

WAAC Resources, Itineraries and Activities

Background Reading

Ladies of the Canyons by Lesley Poling Kempes

Georgia O'Keeffe and Her Houses: Ghost Ranch and Abiquiú by Barbara Buhler
Lynes

Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern by Wanda M. Korn

Milagro Beanfield War by John Nichols

Anything by Tony Hillerman

Intimate Memories: The Autobiography of Mabel Dodge Luhan by Mabel Dodge

Mabel: a Biography of Mabel Dodge Luhan by Lois Rudnick

Related Events

“Art Expo,” Sept. 28 – 30th, 2018:

A gathering of art suppliers in convention-style booths selling a wide variety of artist materials and equipment. Short art workshops are also offered. The event takes place in the casino complex Buffalo Thunder Resort at Pojoaque Pueblo, about 15 minutes north of Santa Fe on the road to Abiquiú, US Route 285.

www.expoartisan.com

Destinations

Abiquiú and surrounding area

Abiquiú is a small village with a history of mixed Hispanic and Genizaro inhabitants. Located just off US Route 84 where Georgia O'Keeffe established her home in an old adobe building with views out over the surrounding landscape. The house can be visited by booking a tour in advance (\$35) but WAAC will have an evening visit planned for participants. The town also has a small plaza and church, a limited variety of touristic shops and a very picturesque “Morada”, private religious chapel kept by the brotherhood of Penitentes. At the base of the hill leading to Abiquiú is Bode's, a general store and gas station, with a wide range of practical items, limited food including good tamales, and public bathrooms.

The White Place (La Plaza Blanca)

One of Georgia O'Keeffe's painting sites with a network of dramatic white volcanic cliffs and canyons, great for gentle hiking and picnics. It is located in hills just north of Abiquiú about 20 minutes from Ghost Ranch. Turn off of US Route 84 about ½

miles before coming to Abiquiú from Ghost Ranch (ask for directions at Bode's store). Take the partially dirt road off of US Route 84 to the left turn entrance sign for Dar Al Islam and proceed on unpaved road to parking area for Plaza Blanca. Nearby, one can walk up to the site of the **Dar Al Islam Mosque**, now a conference center, with panoramic views.

Christ in the Desert Monastery

The access road to this isolated retreat center on the Chama River is just a couple of miles past the entrance to Ghost Ranch on US Route 84. It is a dirt road about 12 miles long that can become very muddy and slippery after a rain storm. The vistas of the landscape, similar to Ghost Ranch, are spectacular. There is a dramatic modern chapel to visit, places to sit or camp along the river, and hops gardens for the production of beer by the monks. One can arrange to stay in guest quarters at the Monastery if you book ahead.

Archaeological site of Poshuouinge (pronounced "poe-shoo-WING-gay" – "Poshu" for short)

The Ancestral Puebloan site of Poshuouinge lies along the banks of the Rio Chama near the village of Abiquiú. Poshuouinge is a Tewa word that translates as "village above the muddy river." The 23-acre site is a large Classic Period pueblo occupied from ca. 1375 to 1500 CE, comprising two large contiguous quadrangular room-blocks, made of adobe and basalt cobble (700 estimated ground level rooms), two plazas, two kivas, a tower, rock art, and agricultural features.

The archaeological remains can be seen on a self-guided walking tour – approximately one mile round trip - along a trail that leaves from the parking lot, located on US Route 84, 2.5 miles south of Bode's General Store and 1.2 miles north of the junction of US 84 and State Road 554 (the El Rito road). The trail rises approximately 220 feet from the parking lot to the hilltop overlook. The path is not paved and there is no water available along the trail.

Visitors are reminded to avoid walking directly on structural remains, and not to disturb or remove ceramic sherds and other archaeological artifact evidence from their location on the site.

