

## Things to Do in Santa Fe

Santa Fe, also known as “The City of Faith” and “The City Different” is well known for its rich history and culture that blends Native American, Spanish and Anglo American culture and heritage. While its multicultural roots can sometimes bring about conflict regarding the city’s complicated history, when brought together, these roots create a rich mixture of a unique culture and heritage that can be seen and felt throughout the city through its food, music, art, architecture and people.

During your time in Santa Fe, we hope you take advantage of being in this unique city and atmosphere. We have included some recommendations on places to go, sights to see and food to eat that are all in walking distance or relatively close to your stay at the El Dorado Hotel.

### Sights to See in Downtown Santa Fe:

- **Santa Fe Plaza and Downtown** – Radiating from the four-centuries-old Palace of the Governors, the most historic area of the city is completely walkable, with quaint winding streets featuring charming boutiques, restaurants, bookstores and art galleries tucked into every block. Aspects of the past remain in the look and feel of the traditional Spanish Plaza, including a certain flavor of the Old West and the time-honored tradition whereby local Native artisans sell their amazing creations beneath the portal of the Palace of the Governors.
- **Saint Francis Cathedral** - The cathedral was built by Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy between 1869 and 1886 on the site of an older adobe church, La Parroquia (built in 1714–1717). An older church on the same site, built in 1626, was destroyed in the 1680 Pueblo Revolt. The new cathedral was built around La Parroquia, which was dismantled once the new construction was complete. A small chapel on the north side of the cathedral was kept from the old church. Influenced by the French-born Archbishop Lamy and in dramatic contrast to the surrounding adobe structures, Saint Francis Cathedral was designed in the Romanesque Revival style.  
<https://www.cbsfa.org/>
- **Loretto Chapel and the “miraculous staircase”** - In the heart of historic Santa Fe, New Mexico Loretto Chapel attracts people from all over the world who want to find out more about the revered, "miraculous staircase." The chapel is a historic phenomenon that must be witnessed during your travels. <https://www.lorettochapel.com/>
- **Palace of the Governors** - Situated on the north side of the historic Santa Fe Plaza, the Palace of the Governors is a beloved icon, complex symbol, and anchor for the New Mexico History Museum. Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in the U.S. The Palace of the Governors, which now houses the state's history museum, is the oldest public building in the country.
- **Lensic Theater** – Catch a show while you are in town, or just marvel at the beautiful Lensic Theater building as you roam around downtown Santa Fe! <https://lensic.org/>
- **Cross of the Martyrs** – walk to the top of the hill where the Cross of the Martyrs resides to get a gorgeous view of the entire city of Santa Fe (any time of day is great, but sunset is always the best).
- **Santa Fe Roundhouse (Capitol building)** – Today's New Mexico State Capitol, known as the Roundhouse, is the only round capitol building in the country. It was built by Robert E. McKee with a design by W.C. Kruger that combined elements of New Mexico Territorial style, Pueblo adobe architecture and Greek Revival adaptations. The 232,000 square-foot Roundhouse was dedicated on Dec. 8, 1966. From a bird's-eye view, the Roundhouse resembles the Zia sun

symbol, which is also emblazoned on the New Mexico state flag. The image, which originated at Zia Pueblo, incorporates elements representing the sun's rays, the four directions, the four seasons, and the four phases of life. The State Seal of New Mexico, carved in stone, hangs above each of the Roundhouse's four entrance wings.

- **“Oldest House” in Santa Fe**

### **Learn About Santa Fe and New Mexican History:**

- **New Mexican History Museum** – Located on the North side of the Santa Fe Plaza. New Mexico is a very unique place with a unique history. It is highly encouraged for you to spend some time learning about the people, history and culture! <https://www.nmhistorymuseum.org/>

### **Explore Santa Fe’s Art Scene:**

- Visit **Canyon Road**, a street dedicated to the country’s finest art. On a road that encourages a pleasant stroll, you will be able to see fine art from artists throughout the United States and the world, all in one place <https://www.visitcanyonroad.com/>
- Browse and shop Native American jewelry and art under the *portal* (Spanish word for porch) at the Palace of the Governors. Purchase authentic, Native American made and handcrafted art directly from the artist. Native American art is unlike any other art form – the different crafts have special processes that have been passed down through generations. Much of the materials are collected from the earth and there is often a spiritual aspect that goes into the creation of each art piece (within walking distance from hotel)
- **New Mexico Art Museum** (within walking distance from hotel) <https://nmartmuseum.org/>
- **Georgie O’Keeffe Museum** (within walking distance from hotel) <https://www.okeeffemuseum.org/>
- **Spanish Colonial Arts Museum** (On Museum Hill, must catch taxi or uber from hotel) <https://www.spanishcolonial.org/>
- **Museum of International Folk Art** (On Museum Hill, must catch taxi or uber from hotel) <https://www.internationalfolkart.org/>
- **El Museo Cultural** at the Santa Fe Railyards - El Museo is entering its 26th year of working to preserve, protect, and promote Northern New Mexican generational culture and traditions. <https://elmuseocultural.org/>

