



ESCORT NOTES

Detailed information covering Albuquerque's geology, history, attractions and state facts for the travel professional.

WWW.VISITABQ.ORG

ALBUQUERQUE

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

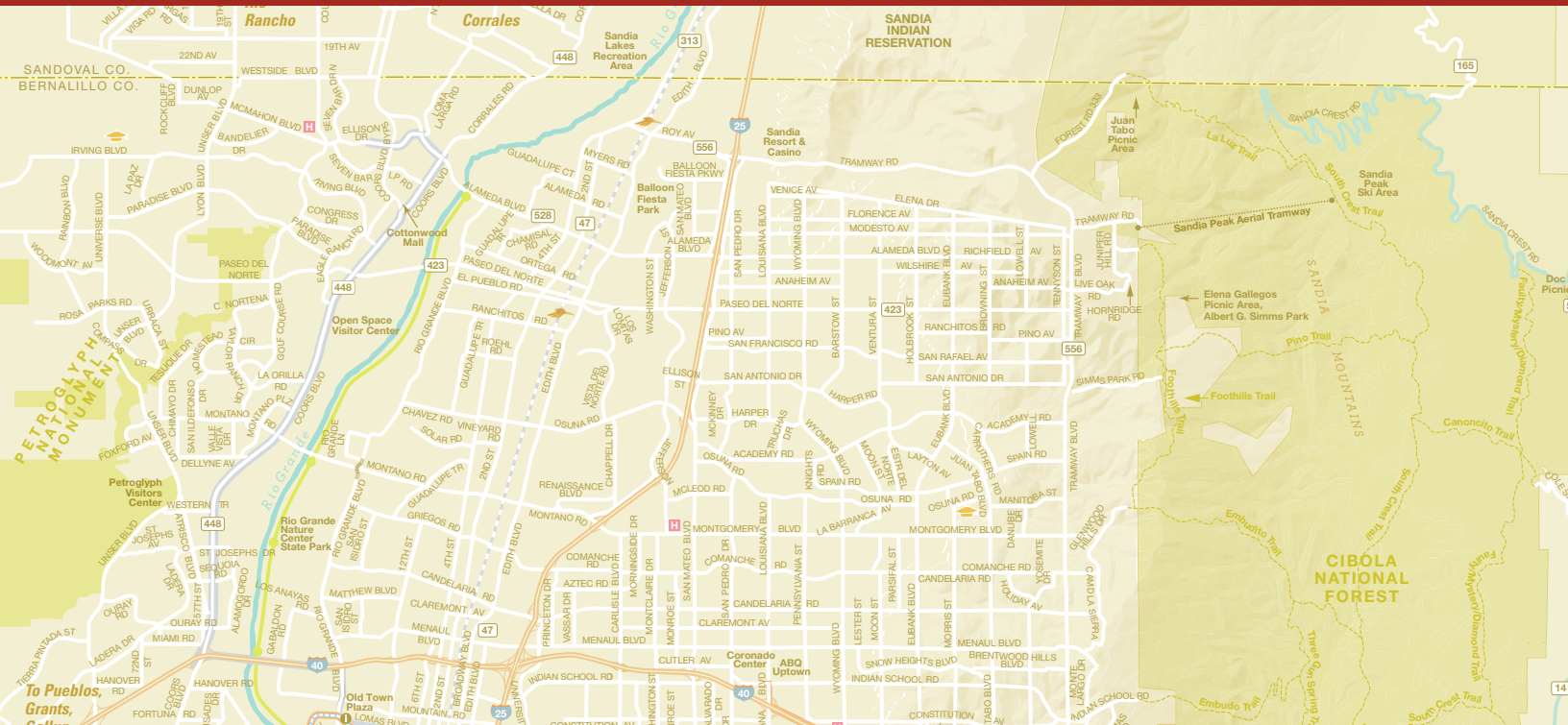


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VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

- Albuquerque International Sunport - Baggage Claim
2200 Sunport SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106
- Old Town - Plaza Don Luis
303 Romero NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

(800) 545-2040
www.newmexico.org

MOTORCOACH & RV INFORMATION

For information on motor carrier safety, highway and fuel taxes, permits and more, see page 32 and visit: www.VisitABQ.org/travel-tools/rv-info.aspx

SIGHTSEEING & GUIDED TOUR OPTIONS

Albuquerque offers numerous opportunities to take sightseeing and guided tours with professional tour companies or volunteers. Find more information at <http://www.VisitABQ.org/thingstodo/tours-day-trips/guided-tours.aspx>



GENERAL INFO

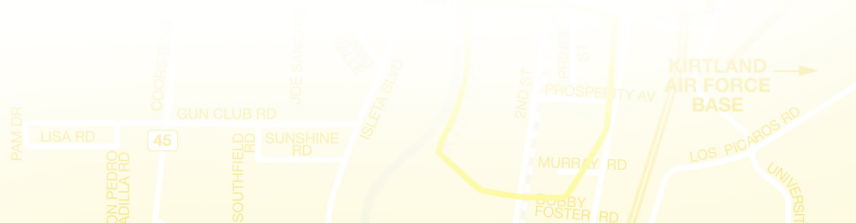
HISTORY

PREHISTORY

- The most ancient resident of Albuquerque was also one of the most ancient residents of North America: The “Sandia Man” lived here as many as 20,000 years ago.
- The Ice Age inhabitants were big game hunters and, as the climate changed, the inhabitants of the Rio Grande Valley became gatherers and farmers; they began to cultivate the area and develop partially underground housing.
- When the Spanish arrived, they called the natives “Pueblo” (“village”) Indians to distinguish them from the war-like nomadic tribes, especially because the Pueblo people had a sophisticated culture and were skilled at masonry, arts, crafts and lunar astronomy.

SPANISH COLONIAL PERIOD

- When the Spanish arrived in the winter of 1540-1541, the 12-16 pueblos in the Rio Grande valley welcomed them and shared provisions.
- The Spanish began to hold power over the Pueblos and chose a specific settlement in the area to protect them from, watch over and trade with the Indians in the area.
- In 1680, religious persecution, taxes from the Spanish and a valley drought led the Indians to revolt under the leadership of a Taos medicine man named Popé. The Pueblos were severely damaged by their successful endeavor. Only four of the original 12-16 pueblos remain (Isleta, Sandia, Santa Ana and San Felipe).
- For 13 years, the Pueblos were free of Spanish rule. Then, in 1693, a second attempt at capturing New Mexico was made and General de Vargas of Spain succeeded in reclaiming New Mexico as a Spanish colony.
- In 1706 Francisco Fernandez de la Cueva, the Duke of Albuquerque, incorporated a collection of farms and lands between Chihuahua and Santa Fe as Royal Villa and named the villa after the King of Spain, “The Royal Villa of St. Phillip of Alburquerque.”





GENERAL INFO

HISTORY

FRONTIER DAYS

- During the Civil War, the Confederate Army occupied the city and stole all of the cattle and livestock they could to feed the armies. The Union army reinforcements arrived, forcing the confederates to withdraw from the city in the Battle of Albuquerque.
- Once the War had ended, the army began to turn its attention to the escalating raids of the Navajo and Apache Indians. Kit Carson reduced them into submission by destroying water holes, fields and livestock. The surviving Indians surrendered in 1864 and were sent to a concentration camp at Bosque Redondo on the Pecos River. The “Long Walk” to the camp is a bitter chapter in Navajo history.
- After 1903, the United States Army declared that troops should never engage in battles with the Indians again.

