



AMERICAN  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY

# SANTA FE's Cultural and Garden Wonders

*with AHS Hosts  
Christine and Tim Conlon*

August 18–24, 2025





Abiquiú, New Mexico

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to invite you to join the American Horticultural Society for a captivating exploration of the high-desert beauty of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and its surroundings in August 2025 when summer gardens are filled with vibrant hues.

Situated in the Sangre de Cristo foothills, Santa Fe provides unique natural landscapes and pueblo-style architecture which serves as an inspiration to the vibrant creativity of the large multicultural artist community of the area. We have many wonderful visits planned for you in “the City Different.”

Our custom-designed itinerary features an array of exceptional gardens which serve as oases of tranquil beauty behind the adobe walls in the high-desert topography. In Santa Fe, explore the cultural treasures of iconic Museum Hill and enjoy a special backstage tour of the Santa Fe Opera, an architectural marvel that blends innovative design with a deep respect for the desert landscape. With the opera’s performance season underway during the program, travelers have the opportunity to attend a performance independently and fully immerse themselves in the experience of this remarkable space.

A day trip is planned to Taos to explore the Taos Pueblo, a multistory adobe complex inhabited by Native Americans for centuries and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Another day excursion will take us to Los Alamos where Dr. Larry Deaven, an AHS Board Member, will speak to the group about the natural beauty and historical significance of the Los Alamos Nature Center, where he created an exquisite penstemon garden.

The iconic artist Georgia O’Keeffe, known as the “Mother of Modernism,” will be our focus on another day, with a docent-led tour of the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum of Art and a docent-led visit to her home, garden, and studio at Abiquiú. Exploring O’Keeffe’s garden will deepen our understanding of the inspirational role the landscape played for the Modernist painter.

I’m thrilled to share that AHS Board member Tim Conlon and his wife, Christine, will be your AHS Hosts on this program. Tim and Christine have hosted many AHS programs worldwide. They lived for several years in Santa Fe and look forward to sharing their love of the region with you.

Throughout the journey, enjoy several delectable meals at hand-selected restaurants known for their unique Southwestern influences and cuisine.

We hope you will join us for this fascinating journey to explore the magical Southwest. Space is limited and our travel programs often sell out, so we recommend making your reservation early.

Most sincerely,

Suzanne Laporte  
President & CEO

## AHS Hosts Christine and Tim Conlon



AHS Board member Tim Conlon and his wife, Christine, look forward to being your AHS Hosts on this special program. They lived in Santa Fe for several years and return often, always captivated by the unique charm of the city and its surrounding landscapes. They describe the region as truly one-of-a-kind—the vibrant colors, the distinctive light, and the stunning shades of blue that fill the sky. It’s the same light that has drawn and inspired generations of artists. They also have a deep appreciation for the diverse desert plants that thrive in the area, with a particular fondness for the chimisa plant. Christine and Tim are excited to explore these natural wonders and the rich cultural heritage of Santa Fe and its environs with AHS travelers, sharing their knowledge and love of this extraordinary place.

# Itinerary

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

## Welcome to Santa Fe

Arrive independently at central Santa Fe from either the Albuquerque (ABQ) or Santa Fe (SAF) airports. After checking into the historic La Fonda on the Plaza, join fellow AHS travelers for a guided walking tour of Santa Fe's historic district. Discover its characteristic Pueblo-style architecture and learn about the fascinating sites surrounding the plaza including the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and the Palace of the Governors. Also see the New Mexico State Capitol Building (a.k.a. the Roundhouse) designed to resemble the Zia Sun Symbol when viewed from above, representing the sun's rays, the four directions, the four seasons, and the four phases of life. Enjoy the blooming planted garden flowers while strolling around town. Enjoy dinner together this evening at one of Santa Fe's top restaurants and get to know fellow AHS members.

*(Included meals: Dinner)*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

## Museum Hill Treasures

Following breakfast at La Fonda, today's excursions begin with an early visit to the Santa Fe Opera for a special Backstage Tour of the pre-eminent summer opera festival. Here we will learn of the Santa Fe Opera's unique architecture and history while discovering how an opera production comes together with this "behind-the-scenes" tour. Continue to Museum Hill where we will explore nature, art and culture along with beautiful views of Santa Fe. Nestled in a piñon-juniper woodland landscape, we arrive at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, a showcase of the high-altitude landscape of traditional and native plants all selected to demonstrate the variety and richness that can be achieved even in this region of scarce water. Enjoy guided tours of several unique gardens on site.

