

ALBUQUERQUE, NM



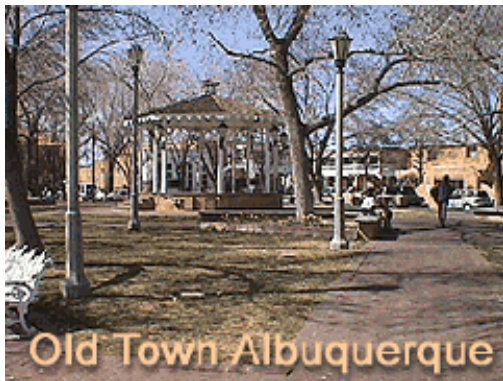
Albuquerque combines a unique blend of multiculturalism, natural beauty, profound historical attractions, spectacular climate with four distinct seasons, museums, galleries and shopping to create a distinct and unforgettable visit for every kind of visitor. Albuquerque's distinct cultures and unique charms give visitors the opportunity to experience a part of America that is truly enchanting.

Located in the Rio Grande Valley in north central New Mexico, the city of Albuquerque with a population of about 500,000, may just have the best year round weather of any place on the planet. Crystal blue skies, bordered by majestic colorful mountains, winter skiing, unforgettable sunsets, ancient petroglyphs, the biggest annual balloon festival in the world and a rich and unique cultural history unlike any other place you have ever been, await you.

ATTRACTIONS

Historic Old Town: Come explore a beautiful charming and serene Historic Village within a modern city.

Old Town Albuquerque is a must visit to a place where centuries of history and modern life merge to blend 18th century architecture with



narrow brick paths, world famous artwork, the finest in jewelry, delicious food and rare specialty shops offering you the creative talents of our Spanish, Native

American and Anglo heritages. A shopper's and photographer's dream, Old Town Albuquerque is full of enticing nooks and crannies where you will find quaint merchant shops in the true southwestern style all located within a ten minute walk from each other. For the romantic in you, horse drawn carriages



Shopping in Historic Old Town

can transport you back in time allowing you to imagine how life was in Old Town, 300 years ago. Take a walk through history around Albuquerque Old Town Plaza, the serene village that has been the focal point of community life since 1706. Quiet hidden patios, winding brick paths, gardens and balconies are waiting to be discovered. Wrought iron and adobe benches beckon you to rest in the shade and watch people stroll by. Visit historic San Felipe de Neri Church and relax in the Rose Garden.

Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway:

Ride the world's longest continuous single-span tramway to Sandia's 10,378-foot peak with an 11,000 square mile panoramic view. From the base to the top of the peak, time and terrain seem to move in harmony as passengers lift from the desert floor, above canyons and lush forests, to the mountain top—2.7 miles of sky-view travel and discovery of New Mexico's varied landscape and life zones.



Albuquerque Biological Park:

Only a stone's throw from the legendary Rio Grande and its cottonwood bosque (woods), the park invites you to explore the mystery and diversity of living organisms in a beautiful setting. Core facilities include: Albuquerque Aquarium, Rio Grande Botanic Gardens, Rio Grande Zoo and the Tingley Aquatic Park. The BioPark has an estimated 6,000 animals and 11,000 plants.



ALBUQUERQUE AQUARIUM



RIO GRANDE BOTANICAL GARDENS



RIO GRANDE ZOO

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center:

This museum showcases the history and accomplishments of the Pueblo people from Pre-Columbian to current time. Its central focus is a 10,000 sq. ft. museum of the authentic history and artifacts of traditional Pueblo cultures and their contemporary art. Permanent exhibits highlight the creativity and adaptation which made possible the survival, diversity and achievements of each of the 19 Pueblos. The 19 Pueblos are unique in the world in the respect that there is only one place on Earth that you can find this flourishing culture that they are so proud of. Many local artists also conduct demonstrations of their art at the Center.



Petroglyph National Monument: This national monument stretches 17 miles along Albuquerque's West Mesa, a volcanic basalt escarpment that dominates the city's western horizon. It protects a variety of cultural and natural resources including five volcanic cones, hundreds of archeological sites and an estimated 25,000 images carved by native



peoples and early Spanish settlers. Many of the images are recognizable as animals, people, brands and crosses; others are more complex. Their meaning, possibly, understood only by the carver. These images are inseparable from the greater cultural landscape, from the spirits of the people who created them, and all who appreciate them. Petroglyph National Monument is a place of respect, awe and wonderment.

