

EDUCATIONAL ESCAPES

IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

Story | KATHRYN HUNTER

This year, bring back the ultimate souvenir from your summer vacation—knowledge. These five New Mexico learning experiences, ranging from the creative to the spiritual, offer unique opportunities to get away and expand your horizons in a truly “enchanting” Southwestern setting.



Creativity and Clay in Silver City

Clay is a satisfying and versatile medium—from the creation of pottery to ceramic tiles and adobe bricks—earth is shaped into objects and structures of incredible beauty. Beginners and seasoned artists alike can get their hands dirty at the third annual CLAY Festival in Silver City, July 30-Aug. 3. Explore a wide selection of clay-themed workshops, demonstrations, lectures, films and shopping opportunities. CLAY also offers tours of a handmade tile factory and the Gila Cliff Dwellings, live music, juried exhibitions and more in its comprehensive and imaginative celebration of clay. clayfestival.com

CLAUDE W. SMITH III



Gourmet Cooking in Santa Fe

Whether it's chiles rellenos or calabacitas, when you want to learn the art of Southwestern cooking, it's best to go to the source. In Santa Fe, a city well-known for its artistic flair and delectable cuisine, you'll find a wealth of culinary opportunities, from demonstrations and hands-on classes to multiple-day culinary boot camps and restaurant walking tours.

The Santa Fe School of Cooking, an internationally acclaimed recreational culinary school, specializes in foods and ingredients of the Southwest. The Santa Fe Culinary Academy, a professional program, also offers classes for recreational cooks that feature a wide variety of topics and cuisines. santafeculinaryacademy.com, santafeschoolofcooking.com





Landscape Photography in Taos

Taos is famous for its dramatic landscape and the artwork it inspires. Get behind the lens to take advantage of the area's legendary light and scenery at DeYoung Outdoor Photography's five-day workshop "Mountains, Canyons & Adobe: Landscapes of northern NM," held June 2-6.

As you learn techniques to improve your landscape photography from 20-year veteran professional photographer and instructor Michael DeYoung, you'll maximize time in the field at some of New Mexico's best outdoor locations, including the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. Individual instruction and photo tours are also available for those on a tighter schedule. deyoungoutdoorphotography.com



DEYOUNG PHOTOGRAPHY | LARRY HASTINGS



Flamenco Fun in Albuquerque

Though its roots are in Andalucía, Spain, flamenco has a passionate following in New Mexico's desert climate. The annual Festival de Flamenco in Albuquerque, held June 9-14 and hosted by the National Institute of Flamenco, is the largest flamenco festival in the United States. Featuring performances by some of the world's most talented artists, the event allows festivalgoers to experience and participate in the magic of this visually striking and emotionally charged dance form. Visitors can take part in workshops for all experience levels, including an accelerated workshop for beginners, and enjoy Spanish food and film. nationalinstituteofflamenco.org ✦

GHOSH RANCH | NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FLAMENCO

Workshops for All in Abiquiu

Ghost Ranch, located about 65 miles northwest of Santa Fe, was once the home of celebrated artist Georgia O'Keefe. In 1955, the ranch became a national education and retreat center, now offering more than 300 classes for all ages and interests. Try your hand at creative pursuits, such as memoir writing or jewelry-making. Dig deep into topics



like paleontology, bluegrass or religion. Options range from the classic to the eclectic.

Lodging and meals are included in workshop fees. Ranch guests also have access to amenities like hiking trails, on-site museums, massage and an astounding array of natural beauty. ghostranch.org