

# NEW MEXICO *True*

Scenic beauty is the number one reason visitors come to New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment. The geological makeup includes high mountain ranges, desert terrain, great plains, marvelous canyons and of course, the Rio Grande River which runs right through the center of our beautiful state north to south.

We are also famous for our New Mexican cuisine with a spotlight on the chile! The almighty chile is honored throughout the state at festivals and cook-offs. The “official state question” is: “Red or Green?”

## ATTRACTIONS

- 16 National Parks and Monuments
- 32 State Parks
- 7 National Forests and Grasslands
- Carlsbad Caverns
- Pre-Columbian Ruins of Chaco Canyon, Bandelier, Salinas Pueblo Missions, El Morro and the Gila Cliff Dwellings
- Puye Cliffs in Santa Clara Pueblo
- Rocky Mountains
- Route 66
- Santa Fe Trail
- Shiprock
- Valles Caldara
- White Sands National Monument

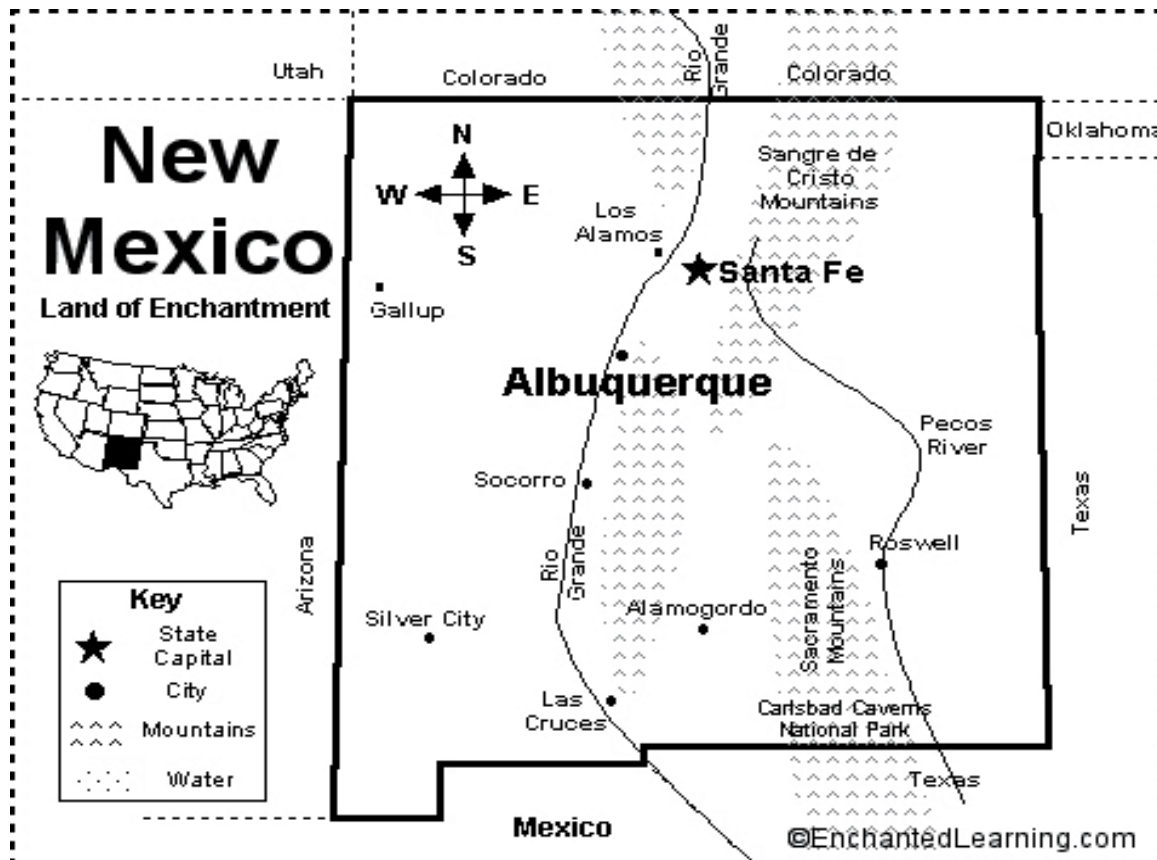


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### NEW MEXICO TOURISM DEPARTMENT

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## CLIMATE

New Mexico has four distinct seasons and averages 256 days of sunshine each year. The southern half of the state is typically warmer than the northern half. The climate does vary considerably from one region to another. The state has high elevations and lower desert terrain that influences the warmer days and cooler nights with temperatures ranging greatly from night to day.

## TRANSPORTATION

Albuquerque International Sunport serves major airlines. Las Cruces utilizes El Paso as its main airport. Albuquerque is on the Amtrak and Greyhound Bus Lines.

Interstate 40 runs east-west.  
 Interstate 25 runs north-south.  
 Interstate 10 runs west out of Las Cruces.

## CITIES

Santa Fe  
 Albuquerque  
 Ruidoso  
 Los Alamos  
 Las Cruces  
 Taos  
 Farmington  
 Carlsbad



## DAY ONE

Spend the day exploring the city of **Albuquerque**. Visit Historic Old Town and the **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center**. Take a ride on the **Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway**, have dinner and enjoy the view from the top of the Sandia Mountains. Overnight in Albuquerque.

## DAY TWO

Take the scenic route to Santa Fe using the **Turquoise Trail** (Highway 14). While in Santa Fe visit the **Museum of International Folk Art**, known for its extensive collection of Spanish Colonial artifacts. Explore this charming city, including the **Plaza** and shops downtown, the galleries on **Canyon Road** and the Gothic beauty of **Loretto Chapel**. Overnight in Santa Fe.