RAILROAD ERA

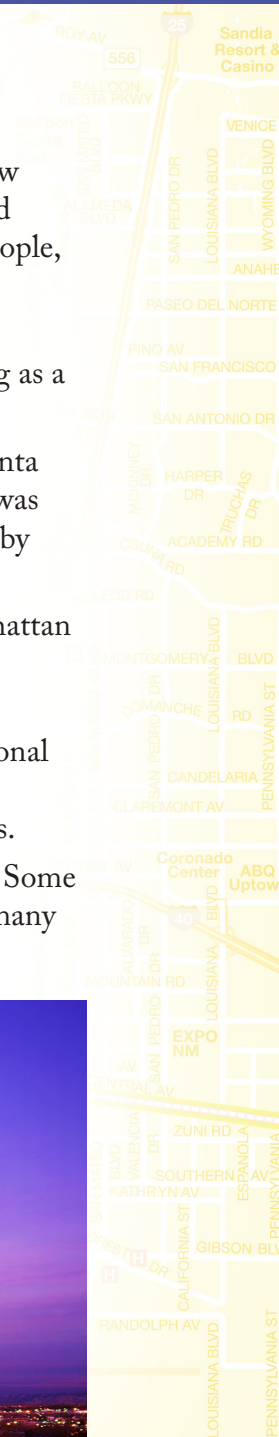
- In 1880, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad (AT&SF) arrived in Albuquerque. Ironically, the Santa Fe Railroad did not go to Santa Fe because the company decided to push on to the Pacific coast rather than build the expensive route through the mountains.
- In Albuquerque, the station was built a few miles southeast of the plaza, now known as Old Town and a “New Albuquerque” sprang up closer to the tracks.
- The town of “New Albuquerque” was notoriously wild, with bars outnumbering businesses. Gambling, drinking and gunfights were a common occurrence. In fact, Billy the Kid, as well as other infamous outlaws, came to Albuquerque during this time.

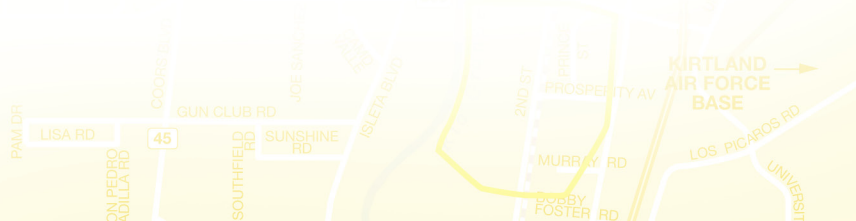


GENERAL INFO

HISTORY

MODERN DAY

- Albuquerque's dry climate, thin air and gorgeous sunshine eventually helped it mellow into respectability; it became a haven for health-seekers, especially those who suffered from tuberculosis. Many of these new residents were leading citizens and talented people, which changed the cultural tone of the city to unexpectedly artistic, with flourishing cultural-rich traditions and history.
 - In the 1920's, Albuquerque gained a major role in transportation and tourism, serving as a gateway for most goods and visitors in the Southwest.
 - Historic Route 66's first route alignment of 1926-1937 ran North-South through Santa Rosa, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Los Lunas and several Indian Reservations. Route 66 was fixed in the memory of many by John Steinbeck's novel, "The Grapes of Wrath," Bobby Troup's lyric "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" and CBS TV's "Route 66."
 - During World War II, the atomic bomb was developed through the top-secret Manhattan Project in Los Alamos (90 miles north of Albuquerque). (See Museums: National Museum of Nuclear Science & History.)
 - After World War II, part of the project also developed into what is now Sandia National Laboratories on Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. Kirtland and Sandia Labs continue to be involved in nuclear research and development, as well as other projects.
 - The city has also become a sought out destination for film and television production. Some of these productions include *Breaking Bad*, *In Plain Sight*, *Terminator Salvation* and many others. Albuquerque Studios is the largest film studio in the United States.
- 



GENERAL INFO

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

STATISTICS

- The greater metropolitan area of Albuquerque has a population of over 909,000 people (2012). The city of Albuquerque has a population of 555,417 (2012). (*US Census Bureau*)
- Albuquerque personifies a multicultural population: Native American, Hispanic, Latino, Anglo, Asian, Middle Eastern, African American and cultures collide in the city to create a unique, modern blend of traditions.
- Albuquerque is home to more than 70 different ethnicities.
- New Mexico is home to 22 Native American tribes, including 19 Indian Pueblos and three reservations.



CLIMATE AND TERRAIN

STATISTICS

- The sun shines in Albuquerque, on average, 310 days per year. (85%)
- The elevation of Albuquerque ranges from 4,900 ft. (1490m) above sea level near the Rio Grande Valley to over 6,700 ft. (1950m) in the Sandia foothills. The elevation at the Albuquerque International Sunport is 5,352 ft. (1631m) above sea level, making it among the highest metropolitan cities in the U.S.
- This elevation gives Albuquerque a high desert climate. As a result, there are four distinctly mild seasons, and very low humidity levels.
- Albuquerque actually gets more rain than most people realize. The average annual rainfall in the city is about 8.67 in. (*National Weather Service Station*). However, in the nearby Sandia Mountains to the east, the annual rainfall is about 40 in. (102 cm) with an average annual snowfall of about 111 in. (282 cm).

GENERAL INFO

AVERAGE WEATHER PATTERNS

Month	Average High/ Low	Average Humidity	Possibility of Sunshine
January	47°/23°	55%	88%
February	53°/27°	49%	77%
March	61°/33°	39%	73%
April	70°/41°	33%	79%
May	79°/50°	32%	76%
June	89°/59°	28%	85%
July	92°/64°	42%	75%
August	89°/63°	45%	67%
September	82°/56°	49%	71%
October	71°/44°	43%	69%
November	57°/31°	48%	87%
December	48°/24°	56%	86%

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Albuquerque's most prominent geological features are the massive Sandia Mountains that form the city's eastern border, the historic Rio Grande that flows through the city's heart and a string of five dormant volcanoes that stand silhouetted on the city's western edge.



THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS

- Pronounced: “san-DEE-uh”
- The Sandia Mountains make up the eastern border of the city, with the highest point of the mountains being Sandia Crest (10,678 ft.). Sandía means *watermelon* in Spanish, and is popularly believed to be a reference to the reddish-pink color of the mountains at sunset.

GENERAL INFO

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

SANDIA MOUNTAINS (CONTINUED)

- The Sandias were formed between five and 25 million years ago by slippage along a fault line. They are growing at about one inch per year.
- Tijeras (tee-HEH-rahs) canyon divides the Sandia Mountains from the Manzano (mahn-ZAH-no) Mountains. Tijeras is Spanish for scissors; Manzano is Spanish for apple.
- The view from Sandia Crest encompasses an 11,000 square mile area.
- The Sandias are an excellent location for outdoor activities: hiking, picnicing, skiing, or bicycling. Or, if you want a challenge, take the scenic 10,738-foot walking trip up the Peak.

THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

- The Rio Grande (Big River) has also been called the Rio Bravo (Fierce River) and the Rio del Norte (River from the North).
- The locals know this 4,300-acre open space park as the “Bosque” (meaning “woodland” in Spanish).
- The Paseo del Bosque Trail, the city’s premiere mixed used trail, is a 16 mile-long paved bikepath, uninterrupted by roadways. It is a favorite trail for bikers, runners and walkers.
- Many people don’t know that in Bernalillo, (north of Albuquerque on the Rio Grande), you can enjoy paddlesports like kayaking and canoeing. There are several local outfitters.
- Visitors can observe 400 species of resident and migratory birds in the bosques along the Rio Grande.



