

GEORGIA O'KEEFFE IN NEW MEXICO: A GUIDE (FAMOUS FOOTSTEPS)

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1: - Georgia O'Keeffe in New Mexico (A Guide) by Belle van

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Born in Wisconsin, and then art schooled in Chicago, New York City, and Virginia, she started spending time in the southwest. As one of our favorite artists, we decided to plan an RV road trip to follow in her footsteps, and sometimes her horse tracks. This museum displays more of her works than any other venue. Taking a docent-led tour gave us a better understanding of her life and art. What could be better than some hot chocolate or an iced mocha on a hot day. Then we walked up Canyon Road, stopping in many of the art galleries. Abiquiu is where she spent much of her later life, both at Ghost Ranch as a guest, and later at her home that she restored from an old hacienda. For our overnights, we camped at Echo Amphitheater, a national forest campsite just north of Ghost Ranch. A great place for a meal, but an even better place to wander around the great selection of southwestern giftware which will remind us for many years of our visit. We shared with them our fondness for both the food and gifts of their mainstay store in Abiquiu. We had purchased tour tickets prior to our trip start, as these sell out well before the date. We watched a 7-minute video, and then the 12 of us on the tour headed over by van to the house. She restored the home, converting it into her studio. While living in Abiquiu, she donated considerably to help raise the standard of living for the local community. We had an excellent docent who pointed out many of the landscapes that were used for her art. It was also fun to see the furnishings and appliances that were left intact following her vacating her home in for her final two years, when she moved to Santa Fe to obtain better medical care. The s were well represented. From here, we stopped at the Plaza Blanca, now owned by a local mosque, but open to the public. Quite an amazing place. Finding inspiration at Ghost Ranch Ghost Ranch was our final stop on our Abiquiu tour, and the most dramatic area we visited on our quest. Ghost Ranch today is an education and retreat center offering overnight accommodations, horseback trail rides, and numerous programs. The guide would hold up a print of one of her paintings, against the backdrop of where it had been painted. Even though years have passed, the landscape endures. Palo Duro is the second largest canyon in the U. Once at the bottom, there are several campgrounds along with many miles of well-marked hiking trails. These trails wind through the canyon with magnificent vistas. This art is displayed in an architecturally beautiful setting which brings the outside landscape inside and makes it part of the experience. Outdoors, there are walking paths and when we were there, spring flowering trees. This museum could be its own adventure. The wonders of RVing!

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There she heard of Ghost Ranch and once even caught a tantalizing glimpse of it from a high plain. In , she finally found the ranch but was dismayed to learn that it was a dude ranch owned by Arthur Pack and Carol Stanley. However, a place was available for her that night in Ghost House and she spent the entire summer at the ranch. That established a pattern she would follow for years, summers at Ghost Ranch exploring on foot and on canvas the beauty of the place, winters in New York. Because she was basically a "loner," she soon sought Ghost Ranch housing that was somewhat isolated from the headquarters area. Pack offered to rent her his own residence called Rancho de los Burros; this suited her very well. One spring she arrived unexpectedly and found someone else in the house. She demanded to know what those people were doing in her house. In later years she told a ranch employee doing roadwork near her home, "I wanted enough land to keep a horse - all Arthur would sell me was enough for my sewer! The Packs should have sold her the ranch, she thought, and besides, she never cared much for Presbyterians anyway. Her precious privacy would be gone. However, from the very beginning of this new relationship the Presbyterians respected and tried to preserve the privacy of their famous neighbor. Visitors were told, as they are today, that Rancho de los Burros was on private land with no public access. Gradually her fears were allayed and the relationship grew warmer. Office personnel sometimes did secretarial work for her; Ghost Ranch folks replaced the pump on her well. Eventually she moved to Santa Fe where she died in her 99th year, reclusive to the end. Ghost Ranch gave her the freedom to paint what she saw and felt. Knowledgeable visitors can look around and identify many of the scenes she painted. Red and gray hills like those across from the roadside park south of the ranch headquarters were frequent subjects. Kitchen Mesa at the upper end of the valley is an example of the red and yellow cliffs she painted many times. Pedernal, the flat-topped mountain to the south, was probably her favorite subject. It has always been secluded. When I first went there, it was one house with one room-- which had a ghost living in it. Photos by Robert Reck.

3: Georgia O'Keeffe in New Mexico - O'Keeffe Country

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8: Georgia O'Keeffe - Wikipedia

Seminal American artist Georgia O'Keeffe drew inspiration from the lunar landscapes of New Mexico. Follow in her footsteps at some of her favorite painting spotsâ€”The White Place, The Black Place (part of Bisti Badlands), and the home of the "Lawrence tree"â€”or splurge on a day art retreat at.

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