



**American Ancestors**<sup>®</sup>

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

# **The Power of Story in the Land of Enchantment: The Santa Fe International Literary Festival and Beyond**

**with American Ancestors' Margaret Talcott**

May 14–19, 2025



Allan Houser's 'Migration' (1992) in the courtyard of the New Mexico Museum of Art.



**AMERICAN  
INSPIRATION**

A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR SERIES  
BY AMERICAN ANCESTORS<sup>®</sup>



## Calling all book lovers!

American Ancestors is launching its first-ever literary tour in the company of Margaret M. Talcott, Director of Literary Programs & Partnerships and Producer of the American Inspiration series. Please consider joining her and local experts at the Santa Fe International Literary Festival in May, where you will meet and *think* along festival authors and finalists of the 2024 Booker Prize and National Book Award.

The Santa Fe International Literary Festival will feature the brilliant **Percival Everett**, winner of the 2024 National Book Award for fiction and nominee of the 2024 Booker Prize. (He's also a former Pulitzer Prize finalist.) In *James*, he reimagines *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of Huck's traveling companion Jim, giving the enslaved runaway agency and an intellect that transcends Mark Twain's stereotype. The cultural polymath **Miranda July** received a National Book Award nomination for her novel *All Fours*, which tells the story of a middle-aged artist who blows up her life as an act of protest against menopause, stifling domesticity, and the long shadow of mortality. In the National Book Award's nonfiction category, Santa Fe's very own **Deborah Jackson Taffa** is nominated for her memoir, *Whiskey Tender*, which chronicles her childhood as a mixed-tribe Native American and her family's struggle to assimilate.

## Tour Highlights

- VIP access at the star-studded Santa Fe International Literary Festival, which will bring together world-renowned authors, thinkers, and passionate readers for a stimulating roster of events. Enjoy an all-access pass and premium seats to attend 11 author talks, three walking tours, and more:

**ON STAGE:** Best-selling, prize-winning authors—including ones already mentioned, as well as Michael Pollan, Heather Cox Richardson, Michael Cunningham, and more—headline the Festival, discussing their work with readings and book signings that set the stage for further inspired conversations.

**WALK & TALK:** Join walks with featured authors and guides that will stretch our legs and our minds during walking tours and other literary-themed activities.

**IN CONVERSATION AND AUTHOR TALKS:** Attend talks between authors and other notable figures who will engage in one-on-one conversations and thought-provoking discussions.

- Spend a day in Taos to pay homage to great writers who found community and inspiration—including D.H. Lawrence, Mabel Dodge Luhan, and others.
- Take a morning walking tour with an authority on Willa Cather to see places in Santa Fe that inflected her masterpiece, *Death Comes to the Archbishop*; and an afternoon walking tour of the campus at School for Advanced Research, a mecca for anthropologists and writers for more than 100 years and today a vibrant institute for creative thought.
- Enjoy meeting special guests and local luminaries at each of the dinners planned for tour participants.
- Stay five nights at Inn & Spa at Loretto, one of the finest hotels in Santa Fe and convenient to the Festival, restaurants, and shopping.

We hope to have you join us next spring!

# Itinerary

Wednesday, May 14

Welcome Reception, Dinner

## ARRIVE SANTA FE

Arrive in Santa Fe. Transportation from both Albuquerque and Santa Fe airports will be arranged and is included in the Tour Price.

Check in to **Inn & Spa at Loretto**, located a block from the historic Plaza next to the Loretto Chapel, in a building designed after the Taos Pueblo, with rooms decorated in contemporary style. Time to get settled. *Check-in time is 4 p.m.*

*Included in Tour Price: breakfast daily (up to \$25 inclusive of tax and gratuity), high-speed wireless internet, local and toll-free calls, coffee service in the lobby in the morning, access to the outdoor heated pool, business center and fitness center; in-room bottled water and coffee/tea maker.*

**ADDRESS:** 211 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501

**PHONE:** 505-988-5531

**WEBSITE:** [www.hotelloretto.com](http://www.hotelloretto.com)

Our tour kicks off with a welcome reception and dinner at Luminaria at the Inn at Loretto.

