Discover Los Alamos

It’s unexpected—the first visit to Los Alamos, New Mexico. It starts with the drive, as you wind through canyons framed by golden cliffs on your journey to the mesa tops. As you round the last curve, you are struck by 360 degrees of spectacular scenery, framed by the Jemez Mountains and nature’s playground. Little has changed since the area was formed by one of the world’s seven supervolcanos. The Los Alamos townsite is perched here at 7,400 feet on mesa top “fingers” separated by rugged canyons. The perfect location for a “Secret City”. Come and discover our unique outdoors, centuries of world-changing history, and find your next adventure!
‘During a summer’s full moon or a beautiful dawn sunrise, being able to mountain bike on the rim of a volcano that overlooks the Rio Grande 4,000 feet below simply fills one’s soul with joy, awe, and wonder—all at the same time.’

—Clay Moseley

Mountain Biker | Outdoor Adventurer | Local
Bandelier National Monument

Imagine your home carved from volcanic tuff and your crops planted in mesa top fields. Corn, beans, and squash were central to your diet, supplemented by native plants and meat from deer, rabbit, squirrel and domesticated turkeys. Your dogs assisted in hunting and provided companionship. Step onto the trails and ladders and into the past as you experience life as an Ancestral Pueblo person.

Planning Your Visit:
15 Entrance Road off State Rd. 4, White Rock, NM
Park Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Visitor Center Hours: mid-May to mid-Oct: 9am-6pm
mid-Nov to mid-April: 9am-5pm
505-672-3861 | nps.gov/band

Shuttle Information - May to October:
Visitors must use the shuttle from White Rock Visitor Center between 9am-3pm. Some exceptions apply.

What To Do:
Picnicking, hiking, backcountry exploring, camping, cultural and night programs, museum exhibits and special events.

Top Must Do Discoveries at Bandelier:
1. Main Loop Trail - Walk in the footsteps of Ancestral Pueblo people, search for petroglyphs, and watch wildlife along the creekside.
2. Alcove House - Climb four ladders and stone steps to this alcove home, located 140 feet above the floor of Frijoles Canyon.
3. Cultural Demonstrations - Every weekend between Memorial Day and Labor Day, enjoy a variety of programs, including pottery-making, drum-making and dancing.
I hoist the pack onto my back and buckle its straps across my chest and belly. I grab my hiking poles and set off—crunch, crunch, crunch—behind my husband and our friends. I've snowshoed in the Valles Caldera National Preserve before, but this is my first time snowshoeing there with our identical twin daughters, who are 22 months old. I am carrying Scout, and my husband is carrying Lane.

In other places I've lived—Virginia, England, Missouri—I have dreaded the dreary days of winter. But Northern New Mexico is different. Despite the feet of snow on the ground, the sun is shining, and the temperature feels much warmer than 32 degrees. After a half-mile, I shed my jacket. I notice that Lane has removed her hat.

Snowshoeing with an extra 40 pounds on my back is a balancing act, and I look closely at the ground as I walk. I see coyote and bobcat tracks. I see elk poop and prairie dog mounds. I am reminded that we are visitors in this special place. Every few steps, I try to remember to look up. The snow sparkles all around me—across the 13-mile-wide valley and across the tops of the surrounding mountains. I am in the center of an enormous and ancient volcano, and that designation is not lost on me. This place is powerful and magical, and I feel lucky to be tromping across this dreamscape with my family.

The Valles Caldera is one of many reasons New Mexico’s “Land of Enchantment” nickname is fitting.

Now that the girls are older, our child carriers are getting a lot less use, and we’re hearing a lot more “I do that.” And although we might not go as far or as fast on some of our favorite trails, we are still getting out there—and at toddler pace, we see a whole lot more. We’re stopping to smell flowers, overturn rocks, inspect bear scat, and listen to the elk bugle. A successful hike now means Lane’s pockets are filled with acorns and Scout’s face is smeared with dirt. It means we’ve talked about the geology, biology and ecology of the Pajarito Plateau and about the Ancestral Pueblo people who once lived here. It means our girls have a greater appreciation for this vibrant landscape at the end of the hike than when we started.

Of course, our outdoor adventures are not limited to hiking. We like to rock climb and run and dip our toes in any body of water that looks remotely clean. The girls recently got their own snowshoes, and this winter my husband and I are excited to teach them to ski. We’ve also been camping a lot—immersing ourselves in nature and trying to impart what it means to be good stewards of the environment.

Los Alamos has been the perfect backdrop for these activities—most of which we can do within a short drive or walk from our house. I often wonder if, 20 years from now, the girls will be joyous trail runners like their mom or zealous anglers like their dad, or if they’ll still be game for piling into a tent with us and watching the stars. Judging from their elated expressions after they did a recent kids’ race through the golden aspens along the base of Pajarito Mountain, they are learning to love this place as much as their parents.

Whitney Spivey has lived in New Mexico since 2010. She is the author of Goodnight, Los Alamos, a children’s book that takes readers on a bedtime adventure through historic and scenic Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Right: Valles Caldera National Preserve

“"This place is powerful and magical, and I feel lucky to be tromping across this dreamscape with my family."”

Los Alamos Adventure Guide
“What a blessing. I’ve had a 40+ year career at a world renowned Lab, and I can hunt and fish within 30 minutes of my house.”

– Jim Goforth
Scientist | Outdoor Adventurer | Local

Fly fishing at the Valles Caldera National Preserve
Valles Caldera National Preserve

Picture a volcanic eruption so large it created a 13-mile wide circular depression and spread ash and rock as far away as Oklahoma. Discover extraordinary views and sulfur springs as you find yourself in the midst of an active geothermal system. Find evidence of ancestral native peoples in obsidian used for tools and weapons and shepherd’s signatures carved on trees. Reflect on a landscape where hunting and gathering were practiced successfully for more than 10,000 years. Immerse yourself in the story of early Spanish and Mexican settlements, and the legacy of how land grants transformed the Southwest. Let the mosaic of expansive meadows, lush forested volcanic domes, meandering streams, and old growth ponderosa pine groves take your breath away, as they fade into the dark night and a blanket of stars is unveiled above you. Try to count the stars as you listen to the elk bugling in the distance.

