



The moment you step into Albuquerque's Southwest-style airport, you begin to experience its unique sense of place. Add to that the dramatic Sandia Mountains and the volcanic escarpment, which frame Albuquerque to the east and west and the blue sky overhead, and you understand why Albuquerque's growth rate has exceeded the national average for decades. Albuquerque offers public transportation with city bus routes in all directions and the Rail Runner, New Mexico's first commuter rail service, provides service seven days a week to 13 stations along a 96.5-mile corridor that runs through Valencia, Bernalillo, Sandoval and Santa Fe counties linking numerous communities and tribes. Service is supplemented by Rio Metro buses on certain early morning routes. A commuter train, the New Mexico

Rail Runner Express, offers service spanning 100 miles from Santa Fe to Belen through the beautiful Rio Grande Valley, the train corridor has 14 stations, operating seven days a week.

For its wealth of activities and gentle weather, it's hard to beat Albuquerque.

- Sandia Mountains: Flanking the city to the east, the 10,678-foot mountain offers skiing, hiking, biking, and picnic spots.
- The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta: The largest ballooning event in the world draws 800,000 visitors each year to enjoy watching hundreds of hot-air balloons rising in beautiful fall weather.
- The ABQ BioPark: This imaginative and well-planned park includes a zoo, aquarium, botanic garden, and fishing beach.
- Museums: Albuquerque museums include such diverse facilities as the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, the Museum of Natural History and Science, the Albuquerque Museum, and Explora Science Center and Children's Museum. The spectacular National Hispanic Cultural Center includes art galleries and a performing arts center.
- Recreation: Albuquerque offers 800 parks, more than 80 miles of running and biking trails, 220 outdoor tennis courts, 23 ball fields, year-round golf on 15 golf courses and a National Wildlife Refuge.
- Sports: Games of the University of New Mexico Lobos are legendary for their color and fan devotion. The city also has a Triple-A baseball, with the Isotopes in a new stadium.



Albuquerque is flourishing as an arts center.

- Dozens of performing arts venues offer everything from classical music to flamenco, opera to musicals, and traditional and experimental theater.
- Albuquerque has more than 40 art galleries.
- The city and county have added hundreds of pieces of public art valued at millions over the last 20 years.
- Some 250 arts organizations serve the metro area. Of those, 45 are guilds.
- More than 400 artisan manufacturing companies produce furniture, jewellery, pottery, clothing and textiles. Albuquerque is one of six jewellery-producing centers in the nation.



Nearby National Wildlife Refuges.

Valle de Oro NWR—The refuge will be the show-piece for the Southwest Region, serving as a gateway to other refuges and introducing visitors to the Service, provide a high quality environmental education and interpretation program to the city and become the hub for Service outreach efforts in Albuquerque. Located along the Rio Grande, and a multi-purpose trail that runs over 20 miles along the River, the refuge will be part of a string of facilities that includes the Albuquerque Biopark and Zoo, the Hispanic Cultural Center, Rio Grande State Park and Nature Center and Balloon Fiesta Park. Located just 10 minutes from Downtown.

Sevilleta NWR—located approximately 45 minutes south of Albuquerque, offers scenic views of the middle Rio Grande Valley and an environmental education and visitor center.

For more information about Albuquerque, visit www.cabq.gov

