

exploring

By Rosanne Zinniger

the Mesas & Mountains

New Mexico – a timeless land of ancient cultural traditions and striking environmental diversity with a landscape of rough red adobe terrain and colored with yellow, purple, orange, and pink desert flowers indigenous to the region. Rosanne Zinniger shares her elation.

In the year 850, native North American Indians farmed the fertile land along the Rio Grande producing corn, beans and squash, and developed Pueblo communities that are still in use today. Eventually, two native tribes, the Apache and the Navajo, established permanent villages, while the Spanish arrived from the seas in search of gold.

The visitors annexed the region, built missions and converted the Indians to Catholicism, and for 125 years (until 1821), Mexico remained under Spanish rule. The Santa Fe Trail, which ran from Missouri to Santa Fe, opened trade with the United States and brought new lifestyles, money and new settlers to New Mexico.

New Mexico became the 47th “United” State in 1912; 66 years after the US declared war. Today, New Mexico is predominantly populated by Native American Indians and Hispanics with 19 surviving pueblos. Mainly used for ceremonial purposes, the term “pueblo” is used to refer to an Indian culture that is unique to the Southwest, and not to a particular tribe.

Though they share many common elements, each pueblo has an independent government, its own social order, religious practices, and cultural traditions, linked only through one of five languages, Tewa, Tiwa, Towa, Keresan or Zunian.

With a mostly mild climate all year round at ground level and a fine wintry snow season higher up, outdoor activities are a prime focus, especially golf and skiing.

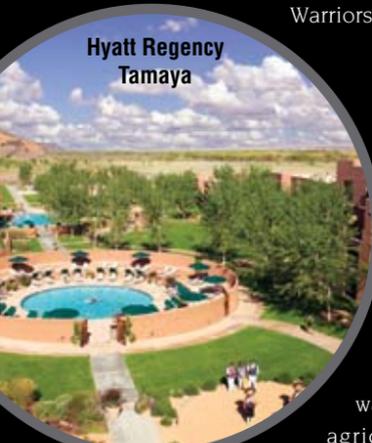
These people are very proud of their heritage and continue to carry them through paintings and sculptures. Highly recommended is a visit to the Georgia-O'Keefe Museum and Art Gallery, as it has one of the most comprehensive selections representative of the region and culture.

With clear skies, an abundance of sunshine and limitless physical beauty, there is much to do here in New Mexico. With a mostly mild climate all year round at ground level and a fine wintry snow season higher up, outdoor activities are a prime focus, especially golf and skiing.

Best of New Mexico Golf

Just 20 minutes outside of Albuquerque, the Hyatt Tamaya Resort and Spa located in the town of Bernillo (pronounced Ber-Nayo) is a great place to stay. Better still is the Twin Warriors Golf Club on site.

Hyatt Regency Tamaya



Translated as "a quiet and special place", Tamaya is a small pueblo with a history dating back 1,000 years. The people have lived peacefully for many years, establishing a way of life based on agriculture. The Hyatt Tamaya reflects the everyday aspect of their culture from al fresco courtyards and plazas, adobe-styled lobby, as well as Tamayame art and décor.

Just a short walk across the entrance to the resort is the 18-hole Twin Warriors Golf Course. This championship course is constructed

according to the natural terrain of dry washes, grassy knolls, ridges of Piñon trees, desert flowers and grasses, and set amidst arroyos and canyons.

Looking north, the Sandia Mountains (Sandia stands for watermelon) frame the fairways. The 400-acre golf course is crafted by Gary Panks and surrounded by 20 cultural sites dating back to the 13th century along the sacred butte known as Tuyuna or "Snakehead".

Set at an elevation of nearly 5,000 feet, the par 72 course requires consistent play and concentration. The signature par-3, 4th is 180 yards long with a dormant volcano in the background flanked by ponds, waterfalls, and a front-right bunker. This world-class golf facility also offers a double-tee practice range, carts, club rental, pitching and putting greens, 4-star dining and preferred tee times to resort guests.

While the Santa Ana Tribe Pueblo owns the Twin Warriors land, the Santa Clara Pueblo takes the 800 acres upon which the Black Mesa Golf Course irrigates one-tenth of it.

Located a half-hour north of Santa Fe, Black Mesa is pure and absent of any man-made distractions. Elevated tee boxes and course markers are distinctly patterned by arroyos.

