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NEWMEXICO

Enchantment from Taos to Santa Fe

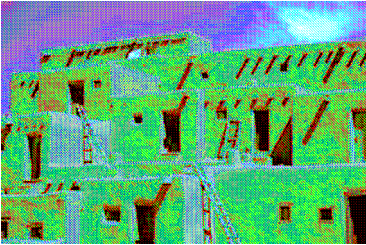
Multiple Dates in 2009: July, August, October

*Meals Included



Overview

Step into New Mexico's stunning geography and rich culture on this in-depth walking adventure into a land of extremes, where green mountain forests and arid red mesas surround rural villages and sophisticated cities. With local experts and guides, explore the complex roots of its broadminded diverse personality. From Taos, cross the high desert to Santa Fe, savor exceptional cuisine—accented with red or green chile, of course!—and relax at stylish inns that reflect the area's multicultural influences. Fully experience the vibrant sights, sounds and energy of New Mexico that have stirred so many artists, and may well inspire you, too.



5 DAY / 4 NIGHT TOUR

ASK ABOUT A
PRE AND POST HOTEL
PACKAGE FOR THIS TOUR

Day 1

On the first day of your trip, meet your Trip Leaders at 8:30 a.m. at Santa Fe's Inn of the Five Graces. Please be sure to eat a good breakfast beforehand and arrive dressed in comfortable warm-weather clothes with rain gear handy. See "Arriving & Departing" for additional logistics information.

Shuttle to Tsankawi 1 Hour

Tsankawi Prehistoric Ruins Walk 1½ Hours

Shuttle to Taos 1½ Hours

Free Afternoon in Taos

Optional Enchanted Circle Visit 3 Hours

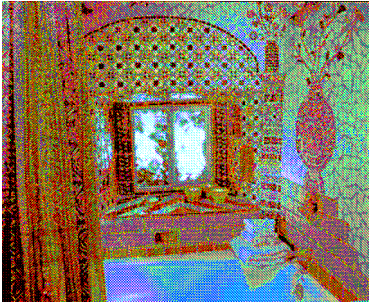
Q&A at Casa Benavides 1 Hour

Welcome to New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment! After meeting we drive to Bandelier National Monument and visit the Tsankawi Prehistoric Ruins, an ancient cliff settlement inhabited up until the end of the 16th century. Set amid the foothills of the Jemez Mountains and carved from the region's soft volcanic tuff, this mesa-top city once stood three stories tall and was home to an advanced society for more than 150 years. Extensive farmland covered the valleys below the mesa, where piñon and juniper now thrive. Take in the expansive views of the Pajarito Plateau and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains from our lookout point before we enjoy a classic picnic lunch near the ruins.

We then head to Taos where the afternoon is yours to spend exploring. Wander through the historic town plaza, browsing in quaint shops and beautiful galleries. Visit the Millicent Rogers Museum to see an impressive collection of Southwestern art and step into the Old County Courthouse to view the Depression-era murals by early Taos artists. At La Fonda Hotel you'll find the small collection of D.H. Lawrence paintings once banned in London for their erotic content.

Or, you can join your Tour Leaders on a side trip to the famous Enchanted Circle, a scenic byway that winds around the base of 13,161-foot Wheeler Peak. Travel through the Taos River Valley and Carson National Forest, across impressive alpine passes on winding aspen-, spruce- and fir-lined roads, past picture-perfect homes with snowy mountain views en route to the DAV Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where we stop for a closer look.

NEW MEXICO WALKING CULTURE TOUR: ENCHANTMENT FROM TAOS TO SANTE FE



Our Accommodations: PREMIERE INNS

CASA BENAVIDES

(2 nights) Located less than a block from the Taos Plaza, this 1930s adobe artist's residence is lauded as one of the town's best inns, with such luxurious touches as down comforters and wood-burning stoves.

INN OF THE FIVE GRACES

(2 nights) The Orient and the Old West meet at this magical hotel where luxuriously decorated guest suites feature cavernous rounded tubs crowned by vivid tile mosaics.

This evening back in Taos, we get better acquainted with our hosts Barbara Benavides and Tom McCarthy, owners of the hotel. During this special Q&A session, you'll hear about their lives and experiences growing up in Taos as members of predominant local families. Stories about Mabel Dodge Luhan, the famous art patron who started a literary colony in Taos, may even surface. Afterward at Joseph's Table, savor the exquisite dishes prepared by award-winning chef Joseph Wrede; his creative blends of French and Southwest cuisine will no doubt surprise and delight you. Lodging: Casa Benavides

Day 2

Taos Pueblo Tour* 3 Hours

Mirabal Studio Visit 1 Hour

Leisure Time 3 Hours

Taos Old Town Cultural Walk 2 Hours

After a scrumptious breakfast at the hotel (try the egg frittata with red chile and homemade tortillas), we set out for the Taos Pueblo, a National Historic Landmark dating back to A.D. 1000. The Pueblo is home to 150 full-time residents whose allegiance to tradition is evident in the lack of running water and electricity in their homes and businesses (propane gas was recently approved for use by the Taos Indian government). Accompanied by a Taos Pueblo Indian guide, you have a unique opportunity to observe the well-preserved culture of these proud friendly people and capture their way of life on film (camera fees apply).

