

Directory

CONTENTS

Accommodations	227
Business Hours	228
Children	229
Climate Charts	229
Dangers & Annoyances	230
Disabled Travelers	230
Discount Cards	231
Festivals & Events	231
Food	231
Gay & Lesbian Travelers	231
Holidays	231
Insurance	234
Internet Access	234
Legal Matters	234
Maps	234
Post	234
Senior Travelers	234
Solo Travelers	235
Telephone	235
Time	235
Toilets	235
Tourist Information	235
Tours	235
Women Travelers	236

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations range from the disturbingly downscale to the obscenely luxurious, running \$450 or more a night for every possible amenity. Don't discount B&Bs, practically an art form in prime destinations, where there are good midrange deals as well as luxury properties. There are also plenty of wackier options, like earthships and old communes, and a decent network of hostels. RV parks and campsites are plentiful, but keep in mind that nights are cold from October through May.

Lodging isn't cheap, and this book defines budget rooms as under \$100 per night; mid-range \$100 to \$175; and top-end \$175 and over. Don't be afraid to bargain. If your road karma is good (tipping hotel staff helps), you may be able to talk proprietors down on weekdays and in off-season, particularly at luxury properties. Too shy? When you're quoted a rate, simply ask, 'Do you have

anything cheaper?' AARP, AAA and other discounts are also common, so ask. You can also ask for discounts on multnight stays. One caveat: late summer and the Christmas holidays are high season. Make reservations as far in advance as possible.

B&Bs

B&Bs run the gamut from glorified hotels (\$100) to absolutely stunning antique-filled properties (\$150 and up), complete with full hot breakfasts, fabulous amenities and evening refreshments. The **New Mexico Bed & Breakfast Association** (☎ 800-661-6649; www.nmbba.org) has listings and links for statewide B&Bs.

Campsites & RV Parks

RV parks, most of which allow tent camping, are plentiful and usually located on the outskirts of town. Campgrounds on public lands generally run \$10 per night for tent sites and \$17 to \$20 with hookups. Not all public campgrounds have running water. Backcountry camping is free. The ranger stations administering each region are noted throughout the text. Check for fire restrictions before you camp. Most Santa Fe National Forest sites do not allow charcoal or wood fires during the season. The Public Lands Information website publishes a daily 'Know Before You Go' newsletter that includes all restrictions and has maps and guides for hiking trails.

The **Public Lands Information Center** (Map p62; ☎ 505-438-7542, 877-276-9404; www.publiclands.org; 1474 Rodeo Rd, Santa Fe; ☎ 8:30am-4:30pm Mon-Fri) has information on all outdoor recreation including camping, biking, hiking, caving and fishing. You can't reserve campsites on federal land, but **New Mexico State Parks** (Map pp64-5; ☎ 505-476-3355, 888-667-2757, reservations 877-664-7787; www.nmparks.com; 141 E DeVargas St, Santa Fe; campsite/RV \$10/14; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) takes reservations for the 29 state parks that allow camping.

If you're on a budget and looking for free accommodations, there's the **CouchSurfing Project** (<http://couchsurfing.com>), where you can find a couch to crash on worldwide. The

'project' touts 86,000 members from 205 countries. It's a relaxed way to learn about the local culture and exchange resources.

For information on renting an RV, see p242.

Hostels

Hostels are few and far between, but all are festive and fairly well kept, with bunks running about \$15 to \$25 per night, private rooms about \$25 to \$35 a night. None have lockout and all offer full use of kitchen facilities. Those covered in this book:

Abominable Snowmansion (p157) In Arroyo Seco, north of Taos.

Cirque A Ranch/Hostel (p222) In Cuba, near Bandelier National Monument.

River Bend Hot Springs (p199) In Truth or Consequences, south of Albuquerque.

Route 66 Hostel (p181) In Albuquerque.

Sandia Mountain Hostel (p182) In Sandia Crest, north of Albuquerque.

Santa Fe International Hostel (p95) In Santa Fe.

Hotels & Resorts

Hotels on the commercial strip, further from downtown, usually run \$80 to \$150 a night, but those within walking distance of the plaza are much pricier, with basic rooms starting at \$150 a night and reaching up into the stratosphere.

Invariably decorated in the Southwestern style, they often have pools, on-site restaurant-bars, in-room coffeemakers and a continental breakfast. Kitchenettes and fireplaces are often available for around \$20 more, while basic suites run \$40 to \$50 extra.

For resort-style accommodations with Pueblo Revival architecture, spas, concierges, fireplaces and generally better locations, expect to tack on an extra \$75 – at least. True resorts (those out in the country) can include everything from horseback riding and childcare to natural hot springs. Prices vary widely.

Motels

Motels tend to be well kept and basic, and in ski areas they often have rooms sleeping six, a great deal for a group or family.

Motels are generally less expensive the further you are from downtown, and often offer a continental breakfast, replete with plastic-wrapped pastries. The cheapest

motels, including many on Central Ave in Albuquerque and in central Española, may also serve as flophouses for down-on-their-luck locals. Seasoned budget travelers who don't mind those conditions can get rooms for under \$40. Most entries listed in this book hover around \$75, with prices skyrocketing in high season.

Rental Properties

Many people maintain vacation homes near Taos and Santa Fe, which they rent out through various agencies. Rentals range from tiny adobe casitas to huge ranch-style homes, and you'll get better deals by staying a week or more. Some agencies:

Kokopelli Property Management (☎ 505-988-7244, 888-988-7244; www.kokoproperty.com)

Management Group (☎ 505-982-2823, 866-982-2823; www.santaferentals.com)

Santa Fe Stay (☎ 505-820-2468, 800-995-2272; www.santafestay.com)

BUSINESS HOURS

Many businesses close entirely on Sunday or, at the very least, keep shorter hours. Small businesses may also close for lunch. Particularly in rural areas, but even in Santa Fe, businesses may close for a day or week unannounced – hey, everyone needs a vacation. Businesses geared to tourism and museums (particularly in Taos) may also keep shorter hours in winter and other off-season periods.

Shops and galleries are generally open 9am to 5pm Monday through Saturday and noon to 5pm on Sunday, but sometimes they take off Sunday or Monday completely; some galleries keep longer hours Friday evening for art openings. Bars are usually open from 11am until 2am Monday through Saturday, closing at midnight Sunday by law.

Restaurant hours vary widely, and many close from 2pm to 5pm – ah, siesta culture. Most restaurants close early, around 9pm or 9:30pm; even bars close their kitchens at that time.

Indian pueblos may close to visitors with just a few hours' notice for religious purposes. Casinos are open 8am to 4am Sunday through Thursday, and remain open round the clock from Thursday morning until Sunday night. On feast days, almost all businesses at that particular pueblo are closed.