## Reserved for American Ancestors Tour Participants

Pueblo Rooms with a choice of one king or two double beds (average size 300 sq. ft.). Additional nights @ \$350 per night including tax, excluding breakfast and \$35 daily amenity fee.

Upgrade to a Terraza Room (400 sq. ft.) with a balcony for \$65 per room per night; or to a Vista King (410 sq. ft.) with a four-poster king bed, balcony and views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains or city for \$90 per room per night (subject to availability). Please contact tour partner Travel Muse to request this and any other upgrades.



The multi-story adobe buildings at Taos Pueblo, lovingly preserved, remains the year-round home for some 150 people. They appear just as they would have centuries earlier. The main difference is the addition of doors and windows. Originally the only entrance to each home was through the roof.

Thursday, May 15

Breakfast, Box Lunch

## SANTA FE / TAOS / SANTA FE

Excursion to Taos with an author and local guide who specializes in historical literary figures in northern New Mexico, including a visit to the D.H. Lawrence Ranch, Taos Pueblo, and Mabel Dodge Luhan House. Dinner and the evening are on your own. *A List of Suggested Restaurants to meet any taste or budget will be provided.*

Friday, May 16

Breakfast, Dinner

## SANTA FE

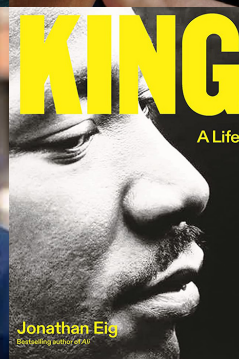
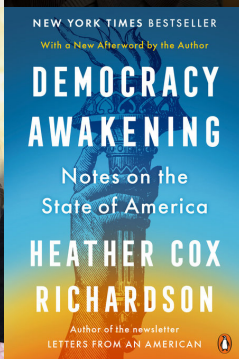
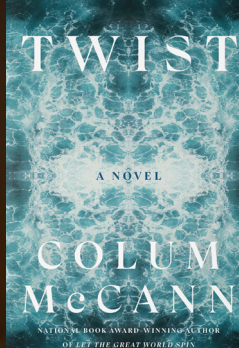
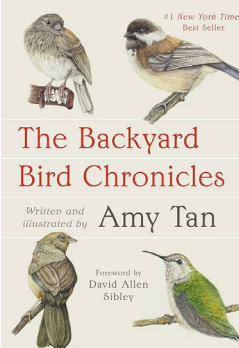
Morning walking tour in the historic district with a local author, historian, and authority on Willa Cather. Lunch on your own at any number of eateries around the historic Plaza. Afternoon optional walking tour at School for Advanced Research (SAR) to learn about the history of writers who have visited, worked at, or been involved in projects at SAR, including such luminaries as Alice Corbin Henderson, N. Scott Momaday, Witter Bynner, Fray Angélico Chávez, Peggy Pond Church, Will Shuster, and Rina Swentzell. Attend the kick-off for the Festival with a Reception and Keynote Talk. Dinner at 315 Bistro, joined by a special guest.



Above: Ristras, or strings of drying chili pepper pods, garlic bulbs, or other vegetables, have become a trademark of decorative design in the state of New Mexico.



Left: Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in the U.S., having served as the Spanish seat from 1610 until 1680, when the Pueblo peoples who lived along the Rio Grande since the early 900s successfully drove the Spanish out until their return 12 years later. It nurtures links to its rich history and to its blend of Native American, Latino and Anglo cultures. Even the newest buildings pay homage to the city's past.

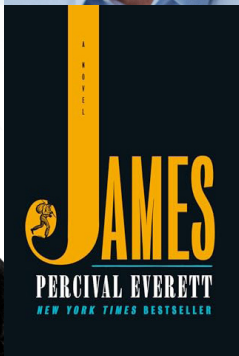
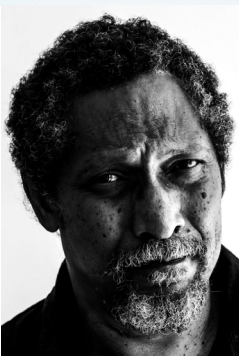
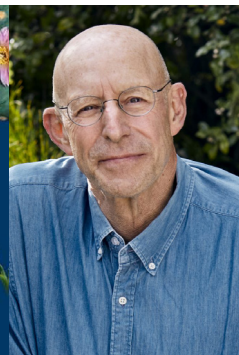
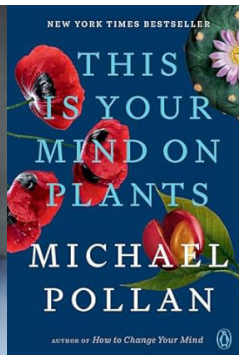


