



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



puroticorico

# New Mexico's 19 Pueblos

## **Santa Fe, 3 Days**

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# Guide Description

**AUTHOR NOTE:** New Mexico's 19 Pueblos are generous in opening their doors to nontribal members and sharing glimpses of their ancient and rich cultures. However, visitors are expected to act appropriately. Tribal members are not actors, and their homes are not theme parks. Because in the past outsiders have tried to change Pueblo culture and heritage, pueblos have become guarded with their traditional ways and beliefs. Here's a general list of etiquette tips that can be applied at all pueblos.

- The best way to enjoy and learn about pueblos is to take a guided tour. Guides help explain much of the history and traditions of the pueblos and can answer many of the questions you will have. Acoma and Taos pueblos are known for their excellent tours.
- The most common breach of etiquette at pueblos is photography and other forms of documentation. Photography restrictions vary at each pueblo. Often, a permit must be purchased. Ask first, then shoot.
- Ask permission before photographing residents, even if you have purchased a camera permit. It is good manners to purchase items before photographing vendors.
- Often, only portions of pueblos are open to the public. These areas are not always clearly marked as being off limits. Ask before entering an area you are not sure about. Typically, cemeteries should never be photographed or entered.
- Never remove anything from the pueblos. Leave pottery shards, rocks and other items where you find them.
- Don't bother residents by asking them general questions. Ask your tour guide, tribal officials, or at the visitor center. Reading books or touring a museum before your visit is very helpful. A visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque (505-843-7270, [www.indianpueblo.org](http://www.indianpueblo.org)) is a great place to start.
- Do not touch or talk to dancers unless they initiate a conversation.
- Do not applaud after dances or talk during them. Ceremonial dances are religious services, and visitors should act accordingly.
- Never attempt to enter or climb on kiva ladders.
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Feast days have been listed depending on the pueblo's wishes. Per the pueblos' wishes, we have omitted Spanish punctuation from their names. More information may be found at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Web site, [www.indianpueblo.org](http://www.indianpueblo.org).

**Acoma** – The Old Village, "Sky City," is built upon a 357-foot mesa for effective defense. Acoma artists are known for their intricate fine black-line rain pots. The tribe operates its Sky City Casino and Haak'u museum and cultural center. Feast day is Sept. 2. (505) 552-6604. [www.skycity.com](http://www.skycity.com).

**Cochiti Pueblo** – Located 45 miles north of Albuquerque, Cochiti maintains a nationally ranked golf course. The pueblo is known for its cottonwood drums and its Storyteller pottery, first created by Helen Cordero in 1964. Feast day is July 4. (505) 465-2244. [www.pueblodecochiti.org](http://www.pueblodecochiti.org).

**Isleta** – Fifteen miles south of Albuquerque, Isleta offers the 27-hole Isleta Eagle golf course, Isleta Gaming Palace Casino and year-round fishing and camping/RV areas. Governor's Feast Day is June 17. (505) 869-3111. [www.isletapueblo.com](http://www.isletapueblo.com).

**Jemez** – Jemez Pueblo is tucked away in the beautiful Jeméz Mountains on N.M. 4, 30 miles northwest of Bernalillo. Photography is not permitted at the pueblo but is allowed as its Red Rocks Recreation Area. A visit to the pueblo's Walatowa Visitor Center and gift shop is worthwhile. Feast days on Aug. 2 and Nov. 12. (505) 834-7238. [www.jemezpueblo.org](http://www.jemezpueblo.org).

**Laguna** – Forty-six miles west of Albuquerque, Laguna's colorful pottery is sought after by collectors. Feast day is Sept. 19. (505) 552-6654.

**Nambe** – Nambe Pueblo, 22-miles northeast of Santa Fe off N.M. 503, offers a cottonwood-shaded picnic and camping area near its famous Nambé Falls. Feast day is Oct. 4, and the impressive Nambé Falls Ceremonial every July 4 is open to the public. (505) 455-2036.

**Ohkay Owingeh** – Five miles north of Española, Ohkay Owingeh (formerly San Juan) offers its intricate animal-design pottery, Ohkay Casino and Ohkay Owingeh Co-op. Feast day is June 24. (505) 852-4400.

