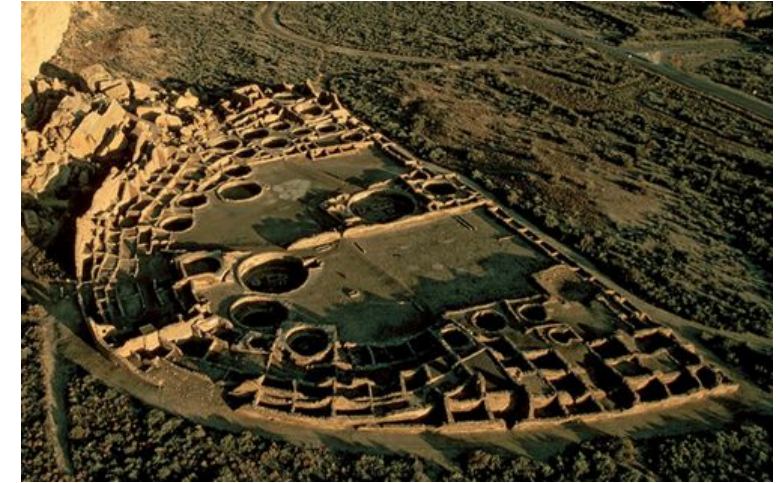




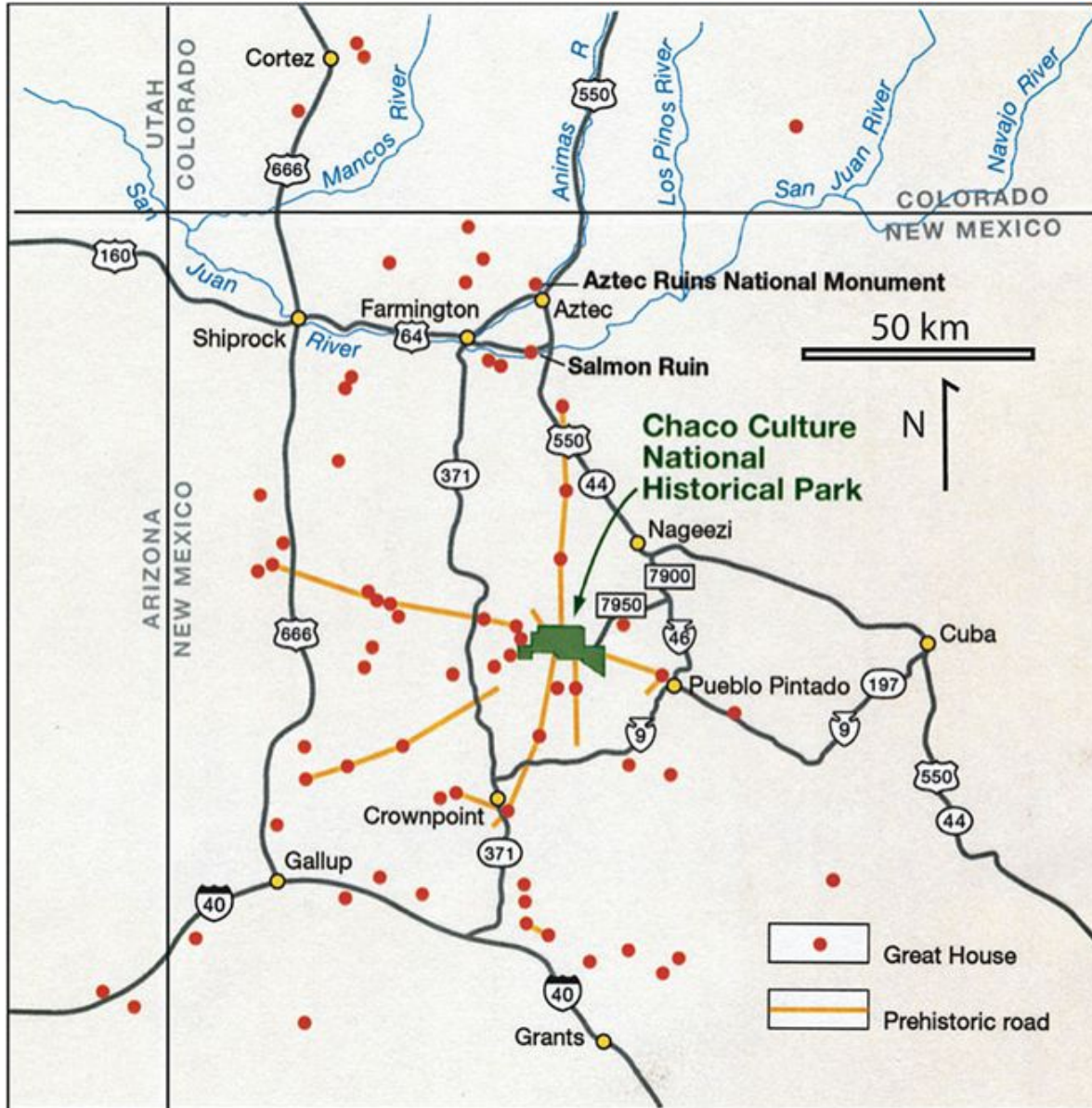
A thousand years ago Chaco Canyon was the center of a vast regional network of Ancestral Puebloan culture.

