they called Sierra Sinagua, meaning waterless peaks. We will visit ruin sites at Walnut Canyon National Monument and Wupatki National Monument while learning the fascinating prehistory of those who once lived here. We'll also view the recent volcano of Sunset Crater, which erupted in 1066 A.D. and played a key role in the history of the Sinaguan people. Along the way we'll visit a very interesting small unexcavated site. Many short walks on mostly paved walkways. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$215 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch, admission fees, and field instruction. Departs 7AM from Prescott campus. ***Camp Verde pick up available.**



■ EXPLORING COCONINO COUNTY: THE LAND BETWEEN THE CANYONS

Wednesday, June 3 • EL060326

Reserve by 5/20

North of Verde Valley is a little-visited plateau, surrounded on three sides by rugged wilderness areas. On the east is West Fork Wilderness and Oak Creek Canyon; on the west is Sycamore Canyon Wilderness; and on the south is Redrock/Secret Canyon Wilderness. We will explore this beautiful, forested landscape, culminating with utterly amazing views of the redrock country of Sedona, seen from above. Along the way we'll talk about geology, including visiting a baby sinkhole, forest ecology and the logging railroads of the early 20th century. We'll also talk about the handful of people who have lived out there, including Bear Howard, who literally made his living hunting bear, and the wild Casner Clan, who have multiple local landmarks named after them. Lots of short walks, but no serious hiking. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$200 per person - Tuition includes ground transportation, box lunch, and field instruction. Departs 7AM from Prescott campus. ***Chino Valley pickup available.**

■ EXPLORING COCONINO COUNTY: CRATER LAKE AND LAVA TUBES

Friday, June 5 • EL060526

Reserve by 5/22

Northwest of Flagstaff is a little-known crater lake, surrounded by meadow and aspen groves, hidden inside a small volcanic cinder cone just east of the Kendrick's Mountain Wilderness Area. Our day afield will focus heavily on the volcanic history of the San Francisco Volcano Field surrounding Flagstaff and Williams. We'll drive up the access road to the ski area on San Francisco Peaks, hike into Crater Lake for lunch, then in the afternoon visit a lava tube (with optional exploration of the tube) south of Kendrick's Peak. We'll also traverse some of old Route 66 on the way home. Total hiking distance for the day about two miles at elevations near 8,000 feet. **Activity Rating: Level 3**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$215 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 7AM from Prescott Campus. ***Chino Valley pickup available.**

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - TRAVEL

■ EXPLORING COCONINO COUNTY: MORMON LAKE COUNTRY

Wednesday, June 10 • EL061026

Reserve by 5/27

The high country east of Verde Valley contains an Arizona rarity, a number of natural lakes, although they do on occasion go dry. We will visit several of these lakes, Stoneman Lake, Ashurst Lake, and the largest of all, Mormon Lake, while exploring the geology and natural history of the area. We will also journey to the historic decommissioned fire tower on Hutch Mountain, at just over 8,500 feet elevation commanding incredible views of the area. This trip includes about a mile of hiking [on an old road] at over 8,000 feet and some other short walks. There's a good chance of seeing Elk and other wildlife.

Activity Rating: Level 2.

Instructor: Kyle Short (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$215 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus.

***Camp Verde pickup available.**



■ EXPLORING COCONINO COUNTY: BILL WILLIAMS MOUNTAIN

Friday, June 12 • EL061226

Reserve by 5/29

Bill Williams Mountain, visible to the north from most of the Prescott area, is the westernmost 9,000-foot peak in Arizona. The mountain is named for a preacher/guide/mountain man from North Carolina whose story will weave through the day. We will circle the mountain on the Bill Williams Loop Road starting at Devil Dog Lake just off I-40, passing by Coleman Lake [usually dry] then drive to the summit firetower, enjoying distant views across much of northern Arizona. We'll do some short walks, but no significant hiking, as we talk about the geology and ecology of the mountain. There's a good chance of seeing Elk and other wildlife along the way. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$185 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 8AM from Prescott Campus. ***Chino Valley pickup available.**



