



ADVENTURES
in good company



EXPLORING NEW MEXICO - LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

TRIP SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Exploring the natural beauty of New Mexico by foot, kayak and raft
- Learning about Native American culture at Bandelier & Taos Pueblo & Chaco Canyon
- Visiting Santa Fe's many galleries and museums
- Learning about the amazing geology of the area
- Savoring New Mexican cuisine
- Rafting and kayaking the Rio Grande River
- Hiking in Bandelier, Chaco Canyon, Santa Fe National Forest and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location: New Mexico

Activities: Multisport

Arrive: Arrive at our trip hotel by 1 p.m. on day 1

Depart: You are free to leave anytime on the last day of the trip. The hotel shuttle begins at 7:00 a.m. If you are leaving before that there are taxis or ride-shares are available.

TRIP OVERVIEW

New Mexico called the Land of Enchantment and we think we know why. It has stunning desert landscapes, breathtaking mountains, great cuisine and a spectacular river - the Rio Grande. It has a mix of European American, Native American, and Mexican heritage, the state is a unique and colorful place to visit. We've picked a sample of the some of the best that it has to offer in hiking, exploring and adventure. We'll go hiking, rafting and kayaking and have time to browse Santa Fe's galleries and museums. We will also explore the area's cultural history with a visit to Taos Pueblo, explore Bandelier National Monument, and Chaco Canyon National Monument. Group size: 12

RATING

This trip is suitable for any active woman who wants a vacation that mixes being active in the outdoors with historical and cultural exploration. A basic level of fitness is needed. A rating of 2 is suitable for any woman who regularly walks at a **brisk** pace 3 to 4 days a week for 35 - 45 minutes.

Rating: 1 [\[2\]](#) 3 4 5.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 1-2 experienced guides depending on group size
- Seven nights lodging in double occupancy rooms
- Great meals in wonderful local restaurants
- Whitewater rafting and flatwater kayaking
- Entrance to Taos Pueblo, Bandelier National Monument and Chaco Canyon
- All lodging, meals (except 1 dinner), and activities on the itinerary

What's not included: travel to and from Albuquerque, 1 dinner specified in the itinerary, guide gratuities, alcoholic beverages, optional activities (Ten Thousand Waves Spa) and travel insurance.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

The trip begins at 1 p.m. in Albuquerque, where we meet as a group at our hotel. We have the afternoon to meet each other and hike in the Petroglyph National Monument. The site has hundreds of petroglyphs that were created by both the earliest and the most recent inhabitants. Our hike on the Mesa Point Trail passes lots of petroglyphs as it winds its way to the mesa top. From here a 360-degree view provides views of Albuquerque and the Sandia mountains to the east, the Sangre de Cristos to the north, and the extinct volcanoes to the west. We will have a picnic dinner and watch the sunset over Albuquerque. (D)

DAY 2

After breakfast we will pack up and head out for kayaking on the Rio Grande River. The Rio Grande is the reason Albuquerque is located where it is, and our kayak trip is down a stretch of river that encompasses the area where the Coronado campaign wintered in 1540. We will put in among a beautiful stand of cottonwoods in Algodones, then traverse approximately 9 1/2 miles of remarkably secluded Rio Grande valley. The river is wide, and the waters are gentle in this section of the river. After finishing our kayak, we will head to the El Malpais National Monument for another type of river. This time, it's an ancient lava flow. We will explore one of the newest flows just 3,000 years old. Here we will look for lava toes, ancient craters, lava falls, xenoliths, rope pahoehoe; we will learn what these all are and gain a new appreciation for lava. Overnight, Grants NM (B, L, D)

DAY 3

We get an early start this morning so that we can have a full day at Chaco Culture National Historic Park. Chaco Canyon, the focal point of Ancient Puebloan culture, contains over a dozen major pueblo ruins. While the Ancient Pueblos lived over the entire Four Corners area, their civilization is generally regarded as having reached its pinnacle in Chaco. Advanced building techniques, irrigation systems, and astronomical observations, are all evidence of a very advanced civilization that flourished there around 1000 AD. That civilization collapsed after 1200 AD for reasons that are still unclear, and the people dispersed to become the forefathers of today's Rio Grande Pueblo people. The isolation and vastness of the Canyon contribute to its sense of mystery and majesty. We start at the very informative Visitors Center. From there we can visit some of the ruins, possibly including one that is a three-mile hike up on the rim. There is more to see than we can fit in, and we'll leave with a much better appreciation of this amazing culture.