*Please note: Once in a while, the Taos Pueblo closes its doors to visitors—without any warning—to tend to Pueblo business. If this happens during your trip, your leaders will make every effort to provide a comparable experience either on this day or later in the trip.

We share our picnic lunch today with two very special guests: internationally renowned flutist Robert Mirabal and his wife Dawn. They're happy to answer your questions about Pueblo life, music, flute making and their personal journey, before Robert treats us to a private flute performance in his studio.

Afterward spend a few hours exploring Taos' shops or relaxing at the hotel before we regroup for a cultural walk through Taos' old town. Tonight's delicious dinner is served at Lambert's in an unlikely setting—the former residence where Taos High School dances were held in the 1940s and 1950s.

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TOP REASONS YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS TRIP

We provide the inside connections and knowledge you need to truly experience a place in the most authentic way.



You'll stay in the area's finest hotels, each carefully selected based on rigorous quality standards.



You'll enjoy the best of the region's cuisine, as well as our trademark grand picnics.



Your Trip Leaders have undergone hundreds of hours of training and are the best in the industry.

If you'd like to check out the local nightlife, swing by the Taos Inn's popular and colorful Adobe Bar where you can hear live music ranging from jazz and Celtic to bluegrass and gospel. Or just sip a Cowboy Buddha margarita on the inviting patio. If you're more in the mood for downtime, consider a moonlit soak in one of the hotel's rustic hot tubs; the view of the stars is fantastic. **Lodging: Casa Benavides**

Day 3

Shuttle to Abiquiu 1½ Hours

Georgia O'Keeffe Home & Studio Visit 2 Hours

Local Artists Studio Visit 1 Hour

Afternoon Activities in Santa Fe

Experience the stunning landscape of "O'Keeffe Country." The Spanish, believing these canyons were haunted, called the area Canyon de Brujas (Canyon of the Witches). The name stuck and today it's known as Ghost Ranch. Either because of the spirits or despite them, painter Georgia O'Keeffe was drawn to Ghost Ranch and in the early 1900s she bought 6 acres here to call home. One look at the chiseled rock formations rising from the desert and you'll understand why. Just outside of town, the views are dominated by the flat-topped Cerro Pedernal (Flint Hill), which O'Keeffe depicted in many of her paintings.

Now the site hosts a multiuse center where museums, hiking trails and programs tell northern New Mexico's story. A knowledgeable guide leads you on an in-depth exploration of the area.

After our picnic lunch in an Abiquiu artist's studio, we head to Santa Fe, where the afternoon is yours to spend discovering the picturesque town. Explore local churches, take in a photography class or people-watch in a sidewalk café. If you're an art or shopping enthusiast, don't miss Canyon Road. One of the oldest roads in the U.S., it was once part of a 13th-century American Indian trail that led from the lower Rio Grande Valley to Taos. Today the historic byway hosts an active community of artists and craftspeople; shops, galleries and restaurants line the street. (Some activities are not included in this trip price.)

This evening dine at whichever appetizing restaurant or cozy bistro calls to you. Your Trip Leaders are always happy to make recommendations—one favorite is the SantaCafé—but in this culinary mecca, it's hard to go wrong. Then settle into your luxurious suite at the oh-so-decadent Inn of the Five Graces. **Lodging: Inn of the Five Graces.**

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Day 4

Shuttle to Chimayó 45 Minutes

Guided El Santuario Tour 1½ Hours

Shuttle to Tesuque 45 Minutes

Afternoon Activities in Santa Fe

Cooking Class 2 Hours

We start the day with a shuttle to Chimayó, a tiny village established after the Spanish re-conquest of New Mexico in 1680. Our local expert guides us through the famous Santuario de Chimayó, a 19th-century adobe church that's one of the most revered places in the Southwest. The ground where Santuario sits is thought to have miraculous healing powers—you'll likely see pilgrims kneeling over an opening in the floor of a dimly lit back room, scooping up the holy dirt to rub on their arms, legs and faces. Lining the walls is the evidence of this powerful soil: crutches and leg braces discarded by the cured. Chimayó is now also renowned for its weavers. Drop in on the Centinela weavers and on feast your eyes on their impressive woven rugs and clothing made using natural dyes and handspun yarn.

