Where Discoveries Are Made...

Welcome to Los Alamos! Now that you’re here, we invite you to explore this rich area like a local. This is an insider’s guide to our favorite places and experiences. See where locals take their friends and family when they visit, and where we buy gifts and mementos for loved ones. Be sure to pick up the companion Walk & Shop guide to find your new favorite place to eat, drink, and relax. If you’re looking for a recommendation or a little more information, don’t be shy. Just ask a local!

Stop by our Visitor Centers

Los Alamos Visitor Center
475 20th St., Suite A, Los Alamos Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
9am-4pm, Saturday 10am-5pm
800-444-0707 | 505-661-6277
visitlosalamos.org

White Rock Visitor Center
115 NM-4, White Rock
May-October: Daily 8am-6pm
April-September: Daily 10am-6pm
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

Los Alamos County Visitor Centers

Los Alamos Visitor Center
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Helpful Hints

Four Seasons of Discovery

Spring - Enjoy blossoming trees, blooming flowers, and a few unexpected snow showers! Join us for the Annual Kite Festival or the Spring Arts & Crafts Fair, or simply enjoy touring the Historic District in the cool spring breezes.

Summer - Long warm days filled with blue skies and sunshine make the summer ideal for all of your outdoor adventures. Catch a lift for a hike or bike ride at Pajarito Mountain, and then join us for the Friday night Summer Concert Series at Ashley Pond Park.

Fall - Discover the most colorful time of year with changing leaves, late-blooming flowers, and warm, golden light. Most days offer endless clear blue skies, with temperatures in the low 70’s. Sunsets are stunning this time of year whether you’re viewing them from the edge of the Coldcase or from one of the overlooks. Bring a light jacket with you to dine at one of our local restaurants, so you can enjoy an evening stroll downtown and the starry skies.

Winter - Play in our white wonderland, with temperatures in the 40s, it’s just right to enjoy all of your favorite winter activities. Enjoy skiing, snowshoeing, fat bike trails, ice skating, and more. Then bundle up in layers and count the stars on our clear, dark nights.

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 skateboarding, 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.

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.

Driving on Lab Property

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) 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.
Four Seasons of Outdoor Recreation

Pajarito Mountain
- Enjoy Brooks (beer & yoga) days at the Lodge
- Explore the winter or summer terrain parks
- Enjoy the view of the Valles Caldera from the blue bench
- Ride up the lift and hike or bike down at Pajarito Mountain

Open Space & Trails
- Find Cave of the Winds on Quemazon Trail
- Photograph 360° views from a mesa top
- 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
- Play a round of disc golf or miniature golf (rentals available)
- Play tennis, basketball, baseball, or have a picnic at Urban Park
- Go cross-country skiing or snowshoeing at the Golf Course
- Go for a swim in the Olympic-size pool or therapy pool

Family Fun For Younger Kids & Teens

Discover New Things
- Take a tour of the Historic District
- Talk to the docent at the Valles Caldera Visitor Contact Station
- Have your picture taken with Oppenheimer & Groves
- Climb a ladder into an Ancestral Pueblo cliff dwelling
- Visit the ducks, geese, 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 the 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
- Enjoy an outdoor concert or a movie at Ashley Pond Park
- Meet the animals and plants at the Nature Center
- Play with your dog at one of the local dog parks

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 to see the mesas of Los Alamos
- Take a guided Historic Walking Tour
- See how the thunderbirds light the historic U.S. Post Office
- Pick up a map and follow the footsteps of the Atomic City spies
- Listen to the “Voices of the Manhattan Project”
- See where an Ancestral Pueblo family once lived
- Find the virtual Big House where the Ranch School boys slept
- Find the Cold War era kitchen at the Hans Bethe House

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 the 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 film “Racing Toward Dawn”
- Explore the History Museum’s immersive exhibits

See Where Discoveries Are Made
- Watch the current “News from Mars” in downtown Los Alamos
- Try all 40 interactive exhibits at the Bradbury
- Find the piece of the Pentagon from 9/11 outside the Bradbury

Explore the Science of the Pajarito Plateau
- Discover the rare “sky island” geology of the Valles Caldera
- Learn about supervolcanoes at the Nature Center
- Search for obsidian on the Las Conchas Trail

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

Shopping & Dining

Uniquely Los Alamos
- Discover locally made arts at the Fuller Lodge Art Center
- Find STEM gifts at Gadgets Museum Shop at the Bradbury
- Stack up books by local authors at the History Museum
- Pick up gifts with a wildlife theme at the Nature Center
- Find your favorite restaurant on the Walk & Shop map