Note: The drive to Chaco Canyon takes almost 2 hours each way on rough roads, the reason why it receives fewer visitors than you would expect. Is it worth it? We think so! Overnight Cuba (B, L, D)

DAY 4

In the morning we head to Bandelier National Monument, home to the Ancestral Pueblo people from the 12th to the 16th century, modern compared to those who lived in Chaco Canyon. We'll start with a hike outside the main canyon, the 1.5-mile Tsankawi Loop trail that goes over the top of an unexcavated large Ancestral Pueblo Ruins site on a mesa top and passes some cliff dwellings along the cliff face. We then continue to the main section of Bandelier, Frijoles Canyon. After stopping by the Visitor Center we'll hike out on a paved trail through the middle of Frijoles Canyon that showcases not only several well-preserved easily accessible ruins but also the beauty of this red rock canyon. After spending time exploring the trails and ruins of Bandelier, we head for Santa Fe, our home for the next three nights. In the afternoon we will have a walking tour of Santa Fe which will get us oriented to the city and introduce us to some of the famous sites. Overnight Santa Fe (B, L, D)

DAY 5

Today we hike in the mountains behind Santa Fe on a 4.5-mile loop that drips down into a shady valley full of aspen, fir and pine trees. After stopping for lunch and a break at a beautiful spot along Tesuque Creek, we will head back up onto the ridge along sweeping switchbacks to complete the loop. At an elevation of 8,900 feet we will certainly take time to enjoy the flowers! When we return to town you have the rest of the afternoon free to explore Santa Fe's many museums and galleries or the option to visit Ten Thousand Waves, a Japanese-style health spa with hot tubs situated on the side of the mountain. Your guides will coordinate rides to the spa. You can also book a 'treatment' for yourself anytime between 2 p.m. - 8 p.m. Dinner is on your own tonight to explore one of Santa Fe's other culinary options. (B, L)

DAY 6

We'll leave early for the drive to Taos Pueblo. Continuously inhabited for over 1000 years, the Pueblo is featured in the paintings of many of New Mexico's artists, and its multi-storied pueblo buildings are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After a guided tour and time to look around on our own, we'll head out to the rafting put-in spot for our picnic along the beautiful and graceful Rio Grande river. The river was designated as an American Heritage River in 1998 and the 1,800-mile river is as beautiful as it is long. After a picnic lunch, we will get ready for our incredibly fun whitewater rafting on the class 2 and 3 rapids of a section of the Rio Grande called the Racecourse. We will return to Santa Fe in the early evening after having dinner on the way back. Overnight Santa Fe (B, L, D)

DAY 7

In the morning we will head to Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument. The 1.5-mile hike will take us to a mini canyon, around rock cone formations, and to the top of the mesa for an excellent view of the valley and mountains that surround us. The distance is short but the climb (630-feet) will remind us we are working. We will then head south to Albuquerque and a visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center will help to wrap up everything we have learned about the history and culture of the Pueblo people cultures. You could also explore Old Town or perhaps Albuquerque's Botanical gardens on your own. Tonight, we will get our final taste of New Mexican cuisine at a nearby restaurant. Overnight Albuquerque (B,L,D)

DAY 8

Sadly, our trip comes to an end. You are free to leave anytime today. The hotel shuttle begins at 7:00 a.m.; if you are leaving before that there are taxis or ride-shares are available.

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

Flying: If you are flying plan to be at the Albuquerque airport (ABQ) by 12:00 p.m. to make the 1:00 p.m. meeting time. Our hotel has a convenient shuttle.

Driving: If driving you can leave your car at the hotel's parking lot.

GETTING HOME

You are free to leave anytime on the last day of the trip. The hotel shuttle begins at 7:00 a.m., if you are leaving before that there are taxis or ride-shares are available.

AIRFARE

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

ACCOMMODATIONS

At the beginning and end the trip we will stay at the [Rio Grande Inn](#), an Albuquerque hotel within walking distance to Historic Old Town and a short shuttle from the airport. As we travel north and west visiting the different areas we will stay in standard hotels with 2-beds and a full bath. There are few choices in Cuba and we will be staying in the best it has to offer. As we move onto Santa Fe we will stay at the lovely [Inn on the Alameda](#). This centrally located, locally-owned small hotel is known for its gracious staff, bountiful breakfast, and beautiful architecture. We'll spend the last night in Albuquerque back at the Rio Grande Inn.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit [Travelex Insurance](#) or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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