



Taos Hispanic History Tour

Sample Guided Itinerary

Santa Fe Convention and Visitors Bureau

Contact: Tourism Director
575-751-2001

(Late Spring through Early Fall Program)

Day 1

- **AM: The Spanish in Northern New Mexico – 1540 to present** – presentation by Larry Torres, 575-737-6233, lartor@unm.edu or 575-776-1295
- **La Hacienda de los Martinez – guided tour**
La Hacienda de los Martinez is one of the few northern New Mexico style, late Spanish Colonial period "Great Houses" remaining in the American Southwest. Built in 1804 by Severino Martin (later changed to Martinez), this fortress-like building with massive adobe walls became an important trade center for the northern boundary of the Spanish Empire. The Hacienda was the final terminus for the Camino Real (the royal road) which connected northern New Mexico to Mexico City. The Hacienda also was the headquarters for an extensive ranching and farming operation. After Mexican Independence from Spain in 1821, Severino Martinez and his family became active in trading with the Americans who were bringing badly needed trade goods in by the Santa Fe Trail. Today the Hacienda's twenty-one rooms surrounding two courtyards provide the visitor with a rare glimpse of the rugged frontier life and times of the early 1800s. Additionally, regularly scheduled demonstrations present the traditional arts and crafts of the region. Contact: 575-758-0505 or www.taohistoricmuseums.org for bookings or special programs
- **Option 1 at Hacienda: Traditional Spanish Cooking Class** – Chef Benji Apodaca (575) 779-1996 Options: Menudo, Posole, Carne Adovada, tortilla making
- **Option 2 at Hacienda: History of the Matachines Dance**, characters and dance by student class from Taos Country Day School. Contact: 575-751-7750.
- **Lunch Option if no cooking class – Antonio's (Historic Santistevan House)**
As the oldest residence in this historic plaza, it was already here when Don Jose de la Cruz Santistevan and his wife Dona Maria arrived from Spain in the early 1800's. Originally this property had a well in the center courtyard (see the fountain) and portions of the property were once a hotel. Later merchants included a fish market, attorney's office, and a clothing store. It has long been a popular restaurant location. Contact: 575-751-4800 for reservations and/or special requests.
- **PM: Religion as integral to Spanish life—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church – history and religious art tour**
The first church of this name was built in the area that is now the parking lot to the south of the current (third) church in the early 1800's, and its first pastor was Padre Martinez of *Death Comes For the Archbishop* fame. The current church contains many artifacts from the earlier churches including the famous Our Lady of Guadalupe portrait painted by Jose Santiago in



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1674 and given by Mexico as a gift to Padre Martinez. Contact: Fr. Clement Niggel, 575-758-9208.

Taos Morada (van access only) – history of the Penitentes

In 1798, the Taos Pueblo Cacique and Tribal Council of Taos Pueblo granted the land for this Morada (chapel) to the Los Hermanos (Holy Brotherhood) for use as a religious and spiritual center. The Chapel was completed in 1834 and overseen by Padre Antonio Martinez. The Brotherhood continued their self-sacrificial penitential religious practices, (which date to rites that originated in Spain) until the middle of the 1900's. After several changes in ownership over the past 35 years the Morada has been re-acquired by Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and is once again in use during certain times of the year. Contact: David Fernandez, 575-758-7608.

San Francisco de Asis Church – history, tour of art and Mystery Painting

Built in 1776, this iconic church in Ranchos de Taos is the most painted and photographed church in the world. It is surrounded by a plaza of adobe homes and shops that date to the same period, many lovingly restored. Contact: The Parish Office, 575-758-2754.

Retablo or Bulto Carving Lecture, Class (artist's studio or UNM Classroom, Lynn Garlick, 575-758-3033)

Option: Gabriel Abrams at Chimayo Trading del Norte

mini lecture/demonstration of "Chimayo Weaving" (sheep history, etc.); history of micaceous pottery (Taos Pueblo, but also Spanish). Call: 575-758-0504.

- **Dinner on own in Plaza area** (The Gorge, Byzantium, Doc Martin's, Café Renato, Graham's Grill, Antonio's etc.) Meet at bus by 8 pm or two departures if required.

Day 2

- **Breakfast at hotel** (El Monte Sagrado – 4 Diamond or Sagebrush Inn – 2 star) Luggage placed on motorcoach
- **AM: Taos Pueblo Guided Tour** (opens at 8 am)
Living in harmony with the land for a millennium, Taos Pueblo is the only living Native American community designated both a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and a National Historic Landmark. The multi-storied adobe buildings have been continuously inhabited for over 1000 years and the people welcome you to share their history and heritage in a personally guided tour of their sacred home. See and learn how their form of architecture and agriculture influenced all who have come to this valley since the 1500's. Contact; Ilona Spruce, tourism@taospueblo.com or call 575-758-1028.
- **AM: Plaza area walking tour of historic Hispanic sites**, including El Rincon Trading Post and the legend of La Dona Luz (noted madam); shopping. Guide: Roberta Meyers, 575-776-2562.
- **Lunch, Tour at Historic Ranchos Plaza at Plaza Grill**
- **PM: Depart for Santa Fe**



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