

FAMILY FUN

Albuquerque offers an abundance of family-oriented activities that encourage discovery and make learning fun.

Albuquerque Biological Park

The BioPark consists of three separate facilities, the Rio Grande Zoological Park, the Albuquerque Aquarium and the Rio Grande Botanic Garden plus Tingley Beach. (505) 764-6200 TTY (505) 764-6297 www.cabq.gov/biopark

The Rio Grande Zoo sits on more than 60 acres just blocks from Old Town and downtown Albuquerque. The Rio Grande Zoo has become one of the leading zoos in the nation. Modern zoo medicine, scientifically researched diets, naturalized habitats and specialized animal management techniques have helped transform the zoo into an oasis for both exotic and native species. In keeping with its mission of wildlife preservation, conservation and education, the zoo has established captive breeding programs for a number of threatened and endangered species. In addition to a top-notch education program and year round classes, the zoo also offers a summer concert series.



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At the Albuquerque Aquarium, visitors follow the story of a drop of water as it enters the upper Rio Grande high in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado, past canyons, deserts and valleys of New Mexico, Texas and Mexico, through the lower Rio Grande and finally into the Gulf of Mexico. A 285,000 gallon shark tank with floor to ceiling viewing windows is the home of many large Gulf sharks. An eel cave gives visitors the opportunity to see moray eels and a tidal pool demonstrates the effects of the tide on beaches and the animals that live just below the surface.

The Rio Grande Botanic Garden covers 36 developed acres including a 10,000 square foot glass conservatory. The conservatory is divided into two wings - a Desert Pavilion that displays plants from the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts and a Mediterranean Pavilion with plants from Mediterranean climates around the world. The Botanic Garden is home to several specialty gardens, an herb garden, the Spanish/Moorish Court, a ceremonial rose garden and a demonstration garden. There is also the award-winning Rio Grande Heritage Farm, the new Sasebo Japanese Garden and the seasonal PNM Butterfly Pavilion featuring hundreds of free-flying North American butterflies and moths.

Tingley Beach features three fishing lakes, a model boating pond and a train station with gift shop and food service. During the summer, Tingley visitors can rent pedal boats and bicycles. Tingley Beach is open from sunrise to sunset every day of the year and is free to the general public.

Amusement Parks

Albuquerque is home to Cliff's Amusement Park, which has been in Albuquerque for more than 45 years. (505) 881-9373 www.cliffsamusementpark.com

Hinkle Family Fun Center is open year round with go-karts, paintball and miniature golf. (505) 299-3100 www.hinklefamilyfuncenter.com

IT'Z is fun for families with bowling, video games, a roller coaster, bumper cars, pizza and more. (505) 883-3677 www.itzusa.com



©Cliff's Amusement Park

Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway and Ski Area

The world's longest double reversible bi-cable aerial tramway, a glorious mountain setting and a varied recreational playground come together to make a marvelous getaway anytime of the year. The Sandia Peak Tram travels 2.7 miles from the base of the foothills northeast of Albuquerque to the top of the 10,378-foot Sandia Peak. From the lower terminal, the tramcar travels suspended over rugged boulders and rocky mountain landscapes, and the city drops beneath you as you glide over the lush ponderosa forest. The view from Sandia Peak encompasses more than 11,000 square miles on a clear day. The view is one of deep rugged canyons, extinct volcanoes, distant mountains, unusual formations carved by erosion and a sensational desert landscape. At the top of the peak riders can enjoy a meal at the High Finance Restaurant and then ride the tram down, ski down the other side of the mountain on snow-covered slopes in the winter/spring seasons, or ride the primary chairlift at Sandia Peak Ski Area in the summer and fall.

(505) 856-7325 www.sandiapeak.com



©Jay Blackwood Sandia Peak Tram & Ski

Sports Teams

Albuquerque Isotopes, AAA Baseball www.albuquerquebaseball.com

New Mexico Scorpions, Professional Hockey (WPHL)
www.scorpionshockey.com

The University of New Mexico Lobos www.GoLobos.com

Albuquerque Thunderbirds, NBA Development League Basketball
www.nba.com/dleague/albuquerque

New Mexico Wildcats Indoor Football www.newmexicowildcats.com



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MUSEUMS

Albuquerque's museums offer an array of activities for children and families to discover. Children will be especially interested in the offerings at Explora and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. Learn more about Albuquerque's museums on page 11 or visit www.itsatrip.org/activities.

iexplora! is New Mexico's premier hands-on learning center with more than 250 interactive exhibits, educational programs and activities encouraging creativity, imagination, inspiration and inquiry into science, technology and art. (505) 224-8300 www.explora.us

The **New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science** features eight permanent exhibit halls that take guests through the formation of the universe, the age of the dinosaurs, and geologic changes including volcanoes and ice ages. The Extreme Screen DynaTheater is the largest movie screen in New Mexico and brings guests face-to-face with the film. The museum's planetarium is the only one in the world to project high-definition digital imaging over an entire domed screen while a second imaging system, Digistar II, creates a sense of motion through space. (505) 841-2800 www.nmnaturalhistory.org