THE MESAS & VOLCANOES

- Mesa means *table* in Spanish, an appropriate name for these flat geographic features.
- The mesas and surrounding dormant volcanoes on Albuquerque’s west side are part of the Petroglyph National Monument. (For more information see Parks & Monuments.)

ATTRACTIONS

PARKS AND MONUMENTS - WITHIN ABQ

THE BIO PARK - THE ABQ BIOPARK CONSISTS OF THE AQUARIUM, ZOO, BOTANIC GARDEN AND TINGLEY BEACH. IT IS A POPULAR STOP FOR LOCALS AND VISITORS ALIKE.

ABQ BIOPARK ZOO

903 10th ST SW, 87102
(505) 768-2000

www.cabq.gov/biopark/zoo

- The Zoo is home to over 200 species of animals.
- Events, plays and concerts held at the Zoo provide fun for the whole family.
- See the zoo website for a feeding schedule, where you can watch fun animals like sea lions and polar bears devour their lunch.



Photo ©Kelly Ryan Naranja

ABQ BIOPARK AQUARIUM

2601 Central AVE NW, 87102
(505) 764-6280

www.cabq.gov/biopark/aquarium

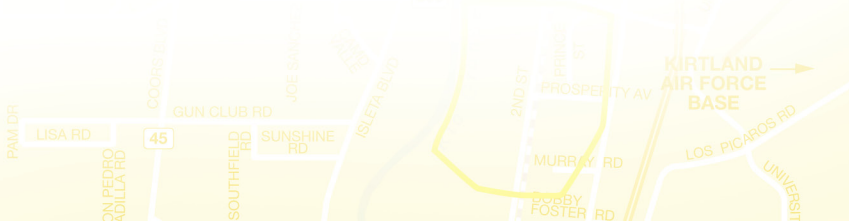
- Features freshwater, estuarine and ocean exhibits. Be amazed by the breathtaking underwater creatures that live inside of a 285,000 gallon shark tank with a 38-foot wide viewing window.
- Enjoy breakfast or lunch while viewing the shark tank at the Shark Reef Cafe.

ABQ BIOPARK BOTANIC GARDEN

2601 Central AVE NW, 87102
(505) 768-2000

www.cabq.gov/biopark/garden

- Explore 1.5 miles of beautiful gardens in the 36-acre park.
- Explore a number of themed gardens including: The Ceremonial Rose Garden, Spanish-Moorish Garden, Japanese Garden, and Heritage farm.



ATTRACTIONS

PARKS AND MONUMENTS - WITHIN ABQ

TINGLEY BEACH (A PART OF THE ABQ BIOPARK)

1800 Tingley DR, 87102

(505) 768-2000

www.cabq.gov/biopark/tingley

Tingley Beach provides many fun activities:

- Paddle boat rentals
- Walk, hike, relax, fish, boat, bike or picnic with no admission fees
- Bicycle rentals: the beach is located next to the Paseo del Bosque Bike Trail

RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER

2901 Candelaria RD, 87107

(505) 344-7240

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html>

- A refuge from the city life of Albuquerque, the park offers opportunities to experience 270 acres of woods, meadows and farmland flourishing with native grasses, wildflowers, willows and cottonwood.
- The Nature Center also offers exceptional bird watching of roadrunners, ducks and more.

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

6510 Western Trail NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120

(505) 899-0205

www.nps.gov/petr/

- Five extinct volcanoes along a 17-mile stretch on the western edge of Albuquerque.
- Features numerous trails for hikers of all levels to discover thousands of ancient petroglyphs (rock carvings).



KIRTLAND
AIR FORCE
BASE



ATTRACTIONS

PARKS AND MONUMENTS - OUTSIDE ABQ

THE CORONADO HISTORIC SITE

485 Kuaua RD
Bernalillo, NM 87004
(505) 867-5351

- www.nmmonuments.org/coronado
- Coronado Historic Site and the preserved ruins of the Kuaua Pueblo can be found just minutes north of Albuquerque in Bernalillo. You will find a fully restored kiva (sacred ceremonial chamber), and Pre-Colombian mural art.
- The Visitor Center is also a beauty to see, built in the Pueblo Revival style with a spacious porch and spectacular views. Fourteen examples of original, recovered art are found here.

THE WILDLIFE WEST NATURE PARK

87 N Frontage RD
Edgewood, NM 87015
(505) 281-7655
www.wildlifewest.org

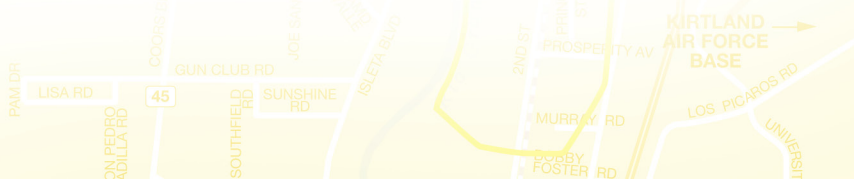
- An educational project of the New Mexico Wildlife Association, the park features a 122-acre wildlife refuge, educational programs, weekend cultural celebrations and beautiful spaces for private parties. It is operated by a dedicated staff of volunteers.

VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE

39201 NM Hwy. 4
Jemez Springs, NM 87025
(505) 661-3333
www.vallescaldera.gov

- The Valles Caldera National Preserve is one of six land-based super volcanoes in the world. It is a group-friendly escape from traditional national parks, offering stunning vistas and oftentimes, wildlife sightings.

For more information on museums, parks, monuments and other activities, go to <http://www.visitalbuquerque.org/things-to-do/museums-culture/>



ATTRACTIONS

MUSEUMS - OLD TOWN

INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER

2401 12th ST NW 87104

(505) 843-7270

www.indianpueblo.org

- Located minutes away from Old Town.
- Dedicated to preserving the Pueblo Indian culture, history and art.
- Features a museum, events, dances, exhibits and delicious, authentic style food at the Pueblo Harvest Cafe.

THE TURQUOISE MUSEUM

2107 Central AVE NW 87104

(505) 247-8650

www.turquoisemuseum.com

- Provides visitors with an inside look at the history of turquoise in our state; including learning about the different mines where our state gem was discovered. The museum is open for limited hours, check the website for details.

THE AMERICAN-INTERNATIONAL RATTLESNAKE MUSEUM

202 San Felipe NW, Ste A 87104

(505) 242-6569

www.rattlesnakes.com

- Features information, artifacts, memorabilia and the largest collection of different species of rattlesnakes in the world.



ATTRACTIONS

MUSEUMS - OLD TOWN

EXPLORA

1701 Mountain RD NW 87104

(505) 224-8300

www.explora.us

- The premier hands-on learning center of New Mexico.
- Features more than 250 interactive exhibits, educational programs and activities in science, art and technology.

ALBUQUERQUE MUSEUM

2000 Mountain RD NW 87104

(505) 242-4600

www.cabq.gov/museum

- Marvel at the distinct art of the Southwest.
- Stroll through over 400 years of Albuquerque's history in great exhibits and displays.

