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Frommer's Santa Fe, Taos And Albuquerque (Frommer's Complete Guides)



Synopsis

Our author, a longtime resident of Northern New Mexico, hits all the highlights in Santa Fe, Taos, and Albuquerque, from the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe to Albuquerque's International Balloon Fiesta to the High Road to Taos. She's checked out all the cities' best hotels and restaurants in person, and offers authoritative, candid reviews that will help you find the choices that suit your tastes and budget. Included is detailed coverage of the arts, history, and culture of the area as well as ideas for active outdoor vacations. You'll also get in-depth information about the spa scene and nearby pueblos and National Historic Parks; detailed walking tours; accurate neighborhood maps; advice on planning a successful family vacation; and side trips to Los Alamos, Chama, and the Enchanted Circle.

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Customer Reviews

Hit the slopes at Taos Ski Valley, the preeminent ski resort in the southern Rocky Mountains. See chapter 15. Detailed maps throughout Exact prices, directions, opening hours, and other practical information Candid reviews of hotels and restaurants, plus sights, shopping, and nightlife Itineraries, walking tours, and trip-planning ideas Insider tips from local expert authors

Lesley S. King grew up on a ranch in northern New Mexico, not far from where she currently lives. She's a freelance writer and photographer and a columnist for New Mexico magazine. Formerly managing editor for The Santa Fean, she has written for the New York Times, United Airlines™s

Hemispheres magazine, and Audubon, among other publications. She is the author of Frommer's™s New Mexico, Frommer's™s Great Outdoor Guide to Arizona & New Mexico, and New Mexico For Dummies. She's also the coauthor of Frommer's™s American Southwest. Her newest book, released in 2007, is King of the Road.

I have few, if any, problems with the writing in this guidebook. Lesley King does a fine job giving information about restaurants, hotels, and sights. My problem is with the layout. As usual, Frommer's promises "detailed maps throughout," but in this regard their information was sorely lacking. Let's look at Albuquerque. Perhaps not the best walking city, for sure, but why no map of Old Town? Or downtown? Wouldn't that be more useful than the ridiculously scaled-out (1 centimeter = 1.5 miles) maps of food/accommodations we're given? These maps are so zoomed out as to be practically useless, especially once one arrives in the city. After all, how much good is a map of the hotels going to do when you're on the ground? Santa Fe is a little better, particularly in the walking tour area, but there isn't one at all for Los Alamos. Which wouldn't be a problem since it's a small town, except they give the address of places in the city as "15th street and Central Ave," which would be a lot more useful with a map to contextualize it. And that brings me to my next point -- why don't they always give an address? In this day of GPS devices, it makes a lot of sense to do so. And yet for some destinations (most, I will grant) they do, but for others they do not. I spent 2.5 days in New Mexico and had a blast, but this guidebook gave me a lot of frustration. Between its glaring deficiencies in maps and curious omission of some addresses, it made getting around much more of a chore than it needed to be. So while I have not seen any competitors' guidebooks, I cannot fully endorse this one.

The Product This guide was definitely helpful and easy to use. It really covered my needs, though I was on a very quick 6-day mini-tour of Taos, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. I felt the author had a stronger voice than other guides I've read. This gave it a more personal feel at times but also made me wonder what was left out or emphasized due to her (I'm pretty sure it was a woman) personal tastes. I didn't dislike her tastes for the most part, it's just that I usually want a slightly more objective/comprehensive voice so that I can select things according to my tastes. I left the book with my friend in Albuquerque as I actually thought she could get great use out of it. I have Amazon Prime and it's amazing. Also, Amazon is just a great retailer (not just against other online retailers, but against both online and traditional bricks-and-mortar stores as well). They make it easy to research as you buy, often suggesting other products that may be a better fit for your needs. In this case, I usually would have

gone with my default guide of Lonely Planet. I tried this Frommer's guide because it was more recent. Sometimes things change quickly and given the recession, I wanted to be sure my expectations were in line with reality to the extent possible. So thanks .

For the most part this was a handy guide and I believe it would have been more useful had I had ordered it earlier so I could have done more research. Although Santa Fe is a Mecca for many tourists there aren't many guidebooks, at least in my local bookstore, so I was very happy to find this. This guide doesn't list as many of the places to stay that are close to the plaza, however, as there actually are. you may want to look online for a good deal and do some research as to the proximity of what you are wanting to see. We stayed in a B&B that was great, and very near the plaza but not listed in this guide. The best thing was the restaurants that were listed and their addresses as well as the museums. This way we could put them into our smartphones and go directly there without getting lost.

I usually buy about 5 books to help me plan a vacation. This time, I just bought this Frommer's guide and it was ALL That I needed for my trip. I highly recommend this guide to Santa Fe, Taos, and Santa Fe.

This is going to help me find interesting places on my 1 week respite in July. I live in Colorado so this will be very useful.

The book is very well-written. It provides a great overview of the area and the history. I only visited Santa Fe, so I can't comment on the info about the other two cities. The info for Santa Fe hotels and restaurants was very detailed and accurate. I highly recommend Frommer's travel guides in general.

I used this book for almost everything we did in Santa Fe and Taos. It was complete with excellent detail and a wide range of information. I liked it much better than the Foder's Guide, which I barely used.

Great guide while visiting NM last year. Kept us from digging around trying to find things and places while visiting Santa Fe. Enjoyable trip.

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