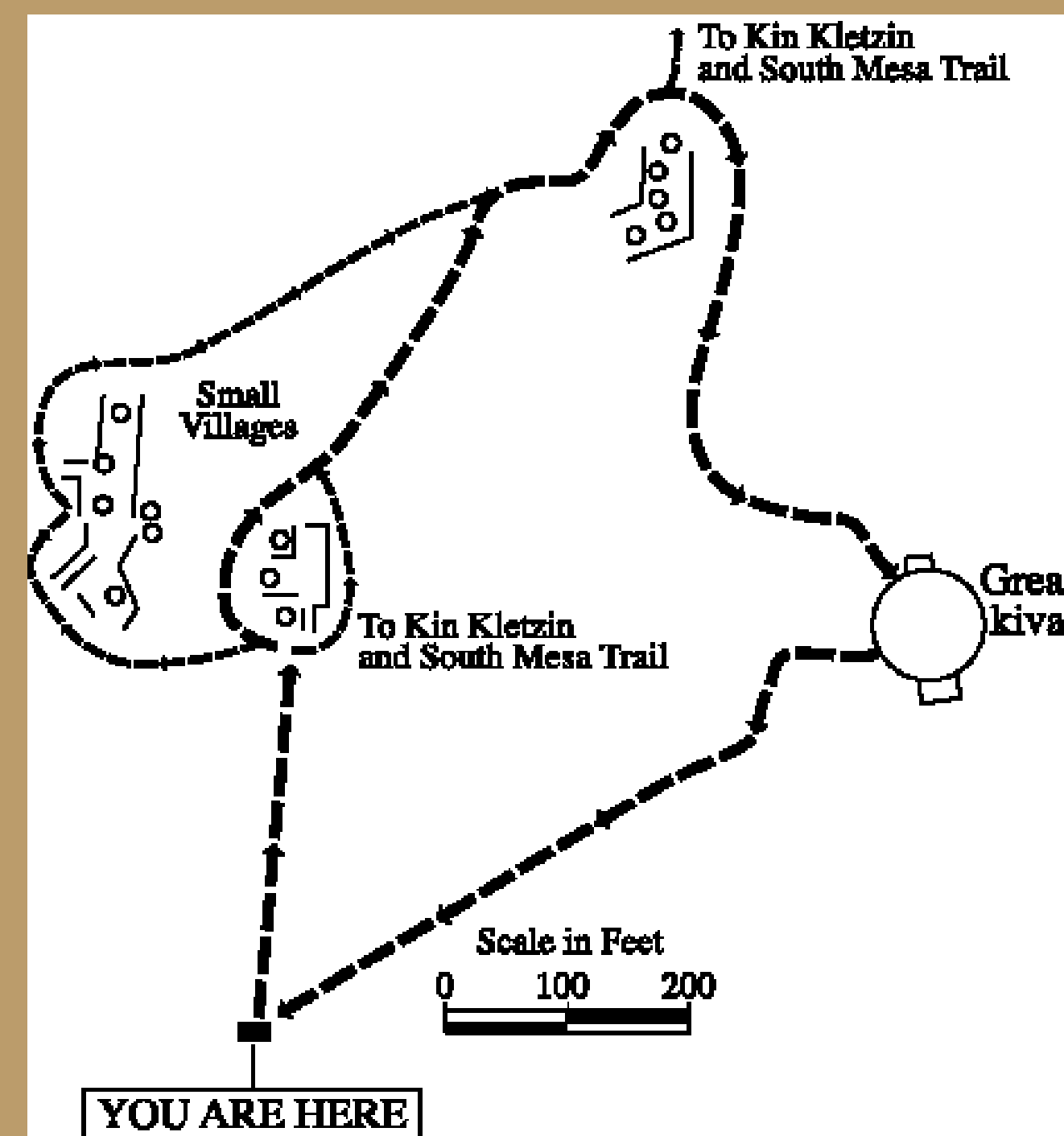




Casa Rinconada Community

Follow this trail to visit the largest great kiva in Chaco Canyon. Great kivas are often built into the plazas of great houses like Pueblo Bonito, but Casa Rinconada's great kiva stands alone, a ceremonial and civic center for the nearby villages.

Unlike the monumental Chacoan great houses, the villages along this trail are more modest. Yet both the great houses and villages were built and occupied during the same period. Hundreds of these small villages and communities have been discovered clustered around Chacoan great houses. Their role isn't clear. Perhaps the great houses served a central purpose: ceremonial, economic, and administrative, and the small village communities supported those efforts.



Reconstructed great kiva interior at Aztec Ruins National Monument