## DAY THREE

Travel to **San Ildefonso Pueblo**, home of the famous “Maria” poetry, then to **Bandelier National Monument**, site of prodigious cliff dwellings. Enjoy lunch in Los Alamos. Afterwards, drive through the **Jemez Wilderness** to **San Ysidro**, a village with local artisans and a restored Spanish adobe church. Continue on to **Farmington**, where you will have dinner and an overnight stay.

## DAY FOUR

Spend the day exploring the fabulous ruins of the **Chaco Culture National Historical Park**. Thirteen major ancestral Pueblo ruins dominate the arid landscape, some aligned with the star Polaris. Dinner and overnight in **Farmington**.

## DAY FIVE

Explore **Salmon Ruins** and the **Aztec Ruins National Monument**. Travel scenic US Highway 64 through **Dulce** and **Lumberton** to **Chama**. Stop at **Jicarilla Arts** and overnight in Chama.



## DAY SIX

Ride the **Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad** (May through mid-October). Lunch is included on the ride. Afterward drive US Highway 64 at sunset from **Tierra Amarilla** to Taos. Overnight in Taos.

## DAY SEVEN

Spend the morning at **Taos Pueblo**, have lunch and spend the afternoon visiting the shops, galleries and museums in Taos, where you will stay the night.

## DAY EIGHT

Travel US 64 to the **DAV Vietnam Veterans Memorial** near **Angel Fire**, built by a father for his slain son. Head north to New Mexico Highway 38 to the former gold- mining town of **Red River** and spend time exploring some of the best scenery in New Mexico. In winter, ski the slopes or take a snowmobile tour. Come summer, tour the backcountry by Jeep. Dinner and overnight in Red River.

## DAY NINE

Head for a ride in the “real” West. Hike through the **Cimarron Canyon** and the **Palisades Rock Cliffs**, with a stop at the **Old Mill Museum**. Drive to Capulin Volcano National Monument. Dinner and overnight in **Raton**.

## DAY TEN

Head south on Interstate 25 to **Fort Union National Monument**. Have lunch and explore the Victorian town of **Las Vegas**. Drive out to **Conchas Lake State Park** and then head for **Tucumcari**. Dinner and overnight in Tucumcari.





## DAY ELEVEN

Visit the **Tucumcari Historical Museum**, the **Mesalands Dinosaur Museum** and the eight spectacular murals around the town of Tucumcari, including the largest mural in the US dedicated to Route 66. Take the **Mesalands Scenic Byway** to **Santa Rosa**, visit the **Route 66 Auto Museum** and have lunch at one of the five Route 66 vintage cafes. Depart for Ruidoso, which offers a change of pace from the desert ecology. Ruidoso is set in the tall pines of the **Lincoln National Forest**, nestled at the foot of 12,000-foot **Sierra Blanca Peak**. Dinner and overnight in Ruidoso.

## DAY TWELVE

Visit downtown **Ruidoso** and browse along streets of colorful galleries, unique shops, museums and a wide range of fine restaurants.

Depart for **Old Lincoln** and visit Billy the Kid Country. Lincoln County was the scene of confrontations that included Sheriff Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid. The wars that raged throughout the area from 1878 to 1881 were fought over land and became the core of many Old West tales and books. Walking through the streets of Lincoln today brings the bloody saga back to life when no one expects an outlaw to step out from behind a huge cottonwood.

Depart for Carlsbad via Roswell where you can visit the **UFO Museum and Research Center**. Dinner and overnight in Carlsbad.

## DAY THIRTEEN

Visit the **Carlsbad Caverns National Park**, which is considered by many as the Eighth Wonder of the World and is, in fact, one of the 20 US World Heritage sites.

Depart for **White Sands National Monument**. Here you will find nearly 300 square miles of great gypsum sand dunes that cover the floor of the **Tularosa Basin** in a wavelike fashion. Dinner and overnight in **Alamogordo**.



## DAY FOURTEEN

Depart for **Las Cruces** (located 60 miles west of White Sands, approximately a 1-hour drive). Las Cruces is the second largest city in New Mexico. It offers scenic beauty featuring the beautiful **Organ Mountains** named for the irregular peaks that resemble pipes of an organ. Visit the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** to learn the 3,000-year story of agriculture in New Mexico.

Depart for **Stahmann Farms Country Store**, located 15 miles south of Las Cruces. Miles of pecan trees line New Mexico Highway 28 along the way. The mature pecan trees at Stahmann Farms are always beautiful, no matter the season.

While in Las Cruces, visit **Historic Old Mesilla Plaza**, where in the 1880s people came from as far as Chihuahua, Mexico, and even Tucson to attend bailes (dances), bullfights and theatrical presentations. Mesilla was a genuine part of the Old West and it was at the jail and courthouse on the Plaza where Billy the Kid was tried and sentenced to hang in 1881 (he escaped, however!). Today, visitors roam the plaza and find antique shops, galleries, coffeehouses and nationally recognized restaurants.

Dinners at **La Posta** are authentic Mexican dishes made from century- old recipes, featuring chile, the area's main agriculture crop. La Posta has sheltered such personalities as Billy the Kid, Kit Carson, General Douglas MacArthur and Pancho Villa.

## DAY FIFTEEN

Depart for Albuquerque; fly out of **Albuquerque International Sunport**.



*Photos provided by the New Mexico Tourism Department.*

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