

The New Mexico State Backgammon Championship

--- Visitor Information ---

With a population of 70,000 primarily Hispanic, Anglo and Native American people, Santa Fe, which means Holy Faith in Spanish, is New Mexico's fourth largest city behind Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Rio Rancho. Situated at 7,000 feet in the foothills of the southern Rocky Mountains, it was founded between 1607 and 1610, making it the second oldest city as well as the highest and oldest capital in the U.S. In 1912, New Mexico officially achieved statehood and today, Santa Fe with its unique offerings of art, culture and ancient traditions make it a world-class tourist destination, drawing more than 1 million visitors each year. In 2005, Santa Fe became the first U.S. city to be chosen by UNESCO as a Creative City, one of only nine cities in the world to hold this designation.

Santa Fe, aka, The City Different, has long been a center for arts and culture. It now ranks as the country's third largest art market with nearly 300 galleries and dealers. There also are more than a dozen major museums showcasing an array of art, culture, history and traditions, as well the world-class Santa Fe Opera. In recent years, the city has also earned a reputation with food-lovers. Whether you're hankering for basic New Mexican food, creative Southwestern cuisine, or authentic Italian, French, Asian and other world cuisines, the city offers more than 200 choices.

Santa Fe averages 300 sunny days per year, with 14 inches of rain and 17 inches of snow annually. The hottest days arrive in June, when temperatures soar into the high 90s. Because of the altitude, temperatures can change by 30 degrees in a single day, and sometimes all four seasons seem to pass through in a 24-hour time period. Expect sudden rain showers and cool evenings in summer and snow from November through April.

Ski Santa Fe opens from Thanksgiving through Easter, and you can hike and bike year-round. You can also enjoy river rafting, horseback riding, hot air ballooning, fly-fishing, ice-skating and swimming or work out in Pilates and yoga classes and fitness gyms around the city. When you're ready to relax and rejuvenate, choose from an array of spa services, including massage, facials, hot tubs and herbal wraps, offered around the city.

It is overwhelming how much there is to do, so if you are a first time visitor I would highly recommend walking up Canyon Road to see the galleries. Towards the end of Canyon Road, stop for a wonderful lunch at [El Farol](#), the oldest restaurant and bar in Santa Fe or at the lovely [Teahouse](#). If you can hitch a ride or have your own car go to [Museum Hill](#). It will be about a 10-minute ride from La Posada. The hotel concierge can provide directions.

The [SantaFean](#) website lists restaurants, galleries, and events in and around Santa Fe. The site's dining guide site lists both "fine dining" and more casual local fare. There are numerous very

good restaurants in Santa Fe and I'm sure that many of them will suite your taste. Another source for restaurants with patron reviews is [Trip Advisor](#).

There is an excellent spa at La Posada. If you are looking for something away from the hotel [ten thousand waves](#) is a short trip from the hotel.

Enjoy your stay in our wonderful city. Take advantage of the hotel concierge for recommendations and directions. There are many restaurants, museums and retail establishments within easy walking distance from La Posada.