**Picuris** – Picuris Pueblo, 24 miles southeast of Taos, offers self-guided tours to archaeological ruins on its land. Feast day is Aug. 10. (575) 587-2519. [www.picurispuueblo.net](http://www.picurispuueblo.net).

**Pojoaque** – Pojoaque Pueblo, 16 miles north of Santa Fe, has its impressive Poeh Center and Museum, Cities of Gold Casino and Buffalo Thunder Resort and golf course. Feast day is Dec. 12. (505) 455-2278. [www.poehcenter.com](http://www.poehcenter.com).

**Sandia** – Sandia Pueblo, 12 miles north of Albuquerque, operates several successful businesses, including its Sandia Resort and Casino, Bien Muir Indian Market and Sandia Lakes. Feast day is June 13. (505) 867-3317. [www.sandiapueblo.nsn.us](http://www.sandiapueblo.nsn.us).

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San Felipe – San Felipe Pueblo, 10 miles north of Bernalillo, operates its popular Casino Hollywood and Speedway off of I-25. Visitors are invited to attend its May 1 feast day. (505) 867-3381. [www.sanfelipecasino.com](http://www.sanfelipecasino.com).

San Ildefonso – Twenty-two miles northwest of Santa Fe, San Ildefonso is perhaps best known as the home of famed late-potter Maria Martinez, whose highly polished black-on-black pottery is highly valued worldwide. Feast day is Jan. 23. (575) 455-3549.

Santa Ana – With its Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa, 27-hole Twin Warriors golf course, fine-dining at Prairie Star Restaurant and other tribally owned business, Santa Ana is one of the most successful tribes in the country. Its main center is just north of Bernalillo at U.S. 550 near I-25, but its traditional Old Village is eight miles northwest other. Its feast day is July 26 (505) 867-3301. [www.santaana.org](http://www.santaana.org).

Santa Clara – Santa Clara, two miles south of Española, is known for its red pottery, black-on-black pottery and other high-quality arts. It operates Big Rock Casino in Española, and its fascinating Puyé Cliff Dwellings and Harvey House are open to public tours. Feast day is Aug. 12. (505) 747-2455, 753-7326. [www.puyycliffs.com](http://www.puyycliffs.com), [www.santaclaradevcorp.com](http://www.santaclaradevcorp.com).

Santo Domingo – Twenty-five miles south of Santa Fe, Santo Domingo is one of the largest and most traditional pueblos. The pueblo is known for its exceptionally beautiful ceremonies. Feast day is Aug. 4. (505) 465-2214.

Taos – Taos Pueblo's ancient, multistoried buildings, fine pottery, jewelry and intertribal ceremonies make it a must-see for visitors to New Mexico. It is closed from mid-March through mid-April. The pueblo, named a World Heritage Site in 1992, operates its Taos Mountain Casino. Feast day is Sept. 30. (575) 758-1028. [www.taospueblo.com](http://www.taospueblo.com).

Tesuque – This small village, 10 miles north of Santa Fe, is listed on the national Register of Historic Places. The tribe maintains a camping area and a store that sells traditional artwork, as well as its Camel Rock Casino, named for a camel-shaped rock formation on its land visible from U.S. 285. It also manages the popular and eclectic Tesuque Flea Market. Feast day is June 3. (505) 983-2667. [www.tesuquepueblofleamarket.com](http://www.tesuquepueblofleamarket.com).

Zia – This small pueblo is known for its geometric pottery designs, including the sun symbol that graces the New Mexico state flag. Zia operates a small cultural center and fishing areas. Feast day is Aug. 15. (505) 867-3304.

Zuni – Thirty-four miles south of Gallup, Zuni was originally thought to be one of the Seven Cities of Gold by the Spanish. While visitors may not find gold, they will find exquisite silver and turquoise jewelry and unique stone-carved fetishes. The most populous pueblo, Zuni operates its Ashiwa Awan Museum and Heritage Center. (505) 782-7238. [www.ashiwi.org](http://www.ashiwi.org).