On our way back to Santa Fe, we stop in the quaint village of Tesuque to enjoy lunch at its charming market and restaurant, located under a canopy of cottonwoods. Then it's a quick drive to Santa Fe, where you have time to complete yesterday's unfinished business. Hit more shops, venture into quiet side streets, or arrange a visit to Shidoni, a bronze foundry, sculpture garden and art gallery where you can watch artisans pour 2000-degree molten bronze into molds and admire works of art created by over 100 sculptors from across the country. Another possibility: indulge in a body treatment at the Ten Thousand Waves Spa.

This evening we regroup for a private Southwestern cooking class. (It's in your best interest to pay attention—what you help prepare will be your dinner!) Roll up your sleeves and learn to make dishes using jalapeños, corn, limes, cilantro and other ingredients that make this region's food so distinctive. Revel in the rich aromas, pleasing textures and mouth-watering flavors of the delicious meal you've had a hand at creating. Before calling it a night, swing by the lively Vanessa's Piano Bar, featuring eclectic décor and well-known performers. **Lodging: Inn of the Five Graces**

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WHEN YOU SIGN UP FOR A TRIP, YOU'LL RECEIVE A COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL PLANNER WITH ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO PLAN AND PREPARE



NOTE

While the information presented here details this trip's planned routes, activities, accommodations, meeting and departing times, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date on any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.

Day 5

Guided Santa Fe Tour 2 Hours

Visits to International Folk Art Museum & Museum of Indian Arts and Culture 2 Hours

After breakfast at the inn, we're joined by a local expert who introduces us to the history of Santa Fe on a walking tour. Highlights include the Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe's plaza and cathedral, the Sena Hacienda, the oldest church in the U.S., and the Loretto Chapel, home to the "Miraculous Staircase."

We can't let you leave Santa Fe without visiting two wonderful museums. First we go by the Museum of International Folk Art, the largest folk art museum of its kind in the world whose four wings house over 135,000 artifacts from more than 100 countries. Founded in 1953, the museum is especially well known for its impressive collection of ethnic costumes, textiles, toys and Hispanic folk art.

Then we hit the nearby Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, where you'll hear stories of Pueblo, Navajo, Apache and other of the region's Native American peoples from pre-historic times to today. The museum displays some of the 5–10 million anthropological and archaeological objects collected by the Laboratory of Anthropology, founded in 1927 by John D. Rockefeller to study indigenous cultures of the Southwest. Rotating exhibits showcase baskets, pottery, textiles and jewelry. Some highlights: work by the famous potter Maria Martinez of San Ildefonso Pueblo and paintings from Dorothy Dunn's personal collection made by her students at the Santa Fe Indian School.

For a late lunch today we sit on the pleasant outdoor patio of the Inn of the Five Graces and enjoy tapas and panninis, sharing favorite moments from our Southwestern adventure.

CONCLUSION OF THE TRIP

Our trip ends at approximately 2 p.m. at the Inn of the Five Graces. Sandia Shuttle Express provides transportation service to the Albuquerque airport, and can meet you at the Inn of the Five Graces on request; please call LUX World Travel directly at 866-269-2659 for details and pick-up times. The trip takes from 1½ to 2 hours, depending on the number of pickups.

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Deposit Information

A deposit of **\$275.00 per person** is due at the time of booking and is non-refundable. Final payment is due on 60 days prior to departure. If airline tickets have been issued there is a further airline penalty. No refunds will be made after departure.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation penalties imposed on LUX World Travel by its suppliers are stringent, and are per person for land arrangements. Airline tickets are different, and hold a completely separate penalty and we will advise you at the time of your cancellation of this additional penalty.

The following terms apply effective as of the date LUX World Travel receives written notice of cancellation.

Cancellation fees may vary based upon departure date. Please review the grid below:

CANCELLATION FEES

Number of Days Prior to Trip Start	Cancellation Fees per person)	Departure Dates
96+ days	\$200	2008 10/12
61-95 days	30%	
31-60 days	60%	
0-30 days	100%	

Penalties from the airlines may occur depending on the type of air purchased, for which LUX World Travel is not responsible. We do highly recommend **Cancel for Any Reason Insurance** for at least the flight portion of your journey to insure our clients with full flight protection coverage.

Travel Insurance

We highly recommend travel insurance for this journey. We will be happy to provide you with a variety of quotes to fit your specific travel needs. **1.866.269.2659**.

To Register for this Tour

To register for this tour, please call us directly at **1-866-269-2659** or email us at info@luxworldtravel.com for a Registration Form and a Credit Card Payment Form.

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Travel for the Journey Inside You

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