Planning Your Visit:  
State Rd. 4, 18 Miles west of Los Alamos  
Visitor Center:  
May-Oct: 8am-6pm  
Nov-Apr: 9am-5pm  
575-829-4100 x3  | nps.gov/vall

What To Do:  
Caldera vistas from rim-to-rim, elk and other wildlife viewing, dark night skies, winter skiing and snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding and backcountry exploring.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park

Imagine you’re a scientist living and working in 1943. One day, mysterious U.S. government men come to your home and convince you to move your family to a secret place to work on a secret project in service to your country. You travel to the remote mountains of New Mexico, into a high-security military base. Your family is given a crudely constructed house with a dirt floor. It isn’t until you report for work that you learn about the science question you’ll be working on. You cannot tell anyone about what you’re doing, not even your spouse. In fact, you don’t even fully know all that is happening, until August 6 and 9, 1945, when the world’s first atomic bombs “Little Boy” and “Fat Man” are detonated over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Planning Your Visit:  
475 20th St., Suite C, Los Alamos, NM  
Thursday-Monday 10am-3pm  
Open additional hours seasonally  
505-661-6277  | nps.gov/mapr

What To Do:  
Picnicking, historic tours, kid’s corner, introductory film, museum exhibits and special events.

TOP 3 Must Do Discoveries at the Valles Caldera:  
1. La Jara Trail - Circumnavigate the Cerro La Jara, and observe wildflowers, elk, prairie dogs and wide grasslands.  
2. Get a backcountry pass, and go exploring off the beaten path. See the History Grove, historic cabins, wildlife, and more.  
3. Fresh new snow brings out the kid in all of us! Go sledding at the Valle Grande!

TOP 3 Must Do Discoveries at the Manhattan Project Park:  
1. Get your National Park Service Passport stamped with the special 3-section Manhattan Project stamp.  
2. See replicas of Fat Man & Little Boy at the Bradbury Science Museum.  
3. Learn about the “Secret City” at the History Museum.
Los Alamos Area Trail Network

From the banks of the Rio Grande to the summit of Pajarito Mountain, Los Alamos area Trail Network offers over 5,000 vertical feet and more than 200 miles of developed trails. They weave through and around neighborhoods, businesses and open space, and traverse mesas, canyons and mountains, with varying terrain for hiking, running, biking and snow sports, depending on the weather. There’s a trail outside every door—get out and explore!

Trailhead Guides

Trailhead guides are available at the Los Alamos Nature Center, all three Visitor Centers, in the Los Alamos County Municipal Building, and online. Refer to the Guides for full trail descriptions, maps, and directions to the trailhead itself. Download your trail map from visitlosalamos.org before you go. Maps are also available on the Los Alamos Trails and All Trails apps.

Family Friendly Hiking & Biking Trails

Los Alamos has a wide variety of trails that appeal to most skill and fitness levels. Find a list of trails that accommodate family hiking and biking fun at visitlosalamos.org.

Visit the Los Alamos Nature Center to pick up a Passport to the Pajarito Plateau for a fun way to get outside and explore our beautiful trails together! As you hike the trails shown inside the passport, look for a wooden post or a bench with a small plastic plate on it, make a rubbing with your crayon, and receive prizes as you complete each Passport! Get started today by visiting losalamosnature.org/passport.

Dogs on the Trails

Help your dog share the trails! On Los Alamos County trails, all dogs must be on a leash when within 100 yards of a trailhead, and under voice and sight control at all times. When you see approaching hikers and dogs, ensure your dog is under your control as soon as possible.

Unique & Historic Trails

- Bayo/Pueblo Loop - 1.1 miles, tent rocks, open pine stands
- Tyuonyi Overlook Trail - 2.2 miles, archaeological sites, views
- Deer Trap Mesa Trail - 1.6 or 3 miles, ancient stairways, game pits

Advanced Trails

- Quemazon/Pipeline Loop - 7.8 miles, gain 1600 ft, hiking & biking
- Bandelier Frijoles Rim/Canyon Loop - 13 miles, gain 800 ft, hiking
- Red Dot/Blue Dot Trails - 7.8 miles, gain 1000 ft, hiking

Outstanding 360° Views

- Anniversary Trail - 1.4 miles, great photo ops, historic road
- Kwage Mesa Trail - 4.5 miles, Sangre de Cristos, Rio Grande rift
- White Rock Rim Trail - 3.6 miles, White Rock Canyon, Rio Grande

Must Do Discoveries on Los Alamos Trails:

1. Cañon de Valle Trail - Climbs 1,500 feet over three miles to reach the boundary of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, with wildlife, solitude and quiet forest along the way.

2. Canyon Rim Trail - This paved trail, located in the Downtown District, provides an easy and convenient way for a quick stroll or ride along the canyon edge, and is packed with gorgeous views, bridges, and wildlife.

3. The lighting in the ponderosa pine forests that make up the Jemez Mountains is astonishing in the early morning and worth seeing—try the Perimeter Trail!
Finding your passion by

Living Life Outdoors...

An Interview with Living Treasure, Craig Martin

Q: How did you come to Los Alamos, how many years have you lived here, and what inspired you to stay?
A: We were living in Tucson, Arizona and my wife, June, got a post-doctorate opportunity at Los Alamos National Lab. I left behind my job as a middle school science teacher to move to Los Alamos become a stay-at-home parent to our son and daughter. I was born and raised in Pennsylvania but fell in love with the Southwest. While Tucson has great outdoor offerings, Los Alamos has four distinct seasons, mountains, canyons, amazing plant species and wildlife. My backyard is open space. I’ve lived here for 33 years, so far. There’s no better place.