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta:

Marvel as nearly 1,000 balloons take part in Mass Ascensions, Balloon Glows and Special Shapes Rodeos held annually in October. Hot air ballooning is a popular sport available year-round.



National Atomic Museum:

The National Atomic Museum is the nation's only congressionally-chartered museum of nuclear science and history. Through artifacts and audio-visual presentations, the museum tells the story of the nuclear age and the ongoing developments in nuclear science. A few of the exhibits include "The Manhattan Project, WWII and the Cold War", "Secret No More-A Look into Russia's Nuclear Weapon Museums", "Robotics" and many more.



On the first Saturday in April and the first Saturday in October, a very special tour is available. Buses leave from the National Atomic Museum for the Trinity Site, ground zero for the first atomic bomb testing on July 16, 1945. The tour includes a visit to ground zero, where the bomb was placed for the explosion; the McDonald ranch house, where the plutonium core to the bomb was assembled and a drive-by of one of the old instrumentation bunkers. This is an experience not to be forgotten for any true history buffs.

Turquoise Trail: This National Scenic Byway encompasses 15,000 square miles in the heart of central New Mexico, linking Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Enjoy a breathtaking view from atop Sandia Crest, the magnificent summit of the Sandia Mountains



in Cibola National Forest. Then drive back into history through the mining towns of Golden, Madrid, and Cerrillos, now coming alive with art, crafts, theater, music, museums, and restaurants. To really discover the Land of Enchantment, travel the Turquoise Trail!

Bataan Memorial Military Museum: The central focus of this museum is the men of the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment which was sent to the Philippine Islands early in WWII to furnish anti-aircraft support to Clark Air Force and Fort Stotsenberg. The



Regiment was divided to form the 515th Coast Artillery Regiment while in the Philippines. Both Regiments were lost to enemy action on Bataan when the Japanese overran the Philippines in 1942. The 200th consisted of 1,800 men when deployed. After three and one half years of captivity, less than half were to return to the United States. The museum has many truly fine artifacts and memorabilia, with current exhibits encompassing military eras from the 16th century through the Gulf War.

Santa Fe: A visit to New Mexico is not complete without a visit to this photogenic and historic capital city. On the way to Santa Fe, a visit to a western movie set can be arranged. This town was built for the filming of "The Cheyenne Social Club." While touring the set, you'll hear about all of the great actors who have filmed here (Jimmy Stewart, John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, to name a few).



Santa Fe Plaza

In Santa Fe, a walking tour is the way to really see the historic part of the city, Santa Fe Plaza. Here you can shop, visit galleries, museums, and have lunch in an outdoor café. Buy yourself or a friend a piece of the famous New Mexico turquoise jewelry or a fabulous piece of Native pottery at one of the many shops on the Plaza. See where the famous Santa Fe Trail ended, right in the heart of the city. Other must-sees in Santa Fe include the Pueblo Revival Museum of Fine Arts, Canyon Road's gallery district, vintage adobes in the Guadalupe Historic District, the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian and the Museum of International Folk Art.



Tonal Turquoise



National Hispanic Cultural Center of New Mexico:

Opened in 2000, this museum showcases historic and contemporary Hispanic arts, humanities and achievements. It is currently home to an 11,000 square-foot art museum



and three galleries and a sculpture courtyard, a full-service library and genealogy center, a lecture hall, a gift shop and a restaurant. Its lovely setting is on the edge of the Rio Grande Bosque, close to downtown Albuquerque.

Acoma Pueblo: The oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States, situated on a 356-foot mesa is one of the state's most dramatic landmarks. Located an hour west of Albuquerque, this site is often called "Sky City," because of its perch atop the mesa overlooking the desert. Take a walking tour through the pueblo, the plaza and 17th century mission church.



Acoma Pueblo

Coronado State Monument: This is the site thought to be the place where Spanish explorer Coronado spent the winter of 1540-41. Explore the remains of Kuaua Pueblo, follow an interpretive trail and visit a restored kiva.