

# SANTA FE'S TOP 16

## *Must Dos*

**Get the most out of your experience in Santa Fe!**



### Chile

New Mexico is internationally known for its outstanding red and green chile, grown 250 miles to Santa Fe's south in the "Chile Capital of the World," Hatch, New Mexico, and right in our backyard in Northern New Mexico. You must experience the spicy flavors during your visit to say you've truly been here! But don't be afraid of the heat. Your restaurant server will gladly steer you right when you order New Mexican fare—we want you to fall in love with the flavors and keep coming back for more.

### Events & Markets

Many of Santa Fe's events and markets are long-time traditions, steeped in cultural importance, so to experience one is to begin to understand the soul of The City Different. Others are new, vibrant, and contemporary. Anchor your visit around one of our summer markets—International Folk Art or Indian, Spanish, and Contemporary Hispanic. Or be one in the chanting crowd at 2024's 100th Burning of Zozobra, or celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day Weekend witnessing dance and drum performances on the Plaza, or sing festive songs with locals and visitors alike along the Christmas Eve Canyon Road Farolito Walk. You can't go wrong with the hundreds of large and small events to choose from!

**[santafe.org/must-see-events](http://santafe.org/must-see-events)**



Santa Fe International Folk Art Market



La Emi of EmiArteFlamenco

### Flamenco

Plan to be wowed by The City Different's deep roots and broad offering of flamenco, the rich and centuries-old art form, that traces its local fame back to renowned dancer from Taos, María Benítez. In intimate cabaret settings and on celebrated stages, you'll find yourself moved by intensely expressive, elaborately costumed dance, music, and singing performances, born in Spain and enduring in Santa Fe.

@emi.arte.flamenco



GF Contemporary

## Galleries

The City Different is a unique destination of 250+ world-class galleries and a natural mecca for artists and an incubator for creativity. To fully experience the scene, don your walking shoes for a day along Canyon Road, a half-mile stretch featuring more than 100 galleries ensconced in charming adobe homes. Round out your exploration in the downtown Plaza and contemporary Railyard Arts District neighborhoods. You'll be treated to all types of artwork, from the traditional to the abstract contemporary. [santafe.org/galleries-and-studios](http://santafe.org/galleries-and-studios)

## Meow Wolf's House of Eternal Return

This is the original of Meow Wolf sites, where the intensely creative and intrepid artist collective began lighting imaginations aflame back in 2016. Immerse yourself and the fam in the interactive funhouse of 70+ connected rooms for a wild ride. [meowwolf.com/visit/santa-fe](http://meowwolf.com/visit/santa-fe)

## Museums

Clustered in and around the Plaza and Museum Hill, more than 20 important institutions include works of Indian art and culture, Georgia O'Keeffe, international folk art, the history and art of New Mexico, Spanish Colonial originals, and more. Newer to the must-experience list are Vladem Contemporary, a second location for the New Mexico Museum of Art and SITE Santa Fe, a contemporary art museum, featuring ever-changing installations by influential artists of today in a building that's a piece of art in and of itself. [santafe.org/museums](http://santafe.org/museums)



Meow Wolf



Courtesy of New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. Tira Howard Photography

New Mexico Museum of Art Vladem Contemporary



Pojoaque Pueblo dancers on Feast Day



### Native American Pueblos

New Mexico is home to 19 Pueblos, and eight are located just north of Santa Fe! You must plan to attend a Pueblo Feast Day or Tribal Celebration to witness ceremonial dances, sample traditional foods, and learn more about the customs and culture of the First Peoples. Just pay special attention to protocol, leave your camera in your pocket, and you are bound to have an enriching experience that will last a lifetime.

[santafe.org/pueblos](http://santafe.org/pueblos)

### Northern New Mexico Cuisine

Santa Fe's award-winning culinary scene is a must on your itinerary. Unique is our Northern New Mexican cuisine, neither Tex, nor Mex, but a blend of Hispanic and Pueblo influences. The hearty beans, fresh corn, spicy green and red chile sauces, and fluffy tortillas are only the beginning. You can plot your trip using the Santa Fe Dining Guide, our menu magazine or visit [santafe.org/dine](http://santafe.org/dine).