Q: You’re known as Los Alamos’ resident expert on trails, open space, flora and fauna. How did that happen?
A: During the first 15 years, while I was a stay-at-home dad, I participated in all the “mommy groups.” I was PTA president, Cub Scout leader—all of it! Every day, I took my kids outside…hiking, camping, exploring. Once both kids were in school, I started writing about the trails in Los Alamos, the unique plant life, the critters—I’m a scientist at heart! In 2000, I decided to go back to teaching. On May 10, I came out of an interview for a sixth grade teaching position at Chamisa Elementary School, and saw that the Cerro Grande Fire had jumped the fire lines and was racing toward neighborhoods. In that moment, I knew there would be things to do, and I could help. For some reason, I grabbed my hammer, determined that I was going to help our community fight and recover from that fire. Six weeks after the fire, I’m hiking on a burned trail, everything is all black, and here’s this aspen shoot six inches high. And I thought, it’s not all gone! It’s going to come back. My mission became to convince people that we didn’t lose everything. It’s different, but it’s still there, and we are still going to go up there and enjoy the woods and the mountain.

Q: 2020 is the 20th anniversary of the Cerro Grande Fire, and I have the chance to reconnect with the elementary students and middle schoolers I worked with to restore trails and plant seedlings that are now trees. It’s a great opportunity to reflect and appreciate how far we’ve come.

Q: What are your favorite places in Los Alamos to take family and friends?
A: The backcountry at the Valles Caldera (National Preserve) with its aspen groves and rare plants, the trail through the Cañada Bonita, Water Canyon is a great retreat, and, of course, the Red Dot and Blue Dot trails in White Rock Canyon—with the Rio Grande at the base and the petroglyphs along the way—anywhere else, this canyon would be a national park of its own!

Q: What do you think new visitors may find surprising to discover about Los Alamos?
A: Our phenomenal arts and culture scene! I think it’s a little known fact that math and science aligns with the creative arts. It’s been this way from the beginning here. All the scientists who came from around the world to work on the Manhattan Project back in the 40s, brought their love for music, literature, poetry, art and theater with them, and created a rich creative community. Our founders established the Choral Society, Little Theater, Light Opera and Symphony Orchestra that are still going today. I’ve been playing sax in a little group called the Craig Martin Experience for the past 10 years or so.

Q: What are your favorite things about Los Alamos?
A: The four seasons. The trails and open space. The level of the average conversation in this town—it’s not chit-chat. It’s significant.

For more information on Craig Martin and his published works, visit his author profile page on amazon.com
### Jemez Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway

Find yourself feeling dwarfed by high volcanic cliffs that echo the rushing waters of the Jemez River as you travel along this scenic, quiet highway. Explore unique sights, like Soda Dam and Jemez Falls, or take a short hike to Spence Hot Springs for a relaxing dip in the pools. Enjoy the unique red rock scenery, winding canyons, and breathtaking views, as you loop through the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) and enjoy fishing at Fenton Lake State Park, or a short side trip to the Gilman Tunnels—blasted through rock during the 1920s.

This 132-mile loop accommodates most vehicles and offers a convenient and rewarding way to experience the best of the Jemez Mountains—in just one day! Depart west from Los Alamos via State Road 501 and turn right onto State Road 4 toward Jemez Springs, traveling through Bandelier National Monument and the Valles Caldera National Preserve. The road leads up more than 1,000 feet through dense forest, creating at an elevation of 9,000 feet. [See maps and information on pages 41-43.]

### Soda Dam
Explore this fascinating roadside attraction with pools, caves and rocks to climb on. Splash in the river to cool off, and enjoy the beautiful and unique scenery surrounding you. Dogs are also welcome at Soda Dam, but must be kept on leash.

### McCauley Warm Springs & Spence Hot Springs
McCauley Warm Springs is a 3.4 mile popular out-and-back trail, accessible year-round. Start at Battleship Rock and hike two miles uphill to the springs, or start at the Jemez Falls trailhead to hike downhill first. Dogs are also able to use this trail. Want to enjoy the springs without the hike? Visit Spence Hot Springs, located a short 1/2 mile hike off State Road 4, just a few miles north of Soda Dam.

### Jemez Falls Campground
The campground is located in a stunning Ponderosa pine forest and meadow environment in proximity to the East Fork of the Jemez River. Come prepared for warm summer days and cooler nights. Jemez Falls, the largest waterfall in the Jemez Mountains, is close by.

### Las Conchas Trail
East Fork Trail via Las Conchas Trail off State Road 4 is a 3.2 mile popular out-and-back trail that is primarily used for hiking and nature trips along the river. Climbing is also available along the trail. Dogs are able to use this trail but must be kept on leash.

### Santa Fe National Forest West Canyon Trailheads
Some of our favorite trails connect to the surrounding National Forest on the western and northern perimeters of Los Alamos. Discover these trails and find bubbling brooks, unique rock formations, wildlife, and in summer, an abundance of wildflowers! Purchase trail maps and get hiking advice at the Los Alamos Nature Center. For more detailed information about the many places to seek adventure, visit [fs.usda.gov/santafe/](http://fs.usda.gov/santafe/).

### Camping & RV Parks
Experience Los Alamos’ natural settings at one of the RV or tent campgrounds managed by Los Alamos County, Bandelier National Monument or Santa Fe National Forest.

