

# *New Mexico's Fiber Arts Trails:*

## **Stop 1 – Española Valley Fiber Arts Center**

325 Paseo de Oñate  
Española, New Mexico  
(505) 747-3577  
Website: [www.Evfac.org](http://www.Evfac.org)  
Email: [info@evfac.org](mailto:info@evfac.org)

*This is the first of several short articles about my trip to New Mexico in December 2009. I hope it will inspire others to add similar articles about their travels to the MAFA Library.*

I first learned about the New Mexico Fiber Arts Trails ([www.nmfiberarts.org](http://www.nmfiberarts.org)) on the WeaveTech Yahooogroup; if I had been reading *Spindle, Shuttle, and Dyepot* a little more regularly, I might have also noticed there were articles on the Fiber Trails among the other information for Convergence. My husband and I had decided to travel to New Mexico in December on the grounds that I had been to 49 of the 50 states; little did he know what a great fiber resource I had found!



**Española, located 26 miles north of Santa Fe, is home to a warm and welcoming fiber arts center**



**A view of the gallery at the front of EVFAC**



**Just behind the gallery, supplies and equipment abound**

In the AAA Tourbook, Española is mentioned in passing as “the central point for visiting the northern pueblos and Hispanic villages selling arts and crafts.” The town is indeed not prepossessing. However, down the block from one of the two closed auto dealerships (of an original three), across from the old movie theater, is Española Valley Fiber Arts Center (EVFAC), which definitely merits a visit.

EVFAC, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, offers classes and a well-stocked shop with yarn, roving, tools, books, and other temptations. If you manage to resist the lure of Navajo-churro roving, exotic-wood tapestry beaters, and precious little tapestry looms (and I didn't), there's also a cooperative/consignment gallery showcasing members' works, which include quilts, scarves and vests, colcha embroidery, rugs and tapestries, and other treasures.





A pretty chip-carved "walking loom" displays some of the works for sale in the EVFAC gallery

The double doors at the far end of the shop lead to offices and the classroom, where rows of floor looms stand in patient rows for the next class. Along one wall of this room is the members' library, of which EVFAC is understandably proud. Libraries are always valuable resources, but they are particularly critical when they serve communities with great socioeconomic diversity.



Left: Looms in the classroom  
Below: Shelves in the library



Beyond the public areas is the members' workshop, which like almost all studios looks like creative chaos. The room is packed with a large cutting table for the quilters and quite a few floor looms. However, after the initial reaction ("*gee, this looks awfully familiar; I can relate to this*"), it becomes clear that while space is tight, supplies and equipment are organized, and there's enough room for people to work.



Above Left: A view of the workshop  
Above Right: Members' looms  
Left: A rag rug in progress on a EVFAC member's loom

**Navigation Tip:** Both my GPS and Mapquest think that EVFAC is next to the public library. It ISN'T. You may want to get directions from EVFAC ahead of time—or phone once you get into town.