

## Some day trips for NM visitors

Albuquerque, NM (<https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/>)

Just in town by short walk, bus trip, rental car, or Lyft/Uber, Albuquerque has many sights and activities to offer and for families, too!

\***Albuquerque Museum of Art and History** (2000 Mountain Rd NW, 87104) – just a hop and a skip away the Albuquerque Museum offers a wide variety of programming including educational classes for children of all ages; live performances in its amphitheater; docent-guided tours in the Museum, its Sculpture Garden and Old Town; the Museum Store and the Museum's café, Slate at The Museum.

\***San Felipe De Neri Church/Old Town** (Old Town Plaza, NW) – an historic Catholic church built in 1793 located right in the heart of Old Town hails to be one of the oldest surviving buildings in Albuquerque.

\***Explora!** (701 Mountain Rd NW, 87104) – another gem near Old Town this museum employs a hands-on, inquiry-based learning approach to science, math and art. The museum has 20,000 square feet (1,900 m<sup>2</sup>) of exhibit space on two floors, which contain over 250 interactive exhibits that cover a broad range of science, technology and art.

\***New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science** (1801 Mountain Road NW, 87104) – just across the street from **Explora** this museum's mission boasts (and fairly!) preserves and interprets the distinctive natural and scientific heritage of our state through extraordinary collections, research, exhibits and programs designed to ignite a passion for lifelong learning.

\***Sandia Peak Tramway** (30 Tramway Road NE) – A trip on the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway transports you above deep canyons and breathtaking terrain a distance of 2.7 miles. See some of nature's more dramatic beauty unfold before you...atop 10,378 foot Sandia Peak in the Cibola National Forest affords an 11,000 square-mile panoramic view of the Rio Grande Valley and the Land of Enchantment.

\***La Luz Hiking Trail** (<http://www.laluztrail.com>) – for avid and experienced hikers equipped with lots and lots of water, this trail features an 8-9 mile trek up the Sandia Mountains to the Sandia Crest, with an altitude range from 7,000 to 10,378. This is a strenuous hike, but offers splendid views of Albuquerque and distant mesas. Make it to the Crest and treat yourself to a ride back down the Sandia Tram.

\***Indian Pueblo Cultural Center** (2401 12th St. N.W., 87104) – Just outside Old Town, check out Pueblo art and pottery, Native American dancing, try your hand at gourd painting, taste a Tewa Taco and some native bread and much more!

\***National Museum of Nuclear Science and History** (601 Eubank Blvd SE, 87123-3378) – learn about the diverse applications of nuclear energy from the past, present, and the future.

\***Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum and Park** (9201 Balloon Museum Dr. NE, 87113) – learn about all types of ballooning and lighter-than-air-flight and the area that host's the largest annual balloon festival. Museum exhibits include artifacts and materials related to the history of ballooning and the science behind ballooning. Modern multimedia systems such as a balloon flight simulator provide both education and entertainment. The recently opened movie theater provides both 2D and 4D films.

**\*ABQ BioPark – Zoos, Botanical Gardens, and Aquarium (2601 Central Ave NW)** – the Zoo features animals from around the world, the Aquarium colorful fish native to a variety of ecosystems found throughout the United States, and the Botanic Garden has grown to 32 acres of exhibits, and showcases plants from the American Southwest and around the world. The Botanic Garden’s BUGarium is one of the most elaborate exhibits dedicated to bugs and arthropods in the country.

**\*Rio Grande Nature Center State Park (2901 Candelaria Rd NW, 87107)** — Offers excellent bird watching throughout the year, including 250 species of birds. The bosque, or riverside forest, features two miles of nature trails that wind through tall cottonwoods and past willow thickets and open sand flats alongside the Rio Grande.

Santa Fe, NM (<https://santafe.org>)

Whether you take the RailRunner to Santa Fe and catch a shuttle to the Plaza, or drive your rental car, Santa Fe is a must-see for a first-time visitor to the Southwest.

-things to see:

**\*Canyon Road** — Walk the historic road and check out the many art galleries, cafés, and restaurants.

**\*Santa Fe Plaza** — Bordered by San Francisco Street and Washington, Palace and Lincoln avenues (Santa Fe, NM 87501), the Plaza the central hub of SF since the city’s foundation in 1610.

**\*The Palace of the Governors/New Mexico History Museum** — See the original Spanish Capitol of what is today the American Southwest, located on the Santa Fe Plaza in the heart of downtown Santa Fe.