### **Santa Fe Railyards (formerly known as “The Tracks”)**

- What was once part of the barrio, has been transformed into a “hip” spot to hang out. The Santa Fe Railyards has art galleries, coffee shops, breweries, restaurants and movie theaters for both locals and tourists to enjoy. This is a great place to take an afternoon or evening stroll and is the home to the Santa Fe Farmer’s market every Saturday morning. Visit **El Museo Cultural** for some history about the area and to connect to the culture and life of the Railyards before it was developed into what it is today. <https://www.railyardsantafe.com/>

### **Dining in Downtown Santa Fe**

- **Tia Sophia's** – A simple diner, Tia Sophia's became a spot for both locals and tourists alike, featuring good-old-fashion northern New Mexico dishes at reasonable prices. Known for their breakfast burritos, sopapillas and chile – arrive early because there can be a wait! <http://www.tiasophias.com/>
- **Plaza Café** – Santa Fe's oldest restaurant, welcomes you! This historic diner, in downtown Santa Fe, offers locals and visitors' authentic New Mexican cuisine and flavors that span the globe! We're the home of fine food and the friendliest folks in the southwest! <https://www.plazacafesantafe.com/>
- **Il Vicino** – just downstairs from Eldorado Hotel, great oven baked pizza, calzones and salads <https://ilvicino.com/>
- **Cowgirl BBQ** – amazing barbeque and drinks! Just a short walk away from hotel <https://cowgirlsantafe.com/>
- **Tomasitas** – a New Mexican classic, well known for their New Mexican cuisine and pink swirls. Located a short walk from El Dorado Hotel in the Santa Fe Railyard. <https://tomasitas.com/>
- **Café Castro** – authentic, homegrown New Mexican cuisine (not located in downtown, must drive to restaurant) <https://www.cafecastrosf.com/>
- **The Pantry** – mom and pop shop feel, best known for breakfast, but must arrive early because there can be a long wait time. <http://www.pantrysantafe.com/>
- **The Shed** – known for their amazing burgers! Must arrive early or make reservations because there can be a long wait time. <https://sfshed.com/>
- **La Casa Sena** – Mediterranean inspired menu, cocktails and wine <https://lacasasena.com/>
- **Chicago Dog Express** – casual, but best hot dog in Santa Fe!
- **Café Osteria** – authentic Italian food <https://www.osteriadassisi.com/>
- **Coyote Café & Rooftop Cantina** <https://www.coyotecafe.com/>
- **Del Charro** <https://delcharro.com/>
- **Rio Chama Steakhouse** <https://riochamasantafe.com/>
- **Café Pasquals** <https://pasquals.com/>
- **French Pastry Shop and Restaurant** <https://thefrenchpastryshop.com/>

*Note: Many restaurants in Santa Fe close early and hours have also been affected due to COVID, so plan dinner before 8pm!*

### **Food you MUST try while in New Mexico!**

- Green chile (we put it on everything!)
- Sopapillas – try it stuffed as savory meal or plain with some honey for dessert!
- Frito pie – you can get a classic on at the Five and Dime on the Plaza – beware though, the chile can be spicy!

### **Sangre de Cristo Mountains and Ski Santa Fe:**

- If you rented a car and like to explore the outdoors, your hotel is located close to the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains – home to Hyde Park, the Santa Fe Ski basin as well as many hiking trails and beautiful sights. <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/hyde-memorial-state-park/>

- Santa Fe's ski season can potentially last through the end of March depending on how much snow the mountains receive so there might be an opportunity to ski/snowboard. If the mountain is dry, there are still many trails and a beautiful scenic drive for you to enjoy during your off time and/or if you decide to stay the weekend. <https://skisantafe.com/>

### **Santa Fe Visitors Guide**

For additional information on more things to do in Santa Fe, please visit:

<https://www.santafe.org/visiting-santa-fe/visitors-guide/>