EXPLORING GRAND CANYON



The Grand Canyon is well-known, but few are aware that much of the canyon is not included in the national park but is the land of several Native American tribes. The Hualapai Nation owns about 40% of the South Rim, and also a unique feature of the canyon: Diamond Creek Road, the only road in Grand Canyon all the way down to the Colorado River. This little-known road follows Peach Springs Canyon to Diamond Creek in the depths of Grand Canyon and allows access to spectacular landscapes in the canyon without the long steep hikes necessary to reach such places in the national park. Choose any of several possibilities, from one requiring little walking or hiking, to several different spectacular hikes, not accessible to the general public, into truly wilderness canyon landscapes.

■ DRIVE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE GRAND CANYON

Saturday, February 14 • EL021426

Reserve by 1/30

Wednesday, March 4 • EL030426

Reserve by 2/18

Saturday, March 28 • EL032826

Reserve by 3/11

Saturday, April 11 • EL041126

Reserve by 3/27

Saturday, April 18 • EL041826

Reserve by 4/3

Saturday, May 2 • EL050226

Reserve by 4/17

If you've ever wanted to visit the bottom of Grand Canyon, but long hikes on steep trails, or riding mules all day isn't your idea of a good time, take a look at this trip. We utilize the little-known Diamond Creek Road to drive right to the Colorado River in the depths of Grand Canyon, enjoying our lunch on a canyon-bottom beach. You can even wet your feet in the river if you choose. We stop at a number of places along the way to talk about Geology, the history of the Hualapai People who own this part of the Grand Canyon, and the formation of the canyon itself. The trip requires minimal walking, but you can take an optional easy hike of a mile or so. **Activity Rating: Level 1-2**

Instructor: TBD

\$230 per person -Tuition includes transportation, Hualapai permits, box lunch and field instruction. Departs at 7:30AM from Prescott Campus. ***Chino Valley pickup available.**



■ HIKING GRAND CANYON: DIAMOND CREEK

Saturday, February 21 • EL022126

Reserve by 2/6

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

Saturday, March 7 • EL030726

Reserve by 2/20

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

About a mile from the Colorado River, Diamond Creek Road reaches its namesake, Diamond Creek. We will hike up this creek about 3 miles into a spectacular narrows [one short steep place, but mostly gentle gradients with multiple creek crossings about ankle deep], enjoying lunch at a beautiful little waterfall beneath thousand-foot cliffs. We will discuss both the geology and natural history along the way. Our day will culminate with a visit by van to the Colorado River before having dinner in Seligman and then returning to campus. ***This is an off-trail hike, 6 miles total, with fairly rocky footing and your footwear will get wet; hiking poles advised.*** Like our other hikes in the area, this route is not open to the general public. This trip is for experienced hikers. **Activity Rating: Level 3+ to 4.**

\$240 per person - Tuition includes ground transportation, field instruction, Hualapai permits and box lunch. Departs 7AM from Prescott Campus. ***Chino Valley pickup available.**

■ HIKING GRAND CANYON: BLACK ROCK CANYON

Saturday, February 28 • EL022826

Reserve by 2/13

About three-quarters of the way down Diamond Creek Road through Peach Springs Canyon is Black Rock Canyon, a little visited tributary containing beautiful displays of ancient metamorphic rocks, several small springs, and a number of prehistoric and historic Hualapai campsites. One of these historic sites is from the "Starving Time" in the 1870s when many Hualapai were hiding in Grand Canyon from the U.S. Cavalry. We will go about 3 miles into this canyon [6 miles round trip], a fairly rugged off-trail hike climbing about 800 feet, returning by the same route. We'll discuss Hualapai history, geology and natural history along the way. Our day will culminate with a visit by van to the Colorado River and dinner in Seligman before returning to campus. Like our other hikes in the area, this route is not open to the general public. **Activity Rating: Level 4+**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$240 per person - Includes transportation, field instruction, Hualapai permits and box lunch. Departs 7AM from Prescott campus. ***Chino Valley pickup available.**