#### Los Alamos County - losalamosnm.us
- **Los Alamos Main Gate Park** - RV/trailer campground; sewer dump station; no electricity hookups; water available; restrooms; open year-round
- **White Rock Visitor Center & RV Park** - RV/trailer campground; sewer dump station; electricity hookups; water available; restrooms during business hours; dog park; open year-round
- **Camp May Pavilion/Campsites** - tent/trailer campground; no electricity hookups; no water; pit toilets; picnic areas; group pavilion and amphitheater; open seasonally May-October

#### Bandelier National Monument - nps.gov/band
- **Juniper Family Campground** - tent/RV/trailer campground; sewer dump station; electricity hookups; restrooms with running water; open year-round
- **Ponderosa Group Campground** - two group campsites; no electricity hookups; water in summer; pit toilets; open year-round
- **Jemez Falls Campground** - tent/RV/trailer campground; no electricity hookups; water available; vault toilets; paved access; picnic areas; open seasonally May-October

#### Santa Fe National Forest - fs.usda.gov/santafe/
- **Redondo Campground** - tent/RV/trailer campground; no electricity hookups; no water; vault toilets; picnic areas; open seasonally May-October
- **Jemez Falls Campground** - tent/RV/trailer campground; no electricity hookups; water available; vault toilets; paved access; picnic areas; open seasonally May-October

For detailed information about all of the Santa Fe National Forest campgrounds, visit [fs.usda.gov/santafe/](http://fs.usda.gov/santafe/).

Left Page: Left to Right: Stop and take a dip at Soda Dam, and explore its unique rock formations; Jemez Falls is a favorite with locals for hiking, swimming, and camping; Tent rocks are a unique part of the Jemez Mountain landscape and can be spotted all along the Scenic Byway; Top: White Rock Visitor Center RV Park; Juniper Campground at Bandelier National Monument; Camp May Campground on Pajarito Mountain.
“From bombing a groomer, to hitting some deep powder, it never ceases to amaze me. I love this mountain, and always will!”

-Matt Salmon
Snowboarder | Outdoor Adventurer | Local
Pajarito Mountain

Located on the eastern edge of the Jemez Mountains, Pajarito Mountain is only five miles west of Los Alamos. The mountain has spectacular views east over the Rio Grande Valley toward the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and west over the Valle Grande from the peak. For more information about Pajarito Mountain, special events and season passes, visit pajarito.ski.

Summer Biking & Hiking

In the warmer months, discover 1,200 vertical feet of downhill, cross-country and free-ride trails at Pajarito Mountain Bike Park, a four-time winner of MTBparks Southwest Top Five Riders’ Choice Awards. The 30-trail system features dirt and North Shore-style trails from beginner to expert.

The Jemez Mountains are also home to some of the most spectacular hikes in the state, including the Aspenglow Trail that leads you to the summit of Pajarito Mountain, with an elevation of 10,440 feet. Whether you are looking for a short, dog-friendly hike or an all-day trail run, the breathtaking beauty of the Jemez Mountains and Los Alamos makes it a priceless experience.

Day tickets for Bike Uplift cost $29
Day tickets for Hike Uplift cost $10
Season passes available

Pajarito Mountain Skiing

Pajarito Mountain boasts 740 acres of skiable terrain, not counting its tree skiing, plus some of the best bump skiing in the state. It is rarely crowded, and guests seldom need to wait in lift lines.

Pajarito Mountain Ski Area offers 44 trails (20% easy, 50% intermediate, 30% difficult) serviced by five lifts for skiers and snowboarders of all ability levels, including a Magic Carpet surface conveyor for first-timers and beginners, and two terrain parks.

Full day tickets - $59 (adults) or $45 (youth & seniors)
Half day tickets - $45 (adults) or $35 (youth & seniors)
Beginner Lift only tickets - $24
5th grade & under and seniors 70+ ski FREE
Season passes available

Ski Lessons - Camp Bluebird

This skiing and snowboarding program focuses on providing your child the best introduction to snow-sports and the mountains, including progressive skill development in a fun environment.

Southwest Nordic (SWN) Ski School

The SWN Ski Club holds clinics and races, maintains a trail system, and encourages involvement in cross-country skiing in Northern New Mexico. Visit swnskiclub.org for more information!

Summer & Winter Rentals

Pajarito’s Rental Shop is a full-service shop featuring convenient slope-side pick-up/drop-off and locker storage. Find rental equipment ranging from the basics, to performance boards, blades and bikes.

Pajarito Mountain Café

This cozy, mountain lodge café delivers an authentic on-mountain dining experience. Known for its spectacular mountain views, the lodge restaurant offers American and New Mexican cuisine plus daily specials. Enjoy a hearty breakfast, like a hand-held breakfast burrito, or a stick-to-your-ribs lunch, like Natalie’s legendary bacon green chile double cheeseburger. Pajarito Mountain Café is open every day the lifts are turning. Alcohol is available on Beer & Band and festival days. Guests may bring their own alcohol.

Four Seasons of Adventure

Left Page: Find the Blue Bench at Pajarito Mountain for an unparalleled view of the Valles Caldera National Preserve; Downhill mountain biking on Pajarito Mountain is a fun adventure for all skill levels; The annual Skiesta event is held every March, with craft beer, costume contest, live bands and a ski jumping contest.
Los Alamos Nature Center

Equipped with a full-dome planetarium, wildlife observation room, indoor and outdoor play areas, and interactive indoor and outdoor exhibits, the Los Alamos Nature Center is your visitor center to outdoor recreation on the Pajarito Plateau. Enjoy spectacular views of canyons, mesas, mountains, and skies.

What Will You Discover?
Browse the demonstration gardens, get dirty in the nature play area, learn about all the plants and animals that make up the Vertical Mile of Diversity, and find your next adventure on the large-scale, 3-D topographic map.

Come inside and meet all the critters, including the Canyon Tree Frogs ("Tad, Poole," and "Gilly"), Titus the Tiger Salamander, and watch the resident ants tunnel in their visible ant mound. Play with the Pajarito Plateau model, put on a puppet show, cuddle up with a book in the Children’s Discovery Area, or just relax and admire the breathtaking views from the floor-to-ceiling windows.

Planetarium Shows
Enjoy 360 degrees of immersive entertainment in the Nature Center’s planetarium. Stop by Wednesdays at 3pm for a short sky show, Fridays at 7pm for a talk from a local astronomer, and Saturdays at 2pm for a full-dome movie. Explore the cosmos, hear about the latest in space-science, and more!

