



Pueblo of San Felipe Feast Day May 1st

ECFC Visitor Overview and Guidelines

(Learn more about San Felipe Pueblo: sfpueblo.com)

Located along Interstate 25 halfway between the metropolitan cities of Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico, present-day San Felipe Pueblo (Katishtya in Keres, the language of the Pueblo) is considered one of the most culturally conservative pueblos. Similar to other pueblos, San Felipe does not allow visual or audio representations of its Pueblo or its activities and closes the village for certain ceremonies.

The Rio Grande River runs through San Felipe with homes on both the east and west sides of the river. The Pueblo of San Felipe consists of approximately 3,700 enrolled tribal members and approximately 68,000 acres. Most residents work in neighboring cities, although the Pueblo employs many of its people for tribal government and casino positions. Other wage economies in the Pueblo include federal government positions through the schools and health service.

Historically, San Felipe has long been known as a farming community. In fact, an observer for the 1890 census reported that "In proportion to the population, San Felipe has more land available for agriculture than any other pueblo." Today, other Pueblo people still characterize San Felipe as a farming community. On Wednesdays during the harvesting season, a farmer's market is held in the parking lot of the Pueblo's Casino Hollywood.

The Pueblo has two schools, San Felipe Pueblo Elementary and San Felipe Pueblo Headstart. The language spoken is Keres (or Keresan) and tends to be the first language of children. However, like other Pueblos, San Felipe recognizes changes in the language as well as the increased use of English.

San Felipe celebrates its feast day on May 1, the feast of Saint Philip. During the Pueblo's feast day one of the most notable features is its large sunken plaza. Sitting three feet below the level of its surrounding area, the plaza represents centuries of ceremony and dance that have endured despite drastic changes over time and space.

Oral histories and archaeological evidence trace the ancestors of San Felipe and other Keres-speaking Pueblos to the area surrounding Chaco Canyon, up into the Aztec and Mesa Verde region and down into Acoma and the middle Puerco. After several migrations, they established Kuapa. Located south of Bandelier National Monument on the Parajito Plateau, Kuapa was once occupied by the ancestors of modern-day Cochiti and San Felipe Pueblos. Occupied from roughly 1200-1400, the inhabitants at Kuapa were eventually driven out by what Adolph Bandelier speculates may have been hostile Tewa groups. Residents of Kuapa split with one group, eventually establishing what is now Cochiti Pueblo. The other group went to Tunique and then Katishtya. After abandoning Katishtya during the Pueblo Revolt era and moving a few more times, they finally settled in their current location, also called Katishtya.

Feast Day Etiquette and tips:

- Upon arrival at San Felipe Pueblo, staff and planning team members will help direct you to the Plaza and/or to host family homes (for those who registered for lunch with a host family).
- You will be walking through the Pueblo, around people's homes.
- Homes are open to guests, and you may be invited into a home (even if not signed up for lunch with a host family). It is considered rude to deny food or an invitation to eat at someone's home. It is also rude (and not expected) to offer anything in exchange for being invited in.
- Please understand that many homes operate on a first come first served basis, and it may be impossible for your party to sit as a complete group.
- Please take/serve only what you can eat.
- Please do not linger at the table as there may be others waiting to be served.
- Please do not take to-go plates, as the homes will be feeding visitors the entire day.
- Dances will be taking place in the plaza. Do not applaud after Feast Day dances (they are considered prayers, not performances).
- Be respectful of your host(s) and dancers.
- No cameras, cell phones or recording devices allowed in the plaza area.
- Vendors will be selling various items, bring cash as some may not be set up to accept other forms of payment.
- Some buildings are sacred and are not open to non-tribal members.
- Pay attention to posted signs.
- Please dispose of trash properly.
- Wear comfortable shoes, and clothing. You will be mainly outside, feel free to bring a hat or umbrella.
- Stay hydrated!

Emergencies:

- If Emergency services are needed while at the Pueblo, please make contact with Tribal Officials or the Police Officers who will be patrolling.

ECFC Contacts & Bus Timing:

- There may not be cellphone service while at the Pueblo.
- When you arrive at the Pueblo, you will see the bus arrival/departure location.
- An ECFC planning team member will guide attendees from your bus to either the Plaza or to host family homes.
- Please return to the ECFC bus by 3:30pm for return to the Hotel Santa Fe.

ECFC contacts:

Rena Large 330-604-9373

Dara Piltz 715-577-5571

Hotel Santa Fe (main line) 855-825-9876