

Spirit of
NEW MEXICO

By Jill Becker

*Love **exploring** the great outdoors? Want to experience unique art and culture? Have a hankering for spicy food? Look no further than the place they call the **Land of Enchantment**.*



Photos: New Mexico Tourism Department, Left; Dan Monaghan, Top; Mike Stauffer

Culture



There's a reason New Mexico is nicknamed the Land of Enchantment. Its boasts a culture steeped in time-honored traditions and native folklore. Its climate is a mostly arid one packed with plenty of sunshine and relatively low humidity. And its lush landscape includes everything from cactus-strewn deserts to limestone caverns to snow-capped peaks. All of this, combined with its vibrant cities, plentiful attractions, spectacular cuisine, and myriad other attributes, makes New Mexico an ideal destination for the traveler with almost any interest you can fathom.

CULTURE

Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial, Gallup, August 10-14, 2011

This yearly celebration of Native American arts, foods, and traditions is celebrating its 90th birthday this year. Tribes from across the U.S. honor their heritage in parades, ceremonial dances, craft demonstrations, a juried art show, rodeo, and more.

New Mexico has been inhabited by

various Native American populations—primarily Navajo and Pueblo—for centuries, and their ways and customs have long been a part of the state's rich culture. Their influence and lifestyle can be explored at any of the 19 pueblos—or small settlements—that are scattered across the state, where tribe members still farm, worship, cook, and live much as their ancestors once did.

Or you can head toward the historic Old Town section of Albuquerque for a visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. The complex includes a museum displaying Native American artifacts, an art gallery, children's area, restaurant, and gift shop. Traditional Native American music and dances are performed each weekend, rain or shine.

There's a heavy Spanish influence in New Mexico, as well. The first Spanish colonial settlement was founded here in 1598, and the Spanish quickly went on to establish a series of missions, such as the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción de Zia outside of Albuquerque and San Loren-

Be Enchanted™

Discover a place where modern masterpieces rival the ancient works of Mother Nature. Where the visionary art of Georgia O'Keeffe is yours to behold, and inspiration lives as far as the eye can see. For a free vacation guide, call 800.733.6396 ext. 206 or visit newmexico.org

NEW MEXICO

LAND OF ENCHANTMENT



Georgia O'Keeffe, Ram's Head, White Hollyhook - Hills, 1935, Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY. © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Shot on location at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico.



Left Photo: New Mexico Tourism Department, Jim Stein

Outdoors



zo de Picuris north of Santa Fe. Some of the missions are preserved as ruins, and others are still in daily use and open to the public for services or tours. Another top spot devoted to preserving the area's Spanish legacy is the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, which presents dozens of exhibitions and programs in the visual, performing, and literary arts.

OUTDOORS

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Albuquerque, October 1-9, 2011

Thanks to a condition known as the Albuquerque Box, Albuquerque boasts the ideal climate for hot air ballooning, and each October, hundreds of balloonists flock to this annual festival, a spectacle of color and flight that, not surprisingly, is the most photographed event in the world.

New Mexico's diverse landscape affords outdoor adventure at every turn, whether it's white-water rafting on the Rio Grande, hiking alongside 1,000-year-

old petroglyphs at Boca Negra Canyon, hang gliding over scenic Sandia Crest, inspecting ancient limestone formations at Carlsbad Caverns, or tackling the tubing hill at Angel Fire.

It helps that New Mexico is one of the few states that can claim six of the Earth's seven climatic zones and that public lands (consisting of 13 national monuments, five national forests, and 34 state parks) make up more than a third of the state.

New Mexico's healing waters are another big draw. The mineral springs at Ojo Caliente, for example, flow from a subterranean volcanic aquifer and are legendary for not only soothing sore muscles, but supposedly offering relief for everything from stomach ulcers to skin conditions.

Golf has a hold here as well, with more than 70 courses to choose from. Sneak in a quick nine during your visit to Albuquerque at the par-three executive course at Los Altos or linger over 18 holes designed around sandstone foothills and natural arroyos at the Black Mesa Golf Club near Espanola.