For more information about the Nature Center and planetarium shows, visit losalamosnature.org.

Get Outside All Summer

Bandelier National Monument
- Attend a Ranger Program
- Explore Tsankawi
- Climb 140 feet up to the Alcove House

Valles Caldera National Preserve
- View the Valles Caldera from the Valle Grande Trail
- Enjoy a magical day of fly fishing in the San Antonio River
- Pack a picnic dinner and go stargazing

Pajarito Mountain
- Join a Bathtub Row Brewery Co-op scavenger hunt
- Enjoy Broga (beer & yoga) days at the lodge
- Explore new bike & hike trails on the weekends

Open Space & Trails
- Find Cave of the Winds on Quemazon Trail
- Photograph 360° views on a mesa-top trail

Los Alamos County Facilities & Parks
- Play a round of disc golf or mini golf (rentals available)
- Play a challenging 18 holes of golf at 7,400 feet
- Play tennis, basketball, baseball, or have a picnic at Urban Park

Get Outside All Winter

Bandelier National Monument
- Go cross-country skiing on mountain trails
- Take a winter solstice hike with a Wilderness Ranger
- Photograph the beautiful & unique winter landscape

Valles Caldera National Preserve
- Cross the Valle Grande on snowshoes
- Attend a Ranger Program and learn a new skill
- Go sledding with the whole family

Pajarito Mountain
- Enjoy challenging runs and short lift lines
- Join Camp Bluebird Ski School to learn to ski or snowboard
- Enjoy a view of the Valles Caldera from the blue bench

Open Space & Trails
- Go walking or bike riding on the paved Canyon Rim Trail
- Watch the colors of the landscape change at sunset

Los Alamos County Facilities & Parks
- Enjoy ice skating at the outdoor Ice Rink
- Go cross-country skiing or snowshoeing at the Golf Course
- Go for a swim in the Olympic-size pool or therapy pool

Left to Right: Pajarito Mountain hike & bike summer lift service; Cross-country skiing at the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Top to Bottom: Los Alamos Nature Center outdoor play area; the Rotary Treehouse at the Nature Center; children meet Titus the Tiger Salamander.
The significance of Fuller Lodge is like the Acropolis in Greece, because of the concentration of brain power. In just 26 months, a staff of very young, very smart, enthusiastic people did something that really did change the world. You can just sense that energy.

- Ellen Bradbury Reid

Author | Historian | Local
Los Alamos History Museum Campus

Los Alamos History Museum
Begin your visit in the restored Los Alamos Ranch School Guest Cottage, where exhibits take visitors from the Pajarito Plateau’s Ancestral Pueblo people to its homestead history, through the Ranch School era, and into the Manhattan Project. Then take a short walk over to the Hans Bethe House, home to the Harold Agnew Cold War Gallery, to experience post-war life in the secret city. Find books and unique local gifts in the Museum Shop in the Guest Cottage before you head out!

Romero Cabin
Step back in time more than a century at this homestead cabin. Join the Museum’s daily walking tour to see the restored interior.

Historic Fuller Lodge
Built in 1928 for the Ranch School, Fuller Lodge continues to serve as a gathering place for residents and visitors. Visit upstairs to see a recreated Ranch School room.

Bradbury Science Museum
Approximately 60 interactive exhibits trace the history of the WWII Manhattan Project and highlight the Laboratory’s current projects related to defense, technology and research.

History
Learn about the men and women who came to Los Alamos and discovered how to split an atom to create energy to power a secret weapon that ended WWII.

Research
See how today’s leading-edge research in many areas of science and technology help solve national problems related to energy, the environment, infrastructure, and health.

Defense & Technology
Discover how the central mission of the Laboratory—to ensure the safety, security, and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent while reducing the global threat of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons—helps make the world a safer place.

15-Minute Movies
- Racing Toward Dawn - The story of the Manhattan Project.
- Heritage of Science: Stockpile Stewardship at Los Alamos National Laboratory - The story of LANL’s current mission.

Gadget’s Gift Shop
Stop by Gadgets, located in the museum, to find the perfect souvenir for your visit. As a non-profit store, all proceeds go to S.T.E.M. Education Outreach in Northern New Mexico!
Imagine a tall, thin, intensely blue-eyed J. Robert Oppenheimer, on holiday, sitting astride a horse next to the spectacular Edward P. Fuller Lodge. As the sun sets behind the lush Jemez Mountains, he looks across the Rio Grande Valley to the bright red Sangre de Cristos and thinks, “If only I could combine my love of physics with my love of New Mexico. Wouldn’t these splendid vistas inspire great scientists to do great work?”

In 1943, Oppenheimer had the opportunity to fulfill that dream. Tasked with creating the world’s first atomic bombs, he brought together leading scientists, engineers, and technicians from all over the world. They, in turn, built a thriving community and, for good and bad, changed history.

The vistas of the Pajarito Plateau have inspired generations for millennia. Standing at Tsankawi, looking out at the snowcapped Sangres, one can imagine the Ancestral Pueblo people in the village plaza, watching children run about and admiring the beautiful azure skies.

The Hispano homesteaders who toiled on this plateau must have taken time out of their grueling days to stop and appreciate the views. Working on their subsistence farms just to have enough to feed their families was not easy work, but they felt ties to the land and appreciated its beauty and hard-won bounty.

Boys from the Los Alamos Ranch School, most of whom arrived here from polluted eastern cities, loved the wide-open spaces and the outdoor life afforded by the plateau and the mountains. Their rigorous academic education, combined with activities such as horseback riding, hunting, and skiing, prepared them well for the ivy-league schools to which they were bound.

Today, with all of its beauty, it’s not just the vistas of Los Alamos that are inspirational. It is the intellectual atmosphere where physics equations get written on restaurant napkins, the small-town feel of saying “Hi” to everyone in the grocery store because you know almost everyone there, and the volunteerism that fuels everything from the performing arts theater to the food bank and, oh, so much more.