Following lunch at a specially selected restaurant, we will visit two world-renowned museums. At the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, explore the diverse worlds, sacred spaces and distinctive communities of the Pueblo, Navajo (Diné) and Apache cultures of the Southwest on a guided tour.

We finish our afternoon on Museum Hill at the International Folk Art Museum with a docent-led tour of this popular museum. The museum's holdings represent diverse cultures and constitute the largest collection of international folk art in the world. The museum recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. Return to La Fonda on the Plaza by 5:30pm.

OPTIONAL: The Santa Fe Opera performance of *La bohème* at 8pm.

*(Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch)*



Photos (from top): Santa Fe Pueblo architecture; Santa Fe Botanical Garden (Kathy Knorr); Apache Mountain Spirit Dancer by Dan Goseyun outside the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (Graeme Churchard)



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

## Plants and History at Los Alamos

Today we set out on an exploration of the history and natural beauty of Los Alamos. We depart early for a scenic 55-minute drive to Los Alamos. Enjoy a visit to the Bradbury Science Museum, the Los Alamos National Laboratory's official public museum, where we will learn about the Lab's history and continuing scientific work.

Following a relaxing lunch together in Los Alamos, we depart for the Los Alamos Nature Center where Dr. Larry Deaven, an AHS Board Member and a 25+ year volunteer, will discuss how he created the stunning penstemon garden and share insights into their unique characteristics and ecological significance.

On our return trip to Santa Fe, we will stop to enjoy the stunning views at White Rock Overlook. Return to La Fonda on the Plaza by 6pm.

Optional: The Santa Fe Opera performance of *Rigoletto* at 8pm.  
(Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

## The World of Georgia O'Keeffe

This morning set out for Abiquiú, the private home and studio of Georgia O'Keeffe. Enjoy a private tour of the 5,000 square-foot Spanish Colonial-era compound restored by O'Keeffe, who moved here permanently in 1949 and stayed until 1984. We will have time while at Abiquiú to explore the exhibitions at The O'Keeffe Welcome Center along with the Museum Store.

Enjoy a flavorful Southwestern lunch at the rustic Abiquiú Inn. Upon return to Santa Fe, we will end our day with a docent-led tour of The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, where O'Keeffe's world-renowned landscapes, abstract compositions, and large-scale depictions of natural forms are on display.

(Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

## Taos: The Pueblo and Beyond

After breakfast at the hotel, we will set out for Taos, approximately 70 miles north of Santa Fe, taking the legendary high road—a slower-paced but incredibly scenic route with beautiful mountain views that passes through towns that date back to the 1600s and 1700s. We will visit the Taos Pueblo, approximately 1,000 years old and considered to be one of the oldest communities to be continuously inhabited in the United States.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, we will have a guided tour of the Couse-Sharp Historical Site. Located in the Taos central historic district, it features the former homes and studios of E. I. Couse and J. H. Sharp, two of the American-born, European-trained artists who formed the "Taos Society of Artists" in 1915. The gardens of the Couse-Sharp Historical Site, where Virginia Walker Couse was referred to as the "Mother Garden of Taos" will be explored. Virginia Walker Couse planted the first seeds in the famous Couse Garden, which is still largely intact as it was when



Photos (from top):  
Penstemons at the Los Alamos Nature Center (Larry Deaven);  
Series 1, No. 8, 1911, by Georgia O'Keeffe;  
Taos Pueblo (Ron Cogswell)

Virginia developed it between 1909 and 1929.

Following our visits to Taos, we will make a stop at the dramatic Rio Grande Gorge Bridge before heading back to Santa Fe.

*(Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch)*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

## Private Side of Santa Fe

Spend the day visiting the homes of several notable local garden owners, learning about their garden's unique stories as well as the particular challenges of maintaining gardens in the New Mexico high desert. Lunch and the afternoon are independent, allowing ample time for rest and exploration in beautiful Santa Fe.

Celebrate the conclusion of this unforgettable journey at a delightful pre-dinner reception, followed by a farewell dinner in a private room at a top-flight restaurant in Santa Fe.

*(Included meals: Breakfast, Reception, Dinner)*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

## Departures

Independent morning transfers to meet flights from either Santa Fe (SAF) or the Albuquerque (ABQ) airport.

