

LOS ALAMOS

Orientation Guide

visitlosalamos.org



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.

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. 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!



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 [@visitlosalamos](#) or [@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
 Hours vary. Please call before visiting.
 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 May-October. Some exceptions apply.

Valles Caldera National Preserve

NM-4, 18 Miles west of Los Alamos

Visitor Center: May-Oct: 8am-6pm
Nov-Apr: 9am-4:30pm

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

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

Manhattan Project National Historical Park

475 20th St., Suite C, Los Alamos

Hours: Hours vary. Please call before visiting.

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

[Guided Tours](#) | [National Parks Passport](#)
[Museum Exhibits](#) | [Junior Rangers](#)

Bradbury Science Museum

1350 Central Ave, Los Alamos

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 10am-5pm
Sunday: 1-5pm Monday: CLOSED

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-Saturday: 10am-4pm
Tuesday: CLOSED | Sunday: 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: 10am-4pm | Sunday: CLOSED

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

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

Season Passes & Retail Shop: 8:30am-3:30pm

Café: 10am-2pm (when lifts run) | [pajarito.ski/eat](https://www.pajarito.ski/eat)

Summer Biking & Hiking

Lift service: 9am to 3pm, Saturdays & Sundays, June-September

Check the website to confirm hours.

Purchase tickets for bike & hike uplift service online

Season passes and bike rental available

Pajarito Mountain Skiing

Full and half day tickets available for adults, youth & seniors

Beginner Lift only tickets available

5th grade & under and seniors 70+ ski FREE

A variety of season passes available

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).

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

Aquatic Center & Leisure Lagoon

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 & Gallery

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 Docent-Guided Tours [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. Reservations are recommended. Call 505-662-4493.

Monday - Saturday - Confirm tour times in advance.

\$25 ages 19+, 18 and under - FREE with a ticketed adult

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

Visit 14 points of interest, including 800-year-old Ancestral Puebloan dwellings, early 20th century architecture, a homestead 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 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.

Virtual Manhattan Project National Historical Park "Behind-the-Fence" Tour

[about.lanl.gov/history-innovation/mapr/visit](https://www.about.lanl.gov/history-innovation/mapr/visit)

Take a virtual tour of the park sites that are behind the fence at Los Alamos National Laboratory.