## Day 1 - Santa Fe

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things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

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## Institute of American Indian Arts Museum

Internationally-Renowned Art Museum



## Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian

More Than A Museum



## Palace of the Governors

400 years of history

## Day 2 - Santa Fe



## Southwest Safaris

Natural History Tours



## Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument

Incredible rock formations

# Day 1 - Santa Fe

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## QUICK NOTE

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**contact:**

tel: +1 505 424 2302  
fax: +1 505 983 1222 / +1 888  
922 4242  
<http://www.iaiancad.org>

**location:**

83 Avan Nu Po Road  
Santa Fe NM 97508

**hours:**

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun  
noon-5pm

**1 Institute of American Indian Arts  
Museum**

**DESCRIPTION:** Located in downtown, across the street from the St. Francis Cathedral, this is the only museum in the world that highlights contemporary Native American arts. Carl Beam, James Lavadour, Gerald Clarke and Tom Fields are but a small sampling of artists whose works are on display. Each May, the works of students who are graduating from the institute are put on display. Other events include lectures, book signings and children's activities. © [wcities.com](http://wcities.com)



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +1 505 982 4636 / +1 800  
607 4636  
fax: +1 505 989 7386  
<http://www.wheelwright.org>

**location:**

710 Camino Lejo  
Santa Fe NM 87505

**hours:**

Tues-Sun 10am-5pm

**2 Wheelwright Museum of the American  
Indian**

**DESCRIPTION:** Mary Cabot Wheelwright founded this museum in 1937 as a way to preserve the traditional Navajo religion. Over the years it has undergone several transformations and currently houses an amazing display of traditional and contemporary Native American arts and crafts. The exhibits are on a four-month rotation, so you will always see something new. At The Case Trading Post Museum Shop you can purchase books, jewelry, kachinas and more. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. © [wcities.com](http://wcities.com)



**contact:**

tel: 505 476 5100

fax: 505 476 5104

<http://www.palaceofthegovernors.org>

**location:**

105 W Palace Ave  
Santa Fe NM 87501

**hours:**

Museum: 10a-5p Tue-Sun

**3 Palace of the Governors**

**DESCRIPTION:** The oldest continual in-use building in the United States. This National Historic Landmark adobe structure borders the north side of the Santa Fe Plaza and is home to the New Mexico History Museum. This is where visitors can get the best historical overview of Santa Fe and the region. Old documents and photos explain the area's colorful history. The Palace of the Governors can be likened to Washington D.C.; however, this was Spain's government seat and is the place where, in the early 1600's, Spain ruled the region that is now the American Southwest. Revolving exhibitions at the Palace of the Governors give visitors lively presentations of historical events, ideas, and themes in New Mexico's past, interpreting objects from the archives that reflect the Spanish colonial, Mexican, and U.S. Territorial control all the way to New Mexico's statehood in 1912. One of the busiest places in town, extending the length of the block long Palace of the Governors, is the daily Indian street market where one hundred or so New Mexican Pueblo, Navajo and Apache artisans sell their handmade jewelry, pottery and crafts. It is regulated and items for sale are guaranteed to be authentic, high quality and fairly priced. © NileGuide



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# Day 2 - Santa Fe

QUICK NOTE

## contact:

tel: +1 800 842 4246 / +1 505 988 4246

fax: +1 505 983 6061

<http://www.southwestsafaris.com/>

## location:

P.O. Box 945

Santa Fe NM 87504

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## Southwest Safaris

**DESCRIPTION:** This tour is one of the most interesting Southwestern experiences available. You'll fly in a small plane 1,000 feet off the ground to various destinations while pilot Bruce Adams explains millions of years of geologic history. En route to the Grand Canyon, for instance, you may pass by the ancient ruins of Chaco Canyon and over the vivid colors of the Painted Desert, and then, of course, over the spectacular Grand Canyon itself. Trips to many Southwestern destinations are available, including Monument Valley, Mesa Verde, Canyon de Chelly, and Arches/Canyonlands, as well as a trip to Capulin Volcano and the ruins at Aztec, New Mexico. Local half-hour, 1- and 2-hour scenic flights are available as well, to places such as the Rio Grande Gorge, the back route in to Acoma Pueblo, and Abiquiu Valley -- Georgia O'Keeffe country. Tours depart from the Santa Fe Airport. © Frommer's