The diversity of this par-72, 7,307-yard course challenges all levels of golfers with desert rough and sand stone rock formations with pinnacles jutting out of nowhere and everywhere at the same time. Hole 11, a par-3, ascends into a box canyon ringed with rocky terrain, however beyond a crossing fore bunker, the approach is relatively open.

The bunkering throughout the course is wonderfully varied and appears naturally crafted. Where once a water table resides



Black Mesa 18th Hole



Angel Fire Golf Resort



Sandia



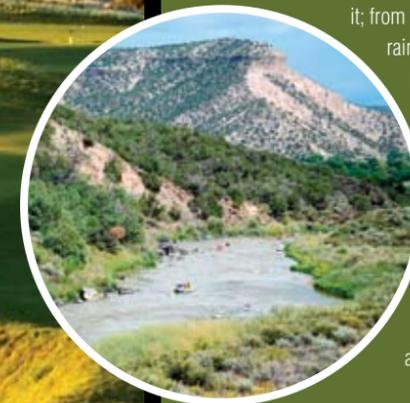
Twin Warriors

Fly-Fishing New Mexico's Trout Streams

By Jennifer Hoffman

New Mexico's high desert mountains are at the southernmost extension of the Rockies, a mountain range that extends all the way to Canada. Combining vast expanses of rock and scrub, the Rio Grande carves out pristine high altitude freestone creeks and rivers like the Santa Barbara, which is banked by ponderosas and aspens.

For those wishing to try a hand at fly-fishing, this is it; from winter pike and cutthroat to big browns, rainbows and pretty brook trout, New Mexico is a flyfisher's paradise.



Rio Grande Gorge

The Rio Grande Gorge is a dramatic section of the old river between Taos and Santa Fe. Hundreds of clear, small snowmelt streams and rivers like Rio Embudo and the Red River feed into the Rio Grande watershed, and thus enhancing the water quality.

Moth and crane fish hatches in June and July and will offer a chance at bigger brown trout, while big, flashy streamers along the banks can throw up a shot at the big, aggressive but elusive pike in the winter. The easiest place to access the Rio Grande Gorge is between Velarde and Pilar, heading north from Santa Fe on Hwy 68. The east bank of the river has access points along the highway, while taking a left at Pilar on the 507 will provide some privacy from the road.

Rio Santa Barbara

About an hour-and-a-half drive away from Santa Fe is a small freestone stream just southeast of Taos called Rio Santa Barbara. The cold, clear, river is not big but neither is the crowd. One gets small but opportunistic, under fished brown trout and brook trout. On a warm summer day or on a fall afternoon, a small grasshopper imitation will do it every time. The clear water makes sight fishing a pleasure; for those who favour dry flies this is an ideal river.

Pecos River

The Pecos is the largest and most popular stream originating in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the closest to Santa Fe. While the lower portions of the river near the town of Pecos tend to get crowded with picnickers and other fly-fishers, a drive up the paved road that parallels the river toward the headwaters will yield quieter areas and smaller headwater creeks like Horse thief, Panchuela, and Jacks. Wild browns and the prized (and increasingly rare) native Rio Grande cutthroats can be found in these waters. Small, brushy areas require high-sticking and short casts. Black ants, termites and olive shrimp, as well as hoppers all work well on the Pecos.

While New Mexico's bigger waters are along the Rio Grande and may require up to a nine-weight rod, a seven-weight will serve most fly-fishers visiting for the first time.

For guides and equipment:
The Reel Life in Santa Fe
500 Montezuma Ave, Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 995-8114

Signature hole #6 sets the green 239 yards away from its elevated tee box, which is 200 feet above and surrounded by groves of aspen trees and pine.

during the Jurassic period, it is now a skeleton of underwater caverns. Black Mesa is not for every golfer, but for those aspiring for a unique and challenging golf experience, then golf here they must!

New Mexico Skiing

There are not too many places where you can go to play golf and ski within the same trip.

The common denominator of both of these great sports is the scenic environment.

Taos Ski Valley, nestled in the mountains 20 minutes north of Taos is known for its deep, light powder, 1,290 acres of terrain, and its extreme ski runs. Taos Ski Valley is one of the only family-owned ski resorts in New Mexico

– 50 years by the Blake Family, and designed for a thrill and more!

