

Loretto Chapel Miraculous Staircase (as seen on Unsolved Mysteries)  
207 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, New Mexico



Our Story begins in 1850 when the Vicariate of New Mexico was established under the first Bishop of the Territory, Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy. Seeing a need to educate the girls of the Territory, Bishop Lamy sent a plea to Catholic teaching orders to open a school for girls. The Sisters of Loretto responded and sent six sisters to open the Loretto Academy. Having been recently under Mexican rule, the Territory of New Mexico was full of Spanish-speaking citizens, so the six had to learn the Spanish language and, after an arduous trip during which the Mother Superior died, finally arrived in Santa Fe and opened their school in 1853.

By 1873, the Sisters were able to start the construction of a Chapel. Using the same French architect and builders as Saint Francis Cathedral Basilica, the Chapel of Our Lady of Light (as it was then known) was patterned after Archbishop Lamy's favorite Sainte Chapelle in Paris. With its gothic-style architecture, the Chapel certainly would have stood out among the small adobe homes surrounding it at the time.

Unfortunately, the architect died before access to the choir loft was built. Given the height of the loft and the small size of the Chapel, a staircase would have taken up too much floor space, thereby reducing the seating capacity to an unacceptably small level. Legend states that seeking guidance and help, the Sisters of Loretto prayed a nine day novena to St. Joseph, Patron Saint of Carpenters. A novena is a special prayer said for nine consecutive days. On the final day of the novena, a carpenter appeared with only a hammer and carpenter's square. He built what is now known as the Miraculous Staircase with simple tools and wooden pegs. The rare wood is not native to the American Southwest. When the Staircase was complete, it is said that the carpenter disappeared without receiving thanks or payment. The Sisters tried all local lumber stores but could not find accounts open for supplies for their stairs. Some believe the carpenter was St. Joseph himself while others believe that it was someone sent by St. Joseph. What is known is that the Sisters of Loretto prayed, and their prayers were answered.

The Santa Fe Plaza  
100 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, New Mexico



Listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, the Plaza is the heart and soul of the city. The gathering spot for residents and tourists alike is surrounded by city landmarks, shops and restaurants.

Santa Fe continues to give shoppers access to Native American artwork and unique handmade items of delight in small boutiques, trading posts and large open air markets.

For more than a half century, Native American artists have been selling beadwork, jewelry, leatherwork, weavings, carvings, drums, and pottery from under the portal on the north end of the Plaza. With more than 850 authorized vendors, artists travel to the portal from 47 communities throughout New Mexico and sit through every kind of weather imaginable to sell their beautiful items.

Uncover treasures at Santa Fe's independent boutiques and annual seasonal art markets.



The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum  
217 Johnson Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

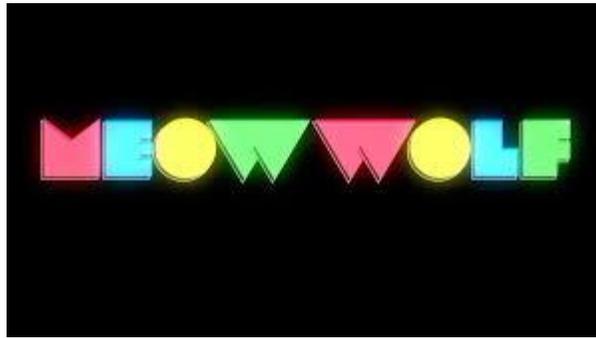


The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, opened to the public in July 1997, eleven years after the death of our namesake artist. A visit to the O'Keeffe Museum offers insight not only into the artist's paintings, but also her creative process and the light and landscape that inspired her. In addition to the main Museum campus in Santa Fe, the O'Keeffe Museum maintains O'Keeffe's two homes and studios in northern New Mexico, a research center and library, and a variety of collections relating to O'Keeffe and modern art.

One of the most significant artists of the 20th century, Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) was devoted to creating imagery that expressed what she called "the wideness and wonder of the world as I live in it." O'Keeffe's images—instantly recognizable as her own—include abstractions, large-scale depictions of flowers, leaves, rocks, shells, bones and other natural forms, New York cityscapes and paintings of the unusual shapes and colors of architectural and landscape forms of northern New Mexico.

The Museum's collections of over 3,000 works comprises 140 O'Keeffe oil paintings, nearly 700 drawings, and hundreds of additional works dating from 1901 to 1984, the year failing eyesight forced O'Keeffe into retirement. Throughout the year, visitors can see a changing selection of these works. In addition, the Museum presents exhibitions that are either devoted entirely to O'Keeffe's work or combine examples of her art with works by her American modernist contemporaries.





Meow Wolf is a Santa Fe, New Mexico based arts and entertainment group that established in 2008 as an art collective.

The company is composed of nearly 200 artists across all disciplines including architecture, sculpture, painting, photography and video production, virtual and augmented reality, music and audio engineering, narrative writing, costuming and performance, and more.

Meow Wolf creates immersive, interactive experiences to transport audiences of all ages into fantastic realms of story and exploration. The group's first permanent installation, launched in March 2016 with support from Games of Thrones creator and Santa Fe resident George R. R. Martin, showcase the THEA Award-winning House of Eternal Return, where guests discover a multidimensional mystery house with secret passages, portals to magical worlds, climbing apparatus, and surreal, maximalist & mesmerizing art exhibits.



A secret lurks beyond this refrigerator door in the mysterious Victorian style house recreated inside Meow Wolf. Visitors are encouraged to explore: to touch whatever they want, to rifle through papers, look in the fridge, find the combination to the safe and see what's inside. The entire exhibition is at your fingertips. There are no time limits, no queues, and no set order in which you must see the rooms. Once inside, you're free to play. Everyone does.



## Santa Fe Eats



### **Tia Sophia's (New Mexican Food)**

210 West San Francisco St. Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 983-9880

### **Santa Fe Bite (Famous Green Chili Cheeseburgers)**

311 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 982-0544

### **The Pink Adobe (New Mexican Food in a 350 year-old adobe house)**

406 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 983-7712

### **Rio Chama (Steakhouse)**

414 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 955-0765

### **Maria's New Mexican Kitchen (over 100 varieties of margaritas)**

555 Cordova Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505  
(505) 983-7929

### **El Farol Restaurant (compact bar & tapas featuring live musicians)**

808 Canyon Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 983-9912

### **The Burger Stand at Burro Alley (a must stop while walking through the plaza)**

207 W. San Francisco St. Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 989-3360

### **Famous Plaza Café (retro spot for classic diner fare)**

54 Lincoln Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 982-1664

### **Del Charro (rustic western-themed, good food with good prices)**

101 W. Alameda St. Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 954-0320