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## contact:

tel: 505.761.8700

[http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/rio\\_puerco/kasha\\_katuwe\\_tent\\_rocks.html](http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/rio_puerco/kasha_katuwe_tent_rocks.html)

## location:

Near Cochiti Pueblo; see

Directions Below

87083

2

## Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Bring water and trail snacks and remember this: the air is thinner at 7,000 feet elevation - take it easy and drink more water than you normally do.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument is a must-visit for anyone new to Santa Fe. For a bit of offbeat geology and top-notch hiking, drive forty miles southwest of the Santa Fe Plaza to one of the most interesting geological formations in the Northern Hemisphere. Named for their tepee-, or tent-, like shapes, these white rock formations are the curious result of ancient volcanic action for over 1.5 million years. Tent Rocks was named a national monument in 2001. Because it is on Cochiti Indian tribal land, it is open for day use only. A not-too strenuous 1.3 mile hiking trail leads up through a slot canyon to a lookout point where the tent shaped rocks can be viewed from above. Take Interstate Highway 25 southwest about twenty miles towards Albuquerque to the Cochiti Exit. Signs will direct you from there. Pets are not permitted.

### Directions:

The national monument includes 4,645 acres of public lands located 40 miles southwest of Santa Fe and 55 miles northeast of Albuquerque, with the most direct access from Interstate 25. From Albuquerque, take the exit for Santo Domingo/Cochiti Lake Recreation Area (Exit 259) off I-25 onto NM 22. Follow the signs on NM 22 to Cochiti Pueblo and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument. Turn right off NM 22 at the pueblo water tower (painted like a drum) onto Tribal Route 92, which



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connects to Forest Service Road 266. From the fee station, travel five miles on a gravel road to the national monument's designated parking/picnic area and trailhead. From Santa Fe, take the Cochiti Pueblo Exit 264 off I-25 onto NM 16. Turn right off NM 16 onto NM 22, and follow the signs to Cochiti Pueblo and the national monument. A portion of the five-mile access road to the national monument crosses Pueblo de Cochiti tribal land. Along with the pueblo, neighbors in the vicinity include the Santo Domingo Indians, the Jemez Indians, private landowners, the Santa Fe National Forest and State of New Mexico. Please respect these landowners and their property. © NileGuide

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# Santa Fe Snapshot

## Local Info

Whether it's snow blanketing sensual adobe walls, spring flowers painting the historic Plaza a kaleidoscope of color, fiestas lasting long into warm summer nights or golden aspens coating the surrounding Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Santa Fe is a city for every season. Lovingly called the City Different, Santa Fe offers a weaving of history stretching from pre-Columbian contact to the nuclear age, and a beauty that draws visitors from all over the world.

La Villa Real de Santa Fe- the Royal Town of Santa Fe- was established by Spanish governor Don Pedro de Peralta in 1608, making the city the oldest continuous capital in what is now the United States. The site at the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains was once home to an Indian Pueblo that had since been abandoned. Humble adobe buildings were built around a central plaza that is still the focus of the city today. One of those buildings, the Palace of the Governors, served as the capitol building for Spanish, Mexican and Territorial U.S. governors. Gov. Lew Wallace wrote his epic book *Ben Hur* while serving here.

One of the best ways to get to know Santa Fe is to visit the city's museums. Today, the Palace of the Governors is a museum(505-476-5100) and displays more than 15,000 artifacts from the Spanish colonial(1540-1821), Mexican(1821-1846) and U.S. Territorial(1846-1912) periods of New Mexico's history. Weapons, armor, documents, clothing, furniture and items of daily life from the Spanish through U.S. statehood in 1912 are proudly displayed. In fact, the museum itself is an archaeological site, with on-going excavations being conducted before a new annex is to be built. Items ranging from Pueblo pottery sherds to china dinnerware are being uncovered, attesting to the cultural and historic mix upon which Santa Fe is literally built. To think that just down the street is where scientists working on the top secret Manhattan Project at Los Alamos during World War II would report for duty can be heady for history buffs.

