

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE ENDANGERED ART
OF TAKING A LITTLE TIME OFF.

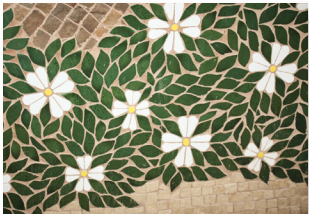
HOOKY

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Altitude adjustment

A VERY LONG WEEKEND IN SANTA FE



Now that I'm back from my late-March trip to New Mexico, my most vivid memories are of Santa Fe's sidewalks. They were utterly, thrillingly, stupendously clear of ice and snow. After months of clambering over the pedestrian glaciers of Cathedral Hill, I'm still

marveling at how delightful it was to just walk outside without boots. Or cleats. Or fear.

I'd been nervous about finding a suitable vacation rental for our merry band of six college friends. There are so many stories about travelers who arrive to find that the photogenic cottage doesn't live up to its glowing reviews — or, worse yet, doesn't really belong to the fraudulent jerk who cashed the check.

The reviews for [Capitol Casa](#) were totally legit. It really is three blocks from the Plaza and a short walk to Canyon Road. It truly is clean and comfortable, with a well-stocked kitchen, lots of towels, a working hot tub, and late-model mattresses. In fact, the house was so darned nice, we occasionally had to make a conscious effort to get out and explore the town.

I confess, I spent a lot of time just ambling around, adjusting to the altitude, and soaking up as much vitamin D as I could without getting sunburned. The historic [Plaza](#) district is jam-packed with shops, restaurants, and sidewalk craft vendors. Pedestrian-friendly [Canyon Road](#) is home to more than 100 galleries and artist studios.



WHERE TO EAT

My favorite discovery was the [Teahouse](#) on Canyon Road. The light, healthy fare was so refreshing after days of cheese and chiles — and the scones and muffins in the bakery case were exactly as good as they looked.



WHAT TO DO

This trip marked my second visit to [Ten Thousand Waves](#), a Japanese-style spa perched on a mountainside just outside of town. Come for a relaxing massage and stay for a restorative soak in one of the gorgeous outdoor tubs. The spa's communal baths are friendly, chatty, and [swimwear-optional](#). If you would prefer a more secluded setting, the private baths are worth a splurge. The [Waterfall Tub](#) was perfect for our group.

WHAT TO VIEW

We spent a happy afternoon at the [Georgia O'Keefe Museum](#) with a delightful docent who told us all kinds of things we never knew we wanted to know about O'Keefe's love life (difficult), her forays into commercial art (ditto), and, of course, the paintings. Docent tours are free with museum admission. Catch one at 10:30 AM or 2:30 PM.



Photographs by Debby Mittelman



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NEED TO PLAY HOOKY?

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