



**The Women's Travel Group explores the Land of Enchantment, Santa Fe  
New Mexico  
May 1-6, 2024**

**\$3099 until Jan 15, 2024 then add \$200  
Single Supplement \$800  
Deposit \$600**

Santa Fe, New Mexico, the oldest capital city in the United States, has been under Mexican, Spanish, and American governance. It has a long and rich human and natural history and has attracted artists for over a century. We dive into human history, learning about the Native Pueblo People, whose descendants live and thrive here today. They were colonized by Spanish settlers who influenced the religion, foods and arts of the area. Waves of other travelers arrived from traders and fur trappers to health seekers to those on spiritual quests, artists and independent thinkers.

We visit the area during late Spring colors. On our daily excursions, witness the dramatic influences of geology from high uplifted mountain ranges to volcanic mesas and sculpted badlands, plus the Rio Grande Gorge. These landscapes were integral to influencing the art of the region, from Native made jewelry, basketry, and weaving, to works by Georgia O'Keeffe and Ansel Adams.

We stay downtown in historic Drury Plaza Hotel, a family owned 4-4 1/2 star hotel with full breakfast and amenities, The Drury Plaza Hotel underwent a historic renovation; it offers unique accommodations. The hotel is located within walking distance of the Plaza in Downtown Santa Fe and the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Interiors of the hotel are curated with original art. It is near much of the shopping area.

**Day 1 MAY 1 Welcome to Santa Fe**

Shuttle from Albuquerque or Santa Fe Airports to Santa Fe. Airport shuttles from Albuquerque are available. You get a list of everyone in the tour with flights to connect on the shuttles. We meet for an evening welcome reception at the Drury Plaza Hotel, a beautifully renovated historic building.

Shuttles are available from many companies from about \$40 one way. <https://www.santafe.org/blog/post/getting-to-and-around-santa-fe/>

We meet at **Kick Back** time: The hotel offers nightly drinks/snacks called Kick Back Time. We'll walk with our local representative a few blocks to dine at one of Santa Fe's name restaurants, known for delicious New Mexican and American offerings. Our local partner will meet us at the hotel and walk us to dinner. (**Dinner**)

## **Day 2 Santa Fe- the City Different- History, Museums and Culture**

Our guide will meet us for an introductory downtown walking tour of Santa Fe's colorful history and unusual architecture. We'll visit the downtown Plaza, Palace of the Governors, St. Francis Cathedral, Loretto Chapel, 109 E Palace and the historic La Fonda Hotel. We'll tour the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum of Contemporary Native American Art to see examples of Native Art over the years.

We take a short drive from downtown to Museum Hill. With several museums, a lovely sculpture garden and café, and great views, we'll enjoy our afternoon here. After included lunch at the Museum Hill Café, we join our docent for a guided tour at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, which has a fascinating permanent exhibit, ***Here, Now and Always**, centered on the voices, perspectives and narratives of the Indigenous peoples of the American Southwest*. The museum shop is known for its authentic and beautifully crafted Native jewelry and pottery. Return transfer to our hotel.



Finish our day with "Kickback" at the Drury with complimentary evening cocktails and snacks (**Breakfast, Lunch/ Drinks/ Snacks**).

The Front Desk staff at the hotel will assist with dinner ideas. Dinner on your own to explore the many offerings in Santa Fe's dining scene from casual to fancy.

## **Day 3 Journey to Taos**

A day trip to Taos is a journey into the history and cultures and stories of northern New Mexico, along with diverse and spectacular scenery. We travel the Low Road, following the Rio Grande Valley through farming communities and into the beautiful Rio Grande Gorge. The bridge is the 5th highest in the US.

We'll visit the Taos Indian Pueblo, home of the Red Willow People, a UNESCO World Heritage Site comprised of multistory adobe dwellings that have been resided in for hundreds of years. A Native guide will take us on a walking tour and explain the history and present-day traditions that continue to be an integral part of their lives.

We'll drive and/or walk over the dramatic Rio Grande Gorge bridge, hoping for a glimpse of desert big horn sheep clambering on the steep cliff sides. There is no required 'hiking' as we always have our bus available.

