

Mesa Verde

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During the summer of 2010, 20 art history students paired with 20 photography students in close camping quarters for a 5 day long adventure class in Mesa Verde. During this time, students were lucky enough to experience firsthand the astounding remains that the Ancestral Puebloans (Anasazi) left behind after the abandonment of Mesa Verde. Hiking and climbing vertical ladders were some of the common methods used to arrive at the many cliff dwellings and ceremonial centers that the Anasazi once scaled the cliffs with small foot holes to access. With very limited tools and resources, the Ancestral Puebloans created building complexes with multi-story towers, giant underground kivas, and astoundingly technical pottery that still leaves us with many questions about these people, today. My photographs attempt to capture the beauty, abrupt abandonment, distinct character, and immensity of the dwelling spaces created by the Ancestral Puebloans at Mesa Verde.