Close to Home... Far from Ordinary.



Pamper your friends, family, employees and clients with a resort experience that is Far From Ordinary. Visit our website today.

SANDIA
Resort & Casino

I-25 & Tramway | Albuquerque, NM | 505.796.7500 | 877.272.9199

www.sandiaresort.com

“Visitors can savor exotic foods, jam to international tunes, and buy folk art from around the globe.”



Photo: New Mexico Tourism Department, Dan Monaghan

The Arts

THE ARTS

Santa Fe International Folk Art Market, Santa Fe, July 8-10, 2011

This, the world’s largest international folk art market, attracts more than 130 artists from countries as diverse as Cuba and Kazakhstan. Visitors can savor exotic foods, jam to international tunes, and buy folk art from around the globe.

Georgia O’Keeffe painted some of her best pieces here. D.H. Lawrence wrote a number of manuscripts here. New Mexico has always had a large and active artistic community that includes names like Laura Gilpin, Olive Rush, Bruce Nauman, and Peter Hurd. Their fine works can be viewed at places like the Albuquerque Museum of Art & History and New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe, as well as their former residences turned monuments such as the D.H. Lawrence Ranch, located about 20 miles northwest of Taos and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Georgia O’Keeffe House, a walled compound in Abiquiu that offers guided tours by appointment.

If you’d rather hear great art than see it, make a point to catch a performance of the world-renowned Santa Fe Opera. There’s nothing quite like sitting out under the stars in the open-air theater, enjoying a crisp summer night as singers belt out pieces like *La Bohème*, *Faust*, and *Griselda*.

CUISINE

Hatch Chile Festival, Hatch, September 3-4, 2011

Things heat up here each fall in honor of Hatch’s world-famous green chile crop. Now in its 40th year, the event attracts some 30,000 visitors and features chile-eating contests, a chile cookoff, the crowning of the Chile Festival queen, and more.

New Mexico’s largest crop, the chile pepper, has an added kick to it courtesy of the local climate (it increases its level of capsaicin, which gives peppers their hotness). Which may help

explain why chiles, especially green chiles, are so prevalent in New Mexican cooking. The green chile cheeseburger is such a popular fixture, in fact, that the governor holds a Green Chile Cheeseburger Challenge during the State Fair each year and the New Mexico Tourism Department has created a Green Chile Cheeseburger Trail (newmexico.org/greenchilecheeseburger/index.php) directing you to the

best places across the state to sample the spicy dish.

Oenophiles will love New Mexico, too. The first grapevines ever planted in the U.S. were grown here, and today the state produces some 700,000 gallons of wine each year. Visitors can vineyard-hop on their own between the state’s 42 wineries and tasting rooms, or join an organized tour led by an area expert.



Greater {

Albuquerque Find your essence



Mayor Richard J. Berry invites you to enjoy the rich palette of landscape, art and culture that embodies our dynamic city.

Old Town – New Fun
Shop, feast and unwind in historic Old Town Plaza.

The Albuquerque Museum
Artistic works of New Mexico and the world.

The Albuquerque Balloon Museum
International and national exhibits showcasing lighter-than-air flight.

**ABQ BioPark:
Rio Grande Zoo**
One of New Mexico’s top visitor destinations.

Albuquerque Aquarium
See the moray eel tunnel, stingrays, jellyfish and giant shark tank.

Rio Grande Botanic Garden
A lush state-of-the-art conservatory showcase.