**\*Loretto Chapel (207 Old Santa Fe Trail | Santa Fe, NM 87501)** — Visit the chapel and see its miraculous spiral staircase. <https://www.lorettochapel.com>

**\*The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi (131 Cathedral Place, Santa Fe, NM 87501)** — An architectural gem built in 1869 at the historical site of the original Church of Santa Fe. The cathedral is open for sight-seeing as well as serving as a house of worship. <https://www.cbsfa.org>

**\*Georgia O’Keeffe Museum (217 Johnson Street | Santa Fe, NM 87501)** — Explore the paintings, sketches, and photographs by Georgia O’Keefe and a number of her contemporaries in this beautiful museum. <https://www.okeeffemuseum.org>

**\*The Museum of International Folk Art (706 Camino Lejo, on Museum Hill | Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505)** — Visit the world’s largest collection of folk art (more than 130,000 objects from more than 100 countries). <http://www.internationalfolkart.org/>

**\*Bandolier National Monument (15 Entrance Rd. | Los Alamos, NM 87544)** — You’ll need a car to drive to Bandolier, but it’s worth the trip to visit the cliff-dwellings of the Ancestral Pueblo people who occupied the area ca. 1150-1550 CE. Start planning your trip here: <https://www.nps.gov/band/index.htm>

\*Sample some of New Mexico’s finest local cuisine or enjoy fine dining in the heart of the city:

-Anasazi Restaurant (113 Washington Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — Located in the elegant Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi just off the Plaza. <https://www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/inn-of-the-anasazi-santa-fe/dining/anasazi-restaurant> (\$\$\$\$)

\***La Casa Sena** (125 E Palace Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — Serving American West and New Mexican cuisine for over 30 years. Great food, great drinks, and a singing wait-staff. Need I say more? <http://lacasasena.com> (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$)

\***The Compound** (653 Canyon Road. | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — Take a break from touring Canyon Road for an unbelievable meal. <http://www.compoundrestaurant.com> (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$)

\***Coyote Café** (123 Water St. | Santa Fe, 87501) — Enjoy a meal at the iconic restaurant that helped defined modern Southwestern cuisine. <https://www.coyotecafe.com> (\$\$\$\$)

\***Geronimo** (724 Canyon Rd. | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — Consistently voted among the top 100 restaurants in America. <http://www.geronimorestaurant.com> (\$\$\$\$)

\***Pink Adobe** (406 Old Santa Fe Trail | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — A long-time Santa Fe favorite for upscale dining. Ask to sit in the patio. <http://www.thepinkadobe.com> (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$)

\***Plaza Café** (54 Lincoln Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — A retro, classy spot for dining right on the Plaza. Expect good food and great service. (\$\$-\$\$\$)

\***Sazon** (221 Shelby St. | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — Enjoy Chef Fernando Olea’s locally-sourced New World cuisine. The mole sauce is a specialty. <http://www.sazonsantafe.com> (\$\$\$\$)

\***The Shed** (113 ½ East Plaza Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — Some of the best red chile around, and located in a beautiful, hidden spot, right on the Plaza. <https://sfshed.com> (\$\$-\$\$\$)

\***Tia Sofia’s** (210 West San Francisco St. | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — A great, down-to-earth restaurant just off the Plaza. Take the early train to SF and grab some breakfast at Tia Sophia’s: a cheese enchilada with a fried egg on top! (\$\$-\$\$\$)

\***Tomasita’s** (500 South Guadalupe St. | Santa Fe, NM 87501) — Located in the downtown SF Railyard, Tomasita’s has been making amazing guacamole and margaritas for more than 40 years.

<http://tomasitas.com> (\$\$-\$\$\$)

Taos, NM (<http://taos.org>)

Take the scenic 56-mile “high road” to Taos, NM, via US-503 toward Nambé Pueblo, just north of Santa Fe. Once you get to Taos, take in some of the sights:

-**Taos Pueblo**

-**Taos Plaza**

-**the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge**

-**Kit Carson Home, Museum, and Park**

-**take a tour of the Taos Winery** (tours begin 1:00 PM)

-fine dining options:

\***Doc Martin’s Restaurant** (125 Paseo del Pueblo Norte) —A historic building and innovative local cuisine (e.g., rattlesnake sausage). You won’t mind the wait with great cocktails and live music. \$\$\$

\***Lambert’s of Taos** (123 Bend St.) — An intimate spot with upscale American fare. \$\$\$

**\*Byzantium** (112 Camino de la Placita) — Enjoy New American fare, a small but well-curated wine list, and a remarkable dining environment. \$\$\$

**Finally, what travel guide is complete without a bona fide treasure hunt?**

Local NM millionaire and art dealer Forrest Fenn has buried a cool million worth of gold and gems somewhere between Santa Fe and the Canadian border, and hidden clues to the location in his self published *Thrill of the Chase* (<http://dalneitzel.com>). I'm not making this up! (<http://www.npr.org/2016/03/13/469852983/seeking-adventure-and-gold-crack-this-poem-and-head-outdoors>). Bring your hiking gear and put your philological skills to the test!