

LOS ALAMOS

Orientation Guide

visitlosalamos.org



Los Alamos Historic District

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—the Jemez Mountains to the west, and the Sangre de Cristo range to the north and east. It's nature's playground. At 7,400 feet elevation, the Los Alamos townsite community is perched on mesa top "fingers" separated by rugged canyons—part of the Pajarito Plateau formed by a neighboring supervolcano 1.6 million years ago. In 1944, this was the perfect location for a "Secret City", now home to Los Alamos National Laboratory. Come and discover our unique outdoors, centuries of world-changing history, and find your next adventure!



Helpful Hints

High-Altitude Health

Bring your water bottles, and drink water all day to prevent dehydration. You can refill water bottles at all of the local attractions. Also make sure to wear and reapply sunscreen. Visiting locations at higher elevations than you are used to increases the chance of dehydration, sunburn, headaches, nausea, dizziness, and the aggravation of pre-existing medical conditions.

Tips From the Locals

Los Alamos has several specialty parks where you can enjoy a picnic, play a round of disc golf or miniature golf, let your four-legged friends play off the leash in a dog park, enjoy skate boarding, or play tennis by yourself or with a friend! Stop by the Aquatic Center to rent disc golf or miniature golf sets, or to learn more! For a fun winter outing, swing by the Aquatic Center and rent snowshoes and poles for the whole family. Then take a 5-minute drive to the Los Alamos County Golf Course for a great place to snowshoe and cross-country ski! Afterwards, warm up with snacks and drinks at the Cottonwood on the Greens restaurant inside the Golf Course Community Building.

Leave No Trace - LNT.org

When enjoying the outdoors in and around Los Alamos, please remember these seven principles:

- Plan ahead and be prepared for terrain and weather
- Beware of areas prone to flooding
- Dispose of waste properly (pack in, pack out!)
- Leave what you find—ancient artifacts, wildflowers, etc.
- Abide by fire restrictions, and put campfires dead out
- Do not disturb wildlife—help protect their habitat!
- Maintain courtesy toward other visitors

Wildlife Encounters

In the Jemez Mountains and on the Pajarito Plateau, there are black bears, mountain lions, elk, deer, bobcats, coyotes, and more. Approaching, feeding, or disturbing wildlife is dangerous. Always keep a safe distance, and be aware of your surroundings.

Pets in the Parks

Pets are not permitted on any park trails within Bandelier, but are allowed on the La Jara, Valle Grande, and Coyote Call trails in the Valles Caldera. Pets are also allowed in the parking lots outside the Bandelier Visitor Center and the Valles Caldera Entrance Station, as well as in the Juniper Campground and the picnic area across Frijoles Creek. Pets must be kept under physical control at all times—crated or on a leash not to exceed six feet in length.

Travel Truths

When visiting Los Alamos on the weekdays, remember our unique little town almost doubles in size as commuters and visitors spend the day with us. During mornings heading into town, and evenings heading out of town, Trinity Dr., Diamond Dr., Central Ave., and NM-4 can be very busy. In addition, the lunch hour in downtown is a bustling time, with friends, students, families, and coworkers eating together at the local restaurants. Plan ahead to avoid delays.



Know Before You Go

How to Drive on Lab Property (see inset map above)

When using NM501 (aka East & West Jemez Road) to travel between Los Alamos and the mountains, you will need to enter the Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL's) Vehicle Access Portals. Think of it as a little part of the Secret City's past you can still experience today! Public access is available for drivers of cars, large trucks, RVs, and trailers. Simply slow down and stop when you arrive at the portal. Please have a photo ID ready (valid driver's license, passport, or federal/DOE badge) to provide to the representative at the gate. No photography, firearms, alcohol, or illegal drugs are allowed. Random vehicle inspections do occur.

"Like" us on Facebook



Find us at **Visit Los Alamos** to like and follow for news, events, and tidbits & treasures about Los Alamos, right in your newsfeed.

Follow us on Instagram



Find us **@losalamoscounty** to follow for photos of Los Alamos and the surrounding National Parks.

WiFi in Downtown Los Alamos

Connect to **LA Discoveries** for FREE WiFi in the Historic District.



Need a charge?

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

Los Alamos Visitor Center

475 20th St., Suite A, Los Alamos
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 10am-3pm
800-444-0707 | 505-662-8105
visitlosalamos.org

White Rock Visitor Center

115 NM-4, White Rock
May-October: Daily 8am-6pm
November-April: Daily 10am-2pm
800-444-0707 | 505-672-3183
visitlosalamos.org

Manhattan Project National Historical Park Visitor Center



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



Bandelier National Monument



Pajarito Mountain



Valles Caldera National Preserve



Historic Sculptures of Oppenheimer & Groves

Bandelier National Monument

15 Entrance Road off NM-4, Los Alamos

Park Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Visitor Center Hours: mid-May to mid-Oct: 9am-6pm
mid-Nov to mid-April: 9am-5pm

505-672-3861x0 | [nps.gov/band](https://www.nps.gov/band)

[Orientation Movie](#) | [National Parks Passport Bandelier Museum](#) | [Gift Shop](#) | [Cafe](#) | [Jr. Rangers Bandelier Shuttle - May to October:](#)

Visitors must use the shuttle from White Rock Visitor Center between 9am-3pm. Some exceptions apply.