■ HIKING GRAND CANYON: TONTO RIM

Friday, March 13 • EL031326

Reserve by 2/27

This hike leads out onto the Tonto Rim, nearly a thousand feet above the Colorado River, where we'll enjoy our lunch with spectacular views up and down Grand Canyon. This is a truly wild and adventurous off-trail hike, with fabulous views throughout. ***Hiking distance is almost four miles and includes several short steep gradients, lots of rocks and cactus, and narrow game trails - bring your hiking poles.*** We will discuss both the geology and natural history along the way. Our day will culminate with a visit by van to the Colorado River and dinner in Seligman before returning to campus. Like our other hikes in the area, this route is not open to the general public. This trip is for experienced hikers. **Activity Rating: Level 3+ to 4.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$240 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch, Hualapai permits and field instruction. Departs 7AM from Prescott Campus. ***Chino Valley pickup available.**



EXPLORING FARTHER AFIELD



Why limit our educational explorations to our immediate area. Arizona and Four Corners country has numerous other fascinating features to experience, both in the natural world and in our long human history. These trips travel out and away to more distant attractions, some of them as overnight journeys. They range from including short walks to hiking several miles.

■ HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE AND OLD YARNELL HILL

Wednesday, February 25 • EL022526

Reserve by 2/11

The Hassayampa River Preserve, a Nature Conservancy property just east of Wickenburg, encompasses an incredible oasis of greenery along the Hassayampa River, teeming with birds and wildlife. We'll spend much of our day here, walking several of the trails and enjoying our lunch. We'll be talking about mainly desert ecology and some geology. On the way back to Prescott, we'll detour to take the old Yarnell Hill Road through the ghost town of Stanton [named for an infamous early county resident] in the Weaver Mountains, also visiting the Octave townsite nearby. Several miles of walking, mainly on gentle groomed trails. **Activity Rating: Level 2.**

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

\$190 per person - Tuition includes transportation, entrance fees, box lunch and field instruction. Departs 7AM from Prescott campus.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - TRAVEL



■ THE MOTHER ROAD: “GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66”

Tuesday, April 28 • EL042826

Reserve by 4/14

Spend a day with us as we travel historic Route 66, “The Mother Road”, from near Ash Fork to the Colorado River at Topock. At 145 miles, this is the longest surviving stretch of old Route 66 that once connected Chicago to Santa Monica. We'll be stopping at many historic sites: old bridges, roadside attractions, the Historic Route 66 Museum in Kingman (where we'll have lunch) and the old town of Oatman where wild burros wander the streets. Along the way we'll talk about the history of transportation across northern Arizona. At the end of the day we'll return via I-40. Some short walks, but no actual hiking. **Activity Rating: Level 1.**

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

\$225 per person - Tuition includes transportation, box lunch, admission fees and field instruction. Departs 7AM from Prescott campus. ***Chino Valley pickup available.**

■ CANYON DE CHELLY OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE

Wednesday & Thursday, May 6-7 • EL050626

Reserve by 4/22

Instructor: Will Ascarza (trained by Chris Wuehrmann)

Wednesday & Thursday, May 13-14 • EL051326

Reserve by 4/29

Instructor: Chris Wuehrmann

Canyon de Chelly, an amazing other-worldly landscape of 800-foot tall red cliffs, includes spectacular cliff dwellings and mystical rock art from centuries in the past. The canyon was once home to the ancestral Hopi and today sustains a living community of Navajo (the Dine') living in spiritual connection with this beautiful landscape. We'll tour the canyon's south rim, viewing its beauty from above, and also take a 4x4 tour into the canyon with Navajo guides who will share their stories with us. During our journey there and back, we'll visit Petrified Forest, the Painted Desert, and historic Hubbell Trading Post as well as traveling paved back road across Navajo land (Dinéshān). A fair amount of walking is included, some optional, but all on easy terrain. **Activity Rating: Levels 1-2**

\$780 per person double occupancy / \$150 single occupancy supplement - Tuition includes transportation, lodging, meals, 4x4 tour, permits, admission fees, gratuities, and field instruction. Departs 7AM from Prescott Campus. ***Camp Verde pickup available.**

■ COURSE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEVEL RATING CHART*

Activity Rating Level 1

Participants must be able to carry luggage, packs, and/or equipment, climb stairs, sit, or stand for up to 1 hour, get in and out of vehicles easily, and walk a few blocks indoors or out.

