

STATS & FACTS

New Mexico is one of the nation’s most sparsely populated states. The state’s largest city by far, the Albuquerque Metro area has just over 801,000 residents, and can’t help but retain its neighborhood feel.

Albuquerque is bordered on the east by the Sandia and Manzano Mountains, on the west by Petroglyph National Monument, to the north by Sandia Pueblo and to the south by Isleta Pueblo.

The city spans 187 square miles at elevations ranging from 4,500 feet above sea level in the Rio Grande Valley to 6,500 feet in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains. The greater Albuquerque metropolitan area, which includes Bernalillo, Sandoval and Valencia counties, covers approximately 400 square miles.

Albuquerque enjoys blue skies and sunshine 310 days out of the year. The weather makes Albuquerque a sports lover’s paradise and outdoor activities are popular with residents and visitors.



© morimoto photography.com

© NewMexicoStock.com

Albuquerque International Support

Albuquerque is served by eight major commercial airlines: American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines and US Airways. It also receives regular service from two commuter airlines: Great Lakes Airlines and New Mexico Airlines. www.cabq.gov/airport

Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau

20 First Plaza NW, Ste. 601 (87102)

PO Box 26866, Albuquerque, NM 87125-6866

Web site: www.itsatrip.org

Public Visitor Information: (800) 284-2282 **(please use this number when publicly listing a phone number)**

Business Office: (800) 733-9918, (505) 842-9918 Fax: (505) 247-9101

Visitor Information e-mail: info@itsatrip.org

PR and Media e-mail: media@itsatrip.org

Distances from Albuquerque		
City	Miles	KM
Dallas, TX	655	1,048
Denver, CO	448	717
El Paso, TX	267	427
Las Cruces, NM	225	360
Los Alamos, NM	94	150
Phoenix, AZ	452	723
Roswell, NM	202	323
Santa Fe, NM	59	94
Taos, NM	129	206

Weather by Month	Average High/ Low °F (°C)	Average Humidity	Possibility of Sunshine
January	47/23 (8/-5)	55%	88%
February	53/27 (12/-3)	49%	77%
March	61/33 (16/1)	39%	73%
April	70/41 (21/5)	33%	79%
May	79/50 (26/10)	32%	76%
June	89/59 (32/15)	28%	85%
July	92/64 (33/18)	42%	75%
August	89/63 (32/17)	45%	67%
September	82/56 (28/13)	49%	71%
October	71/44 (22/7)	43%	69%
November	57/31 (14/-1)	48%	87%
December	48/24 (9/-4)	56%	86%

ALBUQUERQUE FACTS

Albuquerque is considered the “Hot Air Ballooning Capital of the World” because of the excellent flying conditions, number of resident hot-air balloonists and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®.

Albuquerque has been recognized by Forbes and Popular Science as one of the greenest cities in the country. The city also has one of the highest percentages of open space in the country. Albuquerque is committed to “green” initiatives. Details are outlined at www.cabq.gov/albuquerquegreen

Albuquerque’s KiMo Theatre is a Pueblo Deco style theater which was built in 1927. Pueblo Deco was a short-lived flamboyant architectural style that fused the spirit of the Southwest and Native American cultures with the exuberance of America during the roaring 1920s. The theatre fell into disrepair along with the now revitalized downtown district and it was slated for destruction when, in 1977, the citizens of Albuquerque voted to purchase the movie palace. After many years of discussion, the theatre was brought up to standards and renovated to its former grandeur by 2000. The historic KiMo is also rumored to have a ghost. The ghost is said to be of a young boy who was killed in a boiler explosion.

Historic Route 66 was first commissioned in 1926 with a giant S-curve connecting various cities in New Mexico with mostly unpaved road. In 1931 federal funds were designated to realign the road on a more east-west direction. The entire route from Chicago, IL, to Santa Monica, CA, was paved in 1937. Today I-40 runs along much of the original roadbed with many of the original neon signs still dotting the path.

