

## **FAQS about the New Mexico History Museum**

### **Q. Where is it?**

**A.** 113 Lincoln Avenue, just north of the Palace of the Governors on the Santa Fe Plaza. There is a Washington Avenue entrance for school groups and people attending auditorium events.

### **Q. What are the hours?**

**A.** 10 am to 5 pm every day during the summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day); open until 8 pm on Fridays. During winter hours (Labor Day to Memorial Day), the Museum is closed on Mondays.

### **Q. How much does it cost?**

**A.** One ticket will get you into the History Museum, the Palace of the Governors and the Palace Print Shop.

Admission costs:

- \$6 for NM residents; \$9 for others.
- A one-day pass to two museums costs NM residents \$12; \$15 for others.
- A four-day pass to the four Santa Fe state museums (NM History Museum, Museum of Art, Museum of International Folk Art, and Museum of Indian Arts and Culture) is \$18 for NM residents; \$20 for others.
- The museum is **free** to New Mexico residents on Sundays and to senior citizens on Wednesdays.
- School groups and children 16 and under are always **free** when accompanied by an adult.
- **Free** to everyone 5-8pm on Fridays.

### **Q. What about group tours?**

**A.** Groups of 10 or more people cost \$6 per person for a single visit, \$18 for a four-day pass. Contact David Rogers at (505) 476-5157 **at least two weeks in advance** to schedule a self-guided group tour; call **at least one month in advance** to schedule a guided group tour.

- Large groups may be asked to divide into multiple groups to ensure the best possible experience for all visitors. Guided tours can accommodate about 16-20 individuals, depending on the age of the group.
- The museum requires **1 adult chaperone for every 5 youth/students** for field trips. Chaperones will receive *free* admission with an *advance reservation*. If you do not make a reservation in advance, students 16 and under are free and all others, including adult chaperones, will need to pay admission.

### **Q. Do I need a guide?**

**A.** Self-guided tours are encouraged and offer the best opportunity for pacing your visit. If you have questions, look for staffers and volunteers wearing "Ask Me" buttons.

### **Q. Where can I park?**

**A.** On-street, metered parking is available throughout downtown Santa Fe for 50 cents an hour, with a two-hour limit. City lots cost 90 cents an hour, though rates may vary for weekdays, weekends and special events. The lots include:

- Sandoval Municipal Parking Garage (entrance on San Francisco Street)
- Water Street Parking Lot (entrance on Water Street)

- St. Francis Cathedral Parking Lot (entrance on Cathedral Place)
- Santa Fe Convention Center (enter on Federal Street)

Free parking is often available, especially on weekends, at the PERA Building at Paseo de Peralta and Santa Fe Trail. You'll have to walk, but you'll see even more of one of the most historic towns in the nation.

The city of Santa Fe runs a free shuttle for Rail Runner passengers 6:40 am-6:15 pm weekdays and 7:50 am-4:30 pm Saturdays.

**Q. How long does it take to visit the museum?**

**A.** This depends largely on the interest and attention span of your group members. The New Mexico History Museum was designed to be a multi-visit museum and suggests choosing an area to focus on and plan to visit us again in the future. Each area with focus can take about an hour. You can also start your tour, take a break inside the Museum or outside of it, and return to see more.

**Q. I'm with the media. How do I get more information?**

**A.** We keep a public media site online and available to anyone with access to a computer. Here's the link: <http://media.museumofnewmexico.org/>. Click on "Museum Info" and choose "New Mexico History Museum." Once you're there, you can find our news releases as well as downloadable images, free for publicity purposes only. Our marketing manager is Kate Nelson. Contact her at (505) 476-1141 or [kate.nelson@state.nm.us](mailto:kate.nelson@state.nm.us).

**Q. Why a new museum?**

**A.** It isn't a new museum. It's an expansion – a really large one -- of the Palace of the Governors, which has, since 1909, been serving as the state's history museum. With just 20,000 square feet, the Palace can hold only a few exhibits. Many artifacts can't go into it at all because installing the climate controls they require might damage the building's historic standing.

The state has spent decades amassing artifacts, maps, documents and photographs that deserve to be seen by more than scholars. By deepening our understanding of who we are and where we came from, every historian hopes we will make wiser decisions about our society, and its culture and politics.

Volunteers began working on the new museum about 20 years ago. Obtaining land and funding took years, but we officially broke ground in 2006. Prior to that, a two-year archaeological survey took stock of what had happened on the land in the centuries before. A coming exhibition at the Palace will detail that work.

**Q. How big is it?**

**A.** The Museum is 96,000 square feet, 30,000 of which are for exhibits. The rest includes on-site storage, a 210-seat auditorium, conservation lab, learning center, administrative office, museum shop and snackbar.

**Q. What happens to the Palace of the Governors?**

**A.** Freed of the demands to be all things historical, the Palace, a 400-year-old building, can now focus on telling its own story, as the History Museum's largest artifact, as well as the history of early contact between Native Americans and Europeans. The Segesser Hides, replica chapel and *Tesoros de Devocion* will remain its premier exhibits. Others will circulate within them.

**Q. Give me a taste of some of the neat features.**

**A.** A variety of interactive exhibits invite visitors to immerse themselves in various

aspects of New Mexico's story. A favorite is the "talking hands" exhibit. At the entrance to the Museum's core exhibit, *Telling New Mexico: Stories from Then and Now*, a wall mimics a cliff featuring petroglyphs of many hands. Three of them are cast in metal and, when you place your hand over those ones, you trigger a recording of an Apache, Navajo or Pueblo story. Other cool features include:

- Art pieces by Paula Castillo and Kumi Yamashita. Castillo pieces's include *Rio Grande Colcha* and *Dos Hermanas, Dos Arboles*, metal sculptures on the Lincoln Avenue exterior. Yamashita, who works with resin and shadow, has two interior works, one of which features 40 blocks, each one bearing a facial profile of real New Mexicans. The works were funded by the 1 Percent for the Arts program that accompanies public construction projects.
- A sterling dinner-service set crafted by Tiffany and used aboard the USS New. Each piece is modeled on New Mexico themes, including a Taos Pueblo humidior with vigas that serve as lighters, and plates depicting various pueblos.
- 300 arrows crafted by volunteers from pueblos and Friends of Archaeology as 17<sup>th</sup>-century replicas. They dangle from the ceiling in *Telling New Mexico*.
- A stylized version of the office at 109 E. Palace, where scientists learned of their new duties in Los Alamos, includes telephones that deliver those orders.
- Aural histories of current New Mexicans collected by author Jack Loeffler.
- A second-story terrace overlooking the Palace Courtyard and Plaza rooftops.
- The Spiegelberg Shop, named for one of Santa Fe's early merchants. It's the first Museum of New Mexico Foundation Shop solely dedicated to New Mexico Creates ([www.newmexicocreates.org](http://www.newmexicocreates.org)) and its New Mexico artists and writers.
- Films by KNME-TV on New Mexico history and culture that are shown in mini-theaters throughout the Museum, including one about life on the Santa Fe Trail that's projected onto the canvas of a covered wagon, and another that features five moments that changed New Mexico socially and culturally – the Trinity test; the land-grant movement; hippies; Route 66; and the population boom.