LOS ALAMOS

Historic Walking Tour
visitlosalamos.org

Walk in the footsteps of pioneers...

Visit an 800-year-old Ancestral Pueblo site. See one of the first Homesteaders’ cabins. Explore the unique architecture of the Historic Fuller Lodge that has been a community gathering place for more than 100 years. Stand in the very spot where the first atomic bomb components were assembled. This Historical Walking Tour map leads you to places in Los Alamos* where generations of true pioneers have created ground-breaking innovations. Move at your own pace and discover the interactive museum exhibits, and unique shopping and dining opportunities long your way.

Sheep graze contentedly at the H.H. Brook homestead in 1915 on the site of today’s History Museum and Fuller Lodge.

Los Alamos is located on the Pajarito Plateau of the Jemez Mountains, formed by eruptions of a supervolcano more than a million years ago. Pueblo ancestors, and later homesteaders, used the plateau for seasonal farming and grazing. In 1917, H.H. Brook’s Los Alamos Ranch was purchased by Ashley Pond Jr. to start Los Alamos Ranch School, a boys school which combined academics and a physical curriculum. During World War II, the U.S. Government took over the plateau and sealed it for a secret mission to end the war: the Manhattan Project.

In 1943-1947, the Ashley Pond was surrounded by the Manhattan Project base of operations.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
This National Park site tells the stories of the more than 6,000 scientists and personnel who came with their families to Los Alamos to work on the Manhattan Project. Learn about the science and events of this controversial project at the MAPR Visitor Center.

Bradbury Science Museum & Shop
Named for Norris E. Bradbury, second director of the Los Alamos Laboratory, the Bradbury features two films and 60 interactive exhibits interpreting the Lab’s contributions to modern science, research and technology, including its role in the Manhattan Project and current national security mission.

Los Alamos History Museum & Shop
Built as an infirmary in 1918 and later used as the guest cottage for Los Alamos Ranch School, the museum is in the oldest continuously occupied structure in town. During the Manhattan Project (1943-1947), the cottage continued to serve as guest quarters, notably for General Leslie R. Groves, commander of the Manhattan Engineer District, whose office and residence were in Washington, D.C. Today, it serves as a comprehensive historical museum which presents the world-changing and varied history.

Mesa Public Library & Art Gallery
Originally located in government surplus buildings and then in a former cafeteria, the library is an important institution in this highly educated community. The 1993 award-winning design is by architect Antoine Predock. Make sure to stop by the Third-Rear Art Gallery for unique rotating exhibits year-round.

Historic Sculptures
Life-sized sculptures of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and Gen. Leslie R. Groves are located south of Fuller Lodge.

Other Historic Tours
Docent-Guided Historic District Tour - Los Alamos History Museum
Self-Guided Homestead Tour - visitlosalamos.org
Self-Guided Atomic City Spy Tour - visitlosalamos.org

Plan Your Visit

LOS ALAMOS VISITOR CENTER
473 20th St., Suite A, Los Alamos
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm
Saturday: 9am-4pm
Sunday: 10am-5pm
800-444-0707 | 505-662-8105 | visitlosalamos.org

MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK VISITOR CENTER
473 20th St., Suite C, Los Alamos
Hours: Thursday-Monday: 10am-3pm
Open additional hours seasonally
505-661-9277 | nps.gov/mapp

BRADBURY SCIENCE MUSEUM & SHOP
1350 Central Ave., Los Alamos
Hours: Sunday-Monday: 1-5pm
Tuesday-Saturday: 10am-5pm
505-667-4444 | lanl.gov/museum

LOS ALAMOS HISTORY MUSEUM & SHOP
1350 Bathtub Row, Los Alamos
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm
Saturday: 10am-4pm
Sunday: CLOSED
505-662-4493 | losalamoshistory.org

LOS ALAMOS NATURE CENTER & SHOP
2600 Canyon Rd., Los Alamos
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm
Saturday: 10am-6pm
Sunday: 1-4pm
Thursday: CLOSED
505-662-0460 | losalamosnature.org

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT & SHOP
15 Entrance Rd. off NM4, White Rock
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 x10 | nps.gov/band
*Visitors must use the shuttle from White Rock Visitor Center between 9am-5pm. Some exceptions apply.

VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE & SHOP
NM4, 18 miles west of Los Alamos
Visitor Center: May-Oct 8am-6pm
Nov-Apr: 9am-5pm
575-829-4100 x3 | nps.gov/vall
1. **Historic Fuller Lodge**
   Built in 1928 as the Ranch School dining hall, it housed nurses, staff, and guest quarters. The Lodge was named for Edward P. Fuller, a Ranch School staff member. It is made of 771 massive pine logs, each selected by architect John Gaw Meem and Ranch School Director A.J. Connell. In 1928, the building was repurposed as a technical school boys dormitory with a kitchen for nurses. During WWII, it was used as a temporary Army barracks and, during the 1970s, it served as the Los Alamos County Library. In 2010, it was restored. Los Alamos History Museum Guided Tours provide an opportunity to see inside for a glimpse of life as a homesteader.