North of Abiquiú

Tierra Amarilla and Los Ojos

Going north on US Route 84 from Ghost Ranch there is a natural site off the road called Echo Amphitheater. About 45 minutes from Ghost Ranch there are two, small agricultural communities with largely traditional Hispanic populations. **Tierra Amarilla** is where the New Mexican land grant conflict came to a head in the 1970s with a revolt led by Reyes Tijerina who took control of the Court House.

Los Ojos is on a back road before you get to Tierra Amarilla and is home to the wool/weaving co-op, *Tierra Wools*. The wool yarns available at Tierra Wools are from their own herd of Rambouillet and Navajo-Churro sheep.

Chama

Continuing North on US Route 84, you come to the town of Chama. The Chama train depot is the western terminus of Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.

<http://cumbrestoltec.com/> Steam Train Excursions leave the Chama depot daily from Memorial Day to mid-October. There are also trailheads from the town to many trails in the region.

Dulce

Dulce is a small town near Chama that is the home of the Jicarilla Apaches. They have a tiny museum. It is also the site of a supposed underground Alien base.

Northeast of Abiquiú

Ojo Caliente Mineral Baths and Spa

An historic site of various hot springs that have been turned into a destination spa for day soaks or overnight stays. There are various options for message, sauna, mud bath, as well as a restaurant (starting at \$25-\$35 for baths). Places for gentle hikes in the area. Located on US Route 285, it is about an hour from Ghost Ranch and a half hour from Española.

Origin at Rancho San Juan

This resort and retreat center is on US Route 285 en route to Ojo Caliente. It manages access to cave chambers intricately carved out of a sandstone butte above the ranch by an artist, Ra Paulette. More information is available at (505) 699-1052 or <http://originnewmexico.com/>.

Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project

Hundred of rock art images from 3000 years ago to the 20th century. There is a hiking trail and guided tour. Located between Espanola and Taos above the Rio Grande River. For information and reservations contact Project Director, Jennifer Goyeto at Jennifer@mesaprietopetroglyphs.org (505) 852-1351.

Around Los Alamos – Jemez Mountains

Bandelier National Monument

High among the canyons and mesas surrounding Los Alamos, the atomic city, are many rich archaeological Puebloan sites and cave dwellings. The most dramatic canyon with access to such features and a range of hikes is Bandelier National Monument. The park has a museum, snack bar and visitor center. Limited parking

during summer months requires visitors to park in the town of White Rock (ca. 5 miles from the Park) and take a provided bus.

Los Alamos

There are two museums in Los Alamos – the Bradbury Science Museum and the Los Alamos History Museum.

North to Taos

Chimayó and the High Road To Taos

Chimayó is a small agricultural village and home of a famous, healing pilgrimage church with early painted images of saints (reredos, retablos, and bultos). It is about ¾ hour north east of Santa Fe taking the road to Nambé off of US Route 285 at Pojoaque or route #76 from Española. Access to adobe chapel with its source of healing soil is free. Continuing past Chimayo on State Highway 76 will take you on the High Road to Taos. The drive takes another hour or so. You pass Truchas and Las Trampas, classic Hispanic villages offering mountain panoramas and significant historic churches. The last section of the High Road is through a mountainous, pine forest, coming out on the high plateau at the base of the Taos Mountains.

The Low Road to Taos up the Rio Grande Gorge

Another shorter but also scenic route to Taos is along the Rio Grande River on State Highway 68 from Española. The drive takes you past historic sites at Alcalde, Los Luceros, through agricultural orchards of Velarde, Dixon and Rincoñada, and past tiny communities along the river studded with bright yellow cottonwood trees at the end of September. There are a couple of rafting companies that access the river around Pilar and also a campground near there. The drive up out of the gorge to the flat plain in front of the dramatic ridge of the Taos Mountains is spectacular.

Taos, what to do there:

Taos Pueblo

Millicent Rogers Museum

Fechin House and Art Museum of Taos

Harwood Museum

The Historic Martinez Hacienda

The Blumenschein Historic House

Mable Dodge's Home and Retreat Center

Kit Carson Historical Museum

The Couse House and the Sharp Studio

The City Courthouse has a cycle of WPA frescos

Rancho de Taos Church

DH Lawrence Ranch and ski area??