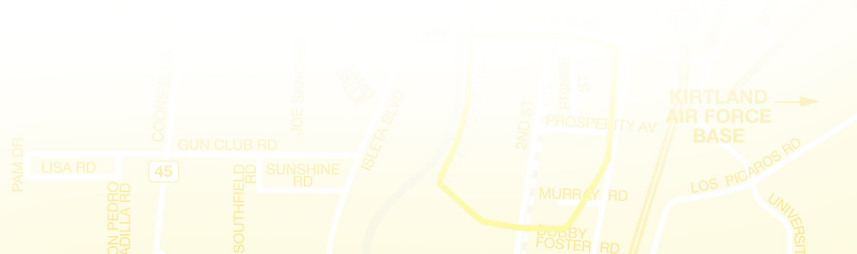
NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENCE

1801 Mountain RD NW 87104

(505) 841-2800

www.nmnaturalhistory.org

- Exhibits feature dinosaur fossils and geological remains that portray billions of years of New Mexico's history. Exhibits include: Dawn of the Dinosaurs, New Mexico's Ice Age, Age of Volcanoes, and many more.
- Take a trip around the sun, at the wonderful Planetarium.
- At the Dynatheater, films come to life on a giant five-story screen with digital surround sound.
- Features the first museum dedicated to the microcomputer and personal computer revolution: STARTUP.



ATTRACTIONS

MUSEUMS - EAST SIDE

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE & HISTORY

601 Eubank BLVD SE 87123

(505) 245-2137

www.nuclearmuseum.org

- Showcases the history of nuclear development from the atomic bomb through the latest alternative energy research.
- Features displays of real artifacts from the Manhattan project and other nuclear developments.

THE TINKERTOWN MUSEUM

121 Sandia Crest RD, 87047

(505) 281-5233

www.tinkertown.com

- This unbelievable collection of wood-carved figurines were created by the late Ross Ward over a 40-year period. Ward's wife now operates the museum that showcases all the work that Ross put into collecting, carving and constructing.

MUSEUMS - DOWNTOWN

THE NEW MEXICO HOLOCAUST AND INTOLERANCE MUSEUM

616 Central AVE SW 87102

(505) 247-0606

www.nmholocaustmuseum.org

- Learn about the holocaust, genocide and other forms of bullying in the world.

THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER

1701 4th ST 87102

(505) 242-5289

www.nhccnm.org

- The center is host to many prominent Albuquerque events including Globalquerque and the Flamenco Festival Internacional de Alburquerque.
- Features local, national and international artists to preserve and advance Hispanic culture, art and humanity.



ATTRACTIONS

MUSEUMS - UNIVERSITY AREA

THE UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Central & Cornell in the Center for the Arts Building

University of New Mexico Campus 87106

(505) 277-4001

www.unmartmuseum.unm.edu

- Displays permanent University collections as well as world traveling exhibits.
- Some of world renowned artist Georgia O'Keefe's works are on permanent display.

THE MAXWELL MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

1 University Blvd. NE, 87131

(505) 277-4405

www.maxwellmuseum.unm.edu

- Specializes on the cultural heritage of the Southwest.
- Features a reconstructed cave setting, complete with Ice Age drawings, sculptures and a vase collection of prehistoric pottery.

MUSEUMS - BALLOON FIESTA PARK/LOS RANCHOS

ANDERSON-ABRUZZO ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM

9201 Balloon Museum Dr. NE 87113

(505) 880-0500

www.cabq.gov/balloon

- Permanent and changing exhibitions featuring the history, science and art of hot air ballooning.

UNSER RACING MUSEUM

Located at the Unser Discovery Campus

1776 Montaña Road NW

Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM 87107

(505) 341-1776

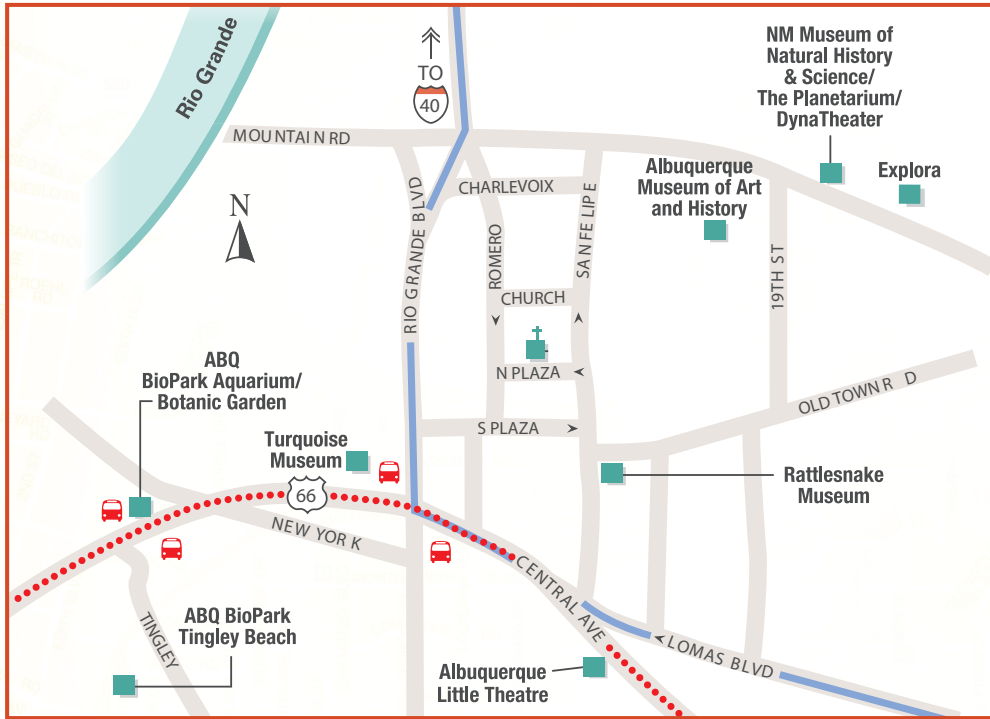
www.unserracingmuseum.com

- The Unser Racing Museum is a multi-dimensional museum experience utilizing modern technologies to educate and immerse the visitor in the exciting world of racing.

For more information on specific neighborhood museums, attractions, parks, etc., go to <http://www.visitalbuquerque.org/travel-tools/neighborhoods/>