Ski Santa Fe

### Outdoor Recreation

Santa Fe offers ample opportunities to hike, bike, fish, ski, boat, play golf, and explore ancient ruins. Located in the southern Rocky Mountain chain at the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, The City Different is a semiarid climate at the crossroads of grass and shrub lands, piñon-juniper woodlands, and 1.6 thousand acres of high mountain coniferous National Forest. Come experience our 320+ days of sunshine, four distinct seasons, brilliant blue skies, and some of the purest air in the world. [santafe.org/outdoors](http://santafe.org/outdoors)

### Santa Fe Farmers' Market

Going strong for more than 50 years, the award-winning Santa Fe Farmers' Market in the burgeoning Railyard District is a must! The festive, positive atmosphere will give you a true community experience. Stroll down the brick promenade along the tracks among the more than 150 farmers and vendors selling their fresh produce and products. Musicians are playing, children are giggling and dancing, and people are happy to support their local farmers. Open Saturday mornings year-round and Tuesdays, May to December. [santafefarmersmarket.com](http://santafefarmersmarket.com)





### Santa Fe Margarita Trail

Choose from 50 of the best 100% agave margaritas in the world along the Santa Fe Margarita Trail. Enjoy margarita discounts, earn rewards, and learn the recipes at some of Santa Fe's most popular restaurants and bars! Download the app or pick up a Passport at any TOURISM Santa Fe Visitors Center or participating restaurant/bar. Travel the Trail responsibly! [santafemargaritatrail.com](http://santafemargaritatrail.com)

### Santa Fe Opera

Every July and August, revel in the extraordinary performances of international operatic superstars under a dazzling Santa Fe sky. Set in a peaceful and rugged high desert landscape, the venue is an architectural wonder and there's not a bad seat in the house. Since 1957, newcomers and opera lovers alike return each year for world-class productions by America's premier opera festival. [santafeopera.org](http://santafeopera.org)

### Santa Fe Plaza

A National Historic Landmark, Santa Fe's Plaza not only imparts stories of its deep past via its architecture and design, but it endures as the host for many of The City Different's important cultural celebrations. Carve out a full day for the Plaza to enjoy museums, shops, restaurants, galleries, and historic buildings. And absolutely don't miss the artwork in the Native American Artisans Portal Program at the Palace of the Governors.

### Sky Railway

Climb aboard a uniquely imagined adventure train, born of refurbished historic railcars. This is your ticket to a dozen different experiences along the tracks—cuisine, theater, flamenco, sunset serenades, jazz, craft beer and wine tasting, and more. Schedule your experiences before your arrival because you absolutely do not want to miss out. [skyrailway.com](http://skyrailway.com)



Santa Fe Opera



Santa Fe Plaza



Sky Railway

## MUST DOS



Ojo Santa Fe Spa Resort



Courtesy of Paseo Pottery

### Spas, Soaks, Massages

Time spent in The City Different is instantly restorative, but don't miss the chance to relax in a uniquely Santa Fe way. Soak in a private tub at a Japanese-inspired bathhouse set high in the mountains or experience multiple spring-fed pools set on a pastoral 77-acre resort. Each offers a range of unique and rejuvenating body treatments. Or luxuriate at your hotel's spa, bound to treat you well. [santafe.org/spa-and-wellness](https://santafe.org/spa-and-wellness)

### Workshops & Classes

In the small city of Santa Fe, you'll find thousands of creative people and artists prepared to share their crafts with you. Whether your interests lie in music, spirituality, photography, painting, sculpture, cuisine, glass-blowing, writing, or drawing, you will find instruction here. And The City Different is the perfect place to learn something new, amid kindred creative people in a peaceful high-elevation mountain setting. [santafe.org/classes-and-workshops](https://santafe.org/classes-and-workshops)

## JUST A FEW LOCAL *Must Dos*

- ▷ Chant "Burn Him!" at the 100th Burning of Zozobra, August 30, 2024!
- ▷ Amble the Santa Fe Margarita Trail in search of 50 special margs!
- ▷ Buy chile ristras each year to adorn living spaces.
- ▷ Add restaurants to a running list of the top places to go for the best chile.
- ▷ Ski in the morning and play golf in the afternoon.
- ▷ Experience the opera even if opera feels like an acquired taste.
- ▷ Reserve a budget—however modest—for the summer markets: International Folk Art, Indian, Contemporary Hispanic, and Spanish.
- ▷ Answer "Christmas!" to the question "Green or Red?"