



TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Sandia Peak Tram and Dinner at High Finance - Travel to the foothills of the Sandia Mountains for a ride on the Sandia Peak Tram, the world's longest free-span cable tramway, and dinner at High Finance. The 2.7-mile ride to the top will take you through four of the seven life zones found in North America. Traversing these zones is equivalent to taking a trip from Mexico City to Alaska! Once atop Sandia Peak, at an elevation of 10,375 feet above sea level, you will marvel at the thousands of square miles of breathtaking scenery and panoramic views in all directions. Enjoy dinner at High Finance Restaurant, which offers views of 11,000 square miles of New Mexico's landscape from one of the finest restaurants in the Southwest. In the evenings, the sunsets and city lights are spectacular, offering a total dining experience "above them all."

Date: Sunday, July 13 and Monday, July 14, 2008

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Cost Per Person: \$89.00 Includes transportation, tram ticket, and dinner. Bring a sweater or light jacket [evenings at this elevation can be cool]. Tour duration approximately 4 hours including travel time. Your departure time will depend on the order of receipt of tour registration. The first fifty registrants will depart at 5:00 p.m.

Turquoise Trail Scenic Byway to Santa Fe - The historic Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway links Albuquerque and Santa Fe and encompasses 15,000 square miles in the heart of central New Mexico. You will drive back into history through the mining towns of Golden, Madrid, and Cerrillos, whose mines once yielded gold, silver, lead, zinc, and turquoise. During its heyday in the 1880s Cerrillos boasted twenty-one saloons, and four hotels. A renewed spirit has brought art, crafts, theater, music, museums, and restaurants to these towns. Upon arrival in Santa Fe you may take an optional guided walking tour, visiting such points of interest as the historic Plaza, St. Francis Cathedral, the Loretto Chapel, with its famous "miraculous" staircase, and the San Miguel Mission. Founded in 1610, Santa Fe was the last stop on the *Camino Real*, the fabled Royal Road that stretched from Mexico City to the northernmost reaches of the Spanish Empire. Today it is the heart and soul of the Southwest, and "Santa Fe Style" is synonymous with all the best the region has to offer. Its historic Plaza, winding streets, covered arcades, hidden gardens and courtyards, and Pueblo-style architecture reflect the blending of Indian, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures.

Date: Monday, July 14 and Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Cost Per Person: \$60.00 Includes transportation, guide, walking tour of historic district, admission fees. Tour duration 9 hours including travel time.

Meet Albuquerque I - Start the day with a visit to Gertrude Zachary's, where each piece of jewelry is created through a collaborative process between Gertrude and the Native American silversmiths who make each by hand. Gertrude begins with a drawing of her idea and then shows it to one of the silversmiths. It is then left in the skillful hands of master artisans, and the drawings, concepts, and images take shape. She also uses high-quality materials and rare stones, such as high-grade, natural North American turquoise and rare Mediterranean coral. The stones are extremely collectible and not always available; so many pieces are available only in limited quantities. A stone in a special shape or color might only be used to create one design. Next is a stop at the Palms Trading Company, which offers a huge selection of pottery and jewelry, as well as a large assortment of Indian rugs, moccasins, artifacts, drums, arrows, baskets, and other novelties and gift items. Finally, a visit Old Town and a brief walking tour of the historic Plaza area. Old Town, the original center of Albuquerque, was founded in the early part of the 18th century and includes San Felipe de Neri church and many historic buildings that form an architectural record of this city's unique past. There will be time to explore hidden courtyards and stroll under covered portals and shop on your own at the many fine specialty stores and galleries around the Plaza.

Date: Monday, July 14, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Cost Per Person: \$35.00 Includes transportation, guide, walking tour of historic district, Tour duration 3 hours including travel time.

Albuquerque BioPark - This tour takes you to one of the Duke City's favorite attractions – the Albuquerque Biological Park – and a fun-filled afternoon exploring an aquarium, a botanical garden, and a zoo. The Albuquerque Biological Park offers the inspiration of nature in an exquisite variety of plant and animal life, highlighting native species found in the Rio Grande River Valley. First stop will be the Aquarium, which features shimmering tanks of exotic fish in their saltwater habitats. A 285,000-gallon tank full of sharks patrolling their underwater domain as undisputed monarchs and other exhibits take you on a fascinating journey through the marine habitats of the Gulf of Mexico. Next is the Rio Grande Botanical Garden showcasing plant life of the Southwest and other arid regions of the world. This wonderful facility includes a garden conservatory, a butterfly pavilion, a children's fantasy garden, a Spanish-Moorish garden, a ceremonial garden and acres of plants native to this region and the Mediterranean. Final stop will be the Rio Grande Zoo, which exhibits over 1,000 animals representing over 200 species. Highlights include animals of Africa, Australia, and tropical America. Local favorites include the koalas and some very rare white tigers.

Date: Monday, July 14 and Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Cost Per Person: \$48.00 Includes transportation, guide, walking admissions. Tour duration 4 hours including travel time.

Hot Air Ballooning – Early morning departure for a memorable bird's eye view of the Rio Grand Valley from a hot air balloon. Delight in the magnificent scenery and astounding vista from your vantage point high above Albuquerque. The Rio Grande River winds its way southward to Mexico through the cottonwood-lined valley, the Sandia Mountains rise up to the East, and all around you is the silent vastness of the Land of Enchantment. Airtime is about one hour.