**Saturday, May 17**

**Breakfast, Lunch, Reception, Dinner  
SANTA FE**

Attend a full day of Festival events, followed by a Reception. End the day with dinner, where we will be joined by a local literary luminary.

Beloved bestselling author Amy Tan; National Book Award-winning Irish writer Collum McCann; renowned historian Heather Cox Richardson, and journalist and biographer Jonathan Eig, will read from and discuss their latest books.



**Sunday, May 18**

**Breakfast, Box Lunch, Reception, Dinner  
SANTA FE**

Return to the Festival for a second day of events, ending with a Reception. Our tour will conclude with a farewell dinner at Alkeme, a recent James Beard nominee, whose Chef-Owner Hue-Chan Karels pursues the culinary roots of Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea, and Hawaii's Pacific Rim with an innovative twist. We will be joined by a special guest.

*Pre-dinner cocktails and dinner with wine are included in the Tour Price.*

Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Michael Cunningham; non-fiction bestselling writer Michael Pollan; Pulitzer Prize finalist and novelist Percival Everett; and naturalist, activist and author of environmental classics Terry Tempest Williams, will discuss their latest works.



**Monday, May 19**

**Breakfast  
DEPART SANTA FE OR EXTEND YOUR STAY**

Our tour ends. Transportation to both Albuquerque and Santa Fe airports will be arranged and is included in the Tour Price.



## Your Tour Leader

**Margaret M. Talcott,**  
**American Ancestors**  
**Director of Literary Programs & Partnerships and Producer of the American Inspirations author series**

Margaret M. Talcott joined American Ancestors in 2019, taking up the mission to educate, inspire, and connect people through inspiring events and author talks. There she created the American Inspiration author series and has since presented more than 150 authors and their works, delighting more than 145,000 readers and lifelong learners online and in person. The program is produced in Boston and broadcast to the organization's constituents and select literary audiences nationwide.

From 2006–2019 Ms. Talcott produced literary programs at The Music Hall in Portsmouth, New Hampshire (900 seats), where she presented such cultural leaders as David McCullough, Sonia Sotomayor, John Updike, Margaret Atwood, Ken Burns, Tom Brokaw, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and David Brooks in the celebrated series *Writers on a New England Stage* presented with New Hampshire Public Radio. She also produced the performance center's *Writers in the Loft* and *Innovation and Leadership* series. Over these literary years, she has interviewed on stage Lee Child, Gail Collins, Amor Towles, Anna Quindlen, Daniel Pink, Scott Simon, and Celeste Ng, among others.

Ms. Talcott worked previously in New York as a Director and Vice President of corporate marketing at Merrill Lynch in New York, in network news, and in book publishing, most notably as an editor at William Morrow and at Atheneum Publishers under the leadership of Alfred Knopf, Jr. She graduated from Princeton University with an A.B. in Religion and did post-graduate work in English literature at The Bread Loaf of School of English (Middlebury College). She was a scholar at the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, awarded for poetry.

She has served on boards and committees for many New York and New England nonprofits including The Trustees Trinity Church in the City of Boston, the Currier Museum of Art (Manchester, New Hampshire), and Berwick Academy in South Berwick, Maine. In other volunteer leadership roles, she has managed programming for numerous private organizations and currently serves on the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee for the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts.



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**AMERICAN ANCESTORS** is America's founding genealogical organization, the most respected name in family history, and one of the leading non-profit organizations in the field. We create enriching opportunities for members and the public to research their own family history, attend educational programs and tours, exhibitions, and other inspirational experiences that communicate the power and importance of family history.

To learn more, visit [AmericanAncestors.org](https://AmericanAncestors.org).



