

sian artist Nicholai Fechin, 1933; La Hacienda de los Martinez, a Spanish colonial hacienda, 1804; and the Millicent Rogers Museum showcasing exhibits from the once-private collection of Standard Oil heiress, Millicent Rogers.

Taos has always been and continues to be an art mecca. In 1962 actor Raymond Burr said "In the 1920s there were more great artists in **Taos** than anywhere else in the world, and to a great extent that still holds true today." The artists of **Taos** today continue to uphold that tradition. **Taos** lives and breathes art, from the traditional santeros to the modern day, all of the arts are celebrated. It's a way of life that honors a way of life. The diversity of **Taos'** creativity and talent are showcased at the annual Spring Arts Celebrations, Fall Festivals, Film Festivals and Yuletide events as well as in the restaurants, inns, coffee shops, galleries and studios.

Besides visiting the museums and galleries, a trip to **Taos** is not complete without a visit to the Taos Pueblo, the home of the Taos Pueblo people for over 1000 years and now a UNESCO site. Ceremonials take place throughout the year.

During the 1800s, the San Francisco de Assis Mission Church was built in the village of Ranchos de Taos. Now one of the most painted and photographed churches in the country, made famous by Georgia O'Keefe.

The Historic District of **Taos** is home to museums, galleries, shops and restaurants with the plaza being the site of the original Spanish settlement. Visit Kit Carson Road, Bent Street and Ledoux Street.

Eight miles northwest of **Taos** is the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge spanning the river at 650 feet with breathtaking views. Rafting and hiking along the river take you through archaeological sites, petroglyphs, old cabins and breathtaking scenery. Or you can relax in the natural hot springs.

A little further down the road you can experience a tour of the Earthship community, homes made from recycled and environmentally friendly products.

Anytime of the year is a good time to take a scenic ride to the Taos Ski Valley. Nature in its full glory with hikes and trails waiting to be discovered in this alpine resort area in the Carson National Forest. Renowned author and artist, D.H. Lawrence's ashes are interned in a shrine to him at the D.H. Lawrence Ranch located 15 miles north of **Taos** in the scenic village of San Cristobal. The Enchanted Circle offers a breathtaking 84 mile scenic loop with several points of interest, drive through two ski areas, a ghost town and by Eagle Nest Lake – with opportunities for hiking.

Take in the scenery on horseback. Take a llama to lunch, or greet the dawn in a hot air balloon ride over the gorge – And so much



(photo courtesy Tucumcari Chamber of Commerce)

more! These are just a few of the things to do on a trip to **Taos**. More information is available at www.taoschamber.com or phone toll free (800) 732-TAOS including a calendar of events.

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

Truth or Consequences, in Sierra County, is located along the Rio Grande and near New Mexico's largest lakes, Elephant Butte Lake and Caballo Lake. Known for its mild winters, it is a popular destination for those seeking a respite from cold climes, rejuvenation in it's hot mineral waters and an escape from big city hustle and bustle.

Lakes, rivers and mountains surround **Truth or Consequences** making it a recreational paradise. With a year 'round mild and sunny climate, outdoor enthusiasts find plenty of opportunities for boating, fishing, sailing, kayaking, rafting, golfing, mountain biking, camping, hiking and horseback riding. This area is a birders' paradise and is located along a major flyway with abundant wetlands and riparian areas.

There are three nearby New Mexico State Parks providing camping and RV hookups: Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Caballo Lake State Park, and Percha Dam State Park. **Truth or Consequences** historically has been known as a center for healing. The entire downtown is designated as the Hot Springs Historic District and sits atop a huge pool of geothermally heated mineral water.

Temperatures range between 95 – 112 degrees F. With no unpleasant odor or taste, these waters are said to be magical, providing relief from stress and muscular pain. Upon entering the water one feels rejuvenated with a rush of warmth and ease. There are ten hot springs facilities available in the downtown area. Some of them offer free-flowing natural pebble bottoms and some have tiled tubs. Some offer spa services such as massage, facials, reflexology and hot rock treatments.

Truth or Consequences is home to a vibrant artist community. Galleries and small colorful shops are clustered in the quaint downtown area. An Art Hop takes place on the second Saturday of each month, providing an opportunity to view local art in full display. Visit www.sieracountynewmexico.info for more information and a listing of festivals and events.


TUCUMCARI

Get your kicks in **Tucumcari**, the Heart of the Mother Road, on Historic Route 66! Don't miss Mesalands Community College's Dinosaur Museum, a first class museum with the world's largest collection of spectacular full-scale bronze-cast dinosaur skeletons. To know the history of **Tucumcari** and Route 66, stop by the Tucumcari Historical Museum.

Take your picture in front of the Route 66 Memorial or the nation's longest Route 66 mural. Tour the town to see the wonderful murals depicting our area and those

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Route 66 Attraction (photo courtesy Tucumcari Chamber of Commerce)

famous Route 66 Neon Signs. Take a short trip to Ute Lake or Conchas Lake and go picnicking, hiking, boating, swimming, and fishing. Travel along the Scenic Byways to see our beautiful and unique landscapes and a variety of wildlife. Have fun at our con-

certs, arts and crafts fairs, bike rally, annual Route 66 Festival, rodeos, and the third-best Air Show in the country.

For more information, please contact the **Tucumcari/Quay County Chamber of Commerce** at (575) 461-1694.



Historical Museum (photo courtesy Tucumcari Chamber of Commerce)



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