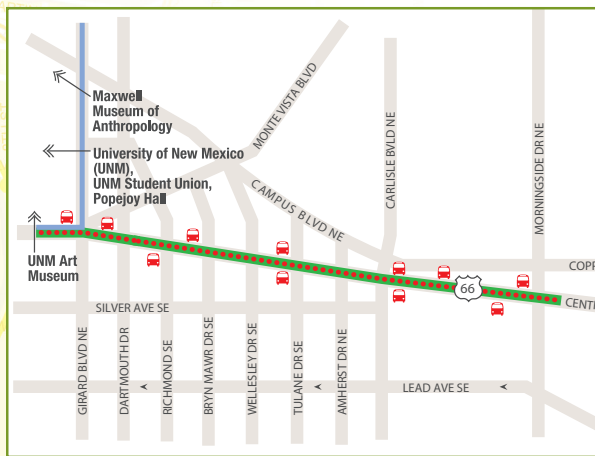


ATTRACTIONS



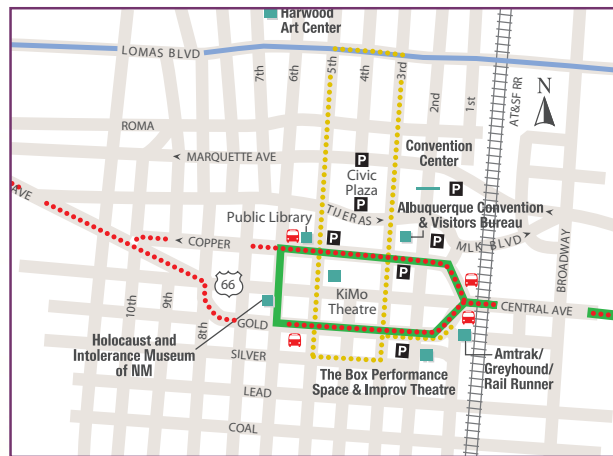
Entertainment Districts

OLD TOWN



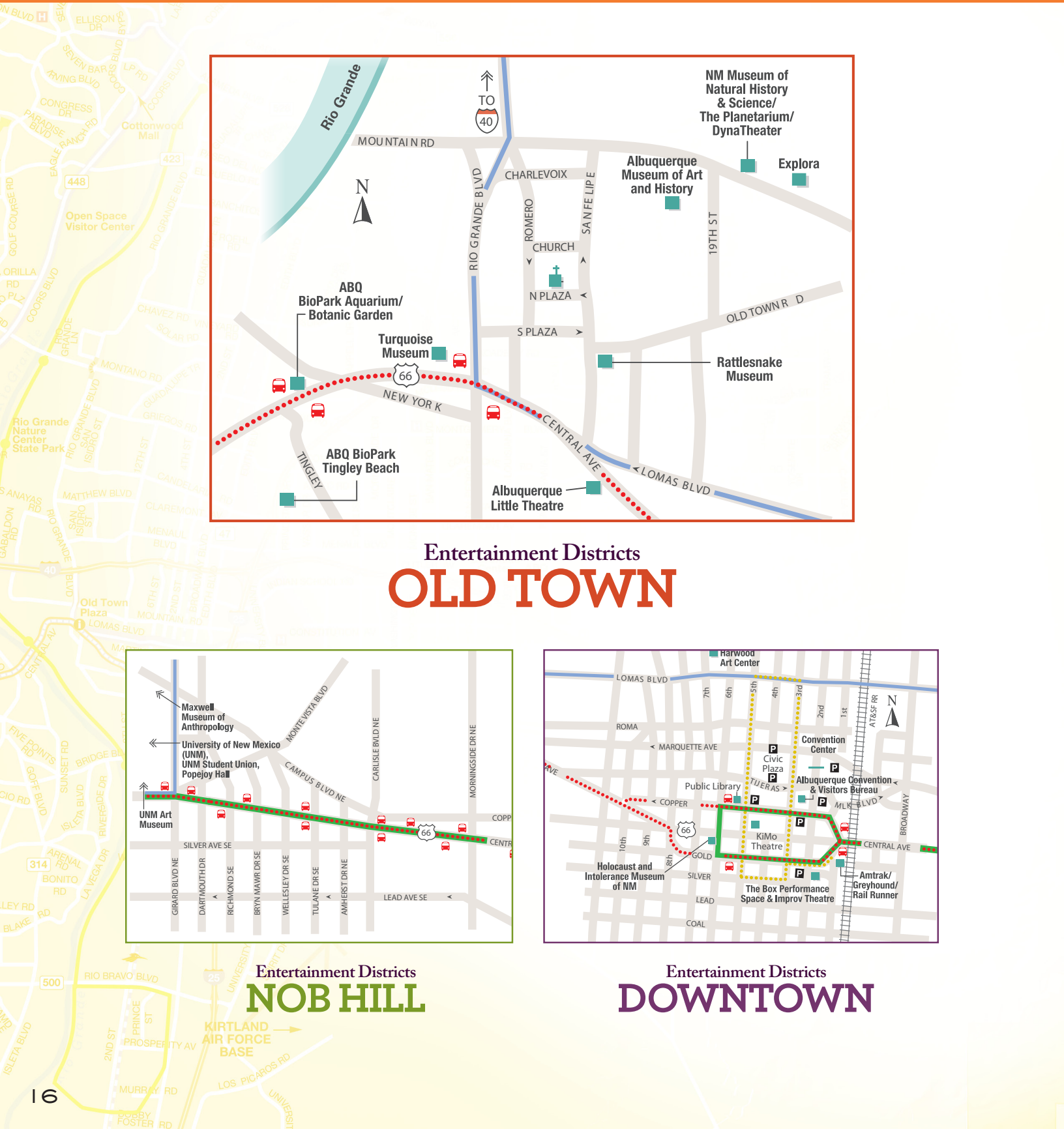
Entertainment Districts

NOB HILL

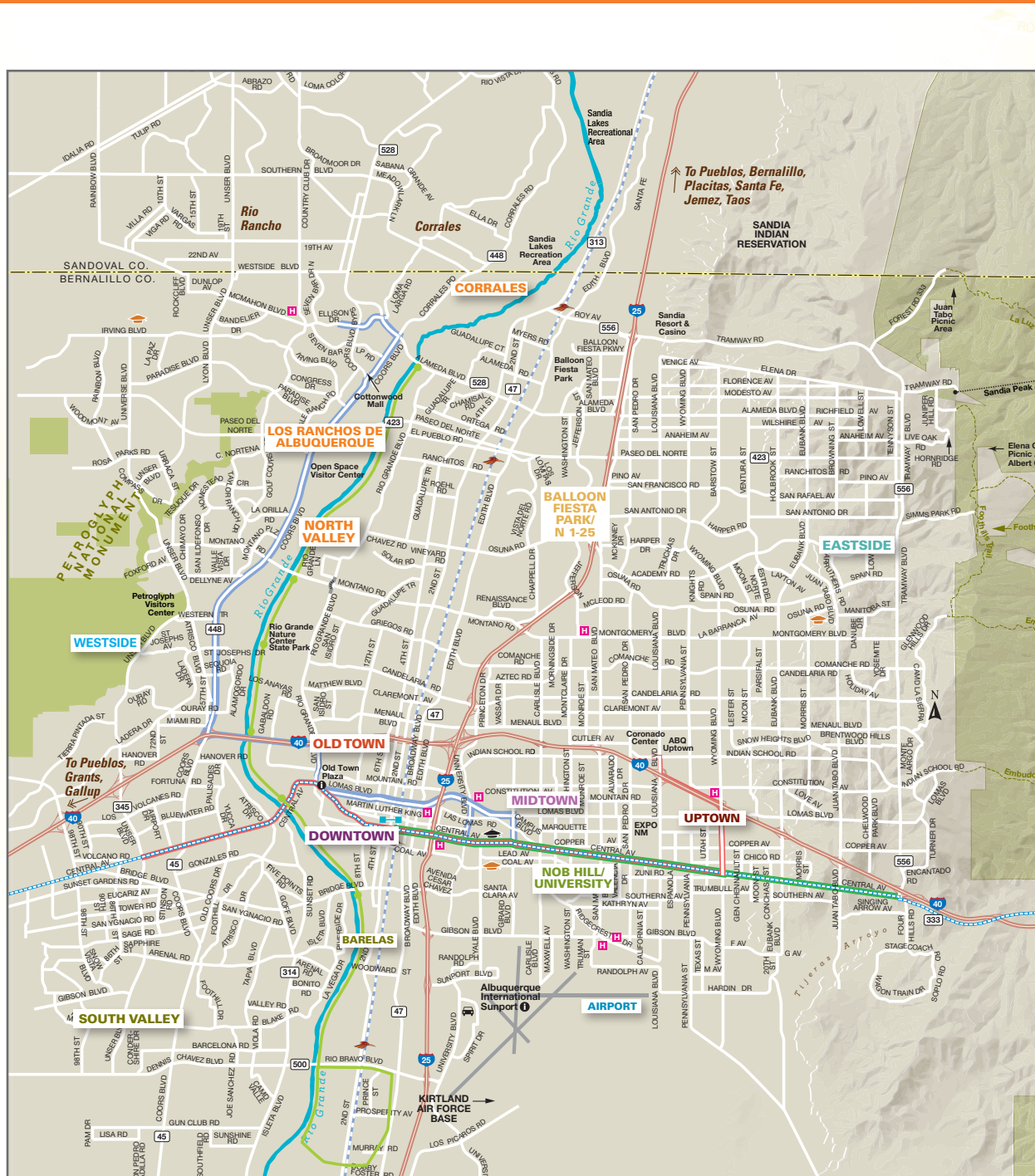


Entertainment Districts

DOWNTOWN



ATTRACTIONS



ALBUQUERQUE
 WWW.VISITABQ.ORG
AREA VISITORS MAP

N

ALBUQUERQUE

1 Mile

1 Kilometer

ATTRACTIONS

VINEYARDS

Nearly 150 years before the first grapes were grown in California, Spanish missionaries planted grapes in the Rio Grande Valley, making New Mexico the oldest wine-making region in the United States.

GRUET WINERY

8400 Pan American Frwy NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
(505) 821-0055
www.gruetwinery.com

- World-renowned wine critics consider Gruet to be one of the finest sparkling wine producers in the country.
- Originally from France, the Gruet family has been producing wines in New Mexico (both sparkling and regular) since 1987.
- See website for tasting room times

CASA RONDEÑA WINERY

733 Chavez Rd NW
Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM 87107,
(505) 344-5911
www.casarodena.com

- An award-winning winery, Casa Rondeña Winery is not only an exceptional New Mexican wine maker, the winery also offers some of New Mexico's most unique architecture. It is situated amidst adobe, stone, Moorish tile and ancient timbers, the winery and vineyards create a charming environment in which to spend an afternoon.
- The winery produces many different styles of wine, from a reserve cabernet sauvignon to a rosé.

ATTRACTIONS

VINEYARDS

During the 1860s, Europe experienced “The Great French Wine Blight”, which destroyed hundreds of vineyards primarily in France, but other European countries as well. In order to survive, European wineries ended up having to use an American rootstock that was resistant to the aphid. So, unknown to many, all European grape vines exist on American vine rootstocks.

CORRALES WINERY

6275 Corrales Rd
Corrales, NM 87048
(505) 898-5165

www.corraleswinery.com

- Located just north of Albuquerque, this is New Mexico’s newest winery with stunning views of the Sandia Mountains.
- Choosing grapes from their own vineyard as well as from vineyards around New Mexico, these handcrafted wines have won many awards.

ANASAZI FIELDS WINERY

26 Camino De Los Pueblitos
Placitas, NM 87043
(505) 867-3062

www.anasazifieldswinery.com

- Located on the western edge of the old village of Placitas, this winery handcrafts table wines from fruits and berries as well as grapes.
- Their dry fruit wines include fruits such as peach, apricot, plum, cherry and cranberry.
- All of the wines are aged in oak for one to four years.



ATTRACTIONS

SIGHTSEEING

NOB HILL (ROUTE 66)

- Nob Hill spans a mile-long stretch of Central Avenue (formerly known as Route 66), marked on each end by neon arches.
- This district is bursting with unique shops, trendy restaurants and chic nightspots.
- Louis Hesseldon designed the Nob Hill Shopping Center in a mix of Territorial Revival and Modern design elements. This area is one of the best examples of retro shopping centers in America.
- Nob Hill is Albuquerque's premier neighborhood for diverse culture, artistic vibe, and eclectic neon lights.

SANDIA CREST

- At 10,678 feet, the Crest is the highest point of the Sandia Mountains.
- The Sandia Crest Byway (NM 536) is higher than all other Southwest scenic drives.
- Part of the Cibola National Forest, the Sandias are home to Rocky Mountain big horn sheep, mule deer, black bears and even eagles.