*(Included meals: Breakfast)*



Dried Chili Peppers, Santa Fe



## Accommodations at La Fonda on the Plaza

The luxurious La Fonda on the Plaza is ideally situated on the historic Santa Fe Plaza and is arguably Santa Fe's best hotel. Seeped in history with a touch of contemporary charm, each guest room features authentic New Mexican craftsmanship, creating an elegant and romantic aura through hand-painted headboards, handcrafted furnishings, and original artwork. Paintings by the best Pueblo artists were acquired in the historic hotel's early years, and the hotel has supported Santa Fe's famed Indian Market by frequently acquiring work by Native Americans and other artists for the hotel. The hotel boasts three unique Santa Fe dining options, including an elegant restaurant serving contemporary New Mexican fare, a casual lounge with live music seven nights a week, and an incredible open-air, seasonal bar.

**When you travel with the AHS, you make a difference.**

Designed for garden enthusiasts who love to explore horticultural wonders around the world, AHS Travel offers exceptional programs that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation in an AHS Travel program supports the AHS's nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.





# SANTA FE's Cultural and Garden Wonders

August 18–24, 2025

## Trip Information

### AHS TRAVEL

*This custom AHS Travel program has been created uniquely for AHS members and is offered in collaboration with International Seminar Design, Inc.*

### TOUR COST:

Land Package..... \$7,295  
Single Supplement .....\$1,695

*Land Package is per person, based on double occupancy and a minimum of 8 paying participants.*

**AHS TRAVEL ACTIVITY LEVEL DESCRIPTION:** AHS Travel programs are designed to offer immersive experiences and often involve long days filled with exploration and extensive walking on uneven terrain. To participate in a program, it is recommended to be in good physical condition and prepared to walk for a minimum of two miles each day.

**DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT:** A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on April 14, 2025, and must be paid by check or wire/ACH transfer to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis.

**FLIGHTS:** Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before April 14, 2025: full refund minus the \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between April 15 and July 2, 2025: full refund minus \$3,700 per person cancellation fee (includes the registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after July 3, 2025: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or the American Horticultural Society due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be provided upon receipt of your registration. One travel insurance provider to consider is USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services. For more information on the plan for AHS travelers, visit [www.ahsgardening.org/travel](http://www.ahsgardening.org/travel). Information is also available at this link regarding optional flight and travel arrangement services.

### TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS:

6 nights at La Fonda on the Plaza, Santa Fe; breakfast daily at the hotel, 4 lunches, 2 dinners, 1 reception (water, soft drinks, coffee, tea included with all meals; 2 glasses of wine or beer included with dinners); ground transportation by private motor coach; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert local guides; personal listening devices for duration of the tour; handling of 2 pieces of luggage per person at hotel; gratuities for guides, drivers, and restaurant staff at included group meals; bottled water on motor coach; service charges and taxes.

**TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS:** Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portorage; airport transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAMS:** Please contact [travel@ahsgardening.org](mailto:travel@ahsgardening.org) or 703-768-8801.

Information is also available at [www.ahsgardening.org/travel](http://www.ahsgardening.org/travel).



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## Trip Information

Name - Participant 1

Name - Participant 2

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address - Participant 1

E-mail Address - Participant 2

### ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)

- Double Occupancy; I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_
  - We prefer separate beds
- Single Occupancy (\$1,695 single supplement)
  - I would like a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one cannot be found

### TOUR DOCUMENTS:

ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email to the email address listed above.

- If you wish to receive hardcopy versions of the tour documents by post as well, please check this circle. Paper documents will not be sent to your home address unless this circle is checked.

### DEPOSIT (\$1,000 per person):

\_\_\_\_\_ # of persons \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

- Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Check (make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.)

Card Number

Exp. (mm/yy)

Name as it appears on card

CVV Security Code

*By registering and paying the deposit for this tour, registrant acknowledges that he/she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions outlined above.*

### COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

International Seminar Design, Inc.  
5614 Connecticut Ave NW, #295  
Washington, DC 20015  
or by email at [info@isditravel.com](mailto:info@isditravel.com)

### TO REGISTER BY PHONE, CALL:

International Seminar Design, Inc. at 202-244-1448 ext. 1

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAMS:

Please contact [travel@ahsgardening.org](mailto:travel@ahsgardening.org) or 703-768-8801.  
Information is also available at [www.ahsgardening.org/travel](http://www.ahsgardening.org/travel).