

Enchanted Spring: Exploring New Mexico

A New Mexico Sampler

May 18 - 25, 2008 (Sunday-Sunday)

New Mexico has long been known for its fascinating history, its stunning natural beauty, its vibrant arts and culture, and its great cuisine. One could easily spend a month in northern New Mexico exploring each of these areas – but since most of us don't have a month, we've picked a sample of the best that New Mexico has to offer in each. And by immersing ourselves in all of these aspects of the state, over the week we gradually begin to learn how they all fit together. May is a perfect month to visit- the weather is generally warm but not hot, flowers are in bloom, and the tourist season is not yet in full gear. If you've never visited New Mexico, or if you've been there before and are looking for a good reason to return, please join us.

The trip begins at 3 p.m. May 18 in Albuquerque. After introducing ourselves and talking about our plans, we'll visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to begin learning about pueblo culture. Monday we leave Albuquerque for Santa Fe. During our stay in the City Different we have time to hike in the mountains behind Santa Fe, visit the many excellent museums (including the new Georgia O'Keefe museum), choose between an exciting day of whitewater rafting on the Rio Grande or spending the day in Taos, relax in a hot tub on the side of a mountain at Ten Thousand waves, sample some of the fine Santa Fe restaurants, and stroll down Canyon Road with its two winding miles of galleries, cafes and private adobe homes. One could stay in Santa Fe for longer, but only at the cost of missing an opportunity to learn about the fascinating Anasazi culture.

The next two days are spent immersing ourselves in Anasazi history and culture, first at Bandelier National Monument, their home from the 12th to the 16th century; and then at Chaco Culture National Historic Park. Chaco Canyon, the focal point of the Anasazi culture, contains over a dozen major pueblo ruins including Pueblo Bonita, the largest Southwest Native American dwelling ever excavated. On Saturday we visit Acoma Pueblo, the city in the sky, and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the US. We arrive back in Albuquerque sometime in the afternoon, and the rest of the afternoon is free to do any final shopping or to fit in any last "must do" thing. That night we share a final farewell dinner at one of the finest restaurants in Albuquerque. You can plan to fly out anytime on May 25.

While in Santa Fe, our home is the St. Francis Hotel for three nights. Our hotel, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, offers comfortable, light-filled rooms. And though the hotel is just a block off the Plaza, it is surprisingly quiet. In Albuquerque we'll be staying at the Rio Grande Inn, which is conveniently located near Old Town. In Grants and Cuba we'll stay at clean and comfortable motels.

To reserve a place on this journey, please send your deposit of \$300 or the full trip fee of \$1850 (deduct \$50 if you register by 1/18) to the Adventures in Good Company office, or call to register by phone. The fee includes all lodging; guides; meals from Sunday dinner through Saturday dinner (with the exception of one breakfast and dinner); transportation within New Mexico; rafting, hot tub, and museum fees; and entrance to Bandelier National Monument and Chaco Culture National Historic Park. Not included is transportation to Albuquerque, one dinner, beverages, additional spa treatments, and snacks or items of a personal nature.

Three months prior to the trip, we'll send you a complete confirmation package to help you prepare for your journey, including a detailed packing list and bibliography. Please call the Adventures in Good Company office with any questions you might have; we'd be delighted to welcome you to the beauty and diversity of New Mexico!

A d v e n t u r e s i n G o o d C o m p a n y

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