**AMERICAN INSPIRATION**  
A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR SERIES  
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**AMERICAN INSPIRATION** is a best-selling author series produced by Margaret M. Talcott of the Brue Family Learning Center at American Ancestors. The series educates, inspires, and connects people to their family history by exploring themes of personal identity, families, immigration, and social and cultural history. Discover inspiring and thought-provoking stories of American families and the complex history which has shaped this country.

Learn more at [AmericanAncestors.org/inspire](https://AmericanAncestors.org/inspire).

## For more information:

**Kelly Neagle, Special Events & Engagement Manager**  
**American Ancestors**

**99–101 Newbury Street • Boston, MA 02116**

**Office: 617-226-1215**

**Email: [kelly.neagle@nehgs.org](mailto:kelly.neagle@nehgs.org)**

# Tour Price Information

**Tour Price, Per Person Double:** \$5,350

**Tour Price, Per Person Single:** \$6,215 (includes \$865 single supplement)

*Tour price is per person, based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 16 paying participants, and a maximum of 24.*

## UPGRADE OPTIONS:

**Terraza Room with a balcony (400 sq. ft.):** \$65 upcharge per night; \$415 per extra night

**Vista King with balcony (410 sq. ft.):** \$90 upcharge per night; \$440 per extra night

**Vista Grande with seating area (525 sq. ft.):** \$110 upcharge per night; \$460 per extra night

## INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE:

- Accommodations for five nights at Inn & Spa at Loretto, based on Pueblo king and doubles (300 sq. ft.), including taxes, portorage (if needed), complimentary WiFi, and daily bottled water in your room, and access to recreational facilities including an outdoor heated pool
  - Extra night:** \$350 per room including tax, excluding \$35 per day Amenity Fee and breakfast
- Round-trip airport transfers for flights to/from Albuquerque Sunport (ABQ) and Santa Fe Airport (SAF)
- Breakfast daily, three box lunches, three receptions, and four dinners including wine and beer
- Private coach transport for an excursion to Taos, and to and from School for Advanced Research; including driver gratuity and bottled water on board daily
- All-Access Weekend ticket to the Santa Fe International Literary Festival (SFILF), which includes Premium seating (front section) for 11 author talks (excludes morning meditations); access to the Bibliotheque Lounge, which provides a quiet room offering light refreshments, lounge seating, and storage for bags and purchased books; and a personalized ticket badge
- Private guided walking tours, as indicated in the itinerary
- Guests invited to dinners, as indicated in the itinerary
- New Mexico Culture Pass: Allows complimentary access to the New Mexico Museum of Art and Vadem Contemporary, New Mexico Museum of History, Museum of International Folk Art, and Museum of Indian Art & Culture.
- Accompaniment of one staff member from American Ancestors: Tour Leader Margaret Talcott, Director of Literary Programs and Partnerships
- Accompaniment of one Tour Director to manage logistics and ensure the comfort and safety of tour participants: Meg MacDonald, President, Travel Muse Inc.

## EXCLUDED:

- Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees
- Airport portorage
- One lunch and one dinner, as indicated in the itinerary
- Gratuities for hotel housekeeping

- Personal items such as telephone calls, taxis, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations
- Travel insurance
- Any other activities not specifically included in the itinerary

**Deposit & Final Payment:** A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve a spot on the tour. Deposits are payable to American Ancestors by check or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, or American Express). Final balance will be invoiced and is due on or before March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Final balance payments are payable to Travel Muse, Inc. at no fee by ACH payment or check; or by credit card (3.9% processing fee will be added). Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis.

**Activity Level:** Moderate; good walking ability is advised. Some of the visits require use of staircases, and there will be a limited amount of walking on uneven ground.

**Flights:** Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air arrangements.

**Terms & Conditions:** American Ancestors and Travel Muse strongly encourage that all tour participants be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Upon receipt of registration, Travel Muse will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and submitted to Travel Muse before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, American Ancestors and Travel Muse must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be sent upon tour registration.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to American Ancestors and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by American Ancestors. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by American Ancestors on or before January 14, 2025: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by American Ancestors between January 14 and March 14, 2025: full refund minus \$1,500 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellations received by American Ancestors on or after March 14, 2025: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of the tour. If the tour is cancelled by American Ancestors or Travel Muse due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.