

TAOS in the MOVIES

Easy Rider >> Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid >> No Country for Old Men >> Wild Hogs >> Terminator Salvation >> TAOS the Movie >> The Missouri Breaks >> Valley of the Sun >> The Milagro Beanfield War >>



You should be here now...

- From the dramatic light and varied scenery, the high desert to canyon lands to its alpine reaches and spectacular roadways, Taos has long been a favorite of film, TV and documentary makers (starting with the first production on the books, 1942's *Valley of the Sun*, starring Lucille Ball)—all within a short driving distance.
- **Valley Elevation:** 7,000 to 8,000 ft.
- **Weather:** Mild 4 seasons climate; arid high desert with brief summer monsoonal rains, mountain snows in winter and clear crisp air with painterly skies year-round

RIO GRANDE GORGE BRIDGE
BY GERAINT SMITH



A Self-Guided Day Tour of the Taos Area

Regardless of your arrival route into Taos, you are sure to be saying to yourself "I've seen this before". You have the movies to thank for that déjà vu moment, because all routes leading to Taos from every direction have been featured at one time or another in many of your favorite films. Its part of what makes Taos seem so familiar to so many people and we like that!

Fast Facts

- Over 40 feature-length and made-for-TV movies and documentaries have been filmed in and around Taos, as well as numerous TV commercials and fashion magazine spreads.
- While the most iconic of the popular feature films shot here was 1969's *Easy Rider*, starring Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda and Jack Nicholson, did you know the other big hit of that year – *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* with Paul Newman and Robert Redford was also shot primarily in Taos and nearby Chama?
- Our most famous 'star' is the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, the 5th highest bridge in the United States, spanning the Rio Grande River some 650' below. In recent years it has proven to be a regular feature in biker classics beginning with *Easy Rider* and 2006's *Wild Hogs*; *Terminator Salvation's* spectacular destruction scene (2009); the Academy Award-winning 2007's *No Country for Old Men*; in 2011's spring release of the sci-fi comedy *Paul* as he and his friends journey in search of UFO 'hot spots'; and the December 2011 Sean Penn film release *This Must Be The Place*.
- With an equal number of starring roles is Taos Pueblo, having been featured in 2008's film festival favorite *TAOS, The Movie*; the 2001 Disney documentary *Land of Enchantment*; the 1992 TV documentary by Pueblo native Diane Reyna *Surviving Columbus, The Story of the Pueblo People*; 1989's TV documentary *Artists of New Mexico*; and of course *Easy Rider* along with a cameo in the 1956 Dean Martin/Jerry Lewis comedy *Hollywood or Bust*.
- Our most famous resident who never was: Dennis Weaver starring in *McCloud* as Marshal Sam McCloud, a law officer from Taos, New Mexico on semi-permanent "special assignment" with the New York City Police Department in 1970.
- Taos' most famous resident celebrity is Julia Roberts, who was filmed at her home in a documentary segment in 2005's *Tell Them Who You Are* and several episodes of *Oprah*.

TAOS in the MOVIES

Self-Guided Day Tour >> Movie Sets and Scenes

Capture it All...

Half or full day Photo Tour with Geraint Smith
www.geraintsmith.com/phototours
or email him at
phototours@geraintsmith.com.



TAOS PUEBLO BY GERAINT SMITH

Movie Sets and Scenes in and around Taos...

Taos Pueblo www.taospueblo.com 575.758.1028

Continuously occupied for over 1,000 years and the only UNESCO Living World Heritage Site in the US, Taos Pueblo has also been prominently featured in State promotions for New Mexico. And, during the filming of *Valley of the Sun*, Lucille Ball's husband Desi Arnaz was said to have whiled away the days teaching the Pueblo children how to play congas. (1 hour)

Rio Grande Gorge Bridge

It's a riveting backdrop that also appeared in 1988's *Twins* and Oliver Stone's 1994 action/drama *Natural Born Killers*. Located 13 miles north and west of Taos on NM 64, it spans an inaccessible section of the gorge some 650' above the river. (30 minutes)