PUEBLO BONITO & CASA RINCONADA are the largest, most excavated Great House and Great Kiva in the Chacoan System

Great House: PUEBLO BONITO



Great Kiva: CASA RINCONADA





More than 20 Native American tribes in the US Southwest have historical and/or ancestral ties to Chaco Canyon



Chaco is a World Heritage Site and an International Dark Sky Park.



Chaco Canyon remains a very special place to us. Even though the ancestors of my people inhabited the area, I think the Canyon belongs to everyone now. Chaco visitors need to express their own personal reverence.



Chacra Mesa

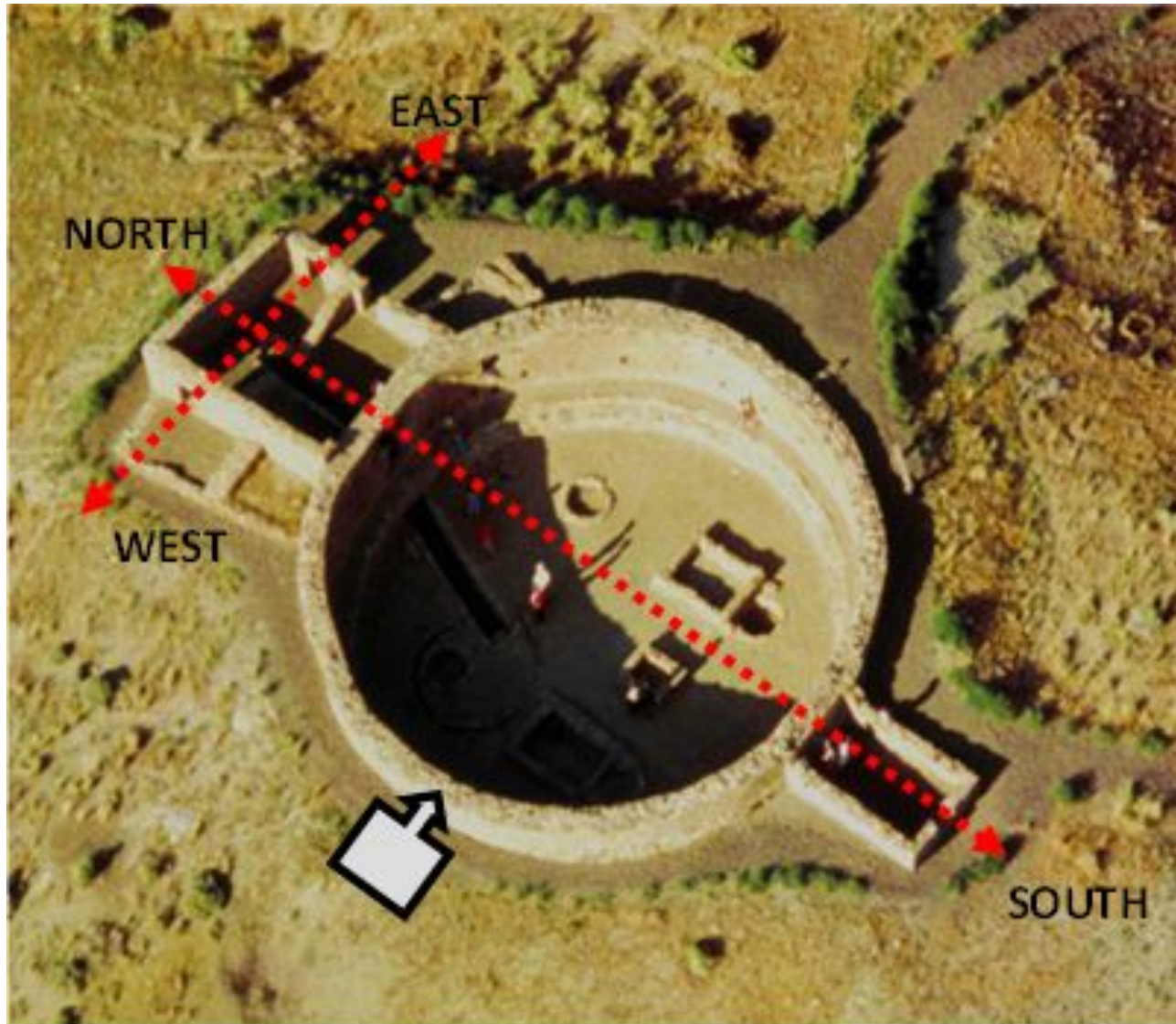
Fajada Butte

Photo by Benjamin Oswald

Voices of contemporary Puebloan people whose ancestors built Chaco and who still live in the US Southwest.