Activity Rating Level 2

Participants must be able to carry luggage, packs, and/or equipment, participate in physical activity for 1-2 hours, climb stairs, sit, or stand for over 1 hour, and walk on uneven and/or varied terrain from three blocks up to one mile at a 2.0-mph pace over the course of the day (may include slight elevation changes.)

Activity Rating Level 3

Participants must be able to carry luggage, packs, and/or equipment, sit, or stand for over 2 hours, be in good health, mobile, able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, and walk on uneven and/or varied terrain up to five miles at a 2.5-mph pace over the course of the day and/or for multiple consecutive days (may include moderate elevation changes.)

Activity Rating Level 4

Participants must be able to carry luggage, packs, and/or equipment; sit or stand for over 2 hours; be in excellent health, extremely mobile, and used to an active lifestyle. Program activities may require up to 6 hours of strenuous, moderate- to fast-paced activity per day, equivalent to hiking 6 to 10 miles at a 3-mph pace over uneven and/or varied terrain (may include moderate to intense elevation changes). A conditioning regimen is recommended, beginning at least 2-3 months prior to departure that includes hiking (preferably), walking or some other form of cardiovascular exercise (swimming, cycling) in order to prepare for the activity in this adventure.

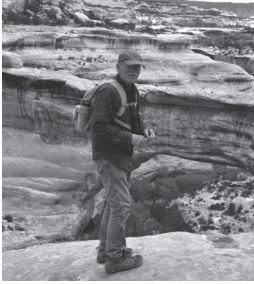
Activity Rating Level 5

Participants must be able to carry luggage, packs, and/or equipment; sit or stand for over 3 hours; have a high level of physical fitness and appropriate expertise in the program activities (e.g. hiking, climbing, rafting, etc.); and should expect full days of fast-paced, strenuous physical challenges (may include moderate to intense elevation changes). A conditioning regimen is recommended, beginning at least 2-3 months prior to departure that includes hiking (preferably), walking or some other form of cardiovascular exercise (swimming, cycling) in order to prepare for the activity in this adventure.

***Trip activities may vary. Not all trips will include all aspects of the assigned activity rating. For more information on individual trip activity levels, or to request special accommodations, please contact Experiential Learning at 928-717-7755.**

MEET THE TRIP LEADERS

■ CHRIS WUEHRMANN



Chris is our senior instructor/trip leader and has been leading trips for Yavapai College since 1981. Chris came to Prescott in 1967 from Illinois and was in the second class at Prescott College

back when it first began. He studied Social Anthropology, Archaeology, and Geology, is something of a self-taught historian and is also a musician [keyboards] who plays regularly around Prescott. Chris has hiked and backpacked all over the Southwest, including hundreds of days spent in Grand Canyon, and has also worked on a number of archaeological projects. He is responsible for developing most of the trips currently in our offerings and is heavily involved with bringing our two new trip leaders online. He's been married to Rita [retired administrator of the college's OLLI Program] for 45 years, and they have three children.

■ KYLE SHORT



Kyle is a new instructor/trip leader for the college this year. He came to the Prescott area in 2012 from Baja, Mexico, having lived there for three years, but is originally from Delaware

where he graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in Spanish. Kyle brings a wealth of prior experience developing and leading adventure trips around the Southwest, including San Juan River trips, other southwestern destinations, and also trips to our southern neighbors, Mexico and El Salvador. After teaching 12 years at Northpoint Expeditionary Learning Academy in Prescott, he's now teaching at Skyview School. He's married to Jessica [who teaches Spanish in Chino Valley], and they have two children.

