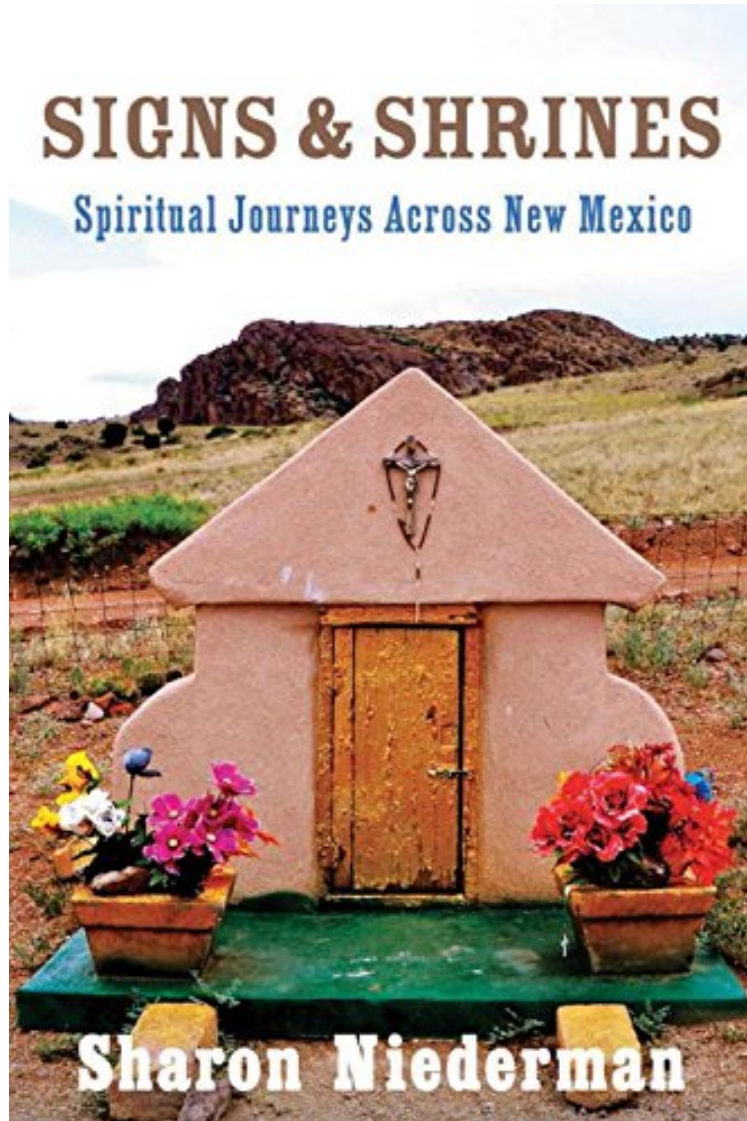


(Mobile book) Signs Shrines: Spiritual Journeys Across New Mexico

Signs Shrines: Spiritual Journeys Across New Mexico

Sharon Niederman

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Sharon Niederman : Signs Shrines: Spiritual Journeys Across New Mexico before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Signs Shrines: Spiritual Journeys Across New Mexico:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A New Mexico GuidebookBy Christopher AlexanderThis book is subtitled, 'Spiritual Journeys Across New Mexico.' Realistically, it's more 'Journeys' than 'Spiritual,' but that's not necessarily a bad thing, unless you're someone looking for a truly unique, one-of-a-kind New Mexico experience.I see this book as being more of a comprehensive guide to the sites of New Mexico. Unlike a lot of travel books, it covers a good swath of the state, whereas a lot of comparable books focus more on Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Here, on the