The precise alignments of this Great Kiva and other structures in Chaco reveal the Sun-watching mastery of the Ancestral Puebloan people who built them.



The white box indicates the position and direction for viewing the sunrise horizon.



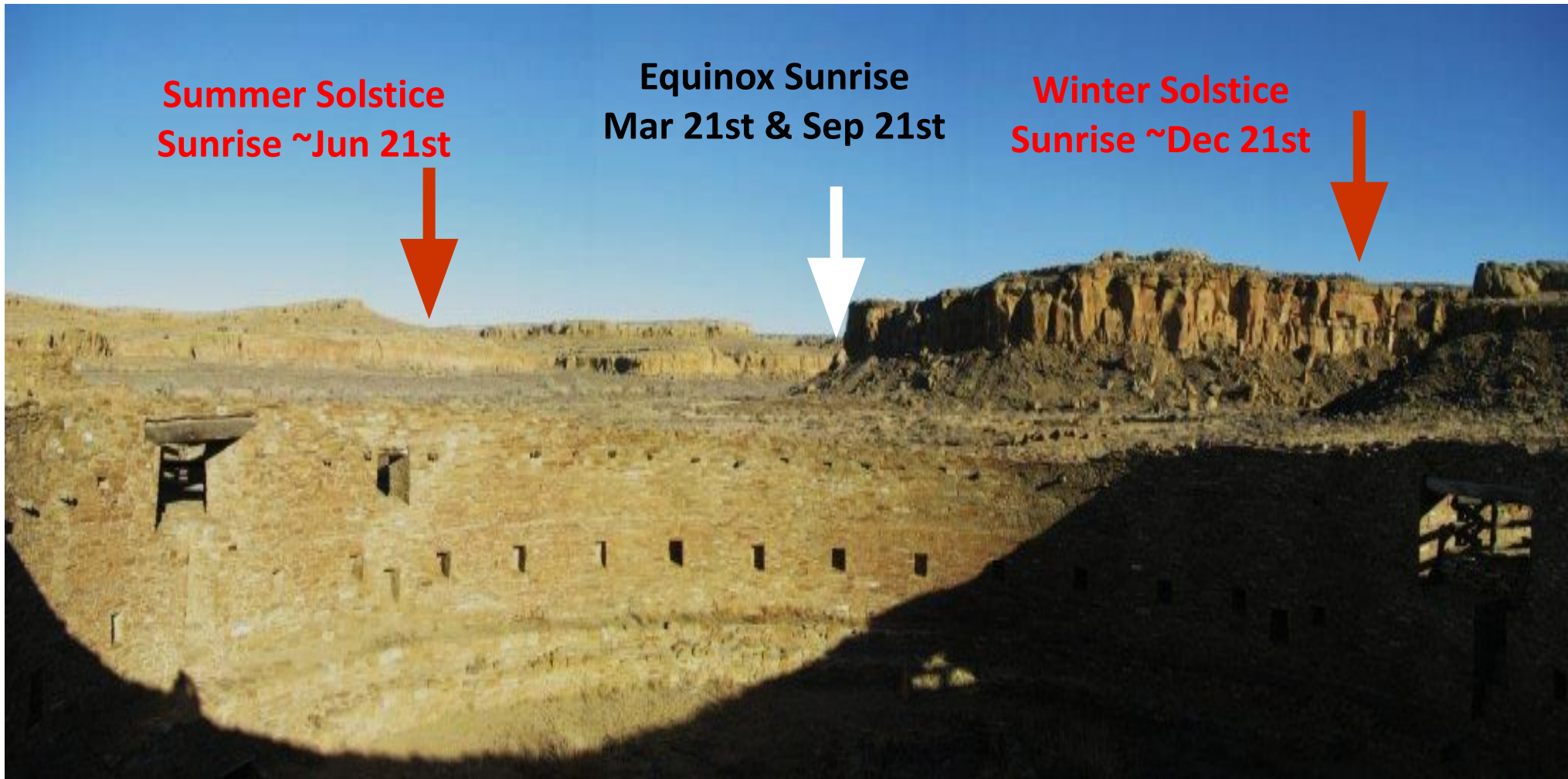
This long exposure photo toward the North Star demonstrates the N-S alignment of the Great Kiva



When this structure was built, the North Star was 6 degrees away from true North.