■ WILL ASCARZA



Will is a new instructor/trip leader for the college this year and brings extensive prior experience to our program. He came to Arizona from the Southeast in 1999, first living

in southern Arizona and more recently in Flagstaff. Educated in North Carolina and at the University of Arizona, Will has led adventure trips for Pima College, been involved with the Sonoran Desert Museum, and as an author has published seven books, including *Zenith on the Horizon*. He's also the writer of a column for over ten years, "Mine Tales", in the *Arizona Daily Star* in Tucson and has worked with a number of tourism boards, museums, and libraries. Will has a special interest in Arizona history, and especially mining history. He's married to Lorie, an environmental educator, and they have one child.



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■ DUFF SPRINGS

Video ID #ONL1 • \$15

Alexander Duff came to Arizona Territory in 1879, as a trapper, prospector, and market hunter, married to a Shoshone Indian woman. He left the territory in 1906 as a respected hotel and mercantile owner. Duff homesteaded at a beautiful spot on the Verde River, overlooked by a centuries-old cliff dwelling, where a crystal-clear spring bears his name. Join this exploration of Duff's story and of some of the history and natural features.

■ JOHNSON CANYON

Video ID #ONL2 • \$20

When the Santa Fe Railroad was constructing their line across northern Arizona in the early 1880s, they overcame many physical obstacles in the rugged landscapes they traversed. One of the more difficult was the steep drop westwards off the Coconino Plateau, between Williams and Ash Fork. Our explorations will include some strange and interesting natural features, and the story of rancher and homesteader George Johnson, after whom the canyon is named.

■ NORTHERN BRADSHAW

Video ID #ONL3 • \$20

In 1863, during the height of the Civil War, several parties of intrepid prospectors discovered gold in the flanks of what became known as the Bradshaw Mountains. While the Walker party was most notable, the range was named for William Bradshaw, who died under mysterious circumstances in December 1864. We will explore the northern part of the range, which overlooks Prescott, visiting old mine sites, ghost communities, homesteads, and the historic Palace Station, established by the Spence family in 1875.

■ THE MOQUI STAGE ROAD TO GRAND CANYON

Video ID #ONL4 • \$25

In 1903, two young girls traveled to the Grand Canyon with their families. They rode from Flagstaff to the Canyon by stagecoach, stayed in the historic, long extinct Grand View Hotel and took a 3-day trip by burro into the Canyon with Captain John Hance, the Canyon's first tour operator and renowned storyteller. Chris Wuehrmann re-creates their journey to the Canyon via the route of the Moqui Stage. We will hear about their histories as miners and tour operators in the Grandview Point area, and little-known histories of other Northern Arizona pioneers and places.

■ PROSPECTORS, MINERS, AND THE IMPOSSIBLE RAILROAD IN THE SOUTHERN BRADSHAW MOUNTAINS

Video ID #ONL5 • \$25

In 1863, during the height of the Civil War, several parties of prospectors discovered gold in what became known as the Bradshaw Mountains. We'll explore the southern part of the range, visiting desert communities like Cleator, Bumblebee, and the mountain town of Crown King. We will talk about the original Yavapai Indian inhabitants, the challenges of passage via rail, and some history of mining in the rugged and forbidding landscape of the Southern Bradshaws.

■ EXPLORING DATE CREEK: NATIVE PEOPLES AND TERRITORIAL FORTS TO MODERN RANCHERS

Video ID #ONL6 • \$25

Date Creek flows from the crest of the Weaver Mountains above Yarnell west into a vast desert plain, studded with rugged mountain ridges, finally joining the Santa Maria River above Alamo Lake. Originally home to the Yavapai People, Date Creek's first Anglo visitors were led by Charles Genung in 1863, who upon seeing one of the creek's green valleys declared it to be the Garden of Eden. Near this spot the military post of Camp Date Creek operated from 1867-1874. We will explore this little-known landscape, seeing ancient rock art, viewing the ruins of Camp Date Creek, and visiting with modern ranchers.

