

MUST-SEES ON ROUTE 66

SPEND YOUR DAY IN ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque is home to a historic stretch of Route 66 that runs through the city's core. If you have just 24 hours to explore, here are the must-see sights.



- Rise and shine! With so many retro diners along Central Avenue, there is no shortage of great breakfasts on Albuquerque's Route 66. **Duran's Central Pharmacy** will satisfy your New Mexican culinary cravings. After enjoying a plate of huevos rancheros, get started on your souvenir shopping at their expansive gift shop and take home some jars of red and green chile.
- Take a quick drive to **El Vado Motel**, Albuquerque's first drive-up motor lodge (circa 1937) that now includes a central courtyard, taproom, lounge, restaurants and retail shops.
- There are plenty of options for outdoor adventures where the Rio Grande intersects Route 66. Explore the **Paseo del Bosque Trail** to experience the unique ecology of the storied river or bike down to **Tingley Beach**.
- Take a lunch break at **66 Diner**, a remodeled gas and service station that is now a restaurant and soda fountain. The walls are adorned with vibrant neon and an impressive collection of Route 66 memorabilia, road signs and genuine vintage hardware.
- Spend the afternoon in historic **Old Town**, the original site of Albuquerque, founded by Spanish settlers in 1706. Visit the historic **San Felipe de Neri Church** and unwind in the Rose Garden. The neighborhood is home to numerous art galleries, shops and museums rich with culture and creativity from all over the world.
- Wine and dine at **M'tucci's Bar Roma**, a luxurious Italian dining experience in the heart of Albuquerque's Nob Hill neighborhood, complete with an Art Deco-inspired cocktail bar. Some of Albuquerque's beloved Route 66 neon signs are in Nob Hill! As the evening sky transforms the Sandia Mountains into their signature shade of pink ("Sandia" means "watermelon" in Spanish), watch as the neon lights of Nob Hill light up Central.
- Have your night on the town in downtown Albuquerque, where the 19th-century railroads cross the 20th-century Route 66. Located Downtown is the iconic **KiMo Theatre**, a unique Pueblo Deco building that begs to be photographed. After your photo-op, enjoy a refreshment at **505 Central Food Hall**.
- Whether you are entering or exiting Albuquerque from the west, pull over at **Nine Mile Hill** on Route 66 to witness the entirety of the city and its panoramic mountain range. The steep, sandy incline on the edge of the city has a deep automobile history, where even the king of Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley, pulled over his pink Cadillac at Nine Mile Hill at night to admire the city lights of Albuquerque.

For more information or additional ideas, go to Route66ABQ.com.

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