

Santa Fe, NM

Description:

- Rated as one of the top travel destinations in the U.S. by several travel publications
- New LEED Gold Convention Center in downtown
- Summer is peak season; 7000' altitude, warm-hot days, cool evenings in summer, low humidity
- Founded between 1607 and 1610, and that is not a typo
- Population is just 70,000, but 1 million people visit each year
- Long known as a center for art, now also known for cuisine
- About one hour drive from Albuquerque International Airport; shuttle service available. American Eagle air service direct to Santa Fe municipal airport from several cities

Architectural interest:

- Spanish Pueblo and Territorial adobe architecture, of course, but also California Mission Revival, Italianate and Victorian, as well as modern
- Palace of the Governors, 1610 is the oldest public building in the U.S., still in use
- San Miguel Mission, built between 1610 and 1626, is the oldest church in the U.S.; Sunday Mass is still held there.
- The De Vargas Street House, 1646, appears to have been built on the footing of an abandoned structure possibly dating back to the 11th century.
- There is other significant architecture dating from the 1700's, 1800's and early 1900's

Other points of interest:

- Eight of New Mexico's 19 Indian Pueblos are located not far north of Santa Fe
- Santa Fe is home to a dozen significant museums and more than 250 galleries, as well as plentiful shopping
- There are some dozen golf courses, plenty of other outdoor recreation opportunities, great restaurants, hot nightlife, nearby casinos, bike/walking trails and beautiful scenery