2. **Memorial Rose Garden**
   In 1947, Los Alamos did not have a cemetery, so the Los Alamos Garden Club began planting rose bushes in memory of Los Alamos residents who died during the Manhattan Project and the early days of the townsite. This site is also a Blue Star Memorial Byway site, and a Los Alamos Power House is under construction near this site.

3. **Romero Homestead Cabin**
   Homesteading began on the Pajarito Plateau in the late 1800s. The Romero family built this cabin in 1913 on a nearby mesa. Like all homesteads on the plateau, it was acquired by the U.S. government for the Manhattan Project. In 1984, the cabin was moved downtown, and in 2010 it was restored. Los Alamos History Museum Guided Tours provide an opportunity to see inside for a glimpse of life as a homesteader.

4. **Fire Cache**
   Local homesteader Severo Gonzalez Sr. built this stone building in the 1920s for the Los Alamos Ranch School to house firefighting equipment. Fires have always been a danger on the Pajarito Plateau due to droughts, log construction, and even wood burning stoves. The building is made of stone from the nearby Ancestral Pueblo site.

5. **The Big House**
   Across the street from the Romero Cabin was the site of the original main building for the Los Alamos Ranch School. The Big House design inspired the style of Fuller Lodge and other Ranch School structures. Students slept on screened porches year-round as part of the physically and academically challenging education. The Big House contained a library and, during the winter wars, the non-broadcast radio station, KRSN. In 1943, it housed some of the first scientists.

6. **Ancestral Pueblo Dwellings**
   In roughly 1225 CE, this site was home to a group of Tewa-speaking people, ancestors of Pueblo groups now living along the Rio Grande. They built with blocks of tuff, the welded volcanic ash common in this area, creating separate rooms for cooking, sleeping and storage.

7. **Bathtub Row**
   These cottages were built for the Ranch School as residences and classrooms. Having the only bathhouses in town, these homes quickly acquired the name “Bathtub Row.” J. Robert Oppenheimer lived in the house at the corner of Bathtub Row and Peach Street. Today, this home is on its way to becoming a new stop on the Historic Walking Tour, as it undergoes historic preservation, renovation, and exhibit development. The house next to the Oppenheimer house, now known as the Hans Bethe House, displays Cold War exhibits as part of the History Museum Campus. Don’t miss the Victory Garden planted out back!

8. **Performing Arts Center**
   Built in 1943 as the Manhattan Project East Cafeteria or “Mess Hall,” this building was destined to be an entertainment center. One of the few GH buildings left from WWII, it was used by the growing post-war community as a recreation hall for 25 years. In 1971, it was converted to a full-time playhouse operated by the Los Alamos Little Theater, a non-profit drama troupe formed by the civilian scientists, their families and military personnel in 1943. The troupe performed a variety of shows, including a community production of the play “Arsenic & Old Lace,” featuring Manhattan Project Director J. Robert Oppenheimer in a cameo role as “the corpse.”

9. **Power House**
   The building housing the diesel generators for the Los Alamos Ranch School was built in the early 1930s. In 1944, explosives expert George Kistiakovsky and his new bride moved into it. As a joke, his friends carved a half-moon in the door of the attached shed the Army built. It is now used as the NMSU Cooperative Extension offices.

10. **Hopper Fireplace**
    These rocks were part of the fireplace in the homestead cabin of William Mackwood “Mack” Hopper, who settled here in 1908. Originally constructed of Ancestral Pueblo stones and mud/clay mortar, the chimney was rebuilt in 2016 for the Los Alamos Historical Society as an Eagle Scout Project.

11. **Touch the Sky Sculpture**
    In May 2000, Los Alamos County and adjacent lands were devastated by the 48,000-acre Cerro Grande wildfire. Nearly 400 Los Alamos homes were destroyed. This sculpture was erected a year later, commemorating the fire and community rebuilding.

12. **Ashley Pond Park**
    The pond began as a natural depression in the landscape. The Ranch School ensured its water supply by constructing a pipeline from a dam in Los Alamos Canyon. It was named for Ashley Pond Sr., the founder of the Los Alamos Ranch School, whose students could not resist the geographical pun. The boys used it for summer and winter sports. Blocks of ice were cut from the pond and stored in the Ice House. Ashley Pond Park contains a number of sculptures that are part of the County art collection, curated by the Art in Public Places Board.

13. **Ice House Memorial**
    This memorial marks a unique spot in history. First, it was the site of a simple ice house erected to store ice cut from Ashley Pond by Ranch School boys during the winters. During WWII, it was repurposed as a technical area laboratory where the nuclear core of the “Gadget” (the prototype atomic bomb) was assembled—the same Gadget that was later tested at the Trinity Site, the successfully detonated on July 16, 1945.

14. **Historic U.S. Post Office**
    During WWII, mail to Los Alamos residents was simply addressed to P.O. Box 1663, Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Los Alamos Post Office, designed and built as part of the Community Center, opened at this location in 1948 on the site of the Ranch School Trading Post. Recently the Post Office was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is still the main working U.S. Post Office for Los Alamos County.