Historic Sculpture of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer

The dynamic history of this great place by visiting the museums, and stayed to create the Los Alamos community. Experience all over the world who came to work on the Manhattan Project. Ancestral Pueblo people, Homesteaders, Ranch School students and canyons where communities have settled for millennia: volcanic eruptions that created the Pajarito Plateau and the meadows and canyons where communities have settled for millennia: Ancestral Pueblo people, Homesteaders, Ranch School students, and thousands of scientists, soldiers, and engineers from all over the world who came to work on the Manhattan Project and stayed to create the Los Alamos community. Experience the dynamic history of this great place by visiting the museums, National Parks and other attractions profiled in this guide.

Once you’ve made the journey to Los Alamos, you can begin to understand how much the culture and the people are defined by this remote and beautiful landscape. While Los Alamos is known to many as the birthplace of the atomic bomb, the town’s history dates back 1.6 million years with a different kind of energy — volcanic eruptions that created the Pajarito Plateau and the meadows and canyons where communities have settled for millennia: Ancestral Pueblo people, Homesteaders, Ranch School students, and thousands of scientists, soldiers, and engineers from all over the world who came to work on the Manhattan Project and stayed to create the Los Alamos community. Experience the dynamic history of this great place by visiting the museums, National Parks and other attractions profiled in this guide.

Imagine your home carved from volcanic tuff rock 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, ladders and into the past as you experience life as an Ancestral Pueblo person.

**Los Alamos: Gateway to Three National Parks**

**Chimneys of the Past**

- **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/calm

Picture a volcanic eruption so large it created a 13-mile-wide crater. This is the Valles Caldera. 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. 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.

**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-Apr: 9am-5pm
- 505-672-3861 x0 | nps.gov/band

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**Manhattan Project National Historical Park**

- 475 20th St., Suite C, Los Alamos
- Hours vary. Please call before visiting.
- 505-661-6277 | nps.gov/mapr

More than 6,000 scientists, engineers, technicians, military, and support personnel came to live in Los Alamos and work on the Manhattan Project. This National Historical Park was established to tell the stories of these people, events, and the science that led to the creation of the atomic bomb that helped end WWII.

**Bandelier Shuttle Information - May to October**

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

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**Historic District Fun Facts**

- Ashley Pond Park is named after Ashley Pond Jr., the founder of the Los Alamos Ranch School, an outdoor school for boys started in 1917 to provide an education that would promote good health, strength and self-confidence.

- Bathtub Row was named after the homes adjacent to Fuller Lodge, originally belonging to the Ranch School Headmasters. During the Manhattan Project, the head scientists called them home, including Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer. These were the only homes in town with蝙htub.

- The Historic Performing Arts Center was constructed in 1943 and served as the East Mess Hall during the Manhattan Project, while also hosting a variety of shows, including a community production of the play "Arsenic & Old Lace," featuring Lab Director J. Robert Oppenheimer in a cameo role as "the corpse."

- There's a Historic Photo Gallery in the lobby outside the Blue Window Bistro, in downtown Los Alamos, with historic photos of lab directors, facilities, and noteworthy scientists.

**Must Do Discoveries:**

- Find the Nubal Prize at the Hans Bethe House, and learn about the honored scientists who lived there.

- Take the Guided Walking Tour of Los Alamos Historic District and learn the stories behind the buildings, gardens, parks, monuments, and the people who put Los Alamos on the map.

- What if you could power your life using pond scum? Learn about turning algae to biofuels at the Bradbury Science Museum.

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Los Alamos History Museum
1050 Bathtub Row, Los Alamos
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm | Sat 10am-4pm | Sun CLOSED
Admission $5 | 505-662-4493 | losalamoshistory.org

Los Alamos History Museum Guided Tours
Step inside the homestead-era Romero Cabin, visit an Ancestral Pueblo site, hear about the famous 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

Los Alamos History Museum Campus
1350 Central Ave., Los Alamos

Los Alamos History Museum
70+ years of post-World War II history of the Los Alamos National Laboratory - the story of LANL's current mission.

Los Alamos History Museum Guided Tours
Step inside the homestead-era Roma Cabin, visit an Ancestral Pueblo site, hear about the famous 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.

Los Alamos Nature Center
2600 Canyon Rd., Los Alamos
Monday, Wednesday-Saturday 10am-4pm
Tuesday CLOSED | Sunday CLOSED
505-662-0460 | losalamosnature.org

Approximately 60 interactive exhibits trace the history of the World War II Manhattan Project, highlight the Laboratory’s current and historic research projects related to defense and technology, and focus on Laboratory research related to national and international economic, environmental, political, and social concerns.

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.

Gadgets Museum 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!

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
“Behind the Fence” Tours
Experience a “top-secret” tour of historic Manhattan Project buildings! Tours of the Pajarito Site and the Stston 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. Call 505-667-4444 to learn more.

Bradbury Science Museum
1350 Central Ave., Los Alamos
Tuesday-Saturday 11am-4pm | Sunday-Monday CLOSED
505-667-4444 | lanl.gov/museum

Equipped with a full-dome planetarium, wildlife observation room, indoor and outdoor play areas, interactive indoor and outdoor exhibits, and the world's largest Penstemon garden, 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, explore the Rotary Treehouse, 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, a Tiger Salamander, snakes, insects, and the resident ants in their visible ant mound. Play with the Pajarito Plateau model, 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. Explore the cosmos, hear about the latest in space-science, see a feature film, and more!