- The Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway is North America's longest single-span tramway. Ride up 2.7 miles of cable over rugged canyons and pinnacles of the Sandia Mountains.
- At the top, enjoy a spectacular 11,000-mile panoramic view.
- Dining opportunities exist both at the base of the tram & at the Crest.

OLD TOWN ALBUQUERQUE

- Historic Old Town has been the heart of Albuquerque since the city was founded in 1706.
- Old Town is home to the historically acclaimed San Felipe de Neri church, the oldest in the city.
- Offers the best of New Mexico's arts and crafts, museums and restaurants and is the location for regular music and dance performances.
- Experience authentic New Mexican traditions in Old Town like the luminarias (brown sacks filled with sand and a candle to create a lantern in the holiday season) that are on display every winter.



ATTRACTIONS

SIGHTSEEING

MINING TOWNS/TURQUOISE TRAIL

- The mining towns of Golden, Madrid and Cerrillos are found along North NM 15 between Albuquerque and Santa Fe.
- Some of these mining towns were revived as artist's colonies; Madrid hosts a successful outdoor music series in the summer and was even used as a setting in the 2007 movie, *Wild Hogs*. Cerrillos has been used as a set for several Western movies, including *Young Guns*.
- The scenic and historic Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway (NM 14 and 536) area encompasses 15,000 square miles in the heart of New Mexico. The Turquoise Trail links Santa Fe with Albuquerque and runs through Tijeras, Cedar Crest, Sandia Park, Golden, Madrid, Cerrillos and San Marcos/Lone Butte.

De Pina
Francis
Carrillo



MAJOR EVENTS

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA®

Balloon Fiesta Park

4401 Alameda Place NE, 87113

(505) 821-1000

www.balloonfiesta.com

- Known as the “Hot Air Ballooning Capital of the World,” Albuquerque hosts the largest hot air balloon event in the world each October, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®.
- Every year, hundreds of balloonists from around the world come to Albuquerque to launch their balloons from Balloon Fiesta Park for the first two weeks of October.
- Some popular events:
 - The Balloon Glow: the balloons are inflated on the ground before the sun comes up or after it sets, so the bright glow of the flame illuminates the balloons in the dark.
 - The Mass Ascension: Early in the morning, over 500 balloons launch from the park, to create an incredible spectacle.
 - The Special Shape Rodeo: Only the “special shape” balloons, such as a fish or a cartoon character, will inflate and launch from the park together, filling the air with unique sights of huge balloon butterflies, sharks, bumble bees and more.
- The Balloon Fiesta began in 1972, with about ten balloons launching from a shopping mall parking lot. 2011 marked the 40th anniversary of the Fiesta, with a record breaking 345 balloons launching in one hour on the first day of the Fiesta.



MAJOR EVENTS

CULTURAL EVENTS

GATHERING OF NATIONS POWWOW

University of New Mexico Arena “The Pit”

1414 University Boulevard SE

www.gatheringofnations.com

- The Native American Pow Wow takes place annually during the last weekend in April at the University of New Mexico’s basketball venue, “The Pit.”
- It began in 1983 to promote Native American and American Indian (indigenous) culture and tradition and to dispel stereotypes.
- Over 3,000 dancers and singers representing more than 500 tribes from Canada and the United States come to Albuquerque annually to participate in the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow.



