



Santa Fe, New Mexico

the city, different

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story Laurie Wallace-Lynch

“It’s the most wonderful place you can imagine. It’s so beautiful there. It’s ridiculous.” —Georgia O’Keeffe, 1945, New York World Telegram, referring to New Mexico

After recently visiting Santa Fe, New Mexico, I can easily understand why renowned American artist Georgia O’Keeffe fell madly in love with New Mexico, making it her home, and the muse for many of her world-famous paintings and sketches. Perhaps it is Santa Fe’s adobe style architecture, the jaw-dropping 360 degree mountain views, the elevation (the highest in the country at 7,000 feet), the clean, crisp air, and a climate where the thermometer seems to read “perfect every day of the year”. Like Georgia O’Keeffe, throughout the years artists have flocked to Santa Fe, which has been designated as a UNESCO Creative City, for its thriving arts and culture scene.

You don’t have to be an artist to fall in love with Santa Fe. With its ideal climate and close proximity to the Foothills Trails and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Santa Fe is a haven for skiers, hikers, foodies, history and “wild west” buffs. Add to that, those who love exploring museums, galleries and interesting shops, or those wanting to get away from it all with a visit to a luxury spa. According to Visit Santa Fe magazine, the city gets 325 days of sunshine a year, has 250 restaurants, 300 art galleries, a population of 83,000 people and 405 years of history.

Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in the United State which has earned the nickname: “The City Different”. Local residents embrace their culture, food and heritage consisting of a blend of Native American, Spanish and Anglo cultures. It’s easy to get caught up in the excitement as you attend the Annual Fiesta de Santa Fe and await the arrival of General Don Diego de Vargas who marches in on horseback, dressed in a silver helmet and bright red regalia.

Santa Fe is also known as the Green Chile Capital of the World! The chile—spelled with an e, not an i—is a big deal, found on every menu in town and featured in dishes from breakfast to dinner, and even found in chocolate!

“Chiles are more than just an ingredient, they are a way of life,” it states on the Santa Fe Tourism site. “We celebrate their scorching goodness throughout the year with colorful and lively festivals.”

The City Different, with its rich cultural history combined with modern day offerings, make Santa Fe a one-of-a-kind destination. But be warned—you may fall in love after just one visit and want to return again and again.



GOOD PLACES

Experiences in Santa Fe

Canyon Road—The Magic Mile

Santa Fe is the third largest art market in America. The highlight is Canyon Road, appropriately dubbed The Magic Mile, lined on both sides of the street with fine art galleries and studios, many of which are located in historic adobe buildings. www.CanyonRoad.com

New Mexico History Museum/ Palace of the Governors

This world-class museum tells stories which seem to bring America's West to life, through interactive exhibits, photos and displays, with tales of Santa Fe Trail riders, artists, hippies and outlaws! The Palace of the Governors, built in 1609, is the nation's oldest continuously occupied government building. www.NMHistoryMuseum.org

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Georgia O'Keeffe was one of the most significant artists of the 20th century. The collections of her work offer a rare insight into her creative process including the light and landscape of Santa Fe. www.okeeffemuseum.org

El Rancho de las Golondrinas Living History Museum www.golondrinas.org

Ten Thousand Waves Spa

Travel & Leisure Magazine called Santa Fe "One of America's Best Girlfriend Getaways" and that getaway should include a visit to Ten Thousand Waves Spa, a secluded Japanese-inspired spa nestled on a cliff top in Santa Fe's mountains. www.tenthousandwaves.com

Tastes of Santa Fe

L'Olivier (The Olive Tree)

Chef-Owner Xavier Grenet creates delicious, memorable Southwestern cuisine with French-inspired flair. Chef Grenet

trained in Paris and worked at several Michelin three-star restaurants before bringing his abundant talent to Santa Fe. www.loliviersantafe.com

Casa Chimayo

The Cordova Family serves delicious, authentic New Mexican food, served in a gorgeous outdoor patio. www.CasaChimayo-SantaFe.com

The Cowgirl Hall of Fame Restaurant

Famous burgers, music and fun! www.cowgirlsantafe.com

Low 'n Slow Lowrider bar

Executive Chef Estevan Garcia will amaze you with his fresh, delicious northern New Mexico culinary delights. www.hotelchimayo.com

Places to stay in Santa Fe

La Fonda On The Plaza is Santa Fe's historic landmark hotel. Head to the rooftop lounge for a cocktail and to watch the sunset over the mountains. www.lafondasantafe.com

Hotel Chimayo de Santa Fe

A charming, historic hotel celebrates the heritage, culture and traditions of New Mexico. www.hotelchimayo.com

Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi

A gorgeous boutique hotel which is part of the renowned Rosewood collection of luxury hotels. www.rosewoodhotels.com
For more information on Santa Fe, New Mexico, visit Santa Fe Tourism at www.santafe.org