Mabel Dodge Luhan House www.mabeldodgeluhan.com 240 Morada Lane, 800.846.2235

It is only fitting that the home built by the doyenne of Taos' artistic movement would later be owned by actor/director Dennis Hopper. After directing *Easy Rider*, the movie that made him a star, Hopper was so taken with the Taos scenery and lifestyle that he spent another ten years living and working at this iconic local landmark after the film was completed. That era – and Hopper – brought a whole new set of stars to Taos, including Timothy Leary, Jack Nicholson, Dean Stockwell, Harry Dean Stanton and Janis Joplin, who made the Taos scene very hip. In 1988 the house also served as the backdrop in the hit film *Twins*, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny de Vito. (Call ahead and plan on one hour for a tour)



SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS
BY GERAINT SMITH

San Francisco de Asis Church 575.758.2754 (call for hours)

Located in Ranchos de Taos on NM 68, ¼ mile south of NM 518. A re-enactment of the "Burning of Zozobra" – a Santa Fe tradition – was moved here by director Dennis Hopper for a more dramatic treatment in the 1990 film *Backtrack/CatchFire*. This location was also made famous through the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe and the photography of Ansel Adams. Tours of the Church and the Mystery painting contained in a separate building are also available. Hopper, who died in 2010, was laid to rest from this beloved landmark. (30 minutes)

Taos Ale House www.taosalehouse.com 401 Paseo del Pueblo Norte, 575.758.5522

Site of the gallery scene (formerly the Ek-lec-tic Gallery) in 2002's *Off the Map*, featuring director Campbell Scott and starring Joan Allen, Sam Elliot and Amy Brenneman. Open from 4-10 pm during the week and 12-10 pm on weekends.

Taos Ski Valley www.skitaos.org 575.776.2291

Our neighbor to the northeast is blessed with rugged mountain scenery and more than a couple dramatic canyons that proved highly appealing to the producers and director of 1990's *Backtrack/CatchFire*; 2007's *Seraphim Falls*, starring Liam Neeson and Pierce Brosnan; 2008's *TAOS, the Movie*; and 2011's *Longmire*, a TV pilot starring Lou Diamond Phillips. A scenic drive and a summer ski lift ride give dramatic indications of why Taos Ski Valley is a movie location favorite. (2 hours)

In and around Taos

In addition to playing a starring or supporting role in the aforementioned films, the 2005 acclaimed TBS made-for-TV mini-series *Into the West*; the 2005 remake of *The Longest Yard* and 2003's *The Missing* with Tommy Lee Jones also had significant segments filmed here.



MOVIE POSTERS:

www.nmfilm.com/filming/filmography/



HOPPER AT THE MABEL DODGE LUHAN HOUSE

TAOS in the MOVIES

Self-Guided Day Tour >> If You Decide to Stay...



HISTORIC TAOS INN

Where Celebrities Gather...

The Sagebrush Cantina at the Sagebrush Inn www.sagebrushinn.com 575.758.2254

A favorite since the 1940's with the film crowd. There's always a great Texas two-step happening and plenty of conviviality at their authentic Western Long Bar.

The Alley Cantina www.alleycantina.com 575.758.2121

The Alley Cantina's offbeat charm and great music is usually always a crew favorite when the movies come to town. Located behind the Plaza.

Taos Inn's Adobe Bar and Doc Martin's Restaurant www.taosinn.com 125 Paseo del Pueblo Norte

Since 1936, The Historic Taos Inn has welcomed famous folks like Greta Garbo, D. H. Lawrence, and Pawnee Bill – even former president Jimmy Carter. Celebrities like Robert Redford and Jessica Lange have been spotted sipping margaritas in the lobby and recently Juliana Moore, Jessica Alba, Shirley McClain and Jane Fonda have been seen dining at Doc Martin's.

El Monte Sagrado's Anaconda Bar www.elmontesagrado.com 317 Kit Carson Road

The new place to see and be seen; with a terrific mixology menu and great entertainment, the scene is lively here on any given night, while the hotel caters to the privacy needs of its celebrity clientele.



Make it a Weekend...



CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILWAY

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railway, departing out of Antonito, CO and Chama, NM www.cumbrestoltec.com or call 1-888-CUMBRES. This little narrow gauge remnant of New Mexico's Western past boasts one of the most filmed stretches of southwest back country. Either route gives breathtaking – and different – views that simply delight filmmakers. First there are the authentically restored trains themselves that have frequently served as movie sets. And then the open valleys and trestles, followed by the jaw-dropping canyon vistas and clear mountain air. No wonder 1969's *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, directed by George Roy Hill;

1975's *Bite the Bullet* starring Gene Hackman, Candice Bergen and James Coburn; and 1976's *The Missouri Breaks*, starring Marlon Brando and Jack Nicholson found these unspoiled vistas a thoroughly authentic substitute for a West that has long since disappeared into the pages of history. (full day)

Visit **Truchas**, 30 miles south of the Taos Plaza on Hwy 76, along the High Road to Taos. 1988's *The Milagro Beanfield War*, directed by Robert Redford, is a funny, yet tender portrayal of small town northern New Mexican culture. Much of the movie was filmed in Truchas, along the scenic High Road to Taos. Northern New Mexico is a timeless place and much has remained the same about the town more than 25 years after the film. The novel from which the movie was derived was written by John Nichols, who's socially and environmentally conscious works of fiction and non-fiction have made him an icon on the Taos literary scene. (three hours)

Drive the Enchanted Circle. Beginning in Taos, head north on NM 68/NM 522 to Arroyo Seco (NM150), Arroyo Hondo, San Cristobal, Questa (NM 38), Red River and Eagle Nest, where *This Must Be the Place*, with Sean Penn, Harry Dean Stanton and Frances McDormand picked up scenes from most of these communities as did *TAOS, The Movie*; *No Country for Old Men* in Arroyo Hondo; *Off the Map* (the main location was the Donner Ranch in San Cristobal which is not open to the public); and 2003's *The Rovers*, which aside from the Taos scenes was filmed primarily in Arroyo Seco and Questa. These communities and their environs retain the flavor of an earlier time, making them a natural setting for period work. Return to Taos on NM 64. (half-day to three-quarter day, depending on stops).

So you want to stay a while...

Celebrities and crews have stayed throughout the community when the cameras roll into town. Check www.taos.org/hotel-search for options.

Privacy is always respected, but a friendly bed and breakfast owner www.taos-bandb-inns.com may be persuaded to discuss a long-ago celebrity client or two if you express an interest.



MOVIE POSTERS:

www.nmfilm.com/filming/filmography/

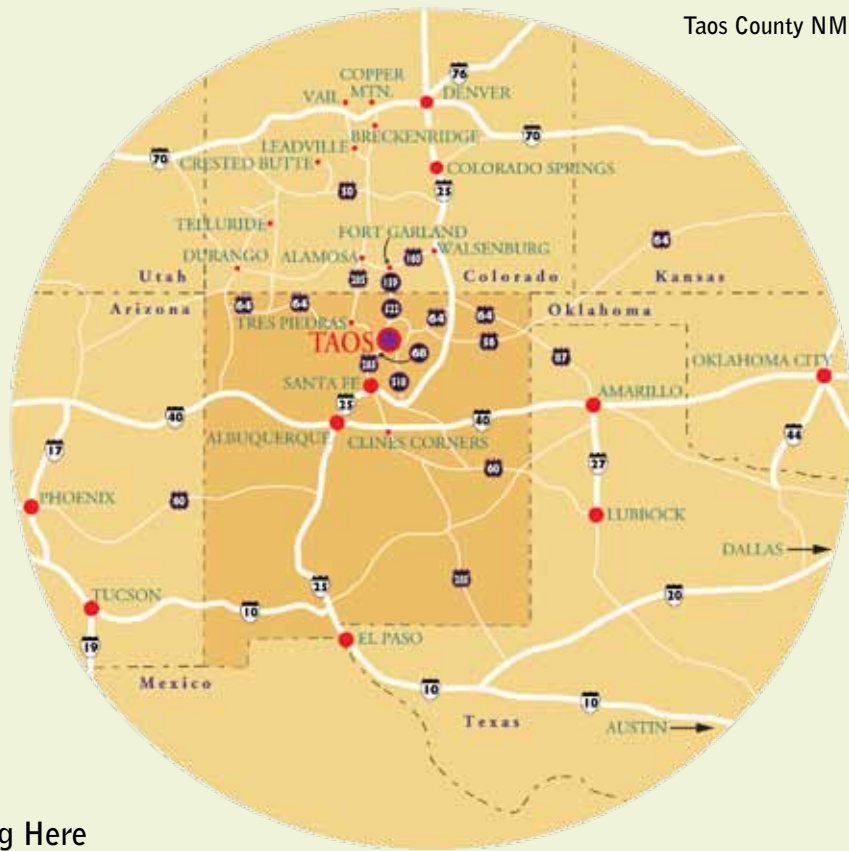
For your Viewing Pleasure...