The American International Rattlesnake Museum in Albuquerque is home to the largest collection of live rattlesnakes in the world.

Five dormant volcanoes mark Albuquerque’s west side. They were formed about 190,000 years ago, but smoke was seen rising from them as recently as 1881. The volcanoes are still in the cooling stage and when it snows in Albuquerque, the snow melts first in the area of the volcanoes because of the residual heat.

The “bosques” are groves of cottonwood trees that grow along the riverbed of the Rio Grande amongst an otherwise arid high desert environment. The ribbon of green (and golden yellow in the fall) provides a colorful contrast to the desert shades of the area. The Cibola National Forest full of green also lines the eastern edge of the city along the foothills.



©MarbleStreetStudio.com

©NewMexicoStock.com



©Jeff Greenberg

Albuquerque is home to several wineries. New Mexico is the oldest wine-producing region in the country. The first grapevines were brought to the state in 1629. New Mexico’s sun-soaked soil and cool high-desert nights create an ideal climate for making wine. The state now has 19 wineries, producing almost 350,000 gallons of wine each year. www.nmwine.com

The New Mexico state question is “Red or Green?” This refers to red or green chile when ordering New Mexican food. Chile is featured in every meal from breakfast through dinner in New Mexico and it is the number one cash crop in the state. New Mexico grows more chiles than any other state, with more than 120,000 tons of chile being produced annually.

FILM PRODUCTION IN ALBUQUERQUE

Feature films and television show productions are on the rise in the Albuquerque area and throughout New Mexico. Albuquerque Studios, a 28-acre, \$74 million state-of-the-art motion picture and television production facility opened in 2007 with eight sound stages and a combined total of 168,000 sq. ft. of space. New Mexico offers outstanding incentives to production companies, which has helped generate broad interest in the state for movie and television filming. Sony Pictures Imageworks also has plans to open a new facility at the Albuquerque Studios complex on the south edge of Albuquerque. www.filmABQ.com



©Kip Malone

Recent movies and television shows produced in and around Albuquerque include:

The Spirit	Hamlet 2	Love Lies Bleeding
Breaking Bad	Fan Boys	The Lost Room
In Plain Sight	The Eye	Love Ranch
Crash: Season One	Game	Tennessee
Terminator Salvation	Transformers	Afterwards
Swing Vote	Employee of the Month	Bordertown
Easy Money	No Country for Old Men	Linewatch
Wild Hogs	In the Valley of Elah	First Snow
Beerfest	Observe & Report	21 Grams
Wildfire	Sunshine Cleaning	Trade

NOTABLE ALBUQUERQUE CONNECTIONS

“I knew I shoulda taken that left turn at Albuquerque.” -Bugs Bunny

- **Ben Abruzzo** and **Maxie Anderson**, along with **Larry Newman**, piloted the “Double Eagle II,” the first manned balloon to cross the Atlantic Ocean. An international hot air ballooning museum in Albuquerque bears the Anderson and Abruzzo names.
- **Rudolfo Anaya**, a famous Mexican-American fiction author who is best known for his novel *Bless Me, Ultima* resides in Albuquerque.
- **Coach John Baker**, subject of the book and TV movie, *A Shining Season*, lived his highly inspirational life in Albuquerque until his untimely death from cancer.
- **Notah Begay III**, the first full-blooded American Indian PGA golfer in the history of the game, was born and raised in Albuquerque.
- **Jeff Bezos**, founder, president, chairman and CEO of Amazon.com was born in Albuquerque.
- **Bill Daily**, a famous actor and comedian who is commonly known for his work in *I Dream of Jeanie* and *The Bob Newhart Show* currently resides in Albuquerque.
- **Bill Gates** and **Paul Allen** founded **Microsoft** in Albuquerque in 1975 before moving to Bellevue, WA in 1979.
- **Neil Patrick Harris** is an American Golden Globe- and Emmy-nominated actor. Prominent roles include *Doogie Howser, M.D.*, Barney Stinson in *How I Met Your Mother*. He is a proud Albuquerque native.
- **Tony Hillerman** was an award-winning author of detective novels and non-fiction works best known for his Navajo Tribal Police mystery novels. Some of his works were made into big-screen and television movies
- **Mike Judge**, creator of the television show *King of the Hill* and writer and director of the movie *Office Space*, was raised in Albuquerque.