I would encourage you to learn about Dorothy McKibbin, the gatekeeper to Los Alamos during the Manhattan Project, whose life intersected with so many on the Pajarito Plateau. Take a visit to the homestead-era Romero Cabin near the lovely Memorial Rose Garden and imagine dry-land farming at this high, cool altitude. The stories of the people of Los Alamos stretch back through time but also connect to us today.

These stories, which take on international significance in light of the Manhattan Project, serve to inspire me. Years of study into the history of the community have shown me that everyone, from the ancient natives who raised turkeys on the mesas to the Nobel Prize-winning scientists, has a story to tell. This deep, rich history—stories of struggle, discovery, triumph, and, of course, tragedy—can teach us about our world and about ourselves.

Heather McClenahan is the former executive director of the Los Alamos Historical Society and, while traveling the world in her retirement, is writing a book on Los Alamos history.

Throughout the centuries

Los Alamos Inspires...

by Heather McClenahan

...everyone, from the ancient natives who raised turkeys on the mesas to the Nobel Prize-winning scientists, has a story to tell.

Boys from the Los Alamos Ranch School, most of whom arrived here from polluted eastern cities, loved the wide-open spaces and the outdoor life afforded by the plateau and the mountains. Their rigorous academic education, combined with activities such as horseback riding, hunting, and skiing, prepared them well for the ivy-league schools to which they were bound.

Take time, as you stroll through the Historic District, visit Ashley Pond Park, or stop by a local coffee shop, to remember those who came before. You are walking where giants, whether farmers or physicists, have strode. As your footsteps join theirs on the dusty plateau, let them inspire you.

Heather McClenahan is the former executive director of the Los Alamos Historical Society and, while traveling the world in her retirement, is writing a book on Los Alamos history.
Family Fun For Younger Kids & Teens

Experience Nature
- Get up close to local creatures at the Nature Center
- Complete your Passports to the Pajarito Plateau
- Ride up the lift and hike or bike down at Pajarito Mountain
- Learn about prairie dogs at the Valles Caldera
- Walk the trails on Pajarito Mountain during the fall
- Listen to the elk bugle in the fall at the Valles Caldera

Explore New Places
- Explore the Ancestral Pueblo caves at Bandelier
- Stand on the edge of White Rock Canyon Overlook
- Find wild irises or Mariposa lilies on Cañada Bonita Trail
- Take a photo at the Main Gate Park
- Play in the log tree house at the Nature Center
- Catch the view from the footbridge on the Bridges Loop Trail

Discover New Things
- Take a tour of the Historic District
- Stop at the Visitor Contact Station at the Valles Caldera
- Have your picture taken with Oppenheimer & Groves
- Climb a ladder to a cliff dwelling
- Visit the ducks, fish and turtles at Ashley Pond Park
- Pick some raspberries at the Demo Garden

Watch & Play
- Catch a show at the Nature Center planetarium
- Solve a puzzle at Bradbury Science Museum
- Take a dive in the Olympic-size Aquatic Center pool
- Take a turn at the outdoor Ice Rink
- Play miniature golf at East Park
- Attend a concert or a movie at Ashley Pond Park
- See a play at the Historic Performing Arts Center
- Play with your dog at one of the local dog parks

Shopping & Dining
- Get it to go at Ruby K’s or El Parasol, and picnic in the park
- Find good food for the whole family at Blue Window Bistro
- Eat like a local at El Riggoberto’s Taco Shop or Sirphey
- Enjoy the green chile stuffed burger at Pajarito Brewpub & Grill
- Discover local arts and gifts at the Fuller Lodge Art Center
- Shop at the new Park Store at Bandelier National Monument
- Pick up unique Los Alamos gifts at the Nature Center
- Listen to live music at a local brewpub

Need a charge?
- Park at the Los Alamos County Municipal Building to charge your electric car, and enjoy a picnic under the Solar Tree, while charging your devices!

History

Hike a Historic Trail
- Explore the Red Dot Trail and find the petroglyphs
- Hike in homesteader wagon ruts on the Bayo Bench Trail
- Walk the Anniversary Trail/Manhattan Project historic road

Experience Different Eras
- Drive the Homestead Tour
- Take a guided Historic Walking Tour
- See how the thunderbirds light the historic U.S. Post Office
- Pick up a map and discover the Atomic City spy history
- Listen to the Voices of the Manhattan Project

See a Piece of History
- See the Nobel Prize at the History Museum-Hans Bethe House
- Experience how homesteaders lived in the Romero Cabin
- Take a photo with Fat Man & Little Boy at Bradbury
- Walk through the History Grove at the Valles Caldera

Science

Learn About the Manhattan Project
- Explore the Manhattan Project NHP Visitor Center & video
- Watch the Bradbury “Racing Toward Dawn” video
- Explore the History Museum immersive exhibits
- Take the Manhattan Project NHP “Behind the Fence” Tour

Explore Where Discoveries are Made
- See the current News from Mars in downtown Los Alamos
- Learn how things work at Bradbury Science Museum
- Find the piece of the Pentagon from 9/11 outside Bradbury

See the Science of the Pajarito Plateau
- Discover the science and geology of the Valles Caldera
- Learn about supervolcanoes at the Nature Center
- Search for obsidian on the Las Conchas Trail

Discover the Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Watch the film about LANL’s current mission at Bradbury
- Attend a Science On Tap or Scientist in the Spotlight event

Shopping & Dining
- Have a Hoppenheimer beer at Bathtub Row Brewing Co-op
- Find STEM gifts at the Gadgets Gift Shop at Bradbury
July

**Atomic City Invitational Golf Tournament**
Come and play with us at this annual three-day, match play tournament!

**Independence Day Celebration**
Enjoy this all-day 4th-of-July celebration at Overlook Park in White Rock with music, food, brews and fireworks! Shuttle service available.