Many of these films can be viewed through Netflix, or purchased/downloaded from Amazon.com

Visit www.TAOS.org with your Smartphone and automatically access our mobile website.

Getting to Taos.

Distance to Taos	miles	hours
Albuquerque	135	2:30
Amarillo	302	5:00
Dallas	682	1:00
Denver	300	4:30
Durango	208	3:30
El Paso	400	6:30
Houston	911	15:00
Los Angeles	950	15:00
Lubbock	350	6:30
Oklahoma City	558	8:15
Phoenix	568	8:30
Santa Fe	72	1:30
Tulsa	720	11:00
Vail/Breckenridge	270	4:00



fast facts

POPULATION

Town: 6,532
County: 29,979

ELEVATION

Town: 6,967 feet
Taos Ski Valley base: 9,207 feet
Wheeler Peak: 13,161 feet

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Town: January 40° / 10°
July 87° / 50°
Taos Ski Valley: January 34° / 5°
July 78° / 41°

ANNUAL SUNSHINE

300 days

ANNUAL SNOWFALL

Town: 35 inches
Taos Ski Valley: 305 inches

COUNTY WILDERNESS AREA

1.4 million acres

LIFE ZONES

Upper Sonoran, Transition,
Mixed Coniferous, Alpine,
Sub-Alpine

800.816.1516

TAOS.org

Getting Here

FROM ALBUQUERQUE

Driving Directions: Take I-25 north toward Santa Fe. Just south of Santa Fe, take NM 599 (Relief Route) until it merges with U.S. 84 / 285 North. Continue north on U.S. 84 to Española. Take NM 68 North to Taos. 2½ hours driving time (135 miles).

Albuquerque Sunport (ABQ) is the nearest international airport to Taos, 135 miles to the south. All major car rentals are available.

Shuttle services between Albuquerque and Taos:

Dream Limousine De Taos 751.3551
Faust's Transportation, Inc. 758.3410
Twin Hearts Express 751.1201

New Mexico Rail Runner, a light rail service between Albuquerque and Santa Fe, was launched in 2008. Onboard Wi-Fi and bike racks. Free shuttle service between Albuquerque Sunport and the Railrunner Sunport station is available Monday through Friday. Call or go online to find schedules and fares for your visit. 866.795.RAIL, nmrailrunner.com

FROM SANTA FE

Driving Directions: Take US 84 / 285 North to Española. Take NM 68 North to Taos. 1½ hours driving time (72 miles).

Santa Fe Municipal Airport (SAF) offers limited commercial flights from Dallas and Los Angeles through American Eagle.

The Taos Express is a nonstop weekend bus service between Santa Fe and Taos, sponsored by the Town

of Taos. \$10 roundtrip. Reservations are required via phone or www.TaosExpress.com. Connects with Santa Fe Airport and New Mexico Rail Runner. ADA compliant. Bike, ski, and snowboard racks. To confirm service times for your visit, call 751.4459 or visit www.TaosExpress.com. Free Taos Chile Line connections.

North Central New Mexico Regional Transit is a weekday commuter bus service between Santa Fe, Española, Taos, and Questa that runs Monday through Friday. 866.206.0754, www.ncrtd.org

FROM DENVER

Driving Directions: Take I-25 south to Walsenburg; go west on U.S. 160 to Fort Garland; go south on CO 159 / NM 522 to Taos. Check road conditions in the winter. 4½ hours driving time (300 miles).

Denver International Airport (DIA) is 300 miles north of Taos.

Colorado Springs Airport (COS) is 210 miles north of Taos. All major car rentals are available at both facilities.

IN TAOS

The Chile Line shuttle runs several times daily—to Taos Ski Valley in the winter and within the Town of Taos year-round. 751.4459, taosgov.com. (Click on Transportation.)

Enterprise, car rental. 737.0514

Taos Regional Airport 5800-foot runway, 75-foot width, 7094-foot elevation, U-122.8, AWOS 132.975, RCO 122.25, FPO 128.8, 100LL, Jet-A hanger available. Taos Aviation Services (FBO) 737.9790, Airport Manager 758.4995



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