San Jeronimo Feast Day at Taos Pueblo, Sept. 30th, 2018:

An all-day traditional event commemorating the community's patron Saint Jerome that runs from about 11 am until 5 pm in the central plaza of the historic pueblo. A shed of Aspen tree boughs is erected for the Saint; Pueblo clowns (Koshari) put on a pantomime of hunting for and finding a sheep that is at the top of a 30 foot- tall tree poll. One clown climbs the pole and retrieves the dead sheep, watermelon and other prizes, while others tease the crowd and dunk naughty children in the Taos River. There are many booths selling Native jewelry, crafts, clothing as well as food. The entrance or parking fee is about \$15/person, and since hundreds of people may attend it can be a slow process to drive into or off of the Pueblo. The main entrance to the Pueblo is off of State Highway 3 as soon as you are leaving downtown Taos.

Santa Fe, what to do there:

Museums

- Four State Museums: New Mexico Art Museum, The New Mexico History Museum and the Palace of the Governors, Museum of International Folk Art, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. The first two are located downtown on the Plaza and the other two are 5 minutes outside downtown on Museum Hill – Camino Lejo off of Old Santa Fe Trail.
- Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian - Museum Hill
- Museum of Spanish Colonial Art - Museum Hill
- IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts across from the Cathedral on the East end of the Plaza area
- Georgia O'Keeffe Museum West of the Plaza on Johnson Street
- Site Santa Fe in the Railyard District at Guadalupe and Paseo del Norte
- Las Golandrinas Living Museum – outside of town in Agua Fria

Art Galleries and Other Places

- **Galleries** selling ancient, historic and contemporary artworks and artifacts number in the hundreds in Santa Fe. While spread all over town, concentrations of galleries can be found around the central city Plaza and the streets radiating off of it as well as on Canyon Road, what used to be a rural lane where many early artists lived.
- **Santa Fe Botanical Garden** – Museum Hill
- **Meow Wolf** 1352 Rufina Circle, Santa Fe
- **Lensic Performing Arts Theater: music, drama, dance, lectures, etc.**

Around Santa Fe

- **Cochiti Tent Rocks**
- **Local Pueblos:** Cochiti, San Felipe, Santo Domingo, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, San Juan (Okay Owinge), Pojaoque, Tesuque, Santa Ana, Sandia
- **Hikes, long and short**

State Route 14 (the Turquoise Trail) Santa Fe to Albuquerque

- **Cerrillos, New Mexico** – once a center for turquoise mining. It has been the site for many movies and there are nice hikes in the area.
- **Madrid, New Mexico** – an old coal town with lots of galleries and bars. The movie Whole Hog was filmed there. Many of the mine shack buildings were brought in by the coal company on the train when one of their operations in Colorado closed.
- **Tinkertown Museum** – Sandia Park

Albuquerque

- Albuquerque Museum
- New Mexico Natural History Museum
- University of New Mexico campus, including the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, The Museum of Fine Arts (which includes the collections from the Raymond Jonson Collection and the Tamarind Archives), and the Tamarind Institute
- The Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum
- The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History (formerly, the National Atomic Museum)
- Los Poblanos, Historic property with lovely grounds and 1930s artwork, now an elegant B & B
- Casa San Ysidro, a partially reconstructed and furnished Spanish Colonial style home in Corrales, north side of Albuquerque
- The National Hispanic Cultural Center

West of Albuquerque

Acoma Pueblo (Sky City)

Located off of I40 highway, it is possible to visit Sky City daily except then there are feast days – you need to check their website for openings - <http://www.acomaskycity.org/home.html> The Sky City Visitor Center and Haak'u Museum are available in Sky City. Sky City is a little over an hour west from Albuquerque.