The ski mountain itself is set in a valley surrounded by lodges without the commercial glitz attached. Most ski resorts would rate the Taos beginner slopes as intermediate, their intermediate as advanced or black diamond, and Taos black diamond runs would be rated as double black diamonds.

Not surprisingly, many skiers are intimidated. Thankfully, Taos Ski Valley offers the finest ski instruction anywhere for enthusiasts of any level, and boasts over 50 beginner and intermediate runs to gain comfort and confidence.

On an escorted ski tour with Zuni Indian Antonio Zuni, I was amazed by the feeling I got while skiing runs that were ancient stomping grounds to a sacred culture. Learning the history of the Taos Pueblo,

the mountain's history, and the meanings of the named ski runs by the Zuni Indian captivated me. Others wanted to ski the pristine snow, but I was actually feeling the spirit of those in his stories, and wanted to hear and see more.

He even showed me an artifact that was on display at the mid-mountain lodge. I continued to follow him down the mountain, listen to his stories of the sacred mountain, and was so moved by a song he chanted as he kept rhythm on his Tom Tom drum that I found tears spilling down my cheeks. His story is real, and he offers to ski and tell for free. It was quite a treat to meet him as he was on hiatus from American Medical School in order to earn money to go back. Antonio Zuni said, "The monies that I earn while at the ski school will further my American medical education in order to become a medicine man in my tribe, just like my father, and grandfather."

In addition to this most historic ski tour, I had the great honor to meet the Blake family, and listen to Ernie Blake tell captivating stories about the challenges of creating trails, clearing trees, and building ski lifts.

For those who prefer more laid back skiing, the Angel Fire Ski Resort offers year round powder. Shadowed by Wheeler Peak at 13,161 feet, this is New Mexico's highest peak. About 90 miles north of Santa Fe, this fast-growing resort caters to both to the "never-skied-before" to those simply out to have some fun on wide open runs.

In addition to a wide variety of snow activities, there are also mountain biking, fishing, hiking and golf. At the base of the resort is a golf course that is under snow in the winter, but not too bad in the spring. The Angel Fire Resort Golf Course is a public, par-72, 18-hole tract that is 6,600 yards of high-altitude play. The front nine is a longer and encompasses canyons of aspen, spruce and pine, while the back nine is links-style with many bunkers and smaller, challenging greens.

Signature hole #6 sets the green 239 yards away from its elevated tee box, which is 200 feet above and surrounded by groves of aspen trees and pine.

Ideally, a vacation planned in early spring will allow for all that New Mexico has to offer including golf, skiing, fly-fishing, and even kayaking. In addition, the cultural experience is amazing! 📍

LODGING:

Historic Taos Inn
125 Paseo del Pueblo Norte Taos
(505) 758-1977 • www.taosinn.com

Snakedance Inn & Spa Condominiums

10 yards from the ski lifts!
800.322.9815, 505.776.2277
Fax 505.776.1410 • info@innsnakedance.com

Hyatt Tamaya

Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa, 1300 Tuyuna Trail, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004
(505) 867-1234, www.hyatt.com Rooms from: 175 USD Suites from: US\$500
www.tamaya.hyatt.com

GREAT DINING EXPERIENCES:

Roasted Clove

48 N Angel Fire Road
(505)377-0636 • www.roastedclove.com
Serves contemporary American cuisine including steaks, game, seafood, and pasta with a very extensive hand-selected wine list.

Doc Martin's Restaurant

125 Paseo del Pueblo Norte Taos
(505) 758-1977 • www.taosinn.com
– located in the Historic Taos Inn
Fantastic innovative contemporary American cuisine using the freshest local ingredients. Reservations are recommended.

NEW MEXICO GOLF COURSES:

Angel Fire Resort Golf Course

100 Country Club Drive
P.O. Box 130
Angel Fire, NM 87710
505.377.3055
www.angelfireresort.com

Black Mesa Golf Course

115 State Road 399
La Mesilla, NM 87532
505.747.8946
Greens Fee: US\$50-85
www.blackmesagolfclub.com

Twin Warriors Golf Club

1301 Tuyuna Trail
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004
505.771.6155
Greens Fee: US\$60-145
www.twinwarriorsgolf.com

Black Mesa 14th Hole



PaaKo

