

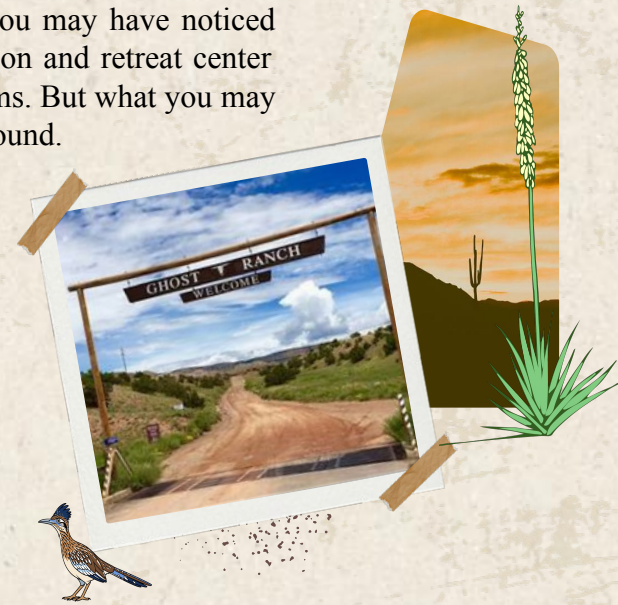
Ghosts, Giants, and Georgia: The Hidden History of Ghost Ranch

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Driving North from Santa Fe on Hwy 84, there is a place that you may have noticed called Ghost Ranch. Today Ghost Ranch is a 21,000 acre education and retreat center offering workshops, guided hikes and a diverse array of art programs. But what you may not know is that in the early days it had a very disreputable background.

In the 1880's the canyon was occupied by the Archuleta brothers, notorious cattle rustlers, who enjoyed the coverage and invisibility that the canyon offered. Many cowboys would stop at night and let their herd drink from the Abiquiu Reservoir. The Archuleta brothers would then steal the cattle and hide them in their little piece of hidden paradise.

As the story goes the brothers would spread rumors that the part of the canyon was haunted and was referred to as the "Rancho de los Brujos" (Ranch of Witches). They instilled fear in everyone so that nobody dared go to that area looking for their stolen cattle. As legend goes many of the cowboys also began to vanish.



Even though people claimed to hear and see spooky things, it was all a farce by the cattle rustlers to keep people away. But, there was one evil spirit that many people claimed to have seen even after the Ghost Ranch stories were debunked. There was a huge snake-like creature that they named Vivaron, and Vivaron was real!

In 1947 bone fragments of a *Coelophysis* dinosaur, a slender, ground-dwelling, two-legged meat-eating dinosaur, were discovered and documented. People immediately believed it was the reptile that haunted the area.

Ghost Ranch is known for having a very rich fossil bed. Today the Ghost Ranch Museum contains hundreds of remarkably preserved skeletons and fossils. Ghost Ranch also has an anthropology museum, making it a significant site for scientific study. Hundreds of remarkably preserved skeletons were discovered in 1947 at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico, making it one of the best-understood Triassic dinosaur localities in the world.

Georgia O'Keeffe first visited Ghost Ranch in 1934 and was drawn to the unique landscapes. By 1940 she purchased part of the ranch and used it as a seasonal retreat and studio.

Ghost Ranch is a unique combination of natural beauty, geology, paleontology, archaeology, history, and art. [Learn more here](#) and [here](#).



Regards from the red rocks and wide skies,
Member Editors: Kathi, Tracy, Jeannie, and Linda,