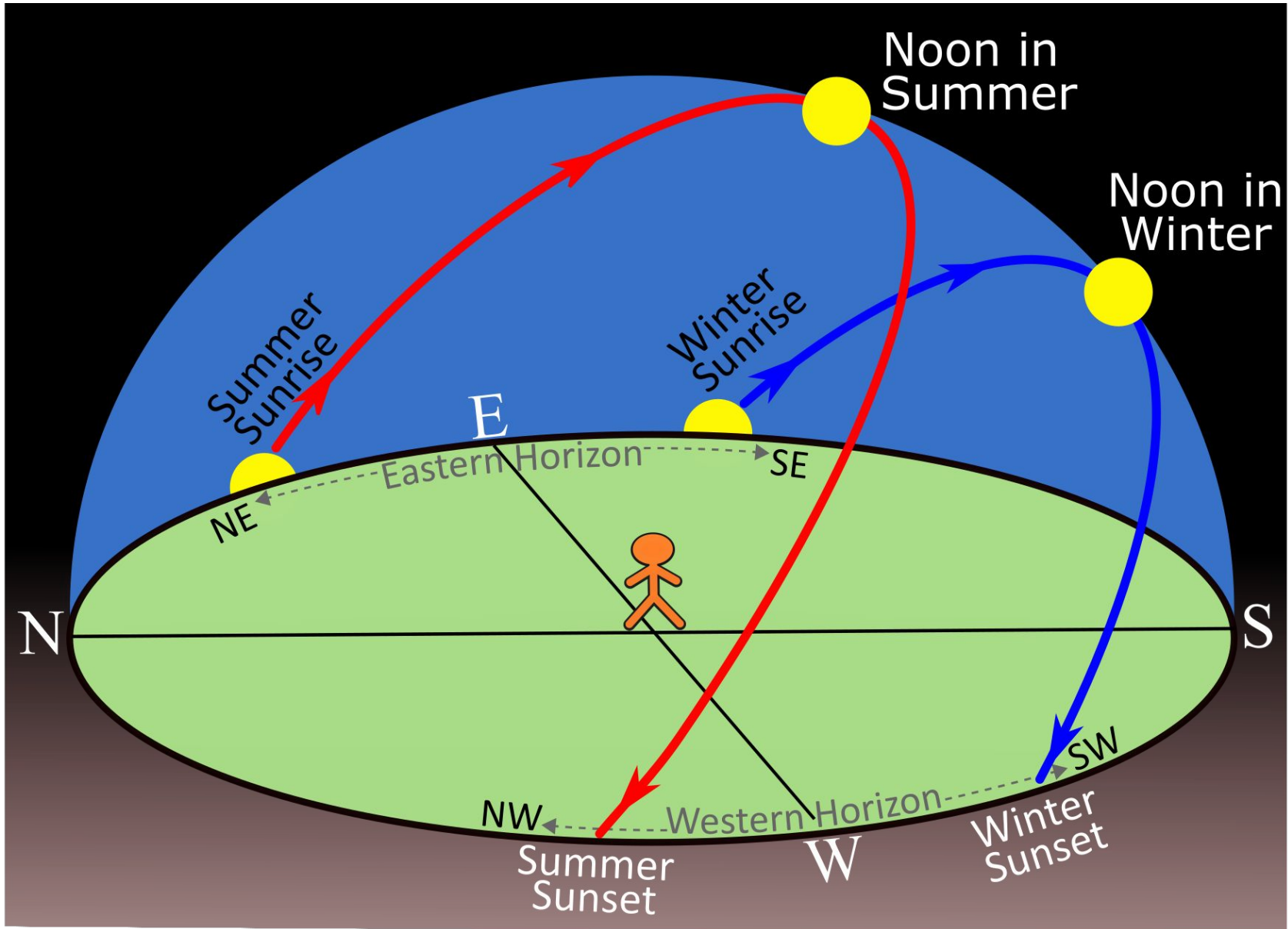
Eastern horizon as seen from the western side of a Great Kiva in Chaco Canyon called *Casa Rinconada*. Notice how the position of the sunrise changes over the year.



Use this “horizon calendar” to estimate where the Sun rises on your birthday.



Tracing the highest and lowest paths of the Sun (causing more and fewer daylight hours) helps make sense of how the sunrise position changes over the course of the year.





Compare the horizon position of the Summer Solstice sunrise (~June 21st) in all three of the images below



Photo by C. Morrow Summer Solstice Sunrise from Casa Rinconada



Photo by GB Cornucopia: Young Puebloan Dancers at Summer Solstice Sunrise



Photo by GB Cornucopia