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La Fonda, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Originally part of the Mother Road when it was first constructed in the early 20th Century, Santa Fe remained a part of the historic road until 1938, when Route 66 was rerouted to a more direct route to Albuquerque. The reason for this change, which came in 1937, is said to have been an act of vengeance on the part of Governor Hannet, who had lost his bid for re-election and blamed politicians in Santa Fe. Using what time he had left in office, he rerouted the highway, causing it to bypass the city of Santa Fe entirely.

When Route 66 was still a part of Santa Fe, it passed through the center of town and by one of the city's oldest hotels, La Fonda on the Plaza, whose history can be traced back 400 years. According to historical records, La Fonda is built on the site of the town's first inn (fonda), dating back to 1607, and the Spanish influence. The La Fonda of today, which was built in 1922, has gone from being a Harvey House, to being owned by Sam Ballen and his wife Ethel, and then on to its current owners, siblings, Jennifer Kimball and Phillip Wise, who acquired it in 2014. La Fonda's historical popularity as a preferred lodging among trappers, soldiers, gold seekers and gamblers, as well as politicians, remains steady today, as the hotel continues to be a local gathering spot and a hub of activity.

Recent renovations have added modern amenities, but many of the original features celebrating Santa Fe style



still remain: pueblo-style architecture, original local art adorns the walls and Southwestern accents can be seen throughout the hotel. Perfectly located to experience the charm and lore of the City Different, as Santa Fe is warmly referred to, La Fonda also has a wealth of amenities for you to enjoy, including a fine dining restaurant, a full service spa, year-round outdoor pool, two bars, a fitness center, and plenty of boutique shops to keep you entertained.

Today, Santa Fe remains a popular tourist stop, combining Spanish Colonial and Native American Pueblo culture, architecture, and history. Voted the number 2 best small city in the United States, Santa Fe is without a doubt, one of the most beautiful stops on the Main Street of America. And as an integral part of Santa Fe's history, a stay at La Fonda on the Plaza is simply a must.