www.cabq.gov/cultural-services • 505.768.2000

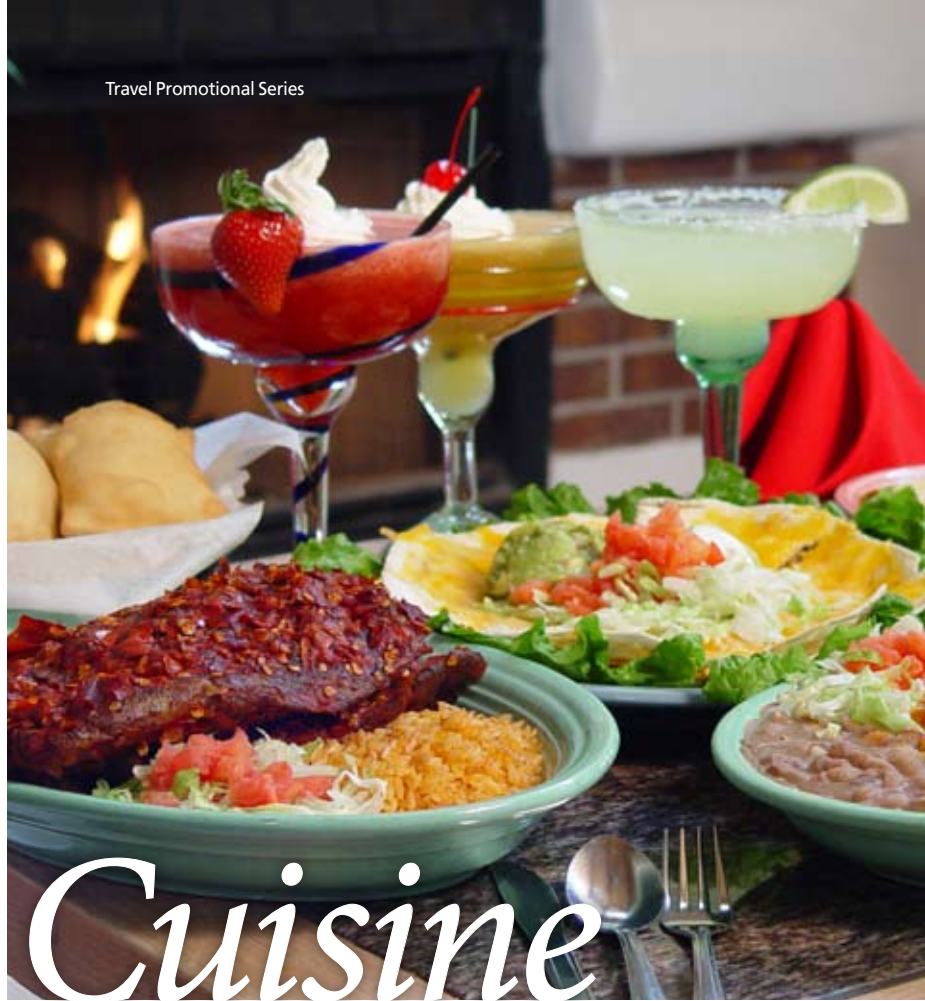


Above. Beyond.

At over 7,000 feet in elevation it’s true our golf balls soar farther and our drives go longer. But the real measure of going above and beyond can be seen in our service. From an accommodating clubhouse to a first-class resort casino, the 19th hole has never looked so inviting.

InnoftheMountainGods.com
1-800-545-9011 | Mescalero, NM near Ruidoso
FULL CASINO | CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF

Shoulder weekday offer valid Sunday through Thursday: May 1-May 30. Offer code: GLF11A. Seasonal weekday offer valid Sunday through Thursday: May 31-September 5. Offer code: GLF11AS. Weekend packages also available. Upgrades are available for an additional charge; pkg includes standard room, 2 breakfasts from Apache Tee restaurant, 2 famous Inn Margaritas at the Apache Tee restaurant or Wendell’s Lounge, welcome gift from golf shop, and a round of golf for two with shared cart, blackout dates on hotel and golf apply; Limited or no tee times available during golf tournaments; golf is weather permitting (rain checks available); tee times are not guaranteed; not available to groups or attendees; one offer per visit; may not be combined with other offers; must be 21 or over to reserve room; no pets allowed. Management reserves all rights. The Mescalero Apache Tribe promotes responsible gaming. For assistance, please call 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537).



“New Mexico’s largest crop, the *chile pepper*, has an added kick to it courtesy of the local climate.”