Our return drive is via the High Road, through the forested Sangre de Cristo mountains, with tremendous views. We travel by quaint villages settled by the Spanish in the 1600s, appearing much unchanged. We'll visit an 8<sup>th</sup> generation Chimayo weaver, who has taken a traditional craft and elevated it to a stunning art form. We'll visit the Santuario de Chimayo, known as the Lourdes of the Southwest, an adobe chapel that is a pilgrimage site whose visitors come for the healing powers of the holy dirt. To delight our tastebuds, we'll dine at the authentic Rancho de Chimayo. The family that has operated and run this hub of the community for over 50 years continues to nourish visitors and locals alike with their delicious offerings. The restaurant was designated as a "New Mexico Culinary Treasure" and recipient of the James Beard America's Classics Award. Dinner at the Rancho includes a margarita or glass of wine. **(Breakfast, Dinner with wine or margarita)**

#### **Day 4 Bandelier Cliff Dwellings**

This half day trip offers travelers a voyage into the past and the fascinating world of the Ancestral Puebloan people. As we journey north from Santa Fe our guide will introduce the geography and people of New Mexico. We cross the Rio Grande valley and climb to the Pajarito Plateau, a beautiful volcanic ash plateau that was the homeland of thousands of pueblo people prior to European contact and influence. The ancestral homes were both buildings constructed on the mesa tops and valley floors, as well as cliff dwellings carved into the soft ash.

We make a stop at a spectacular overlook then proceed to Bandelier National Monument, a 35,000-acre park managed by the National Park Service at the heart of what was one of the largest population centers for the Pueblo people.

Once at Bandelier, our guide will lead an easy walk through what was once a thriving community. You can see cliff dwellings up close, the remains of a large village with its ceremonial structures, and rock art drawings, all beside a lovely creek running through large trees below sculpted volcanic ash cliffs. There are options for shorter or longer walks, and opportunities to climb ladders to enter a cliff dwelling. There is also an interesting visitor center/museum housed in a complex of historic register buildings that were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This afternoon is free to explore Santa Fe



on your own. We suggest the famous Canyon Road with its 100+ art galleries and shops. The Santa Fe Cooking School has a special on May 4 at 6:30PM. If you want to go optionally, you should contact them asap:

<https://santafeschoolofcooking.com/cooking-classes/>

### **(Breakfast, Drinks/Snacks)**

#### **Day 5 Chasing Beauty in Georgia O’Keeffe “Country” reviewed 5 stars Tripadvisor.**

This is a spectacular full day trip for natural scenery, and an exploration into the essence of the American Southwest where we immerse in the landscape that captivated artist Georgia O’Keeffe’s heart and palate for much of her life. We drive past landscapes known in her work and in films like Oppenheimer, City Slickers etc.



We travel up the Chama River Valley to Abiquiu, a Spanish/Indian settlement where O’Keeffe had her winter home and then follow the cottonwood-lined Chama River to Ghost Ranch, a former Dude Ranch, where she spent her summers painting the yellow and red cliffs that tower over the colored sands of the valley below.

Return to Santa Fe.

Final Kick Back together at the hotel **(Breakfast/Picnic Lunch/ Drinks/Snacks/ Farewell Dinner at a name restaurant Santa Fe with wine.**

#### **Day 6 depart on various shuttles to airport. (Breakfast)**

##### **Included**

5 nights hotel as noted or similar

Meals as noted

Nightly hotel offered drinks and snacks: Kick Back Hour

Local representative on arrival night

Tours as noted with admission fees

Entrance fees: IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native American Art, Taos Pueblo, Bandolier

National Park Fees

Guide gratuity Taos

Water on bus for Taos, Bandolier, O’Keeffe day

##### **Not included:**

Airfare

Shuttle to/from airports

Meals not noted

Personal items

Alcoholic drinks not noted

Cooking School, needs to be booked optionally.

Tips to Guides: suggested \$10 to full day guides and \$5 to half day Note; it is not necessary to tip Monique our local partner

Photo sources: Museum of Indian Art and Culture, Georgia O'Keefe Museum, National Park Service, Santa Fe Tourism, New Mexico Tourism