- **Don Perkins**, the six-time Pro-Bowl NFL running back, started his football career at the University of New Mexico.
- **Freddie Prinze, Jr.** is an actor who has starred in several Hollywood films. He was raised in Albuquerque.
- **Ernie Pyle** was a beloved World War II correspondent. His house is now a branch of the Albuquerque Public Library and it houses a display of his personal memorabilia.
- **Danny Romero**, world champion boxer, was born in Albuquerque.
- **Steve-O**, popular actor, stunt-man and slapstick-comedian is a native Albuquerquean.
- **Diego Sanchez**, welterweight fighter with the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), was born in Albuquerque.
- **The Shins**, a Grammy-nominated indie rock group, was originally based out of Albuquerque.
- **Kate Snow**, co-anchor of ABC News' weekend edition of "Good Morning America," began her career as a reporter with Albuquerque's KOAT-TV.
- **Johnny Tapia**, the five-time world champion boxer, was born in Albuquerque.
- **Al Unser Sr., Al Jr. and Bobby Unser**, repeat winners of the Indianapolis 500 auto race. The Unser Racing Museum highlights the family accomplishments and technologies of auto racing.
- **Brian Urlacher** was a University of New Mexico Lobo football favorite before heading to the NFL as starting linebacker for the Chicago Bears.
- **Xzibit**, rap artist and television host was born in Albuquerque.

For additional Notable Albuquerque Connections, visit www.itsatrip.org/albuquerque/notable/default.aspx.



©Dick Thompson

ALBUQUERQUE ACCOLADES

- Top 50 Best Places to Live and Play by *National Geographic Adventure* magazine
- Paa-Ko Ridge Golf Club as the Best the Southwest by *Zagat Survey*
- No. 6 Best Place for Business and Careers by *Forbes Magazine*
- Albuquerque ranks as the second most affordable destination in North America according to *AAA's Annual Vacation Costs Survey*
- Top 25 art destination in *AmericanStyle Magazine*
- No. 16 of America's 50 Greenest Cities by *Popular Science on popsci.com*
- 3rd Fittest City in the United States by *Men's Fitness* magazine
- Paa-Ko Ridge Golf Club ranked No. 3 in the U.S. for best public golf courses in a Readers Choice Poll by subscribers of *Golf World*
- Top 20 Greenest Cities in the U.S. by *Forbes.com*
- Paseo Del Bosque Trail Ranked No. 1 for Top 10 City Bike Rides by *Sunset Magazine*
- Top 10 Movie Cities by *MovieMaker* magazine
- 2008 Best Modern Courses (No. 43 Paa Ko Ridge, No. 73 Black Mesa Golf Club), by *Golfweek*
- Among America's Most Walkable Neighborhoods in the Top 40 U.S. Cities by *Walkscore.com*
- The Albuquerque BioPark was named No. 8 of *Sunset Magazine's* Top 10 Urban Parks
- Top 10 Cities for Hispanics by *Hispanic Magazine*
- Ranked in the Top Towns for Empty Nesters by *Forbes.com*
- Ranked in the Top 20 for the 2008 U.S. Sustainability Rankings by *SustainLane*
- The Albuquerque Zoo is rated one of America's 60 best zoos, according to *The Intrepid Traveler*
- Top 10 Places in the U.S. to Live by *relocateamerica.com*

For a complete list, visit www.itsatrip.org/albuquerque/top-rankings.