## NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITION

## **Native American Dances**

Be enlightened by the customs of Cortez's Native American tribes at the Cortez Cultural Center's Native American Dances held annually during the summer months through August. Performed in the center's outdoor amphitheater, guests get an eagle-eye view of various types of Native dances, each skillfully performed by Native American dancers bedecked in striking tribal regalia. Touted as one of the center's most popular events, past visitors have shared their enjoyment of the rapturous resonance of various instruments and sacred chants. Topped with delicious, traditional fare, games and storytelling, guests are afforded the opportunity to partake in an intimate gathering with one of our nation's beloved Native American communities.

## **Culture Talk**

Built in 1909 by Edwin and Mary Lamb, the Cortez Cultural Center is a striking historical structure that houses sundry local and Native American art displays, interpretive exhibits, and educational materials relating to the local archaeology and American Indian culture. This nonprofit organization prides itself in educating the surrounding community and visitors about cultural awareness, the area's natural environment, the arts, and the history that makes Cortez the unique area it is.

## **Awe-Inspiring Area**

and the basis

The Cortez Cultural Center was gifted Hawkins Preserve in the 1990s and has since obtained a conservation easement from the Montezuma Land Conservancy to protect the archaeological area from development. The scenic, 122-acre site dates back to around the year 900 and is a popular area for outdoor enthusiasts.

★ WHERE TO WATCH THE DANCES Native American Dances are held Monday through Saturday until August 24. The Cortez Cultural Center is located at 25 N. Market Street, Cortez. For information, call 970-565-1151 or visit cortezculturalcenter.org.

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