Date: Monday, July 14 and Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Time: 5:45/9:00 a.m. – 9:30/10:00 a.m.

Cost Per Person: \$175.00 Includes hotel pickup, hot air balloon ride, continental breakfast, all applicable taxes.

The Churches and Cultures of Northern New Mexico - Take an exciting journey through the scenic grandeur of northern New Mexico to the Spanish Colonial village of Chimayo and to Taos. Your first stop will be the historic village of Chimayo that dates from the seventeenth century. Its most famous landmark is a venerable religious shrine, the *Santuario de Chimayo*. This beautiful adobe chapel with twin bell towers was erected in 1816 by Don Bernardo de Abeyta over earth that is said to have miraculous healing qualities. The weavers of Chimayo have produced the colorful and decorative Rio Grande textiles for centuries. You will visit Ortega's workshop and see the weavers at work. Lunch will be at the landmark *Rancho de Chimayo* restaurant, known for its traditional northern New Mexico cuisine. From Chimayo you continue to continue along the High Road to picturesque Taos, nestled in the foothills against the highest mountain peaks in New Mexico at 8,000 feet above sea level. The unsurpassed light of northern New Mexico has drawn artists to Taos since the end of the nineteenth century, and today it is home to many outstanding museums and galleries. Your first stop will be the multi-storied Taos Pueblo at the northern edge of town. Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, this Pueblo dates from the fourteenth century and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in North America. The lovely mission church of San Geronimo dates from 1850. There is a \$10 fee for still camera usage and a \$20 charge for video cameras inside the Pueblo. Your last stop will be Ranchos de Taos and the magnificent St. Francis of Assisi Mission Church that dates from 1776. This adobe mission church has inspired Georgia O'Keeffe and countless other artists and is one of the most photographed buildings in the Southwest. See the Henri Ault painting of "The Shadow of the Cross."

Date: Monday, July 14, 2008

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Cost Per Person: \$92.00 Includes transportation, guide, lunch, admissions. Tour duration 11 hours including travel time.

Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway and Artisan Winery - Experience the thrill of riding the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway, the world's longest free-span cable tramway. The 2.7-mile ride to the top will take you through four of the seven life zones found in North America, from Upper Sonoran to Hudsonian. Marvel at the thousands of square miles of breathtaking scenery and panoramic views in all directions from your vantage point of 10,375 feet above sea level. Back in the Duke City you will visit an artisan winery for a tour and wine tasting. New Mexico's sun soaked high desert climate and soil conditions are nearly perfect for the cultivation of grapes and have contributed to the recent revival of wine making in one of the nation's oldest wine producing regions.

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Cost Per Person: \$60.00 Includes transportation, guide, tram ticket, tour and wine tasting at artisan winery. Tour duration 5 hours including travel time.

Acoma "Sky City" Pueblo - Visit Acoma Pueblo, known as "Sky City", located in the spectacular West-Central Plateau of New Mexico. Acoma Pueblo, situated 350 feet above an outstretched valley atop a massive sandstone mesa at 7,000 feet above sea level, is the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in the United States. Archeologists put the initial occupation of the Pueblo around 1150 AD. A Pueblo member will take you on a guided tour of the village, explaining the culture and history of the tribe. Points of interest include San Estevan del Rey Mission, built in 1629, the largest and most remarkable of all the Spanish Colonial mission churches in New Mexico. The 360-degree views from Acoma are breathtaking and offer many photo opportunities.

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Cost Per Person: \$69.00 Includes transportation, guide, admission fees, and buffet lunch at Sky City Casino. Wear comfortable walking shoes; a hat and sunscreen are recommended. There is a \$10 permit fee for cameras. Video recorders are prohibited. Tour duration 5 hours including travel time.

Meet Albuquerque II - Start the day with a visit to Santuario de San Lorenzo in Bernalillo. The middle Rio Grande Valley is an area of great cultural importance to New Mexico, and the town of Bernalillo contains one of the loveliest churches in the state. Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy oversaw the construction of forty-five new churches and chapels during his stay in New Mexico. Nuestra Señora de los Dolores in Bernalillo was one of them, completed by residents in 1857. The impressive structure, featuring four-foot thick adobe walls, twelve-inch vigas and an earthen floor, served as the parish church of this historical central New Mexico town for over 100 years. It is one of few examples in New Mexico of French architecture built with native materials. In modern times, because of its proximity to Albuquerque (20 miles), Bernalillo and the surrounding countryside have become increasingly urbanized, and Nuestra Señora de los Dolores is one of few historical sites left in the area. Continue on a short ride south through the lush Rio Grande Valley for lunch at renowned El Pinto Restaurant. Regarded by locals and visitors alike as *the* place for the finest in traditional New Mexican cooking, it has been in the Thomas family since 1962. Tucked away behind high adobe walls under the shade of ancient cottonwood trees, El Pinto gives you true Southwestern warmth and hospitality, with splashing fountains, extensive gardens, and inner courtyards adding to the unmistakable local color. After lunch you will visit Old Town and enjoy a brief walking tour of the historic Plaza area.

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Cost Per Person: \$63.00 Includes transportation, guide, lunch, walking tour. Tour duration 4 hours including travel time.