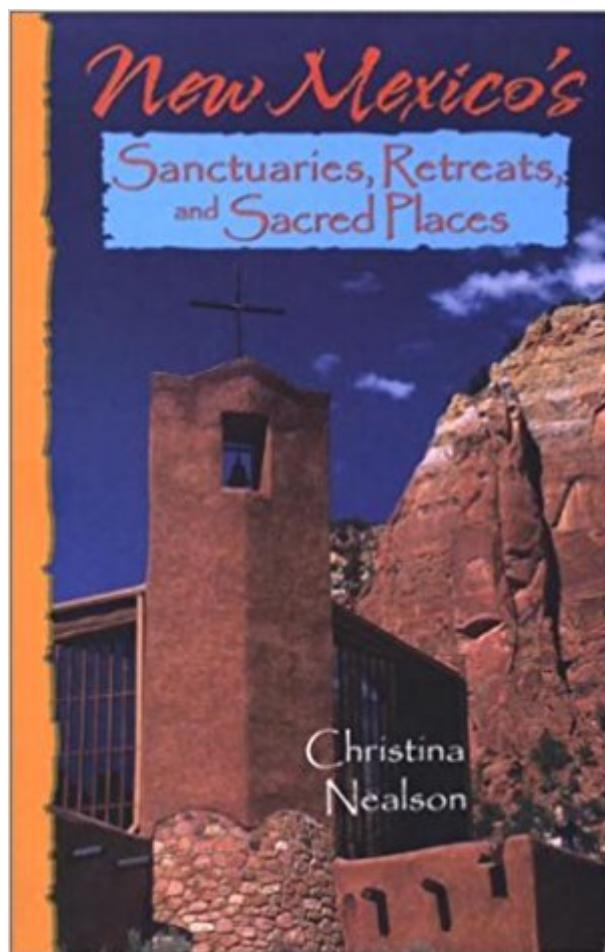


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# New Mexico's Sanctuaries, Retreats, And Sacred Places



## Synopsis

New Mexico's dramatic landscapes, diverse cultural heritage, and enduring traditions of faith have long attracted and inspired spiritual seekers. Woven into the fabric of everyday life, the state's customs of reverence set it apart as a prime location for both public celebrations and inner reflections. This is a land of ancient petroglyphs and ruins; natural wonders; historic churches, retreats, and ranches; innumerable shrines; special tribal, religious, and civic occasions; as well as singular, eerie monuments of modern technology and war. In this book, Taos-based writer and photographer Christina Nealson Captures new Mexico's distinctive spirit through brilliant images and more than 100 listings showcasing the state's best opportunities for worship and meditation, awe and understanding, introspection and community participation. For those who seek, New Mexico offers an unforgettable landscape for discovery, and *New Mexico's Sanctuaries, Retreats, and Sacred Places* is a passport for your own journey.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For the traveler who wants to have a 'basic' New Mexico experience, any book by Fodor's or Lonely Planet will do just fine. If you want to have a more heart-felt experience of New Mexico, however, this is the book you need. As the host of a New Mexico travel website, I read or review most books that are written on this topic. For me, this is my go-to book. Even as someone who prowls the state looking for new articles to write, I learned about places I didn't know by reading this book. While the author covers a few popular places---El Santuario de Chimayo, for example---many others are

reviewed, spanning the four regions of the state. For the most part, you will need a car and a good map to find some of the places referenced in this book. While a few are close to population centers such as Albuquerque, Las Cruces, or Santa Fe, many others are off the beaten track. Unlike a lot of other guidebooks, the author helps to orient the mental stance one should have when they visit sacred sites; in New Mexico or elsewhere. Most of this falls within the classification of 'common sense,' but there are good reminders here. Christopher Alexander[...]

I think New Mexico was the greatest experience from the outside world that I have ever had. It certainly changed me forever...something stood still in my soul, and I started to attend. ~D.H. Lawrence

Of all the places I've visited in America, New Mexico is where I felt closest to the earth. The heat radiating from the earth as you walk free and barefoot contrasts with a sudden hailstorm where you have to find shelter. Christina Neilson delves into this land of mystery and intrigues with her stories of places with great cultural significance. If you are a fan of D.H. Lawrence's writing, then you may want to visit the D.H. Lawrence Memorial in San Cristobal. Apparently Lawrence's ashes are in the walls of the shrine because his wife Frieda threw them into the concrete mix. Each listing has detailed information: Location Description Spiritual Significance Solitude Rating How to get there Accessibility from highway Facilities Fee Area

There are 111 full-color photographs, 6 maps of New Mexico regions and color-coded tabs on the pages for easy reference. There is a list of Native American Feast Days and a Historical Time Line of New Mexico. Picturesque churches, mineral spring resorts, tree shrines, white deserts, petroglyph sites, snowy mountains and Navajo hogans make this land a choice location for spiritual renewal. If you are planning a trip to New Mexico, then this guide will give you ideas for day trips and places to stay. The solitude ratings are helpful if you are looking for quiet locations. Places I thought looked fascinating and a few quotes from this book: Monastery of Christ in the Desert: "How long has it been since you've heard live Gregorian Chant? White Sands National Monument, Alkali Flat Trail: "My brain said snow, snow, until I stepped from my air-conditioned car into the piercing heat and the immensity of a million great dunes." Casitas de Gila: "A short walk down the bluff puts you next to the stream, where a hammock invites you to dawdle." Of all the books I've read about traveling, this one makes me wish I was a travel writer, wandering through untamed lands. Christina Neilson's writing style is comforting and her knowledge of this area shows her love of travel and her deep appreciation for the need to find a sacred sanctuary where you can relax and heal. ~The Rebecca Review

This book made me want to get in my car and drive straight to New Mexico! Every page inspired me

to visit yet another awesome, beautiful site. Not just the petroglyphs, but White Sands, and the Miraculous Tortilla Shrine! The descriptions of the sites and the fascinating historical tidbits kindled my desire to go New Mexico and see it all for myself. Not only am I motivated to travel to all these locations, I feel I'll approach them and even my home, with a renewed sense of reverence for the beauty all around me, after reading Neelson's inspired prose.

We find this is a good book for planning a day trip or more. It was informative and helpful.

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