Valles Caldera National Preserve

NM-4, 18 Miles west of Los Alamos

Visitor Center: May-Oct: 8am-6pm

Nov-Apr: 9am-5pm

575-829-4100 x3 | [nps.gov/vall](https://www.nps.gov/vall)

[Visitor Contact Station](#) | [National Parks Passport Gift Shop](#) | [Wildlife Viewing](#)

Manhattan Project National Historical Park

475 20th St., Suite C, Los Alamos

Hours: Thursday-Monday 10am-3pm

Open additional hours seasonally

505-661-6277 | [nps.gov/mapr](https://www.nps.gov/mapr)

[Orientation Movie](#) | [National Parks Passport Kid's Corner](#) | [Junior Rangers](#)

Bradbury Science Museum

1350 Central Ave, Los Alamos

Hours: Sunday-Monday: 1pm-5pm

Tuesday-Saturday: 10am-5pm

505-667-4444 | [lanl.gov/museum](https://www.lanl.gov/museum)

[Manhattan Project Movie](#) | [LANL Mission Movie History](#) | [Research](#) | [Defense](#) | [Interactive Exhibits](#) | [Gadgets Museum Shop](#)

Los Alamos Nature Center

2600 Canyon Rd., Los Alamos

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10am-4pm

Tuesday: 10am-8pm | Sunday: 1-4pm | Thursday CLOSED

(505) 662-0460 | [losalamosnature.org](https://www.losalamosnature.org)

[Planetarium](#) | [Pajarito Plateau Passport Interactive Exhibits](#) | [Live Animal Exhibits](#) | [Indoor/Outdoor Play](#) | [Rotary Treehouse](#) | [Gift Shop](#)

Los Alamos History Museum Campus

1050 Bathtub Row, Los Alamos

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm

Saturday and Sunday: 10am-4pm

505.662.4493 | [losalamoshistory.org](https://www.losalamoshistory.org)

[Manhattan Project Video](#) | [Interactive Exhibits](#) | [Cold War Gallery](#) | [Ancestral Pueblo Dwelling](#) | [Romero Cabin](#) | [Historic Fuller Lodge](#) | [Gift Shop](#)

Pajarito Mountain

397 Camp May Rd., Los Alamos

Lift Hours: 9am-4pm (weather dependent)

Ticket Office & Shop Hours: 8:30am-4:00pm (when lifts run)

Café & Rental Shop Hours: 8:30am-3:30pm (when lifts run)

505-662-5725 | [pajarito.ski](https://www.pajarito.ski)

Summer Biking & Hiking

Day tickets for Bike Uplift cost \$29

Day tickets for Hike Uplift cost \$10

Pajarito Mountain Skiing

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

Los Alamos Trail Network

Pick up a copy of the Trail Network and Trailhead maps at any Visitor Center, the Nature Center or the County Municipal Building. Or download a digital copy at [losalamosnm.us](https://www.losalamosnm.us), click **Trails** under **Things to Do**.

County Facilities - [losalamosnm.us](https://www.losalamosnm.us)

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

Transportation

Atomic City Transit - [atomiccitytransit.com](https://www.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!

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](https://www.losalamosnm.us)

Los Alamos Main Gate Park - RV/trailer campground

White Rock Visitor Center & RV Park - RV/trailer campground

Camp May Pavilion/Campsites - tent/trailer campground

Bandelier National Monument - [nps.gov/band](https://www.nps.gov/band)

Juniper Family Campground - tent/RV/trailer campground

Ponderosa Group Campground - two group campsites

Santa Fe National Forest - [fs.usda.gov/santafe/](https://www.fs.usda.gov/santafe/)

Redondo Campground - tent/RV/trailer campground

Jemez Falls Campground - tent/RV/trailer campground

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

Lodging

Hotels

Comfort Inn & Suites (505) 661-1110

Hampton Inn & Suites (505) 672-3838

Holiday Inn Express & Suites (505) 661-2646

Bed & Breakfasts

Canyon Inn (505) 510-2253

North Road Inn (505) 662-3678

Pueblo Canyon Inn & Gallery (505) 695-0883

Tours

Los Alamos History Museum Guided Tour [losalamoshistory.org](https://www.losalamoshistory.org)

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

Self-Guided Historic Walking Tour [visitlosalamos.org](https://www.visitlosalamos.org)

Visit 14 points of interest, including 800-year-old Ancestral Pueblo dwellings, early 20th century architecture, a homesteader's cabin, story-telling art, memorials to those who came before us, and the very spot where the first atomic bomb components were designed and assembled. Move at your own pace, and enjoy the museums, shopping, and restaurants along your way.

Self-Guided Spy Tour [visitlosalamos.org](https://www.visitlosalamos.org)

Pick up a Spy Tour brochure at the Los Alamos Visitors Center or download one online.

Self-Guided Homestead Driving Tour [visitlosalamos.org](https://www.visitlosalamos.org)

This tour will introduce you to seven sites that indicate where 17 of the homestead families established their farms.