GLOBALQUERQUE

National Hispanic Cultural Center

1701 4th Street SW

www.globalquerque.org

- New Mexico’s Annual Celebration of World Music and Culture features events around the state and culminates in a two-day multi-stage festival at the National Hispanic Cultural Center.
- A myriad of international performers join representatives of New Mexico’s varied cultural traditions, plus food and crafts from around the world, educational workshops, free family fun, dance classes and performances.

MAJOR EVENTS

CULTURAL EVENTS

FESTIVAL FLAMENCO INTERNACIONAL DE ALBUQUERQUE

The National Hispanic Cultural Center

1701 4th St SW

www.ffinm.org

- The National Institute of Flamenco presents the Festival Flamenco Internacional de Albuquerque in June every year.
- The Flamenco Festival is distinguished as the most important and longest standing flamenco event outside of Spain.
- This global event includes workshops, plus seven spectacular performances.

ROUTE 66 SUMMERFEST

Nob Hill on Central Avenue

www.rt66central.com/rt66summerfest.html

- This street festival along Central Avenue celebrates the past and present culture of Historic Route 66 in Albuquerque.
- Central Avenue is filled with live music and entertainment, car shows, tours of historic Nob Hill, kids' events, arts, sidewalk sales, plus local wine, beer and culinary events.

MAJOR EVENTS

ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVALS

RIO GRANDE ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVALS

Expo New Mexico Fairgrounds and Paseo/I-25 Tent
www.riograndefestivals.com

- The Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festival features three shows every year: a spring show in March, a Balloon Fiesta show in October and a holiday show in November.
- The spring and holiday shows are at the Expo fairgrounds and the Balloon Fiesta show is at the southwest corner of Paseo del Norte and I-25 in the big white tent.
- The shows feature the works of hundreds of the nation's most outstanding artists and craftspeople.
- Visitors can shop and purchase directly from the artists, and also enjoy the food court, complete with wine sampling.
- There are also artists' demonstrations, children's activities and a variety of entertainment, making it a fun event for the entire family.



NEW MEXICO ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Expo New Mexico Fairgrounds
www.nmartsandcraftsfair.org

- In June every year, this arts and crafts show features over 220 talented artists and crafters.
- The New Mexico Arts and Crafts Fair is the longest running art show in New Mexico (over 50 years) and features only New Mexican artists.
- Rated as one of the top 200 Art Shows in the USA by *Sunshine Artist Magazine*.

MAJOR EVENTS

HOLIDAY EVENTS

RIVER OF LIGHTS

Botanic Gardens - ABQ BioPark

2601 Central Ave NW

www.riveroflights.org

- Beginning late November and running through December, the River of Lights features hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights and dazzling holiday displays at New Mexico's largest walk-through light show.
- Each year's show unveils ingenious new sculptures and stunning displays made by Albuquerque BioPark artists.

GILDAN NEW MEXICO BOWL

University of New Mexico Stadium

1414 University Boulevard SE

www.gildannewmexicobowl.com

- Since its inception in 2006, the New Mexico Bowl has been played on the Saturday afternoon before Christmas at University Stadium on the University of New Mexico campus.

LUMINARIA TOUR

www.ItsATrip.org/holiday

- Luminarias are brown paper bags containing votive candles and sand to create beautiful holiday lighting.
- Every Christmas Eve, thousands of them line the streets of Albuquerque with their low, ethereal glow.
- These little lanterns light up the Southwest every year during the holidays and the Old Town Luminaria Tour is one of the best places in Albuquerque to experience this unique tradition.



FILM IN NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE

GREAT PLACE TO FILM:

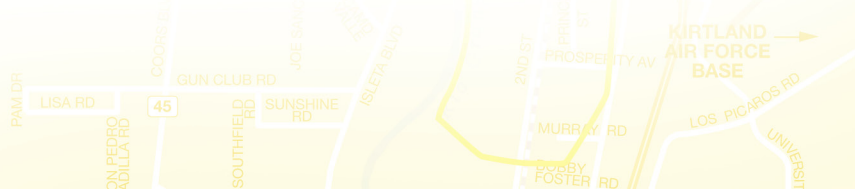
- In 2010, *MovieMaker* Magazine voted Albuquerque as being the “best place in America to make movies and to call home.” (cabq.gov/film) Today, many film productions and TV shows are filmed here.

RENOWNED FILM STUDIOS:

- Albuquerque Studios- Productions include hit TV series *Breaking Bad*, *The Night Shift*, *In Plain Sight*, and also box office hits such as *Book of Eli*.

FILMING RIGHT IN OUR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS:

- Because of the popularity of TV shows like *Breaking Bad* and *In Plain Sight*, and movies like *Transformers*, *No Country for Old Men*, *Sunshine Cleaning*, and *The Book of Eli*, visitors have the opportunity to see the locations where these pictures were filmed.



FILM IN NEW MEXICO

OUTSIDE ALBUQUERQUE

MADRID, NM:

- The small town known as the “Mayberry” of New Mexico, Madrid, hosted filming of the well known movie, *Wild Hogs*.
- The production process lasted about six months, while the actual filming lasted about one month.

CERRILLOS, NM:

- Cerrillos, NM, a small community just outside of Albuquerque, has been the location for several movie productions. These productions include: *Young Guns*, *The Hitcher*, and *Beer For My Horses* starring Toby Keith.

For more information on film in Albuquerque and film in New Mexico, visit:

<http://www.imageworks.com>

<http://www.nmfilm.com>

<http://www.cabq.gov/film>

A background map of Albuquerque, New Mexico, showing various streets and landmarks. The map is light yellow and white, with street names in small black text. Key streets visible include I-25, I-40, and several local roads like San Pedro Dr, Louisiana Blvd, and Wyoming Blvd. The Sandia Lakes Recreational Area is labeled in the top right corner.

ABOUT NEW MEXICO

STATE TRIVIA

- New Mexico is commonly nicknamed “The Land of Enchantment.” In 2012, the State Tourism Office launched a new campaign premise: “New Mexico *True*”
- The State slogan: “Everybody is somebody in New Mexico.”
- The State song: “O, Fair New Mexico.”
- The State motto: “Crescit eundo” - It grows as it goes

STATE FACTS

NEW MEXICO STATE FLAG

1925 (a red Zia sun on a field of Spanish yellow)

- The Zia Sun originates with the Zia Pueblo of New Mexico.
- The Zia believe that the number four was sacred and was embodied in the earth with the four main directions (N, S, E, W); in the year with the four seasons; in the day with sunrise, noon, evening and night; and in life’s divisions of childhood, youth, adult and old age
- The Zia also believe the symbol represents four sacred obligations of man: develop a strong body, a clear mind, a pure spirit and a devotion to the welfare of his people.

THE NEW MEXICO STATE SEAL

- (From the official act of legislation) “[The New Mexico state Seal] shall be the Mexican [brown] Eagle grasping a serpent in its beak, the cactus in its talons, shielded by the American [bald] Eagle with outspread wings and grasping arrows in its talons; the date 1912 under the eagles and, on a scroll, the motto: ‘Crescit Eundo’ [‘it grows at it goes’].”
- The Mexican [brown] Eagle represents the ancient Aztec myth that the gods ordered the Aztec Indians to settle the site in which they saw a Mexican eagle poised on a cactus devouring a serpent.
- This portion of the seal is still the official symbol of the Mexican Republic.
- The American eagle portion of the Seal represents the change of loyalty of New Mexico to the United States and no longer to Mexico, while America protects and encourages the Mexican influence in the state.