■ THE LAND BETWEEN THE CANYONS

Video ID #ONL7 • \$25

Leading southwards into Verde Valley are two spectacular red rock canyons. To the east, well-known Oak Creek Canyon is followed by highway, although the west flanks are wilderness area. To the west, lightly visited Sycamore Canyon is entirely a wilderness area. Between the lower ends of these canyons is more wilderness area offering utterly amazing views, exotic volcanic features, and steep and wild canyons. Enjoy exploring this wild country and rugged back roads. We'll talk about geology, natural history, forest management and logging railroads. We'll also talk about the handful of early pioneers who braved this remote wilderness; and the historic logging railroads that once traversed the area.



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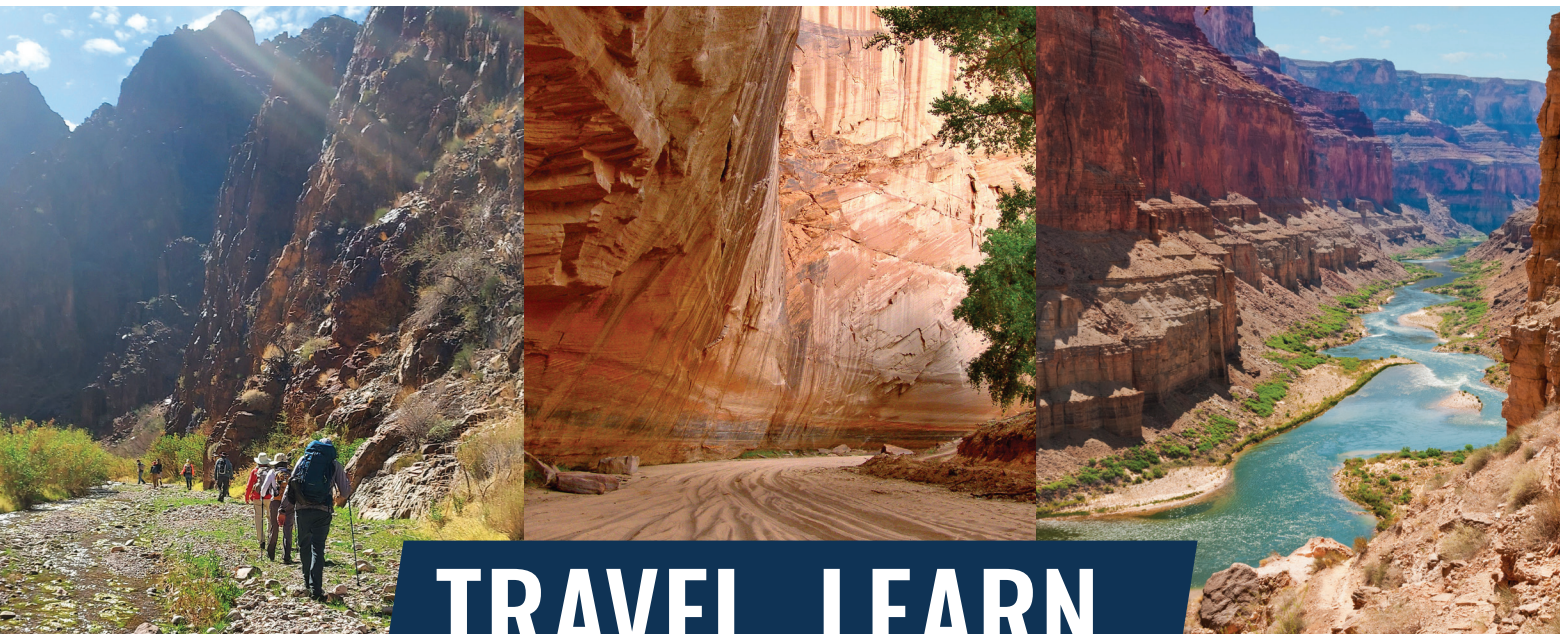
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