**ScienceFest**
Celebrate science at this 6-day event, including Discovery Day, with S.T.E.A.M. activities, live music, beer garden, food, tours and more!

**Los Alamos Triathlon/Kids Triathlon**
Enter this epic sprint triathlon with a unique bike, swim, run at 7,400 feet!

August

**Los Alamos County Fair & Rodeo**
Join us for a weekend of music, food, arts, festival, parade and rodeo!

**Bear Festival**
Learn all about black bears, enjoy a bear-inspired meal, and much more!

September

**Ullr Fest**
Don your Viking helmet and head to Pajarito Mountain for hiking, biking, leaf-peeping, a craft brewfest, live music and more.

October

**Bandelier Fall Fiesta**
Enjoy cultural demonstrations, arts & crafts, good food and more!

**Evening of Arts & Culture**
Discover the Los Alamos Creative District’s music, theater, and art scene.

**Halloweekend**
Bring the whole family to downtown Los Alamos for Trick-or-Treat on MainStreet, pumpkin carving parties, the annual Pumpkin Glow, and more!

November

**Small Business Saturday**
Shop small and save big, and find unique gifts for the holidays!

**Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair**
Shop a wide variety of arts and crafts and find the perfect holiday gift.

December

**WinterFest**
Celebrate the holidays with performing arts, visits with Santa, arts and crafts, the holiday light parade, and the lighting of Ashley Pond Park!
Tickle Your Taste Buds

Shopping & Dining

New Mexico True Burrito Byway
It should be no surprise that New Mexico claims the invention of the breakfast burrito. It is the wrapped wonder that brings spice to the morning! Join us for breakfast in Los Alamos at Chili Works or Viola’s—official stops on the Burrito Byway—and learn the answer to the question: red, green or “Christmas”?

New Mexico True Certified
When you buy jewelry, textiles, arts and crafts, food, wine, beer and other products with the New Mexico True Certified mark, you know they are authentically “New Mexico True”—made, grown or sourced right here in New Mexico with pride, love and the finest quality ingredients.

Uniquely Los Alamos
Celebrate the importance of fresh, high-quality ingredients at local eateries that tickle your taste buds. Whether you’re strictly vegan or strictly meat and potatoes, find comfort food for everyone at Pig+Fig Café in White Rock. Or enjoy the warmth and charm of the Blue Window Bistro in downtown Los Alamos for a local atmosphere. Get the best homemade bagels outside of New York at Ruby K’s Bagel Café, or grab a sandwich named after a local at Daniel’s Café & Mary’s Gelato.

Breweys & Wine
Thirsty for a good craft beer? Hang with the locals at Bathtub Row Brewing Co-op! Or stop in at Boese Brothers Brewery and enjoy a beer with a green chile grilled cheese sandwich. Pajarito Brewpub & Grill and Cottonwood on the Greens feature New Mexico beers and wines. Did someone say wine? Reserve a seat at one of Pig+Fig’s themed wine dinners!

White Rock Downtown Walk & Shop

To LOS ALAMOS (10 miles)

Los Alamos Adventure Guide
visitlosalamos.org

36

To LOS ALAMOS (10 miles)

Los Alamos Adventure Guide
visitlosalamos.org

37
Stay Awhile

Lodging

Hotels
Comfort Inn & Suites
2455 Trinity Dr., Los Alamos, NM
(505) 661-1110

Hampton Inn & Suites
124 State Rd. 4, White Rock, NM
(505) 672-3838

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
60 Entrada Dr., Los Alamos, NM
(505) 661-2646

Bed & Breakfasts
Canyon Inn
80 Canyon Rd., Los Alamos, NM
(505) 510-2253

North Road Inn
2127 North Rd., Los Alamos, NM
(505) 662-3678

Pueblo Canyon Inn & Gallery
199 San Ildefonso Rd., Los Alamos, NM
(505) 695-0883

Coming Soon in 2021...
Marriott Townplace Suites Hotel and Meeting Rooms is coming to Los Alamos in 2021! Located in the heart of downtown, across from Ashley Pond Park, the Historic District and the Central Avenue business district, guests will be within walking distance of attractions, dining, shopping, visitor centers, and transportation to Bandelier National Monument. Plans for the hotel include 86 guest rooms, three conference rooms with a catering kitchen, a coffee shop, free parking and stunning canyon views.

Tours

Los Alamos History Museum Guided Tours
losalamoshistory.org
Step inside the homestead-era Romero Cabin, visit an Ancestral Pueblo site, hear about the giants of 20th century physicists who walked these streets, and learn how Bathtub Row got its name. Tours last approximately 1.5 hours. Tickets include museum admission and are available at the Los Alamos History Museum Shop. Tours limited to 16 people.
Monday - Saturday 11:00am
Tuesdays Additional tour at 1:30pm
$15 ages 19+, 18 and under - FREE with a ticketed adult

For a self-guided experience, please pick up a Walking Tour map at the Museum, and follow the Historical Walking Tour signs.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
“Behind the Fence” Tours
lanl.gov/museum
Experience a “top-secret” tour of historic Manhattan Project buildings! Participants will see the Pond Cabin, which served as an office for Emilio Segrè’s Radioactivity Group studying plutonium, a battleship bunker used to protect equipment and staff during implosion design explosives testing, and the Slotin Building, site of Louis Slotin’s criticality accident. Tours of the Pajarito Site and the Slotin Building are offered 2-3 times per year, and last approximately three hours. Registration is done in advance, and is on a first-come, first served basis. Tours are limited to 25 people.

Self-Guided Spy Tour
visitlosalamos.org
Where there are secrets, there are spies. See where Los Alamos’ three spies lived, worked and played. Pick up a Spy Tour brochure at the Los Alamos Visitors Center or download one online.

