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# **Ancient Pathways**

**Travel Articles - United States** 

Written by travelnotes

Wed, 08 Jun 2005

### Living in The Wilderness of Northern Arizona

Ancient Pathways, LLC, a Flagstaff-based wilderness company, puts a new twist on academic studies by offering the opportunity for students to learn traditional outdoor skills, immerse themselves in native American culture and gain experience in a diversity of Southwestern habitats, while obtaining college credit through Northern Arizona University.

Students are mentored in how to live closely with the land by practicing skills such as making fire without matches, collecting wild foods and medicinal plants, shelter construction, and by applying their skills on a daily basis and on walkabouts that traverse the mesas and canyonlands throughout northern Arizona. Numerous expeditions throughout the 12-week program include an ultralight trek in the Grand Canyon and visits with native guides on the Hopi tribal lands.

"This is such a unique program since it is held in a region where three different natural settings converge: the Painted Desert, Grand Canyon, and San Francisco Mountains," said Tony Nester, the founder of the program. "Plus, the close proximity to native American tribal lands and numerous archeological sites make this an incredible learning environment. We also have a world-renowned group of lecturers and field researchers from the Southwest who join us throughout the semester to share their expertise and knowledge," Nester added.

Ancient Pathways offers a wide array of courses ranging from 7 to 90 days in length and involving activities such as desert survival and ecology, bushcraft, traditional native crafts like pottery and basketry, flint-knapping arrowheads, mountain lion tracking and biology, and edible plant uses.

## **College Credits**

Students can receive college credit in subjects such as anthropology, botany, archeology, outdoor recreation, and environmental studies.

"Given the stunning location and the wealth of practical outdoor skills that students are exposed to each day, the Southwest Semester Program is an unparalleled learning opportunity," Nester said. "There is no other outdoor program of this scope found in North America."

Ancient Pathways courses take place all year and cost anywhere from \$695 for week long treks to \$7,100 for the semester program which includes meals, lodging, instruction, and more.

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"A traveler without observation is a bird without wings." Moslih Eddin Saadi Scholarships are available.

For further information: Contact Tony Nester at 928-774-7522 or visit Southwest Semester for a complete description.



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