other hand, are references to Silver City, Clovis, Roswell, and some of the outlying communities of New Mexico. While there are some books that cue into the 'spiritual' side of New Mexico ("New Mexico's Sanctuaries, Retreats, and Sacred Places" by Christina Neelson and "New Mexico Off the Beaten Track" by Nicky Leach are excellent examples), I don't put this book into that category. As a general guide, though, it is pretty comprehensive. To fit the classification of 'spiritual,' I would like to see greater reference to the shrines, holy sites, and chapels that you typically won't find out about unless you dig deep or live here. Some of the listings for shops and restaurants in this book are a bit dated--i.e., they no longer exist--but that's the reality of the marketplace, not a fault of the author. If you see reference to something that perks your interest, you might want to cross-reference it online to make sure it is still operable. Anyhow, this is a good introductory guide for visitors to New Mexico. It will give you a good flavor of what New Mexico has to offer. Christopher Alexander[...]1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent reference guide for travel and insight for New Mexico By T. Edwards I had initially read this book from my local library. I had been to New Mexico previously, and had experienced some of the sights firsthand. The author did an excellent job incorporating the history, culture, the varied physical geography, and the spiritual diversity of the local population, thereby painting an intriguing and informative picture for myself or anyone reading this book. It is not just about religion as classically understood, but covers other aspects of spirituality that are less stodgy, and elements that make life fun, entertaining, and worth living. The book covers topics, activities and entertainment venues that can "rejuvenate the spirit", and that can mean drinking, eating excellent food which is plentiful, and enjoying the local peoples, all of which are greatly varied. There are areas where you can feel (be) in the middle of nowhere if that sounds appealing; there are other areas where you can whoop it up. The book mentions this numerous times, and this is important: **MAKE SURE YOU CALL AHEAD FOR ANY OF THE SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.** Due to weather, wildfires (depending on time of year), and the whims of some of the businesses, it is important to ensure that your chosen activity is available will be available for you. For myself, I planned 6-8 months in advance for activities in Santa Fe, Taos, Albuquerque. It was a wedding anniversary trip, so left nothing to chance. The author does a great job providing phone numbers, etc for contacts. Savvy travelers can use the internet to delve further. All in all, a great book about a beautiful place, and well written. Well worth the investment. Last word of caution: don't try to see too much of a bunch of different areas, for each section of the state has much to offer. Cross-reference with some other travel books that divide the state into regions, and then pick what you'd like to see. Thanks for reading this; I hope it is useful and informative. And happy travelling!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Awesome alternative to the normal guidebook By Stan J. McKay This was my book of choice for visiting New Mexico earlier this summer. Awesome guide, not so much for comprehensive food and lodging and amusement parks but for the places to see, things to do, and places to eat that mean something, that you will remember years from now.

Make your next vacation a pilgrimage Signs Shrines: Spiritual Journeys Across New Mexico takes readers along the ancient pilgrimage trails that crisscross this enchanted state, a place where a rich multiplicity of cultures continue to thrive. From the winding High Road between Santa Fe and Taos to Warriors Spirit Way across the Black Range; through ghost towns and on to Silver City; to the Old Spanish Trail that originates in Abiquiu, you'll find the pathways that spiritual seekers have followed for centuries. The mysteries of sacred sites, natural wonders, power spots, feast days, and festivals are here explained by one of the state's most prolific and knowledgeable authors. In addition to providing cultural context that answers visitors' questions about history and practices found only in New Mexico, the author provides clear directions, maps, and guidance on the best places to stay, dine, shop, and recreate on your route. Signs Shrines is an innovative guide that will enrich the experience not only of spiritual seekers but of every visitor drawn to tour the Land of Enchantment. Full-color photographs throughout

This book is unique for several reasons. First, it shows readers how to approach New Mexico through historical and contemporary spiritual traditions. Second, it's divided into journeys, for instance, with the first chapter focusing on the Old Spanish Trail, a 19th-century trade route between New Mexico and California. Although this particular trail doesn't have a direct relationship to anything spiritual, the author uses it as a way to highlight historical events and culture clashes such as the detribalization of Indians who were sold as slaves along the trail. Each journey section has 10 subsections: Guidance: government contact information and emergency numbers. Discover: museums, archeological sites and cultural resources. Recreate: parks, nature walks, outside activities and outfitters. Cherish: shops, galleries, vineyards, special finds. Meander: day trips, attractions. Renew: spas, retreats, meditation centers, etc. Nourish: places to eat. Respite: hotels. Celebrate: festivals, pow-wows, events. On the Town: entertainment choices. The book is replete with well-composed pictures and some poetry. While the writing is sometimes dramatic, the reader will likely appreciate the different approach to travel and the author's willingness to get into the less-than-pleasant details of the area's history in a nicely concise manner. - Judges' comments, 2012 SATW Foundation Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Awards About the Author Sharon Niederman is an award-winning Southwestern author and photographer living in northern New Mexico. She specializes in cuisine, travel, history, women's history, and spirituality. Her 2012 book, Signs Shrines, received the prestigious Lowell Thomas Travel Writing Award and the

Society of American Travel Writers Gold Award. She has twice received the Border Regional Library Association Southwest Book Award for literary excellence and enrichment of the cultural heritage of the Southwest. Her articles have appeared in *Sunset*, *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Albuquerque Journal*, *Santa Fe New Mexican*, *Denver Post*, and many other publications. She serves on the board of the New Mexico Farm Ranch Heritage Museum and is past president of New Mexico Press Women and the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society.