ABOUT NEW MEXICO

THE STATE FLOWER: THE YUCCA

- Pronunciation: Yuh-kuh
- Called “Our Lord’s candies” by early settlers who saw the beautiful flowers of the yucca cactus gracing New Mexico plains and deserts.
- Member of the lily family and symbol of sturdiness as well as beauty.
- Practical uses: the yucca roots are great substitutes for soap, much of the plant is edible and dried yucca wood is excellent for fires.

THE STATE TREE: THE PIÑON

- A slow-growing evergreen flourishes over much of New Mexico. The Piñon tree produces piñon or pine nuts; small, buttery-tasting seeds.
- Every few years, the piñon produces a bumper crop of nuts and hundreds of New Mexicans go piñon picking.
- When cool weather sets in, the distinctive incense of burning piñon logs perfume the air throughout the state.

THE STATE BIRD: THE CHAPARRAL BIRD, AKA THE “ROADRUNNER”

- A species of cuckoo, the Roadrunner is a combination of a chicken and a magpie and has the ability to run along the ground at speeds up to 20 mph.
- It was nicknamed the roadrunner by pioneers as it often raced along in the wagon ruts made by prairie schooners.

A background map of Albuquerque, New Mexico, showing various streets and landmarks. The map is light yellow and white, with street names in small black text. Key streets visible include I-25, I-40, and I-55. Landmarks like the Sandia Lakes Recreational Area and Kirtland Air Force Base are also marked. The map is partially obscured by the text and other elements of the page.

ABOUT NEW MEXICO

THE STATE ANIMAL: THE BLACK BEAR

- The black bear is found throughout NM and was designated the state animal in 1963 following the 1950 Lincoln forest fire where the famous Smokey The Bear was found.
- Smokey was a New Mexican black bear that survived the fire, became a national symbol for fire prevention and is the insignia for the NM Department of Game and Fish.

THE STATE FISH: THE NEW MEXICO CUTTHROAT TROUT (RIO GRANDE CUT-THROAT TROUT)

- Native to the cold lakes and streams in northern New Mexico, this trout is dark olive in color has black spots on the body, red streaks on its throat and belly and is only about 6-8 inches long.

THE STATE VEGETABLES: CHILE AND FRIJOLES (PINTO BEANS)

- Interestingly, neither beans nor chile are botanically vegetables. Chile is technically a fruit because it contains the seeds of the plant inside. Beans are also not vegetables; they are legumes, also a type of fruit. Culinary however, both are considered vegetables because of the way they are cooked and prepared.
- The introduction of the frijole and chile along with the introduction of Indian corn to the early settlers has given the state a distinctive cuisine that can only be considered “native New Mexican.”

THE STATE QUESTION: RED OR GREEN?

- This question is asked whenever ordering food with chile and refers to whether a person prefers green chile, red chile or “Christmas,” a combination of both.
- This state question signifies just how important chile is in the local cuisine and the economy of the state.
- In 2010, 8,700 acres were harvested, a crop valued at about \$41.6 million.



ABOUT NEW MEXICO

THE STATE GEM: TURQUOISE

- Hundreds of years before the Spanish explorers arrived, Native Americans in New Mexico have been mining and fashioning ornaments out of turquoise.
- The gemstone has become a big industry and a signature part of fashion in the state.
- It is the only phosphate to be considered a precious stone.

THE STATE COOKIE: THE BISCOCHITO (BIZCOCHITO)

- The biscochito is a type of shortbread cookie flavored with anise that was brought to New Mexico by early Spaniards.
- Adopting the Biscochito as the state cookie in 1989 made New Mexico the first state with an official cookie.

THE STATE CUISINE: NEW MEXICAN

- New Mexican cuisine is unique because of its blend of Native American, Spanish and Mexican ingredients; a cuisine you really cannot find any place else in the country.
- It's a combination of preparing and creating delicious food with simple ingredients like chile (red and/or green), pinto beans, tortilla (corn and/or flour), cheese, chicken/beef/pork and often onions.
- The chile is what makes New Mexican stand out against other cuisines. Though traditional New Mexican food is where most expect to find chile, you can also order chile at nearly all restaurants in the state. You can add it on burgers, pasta, eggs and any other dish you can imagine.

A background map of Albuquerque, New Mexico, showing various streets and landmarks. The map is light yellow and green, with street names in small black text. A dark red banner is at the top, and a dark red banner is at the bottom. The text 'FUN FACTS' is centered in the red banner.

FUN FACTS

1. The additional “r” in Albuquerque was omitted in the 19th century because many settlers couldn’t pronounce it properly.
2. New Mexico is one of the Four Corner states: bordering at the same point with Colorado, Utah and Arizona.
3. Albuquerque is one of the few cities in the nation in which you can play golf in the city and ski on excellent mountain slopes less than 30 minutes away, all in the same day.
4. The 2.7-mile aerial tramway located on the northeast edge of Albuquerque is the longest in North America, and has the third longest span in the world. The tram whisks visitors from base at 6600-feet in elevation to the top of the 10,378-foot Sandia Peak in about 20 minutes.
5. The Sandia Mountains house the world’s highest television towers--those belonging to Albuquerque’s three commercial and one educational network.
6. Bill Gates and Paul Allen founded Microsoft in Albuquerque in 1975 before moving to Bellevue, Washington in 1979.
7. Albuquerque is the Hot Air Ballooning Capital of the world and the site of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta every fall. Hundreds of thousands of balloonists, fans and visitors attend every year.
8. Albuquerque native, Neil Patrick Harris, is an American Golden Globe- and Emmy-nominated actor. Prominent roles include “Doogie Howser, M.D.” and Barney Stinson in “How I Met Your Mother.”
9. Brian Urlacher was a University of New Mexico Lobo football favorite before heading to the NFL as starting linebacker for the Chicago Bears.

MOTORCOACH INFO

New Mexico does not require that motor coach and commercial bus operators display New Mexico plates when entering the state on a chartered trip. For information on certain fuel and prorated agreements now in place between New Mexico and other states, operators should check with the Motor Transportation Division of the state in which their vehicles are domiciled.

For information on requirements for liability statements and ICC regulations, contact:

New Mexico Public Regulations Commission, Transportation Division

P.O. Box 1269, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269

(505) 827-4519

www.nmprc.state.nm.us/td.htm

For information on motor carrier safety regulations, contact:

New Mexico Motor Transportation Division

P.O. Box 1028, Santa Fe, NM 87504

(505) 827-0321

Information about highway and fuel taxes and permits is also available:

www.dps.nm.org/lawEnforcement/mtd/index.php

DUMPING STATIONS

- Flying J Travel Plazas: I-40 Exit 15
- TravelCenters of America; Albuquerque Travel Center: I-25 North Exit 225, I-25 South Exit 227, I-40 East Exit 159A, I-40 West Exit 159D; 2501 University N.E.
- Albuquerque Auto Truck Plaza: I-25 and NM Route 44; Exit 242
- American RV Park of Albuquerque: I-40; 13500 Central Avenue S.W.
- Giant Service Station: NM 500 / Rio Bravo Blvd / Albuquerque
- Giant Service Station : 201 Rio Bravo Blvd, 505-877-9217
- South side of Academy Rd NE between San Mateo Blvd and Bear Canyon Golf Course