TIMELINE

Chaco and Its World

Great house construction across the greater Chacoan region, set against neighboring centers, northern New Mexico, and the sky, AD 800 to 1300.



BEFORE

9500–5500 BCE
Paleoindian hunters of the Clovis and Folsom traditions

From 5500 BCE
Archaic foraging bands across the Pajarito Plateau and San Juan Basin

Before AD 400
Basketmaker II farmers on Cedar Mesa, Utah, then a long gap in settlement

c. 450–750
Basketmaker III farming villages in Chaco Canyon, including beneath Pueblo Bonito

650–725
Late Basketmaker III villages return to Cedar Mesa

AFTER

Early 1300s
Pueblos gather into fewer, larger villages on the Pajarito Plateau and along the Rio Grande

1540
Coronado expedition reaches the Rio Grande pueblos

1598
Oñate establishes a Spanish colony

1610
Santa Fe founded

1680
Pueblo Revolt, organized from Taos, drives out Spanish colonists

1692
Vargas returns to Santa Fe

1849
Simpson expedition records Chaco's great houses

1907
Chaco Canyon National Monument

1980
Chaco Culture National Historical Park

1987
UNESCO World Heritage Site

2023
10-mile mineral withdrawal around the park

Bars show construction spans from tree-ring dating; published ranges differ by a decade or more between sources. Sky events dated from historical records and computed for Chaco Canyon. © The Ancient Art Archive · ancientartarchive.org