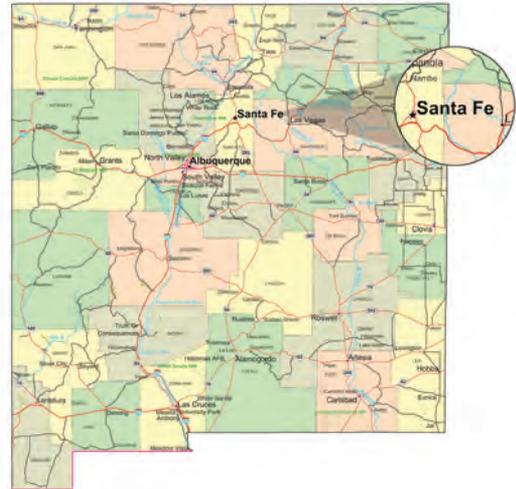


Santa Fe, New Mexico



Santa Fe, New Mexico, is situated 7,000 feet above sea level in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. In 1610, the city became the capital of the Spanish "Kingdom of New Mexico." Later, the city became the capital of the Mexican province of Nuevo Mejico; followed by the capital of the American territory of New Mexico; and in 1912, the capital of the State of New Mexico.

Built as the home of the Spanish colonial government, the Palace of the Governors is the oldest continuously occupied public building in the country. Currently, this National Historic Landmark adobe structure houses the New Mexico History Museum, one of the four museums that are part of the Museum of New Mexico. The others are the New Mexico Museum of Art, the Museum of International Folk Art, and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.

Other museums in the city include the Center for Contemporary Arts, El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, and Santa Fe Children's Museum.

Fiesta de Santa Fe has been celebrated since 1712. Zozobra, a 50-foot bogeyman marionette, is ignited by a fire spirit dancer to launch the Fiesta, which occurs in September.

Santa Fe hosts three music festivals in July and August: Santa Fe Bandstand, Santa Fe Opera Festival, and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. In addition, the Santa Fe Concert Band, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Santa Fe Pro Musica, and Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra perform during the year.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Homes in Santa Fe are built primarily in three distinctive styles: Spanish Pueblo; Territorial; and Spanish Pueblo Revival, also known as Santa Fe Style. These styles have their roots in the houses built by early Spanish settlers who adapted the design and materials of the Native Americans. Made with adobe bricks, the Spanish settlers' houses were characterized by round walls, corner fireplaces, vigas (beams to support the roof), flat roofs, and a series of rooms fronted by covered porches called portales.

Downtown Santa Fe, along with the adjacent residential Eastside, make up the second oldest historic district in the country. Some homes are hundreds of years old and are accessible by narrow dirt roads. The Don Gaspar Area Historic District, also known as South Capitol, was originally a suburb. This district consists primarily of houses that date from the 1890s through the 1920s and offers the most diverse range of styles found in Santa Fe—its development predated the city's efforts to control architectural style. Westside-Guadalupe Historic District offers renovated adobes on small lots.

Newer neighborhoods include those along Hyde Park Road, such as Estancia Primera, which consists of single-family homes, townhomes, and condominiums; Los Cerros Colorados and Sierra del Norte, which are newer developments of single-family homes; and Hyde Park Estates development, which has mostly older homes. Some of these neighborhoods have new homes and lots available for new construction. A wide range of sizes, prices, and types of homes are available in Tierra Contenta, which was begun in the mid-1990s and promotes an anti-sprawl development philosophy of small-scale, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Santa Fe's municipal parks have amenities that include playgrounds; basketball, volleyball and tennis courts; soccer and baseball fields; skate parks; and an outdoor pool. Dogs are permitted to run off-leash at one park. In addition, the city has two facilities that have indoor pools, cardiovascular machines, and weight rooms. The city's longest park parallels portions of the

Santa Fe River, an intermittently flowing tributary of the Rio Grande. Santa Fe Plaza, which has been the commercial, social, and political center of Santa Fe for hundreds of years, hosts many events, including the Summer Bandstand.

The New Mexico Department of Health devised the Prescription Trails program to encourage doctors to prescribe walking as a health benefit. The program includes guides with maps of various trails in Santa Fe's parks.

Hyde Memorial State Park, located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, offers a playground, camping sites, and opportunities for hiking, sledding, cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing. Also located in these mountains, Ski Santa Fe is among the highest ski areas in the country.

The Annual Rodeo de Santa Fe is sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

EDUCATION

Santa Fe Public Schools serve approximately 13,000 students in 17 elementary schools, two kindergarten through grade 8 schools, two grade 7 and 8 schools, a grade 6 through 8 school, and three high schools, including an alternative high school offering a self-paced curriculum. The city also has four charter schools.

Santa Fe has many opportunities for higher education. St. John's, a four-year, coeducational, liberal arts college, offering an integrated arts and sciences program based on a chronological study of seminal works of Western civilization. Santa Fe University of Art and Design grants bachelor's degrees in music, creative writing, theater, art, business, and education. Santa Fe Community College offers certificates and associate degrees. Southwestern College grants Master's Degrees in Counseling and in Art Therapy/Counseling. Southwest Acupuncture College provides training in the uses of Oriental and Western medical models of the human body, acupuncture, and Chinese herbal medicine. The School for Advanced Research is a center for the study of the archaeology and ethnology of the American Southwest. The Santa Fe Institute is a private research and education center for multidisciplinary collaborations in the physical, biological, computational, and social sciences.

HEALTH CARE

Santa Fe is served by a major regional medical center with 268 licensed beds. In addition, the city has a specialty surgical hospital that focuses on elective inpatient and outpatient surgeries. The Santa Fe Indian Hospital serves residents from the nine Pueblos in the area.

CITY STATS

	2009
City Population	73,979
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	147,532
Per Capita Personal Income, Santa Fe, NM MSA	\$42,645