Self-Guided Homestead Driving Tour
visitlosalamos.org
Try to imagine Los Alamos without its neighborhoods, shops, parks, and world-class laboratory. Imagine yourself back in a time of isolated log buildings and fields planted with pinto beans—everyday life for the homesteaders who lived here. This tour will introduce you to seven sites that indicate where 17 of the homestead families established their farms.

Atomic City Transit
atomiccitytransit.com
Enjoy FREE transportation and see Los Alamos County on the Atomic City Transit buses Monday-Friday (no weekend or holiday service). Find maps and information online, or download the MyStop app for real-time bus stop information!

Top to bottom: Step inside the Romero Homestead Cabin. Take a guided tour of the Historic District. Learn about the origins of Los Alamos on the Homestead Tour. Hop on the Atomic City Transit bus to easily get around Los Alamos County. It’s FREE!

TOP 3 Must Do Discoveries for photo ops:

1. Stop at the Main Gate Park and picture what it was like to check-in during the Manhattan Project days. Then stop by and take your picture with Oppenheimer and Groves at the Historic Fuller Lodge!

2. Try on an apron, and take a picture in a 1950s kitchen at the Hans Bethe House, and then head next door and hop in the tub at the Bathtub Row Brewing Co-op and take a picture with a locally crafted beer!

3. Catch one of Los Alamos’ most iconic views at Anderson Overlook as you enter town. Make sure to stop by White Rock Overlook as well for unparalleled views of White Rock Canyon and the Rio Grande.

Photo courtesy of Pueblo Canyon Inn

Visit Los Alamos for more information!
Discover Los Alamos County

1. Bradbury Science Museum
   (Gift Shop, Bus Parking, Restrooms)
2. Los Alamos History Museum Campus
   (Gift Shop, Guided Tours, Picnic Area, Restrooms)
3. Manhattan Project National Historical Park
   (Visitor Center, Bus Drop-Off, Picnic Area, Restrooms)
4. Larry R. Walkup Aquatic Center
   (Olympic-size Pool, Therapy Pool, Restrooms, Trailhead, Rental Equipment)
5. Los Alamos Nature Center
   (Planetarium, Gift Shop, Restrooms, Guided Tours, Picnic Area)
6. Los Alamos County Golf Course
   (Gift Shop, Restaurant, Bus Parking, Restrooms)
7. Los Alamos County Ice Rink
   (Concession, Restrooms)
8. Pajarito Mountain
   (Café, Ski Hill, Ski School, Gift Shop, Camping, All-Season Recreation, Restrooms)
9. Bandelier National Monument
   (Visitor Center, Gift Shop & Bookstore, Concession, Guided Tours, Camping, Restrooms)
10. Valles Caldera National Preserve
    (Visitor Center, Gift Shop, Guided Tours, Fishing, Restrooms)

Free WiFi available - “LA Discoveries”
See Downtown Shopping & Dining Map

Los Alamos Towsite

Located:
33 miles NW of Santa Fe (45 min)
64 miles SW of Taos (84 min)
97 miles N of Albuquerque (95 min)

Discover Los Alamos County
New Mexico Weather

Experiencing the unique and beautiful weather of Northern New Mexico is one of the most charming parts of visiting Los Alamos. Sunny days provide the bluest skies you have ever seen, and watching the clouds roll by is mesmerizing. Be prepared for changing conditions and carry some essentials with you: rain gear, flashlight, sunglasses, sunscreen, extra snacks and water, and extra layers of clothing.

Seasonal Information & Highlights

Spring - Enjoy blossoming trees, blooming flowers, and a few unexpected snow showers! Be prepared for windy days, and chilly nights, with an average high of 65 and low of 45.

Summer - Long warm days filled with blue skies and sunshine make the summer perfect for all of your outdoor adventures. Be prepared for daily afternoon monsoon rain and thunderstorms in late July, and an average high of 87 and low of 66.

Fall - Discover the most colorful time of year with changing leaves, late-blooming flowers, and warm, golden light. Days are the perfect temperature to be outside, with crisp, brisk evenings allowing for a sunset stroll to listen to the bugling elk. Highs average in the 70s, with lows in the 50s.

Winter - Play in our white wonderland, with temperatures just right to enjoy all of your favorite winter activities. Bundle up in layers, and count the stars on our clear, dark nights, with an average high of 40 and low of 20.

County Facilities

Visit losalamosnm.us for information:
- Aquatic Center
  2760 Canyon Rd., Los Alamos
  505-662-8170
- Golf Course
  4244 Diamond Dr., Los Alamos
  505-662-8139
- Ice Rink
  4475 West Rd., Los Alamos
  505-662-4500
- Mesa Public Library
  2400 Central Ave., Los Alamos
  505-662-8250
- White Rock Branch Library
  10 Sherwood Blvd., White Rock
  505-662-8265

35,840 Acres of Public Land!

Los Alamos County Open Space
losalamosnm.us

Santa Fe National Forest
fs.usda.gov/santefe/

National Parks Service
Bandelier - nps.gov/band
Valles Caldera - nps.gov/vall

Regional Travel Times

Abiquiu Lake - 1 hour
Cumbres Toltec Railroad - 1 ½ hours
Fenton Lake State Park - 1 hour
Georgia O’Keeffe Museum - 45 min
Ghost Ranch - 1 ½ hours
Meow Wolf-Santa Fe - 45 min
Ojo Caliente - 1 hour
Puye Cliffs - 30 min
Rio Grande Rafting - 1 hour
Santa Fe Opera - 30 min
O’Keeffe Welcome Center - 45 min
Albuquerque Sunport - 1 ½ hours
Santa Fe Regional Airport - 45 min
Taos Regional Airport - ½ hours

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this publication. Copyright ©2020 by Los Alamos County. Los Alamos County makes no endorsement, representation or warranty regarding any goods or services listed in this publication. Listings are confirmed by the adjacent companies. Los Alamos County is not liable for any inaccuracy, omission or refutation of any third party’s rights therein, or for personal injury or any other damage or injury whatsoever.
Los Alamos is NEW MEXICO True