Cuisine



Buffalo Thunder[®]

RESORT & CASINO

877.848.6337 • buffalothunderresort.com

\$59

ROOMS

Call 877.THUNDER

Mention code: CR2011-M

Don't Miss
STYX
May 20

3 STELLAR STAYS

These top New Mexico resorts offer a little something for everyone.

Sandia Resort & Casino

You might want to break out the Red Bulls, because we're not sure how much sleep you're going to get at this happening property on the far north end of Albuquerque. There's the Vegas-style gaming, including more than 2,100 slots and the state's largest poker room; the 7,722-yard, 18-hole golf course that boasts the beautiful Sandia Mountains as its backdrop; the 12,000-square-foot spa and fitness center; the heated pool, where even here you can get free Wi-Fi; live music at two lounges and an outdoor amphitheater that seats 4,200; and multiple dining destinations, most notably a rooftop steakhouse with killer views. The hotel itself was fashioned after a traditional New Mexico pueblo and flaunts a decidedly Native American decor punctuated with Southwestern pottery and artwork.

www.sandiacasino.com

Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino

Fore! With a championship course labeled "One of the top 35 golf courses nationally" by *Golf Week* magazine, this luxury resort just outside Ruidoso can clearly list golf as a go-to activity. But the fun doesn't stop there. A stay at this luxury mountain retreat affords easy access to everything from hunting for bear and bull elk to some of the best warm-weather powder skiing in the country. The property is ideal for reunions, meetings, weddings, or simply a relaxing getaway, and is a five-time recipient of AAA's Four Diamond rating.

www.innofthemountaingods.com

Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino

Exerted yourself too much on the golf course? Stayed up too late at the slots? Partied too hard listening to one of the major visiting acts perform? Wash

it all away at this sprawling resort's Southwest-inspired spa, which incorporates a host of indigenous ingredients like juniper, sage, warmed desert rocks, and even tiny bits of turquoise in its signature treatments. Owned by

the Pojoaque Pueblo, Buffalo Thunder permeates Native American sensibility and style throughout, and feels a thousand miles away despite the fact it's only a 15-minute trek from Santa Fe.

www.buffalothunderresort.com

Enter to Win a Two-Night Stay for Two!

SWEEPS



Package for Two Includes:

Two Night Stay for Two at New Mexico's Premier Mountain Resort

Dinner for Two to Wendell's Steak & Seafood Restaurant

\$50 Resort Credit

\$25 in Spirit Play for Two

Two Tickets on Southwest Airlines

• Courtesy of *Southwest Airlines Spirit* magazine.



Above. Beyond.

Go to spiritmag.com to register by May 31, 2011.
(Only one entry per person.)

OFFICIAL RULES: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE AN ENTRANT'S CHANCE OF WINNING. To enter, go to spiritmag.com, and click on the Sweepstakes. Entries must be received no later than midnight, May 31, 2011. Entrants must be at least 21 years of age. Employees of Pace Communications, Inc., Southwest Airlines and all contest sponsors and their immediate families are not eligible. The winner will be selected in a random drawing at Pace Communications, 1301 Carolina Street, Greensboro, NC 27401, on or about July 15, 2011. Only one entry per person is allowed. Odds of winning are dependent upon number of entries received. For a list of winners, send self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to INN OF THE MOUNTAIN GODS SOUTHWEST AIRLINES SPIRIT SWEEPS/ May, Pace Communications, 1301 Carolina Street, Greensboro, NC 27401. The winner will be notified (by email, telephone and/or U.S. mail). A detailed prize winner letter will be mailed within 21 days of notification. The winner is requested to sign off that the winner agrees with the rules of the contest. If the winner does not agree with the rules of the contest, or does not meet the requirements of eligibility to enter this contest, he/she will be excluded as a possible prize winner. Federal, state and local taxes are the responsibility of the winner. The winner will receive a 1099 IRS tax form. Void where prohibited by law, and all federal, state and local laws apply. Prizes are non-refundable, non-transferable, are not redeemable for cash, and may not be substituted. *Round-trip airfare for two included. Selected blackout dates may apply.