

Anasazi Timelines

For me, life never seems to be as simple as just taking pictures.

I dearly love to see landscapes, particularly at Magic Hour. Since many images of captivating Anasazi architecture are in quaint places, that means I walk a lot.

So, when I get to a place like Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde or any other gorgeous Anasazi ruin, it makes me think...

"Who were these people, the Anasazi?"

"What was their life really like?"

"What can I learn during an extended photo shoot on Anasazi Adventures?"

Here are Anasazi Timelines of central Mesa Verde culture for areas covered by Anasazi Adventures.

<i>Mesa Verde Culture</i>	
<i>Periods/AD*</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<i>Pueblo III</i> 1150-1300	Pueblo III was a time of dramatic change. Early on, most people lived in small farmsteads clustered loosely near community centers. By A.D. 1250, almost everyone left their farmsteads and moved into these centers, forming large villages. Most villages were located in canyon settings—around canyon heads or in rock alcoves high above canyon floors.
<i>Pueblo II</i> 900-1150	Only a small population remained in the Mesa Verde region in early part of Pueblo II. As climate improved in early A.D. 1000s, people began returning to Mesa Verde, settling in upland areas with good farm soils. Unlike older communities, late Pueblo II consisted primarily of small farmsteads loosely clustered around a larger site called a "community center." Centers had large public buildings used for many purposes, including ceremonies and meetings. Some public buildings also served as both storage facilities and distribution points for food and other goods to be shared by community members.
<i>Pueblo I</i> 750-900	By the end of Pueblo I, most people were living in communities of densely populated villages, some quite large. Pithouses continued to be built, but people spent part of their time in above ground structures, including both living and storage space. Large public buildings were more common - society was becoming more complex. Religious, economic, and political institutions began during this time to deal with large numbers of people living near one another.
<i>Basketmaker III</i> 500-750	Basketmaker III was a time of population growth in the Mesa Verde region. Much of this growth resulted from people moving into the area. It was a time of great progress, with immigrants bringing new food and new technologies. Domesticated beans, pottery, and bow and arrow came into Mesa Verde region during this time. Farming became increasingly important, with people relying more and more on domesticated crops, especially corn. Climate was very favorable for farming, with few droughts.

	<p>Most people lived in small, scattered farmsteads as home to one or two house holds, each with its own pithouse and outdoor storage. As population grew, clusters of farms began to appear on the landscape, forming early communities.</p>
<p><i>Basketmaker II</i> 200-500</p>	<p>Farming, and a reliance on corn, was a distinguishing characteristic of later Anasazi culture. In addition, people, just like later Pueblo peoples, built more-permanent structures and began settling down in farmsteads near good farming. Why call this period "Basketmaker"? Mesa Verde people had not yet learned how to make pottery vessels. Instead, they used other kinds of containers, including baskets made of woven plant materials.</p> <p>Although Paleoindian and Archaic people also made baskets, Basketmaker II people made many beautiful baskets at Mesa Verde sites.</p>

**Individual areas may show different times.*

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