After learning a bit about New Mexico's founding history, visit the New Mexico Museum of Fine Art(505-476-5072), where the works of early Santa Fe masters underscore how the city earned

its international reputation as a haven for art. In the 1920s, luminaries such as John Sloan, Andrew Dasburg and Russell Cheney trickled into Santa Fe based on word of mouth. The living was easy and the light spectacular. Georgia O'Keeffe is honored with her own museum(505-946-1000) that features her bold and redefining work. On Museum Hill, the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture(505-476-1250) highlights contemporary Native American art such as that of R.C. Gorman, and the Museum of International Folk Art(505-476-1200) features just that, amazing folk art from around the world, including the donated collection of Alexander Girard. An entire room is dedicated to his thousands of clay figurines that depict Pueblo dances complete with camera-wielding tourists, Mexican Day of the Dead celebrations and a scene of Heaven and Hell where even the devils look cheery. The nearby Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian(505-982-4636) and the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art(505-982-2226) display pieces from New Mexico's Native American and Spanish history. Don't miss the Governor's Gallery on the Fourth Floor of the current state capitol, where contemporary artists from across New Mexico are featured. The internationally acclaimed Santa Fe Opera(505-986-5900) and 1930s ornate Lensic Theater(505-988-1234) are just a few of the venues where the performing arts shine.

Does seeing all of this art and history make you want to take some home? Santa Fe is world renowned for its shopping. From pieces of hand-made Native American turquoise jewelry purchased directly from the artist under the Palace of the Governor's portal to exquisite sculptures and paintings found along Canyon Road, beautiful things abound in the City Different. Shops surrounding the Plaza sell Native American pottery and jewelry, fashionable Southwestern-style clothing, books and gifts. Make sure to explore the side streets beyond the Plaza, as many shops filled with treasures are tucked away waiting to be discovered. Galleries line narrow Canyon Road, perhaps the oldest street still in use in the country. The road follows a 13th-century Indian trail leading from the pueblo that Santa Fe was built upon

to the mountains. The Spanish named it El Camino del Cañon- Canyon Road- and began building along it. Firewood was brought from the mountains to Santa Fe via this route. In the 1920s, artists began moving into the small, then-inexpensive houses, and the road's artistic heritage continues today. Gallery after gallery, many in historic buildings, offers some of the best artwork found in America, and has certainly helped Santa Fe solidify its place as the third largest art market in the country. One of the best things serious shoppers can do for themselves in Santa Fe is to bring a good pair of walking shoes.

If all of this walking and shopping makes you hungry, that's not a problem. Santa Fe boasts many romantic restaurants that constantly garner international praise for their exciting blending of tastes from around the world. Almost always at the center of these creations is New Mexico chile. Many of the chefs have written their own cookbooks so you can try their art at home. From lavish gourmet feasts to a quick handheld breakfast burrito, Santa Fe can easily accommodate whatever craving you may have.

Of course an entire trip can be spent discovering the made-made beauty of Santa Fe, but its surrounding natural beauty is also well worth exploring. At 7,000 feet, Santa Fe is cradled by aspen-covered mountains that provide a cool respite in the summer. In the fall, the mountains turn a blaze of yellows and reds, providing a striking backdrop for the city against the almost always brilliant blue sky. You can drive into this display by following Hyde Park-Ski Basin Road. Come winter Santa Fe offers some of the most rewarding skiing, snowboarding, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing in the nation. Near the end of Canyon Road is the trailhead for the new Dale Bale trail system. Winsor Trail has been called one of the best mountain biking trails in the nation. Anglers, rafters and kayakers enjoy a watery playground on the nearby Río Grande. Santa Fe has several shops that specialize in hiking, biking, skiing, fishing and all other forms of outdoor recreation. These shops are a great place to visit for tips on where to go.

After all of this exploring, treat yourself to any one of Santa Fe's world-class spas, especially if you've never been to one.

## Santa Fe Snapshot continued

Luxuriate with any number of massages and treatments, from classic Swedish to Southwestern hot rock treatments. Reflexology, scalp and the latest in spa techniques are also easily found. If it's one thing Santa Fe knows how to do, it's how to melt away stress.

Educated, exercised, well fed and relaxed, the only thing left to do is to get a good night's rest so you can do it all again tomorrow. Santa Fe has a number of attentive hotels to choose from, as well

as quaint beds and breakfasts, many in historic homes. In Santa Fe, it's never hard to rest easy.

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