

OFFICIAL 2025 VISITORS GUIDE



Visit

LAS CRUCES

The Real New Mexico





Your Field Guide to
LAS CRUCES

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WELCOME TO LAS CRUCES

The Real New Mexico

POPULATION
113,888

TIME ZONE
Mountain
Standard Time

COUNTY
Doña Ana
County

ELEVATION
~3,900 ft

FOUNDED
1849

ESTABLISHED
1907

WEATHER: 320 Days of Sunshine

WINTER
Cool & sunny
☀️ **60°F**

SPRING
Mild
☀️ **78°F**

SUMMER
Hot & dry
☀️ **94°F**

FALL
Cooling down
☀️ **77°F**

53 Miles
EL PASO
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

Crossroads of
INTERSTATE 10 &
INTERSTATE 25

46 Miles
EL PASO, TX

41 Miles
US/MEXICO
BORDER

233 Miles
ALBUQUERQUE,
NM

271 Miles
TUCSON, AZ

390 Miles
PHOENIX, AZ

Midpoint between
SAN DIEGO, CA
& DALLAS, TX
via Interstate 10



Muy Bien **LAS CRUCES** *"Very good, Las Cruces"*

2024

- **Best Places to Retire in 2024** | Forbes
- **The 50 Best Places to Live in the U.S.** | Money.com
- **The Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker** | MovieMaker.com
- **Best-Performing Cities 2024: Focus on Sustainable Growth and Resilience #79** | MilkenInstitute.org

2023

- **Best-Performing Cities 2023: Focus on Sustainable Growth and Resilience #121** | MilkenInstitute.org
- **Golfweek's Best Courses You Can Play 2023: New Mexico No. 2 Red Hawk Golf Course, Las Cruces, NM** | USA Today's Golfweek.com
- **Happiest Cities in America #103, Happiest Cities in New Mexico #1** | WalletHub.com
- **9 Most Underrated Cities in New Mexico** | WorldAtlas.com
- **Top 10 Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker** | MovieMaker.com
- **11 Best Ale Trails in the U.S.** | Seeker
- **Top 15 Best Cities in the Country to Raise a Family** | Scholaroo.com
- **New Mexico State University's Animation Program Top 25 in Nation, Top 10 Regionally, No. 1 in State** | Animation Career Review

AWARDED IN 2022 & 2023!

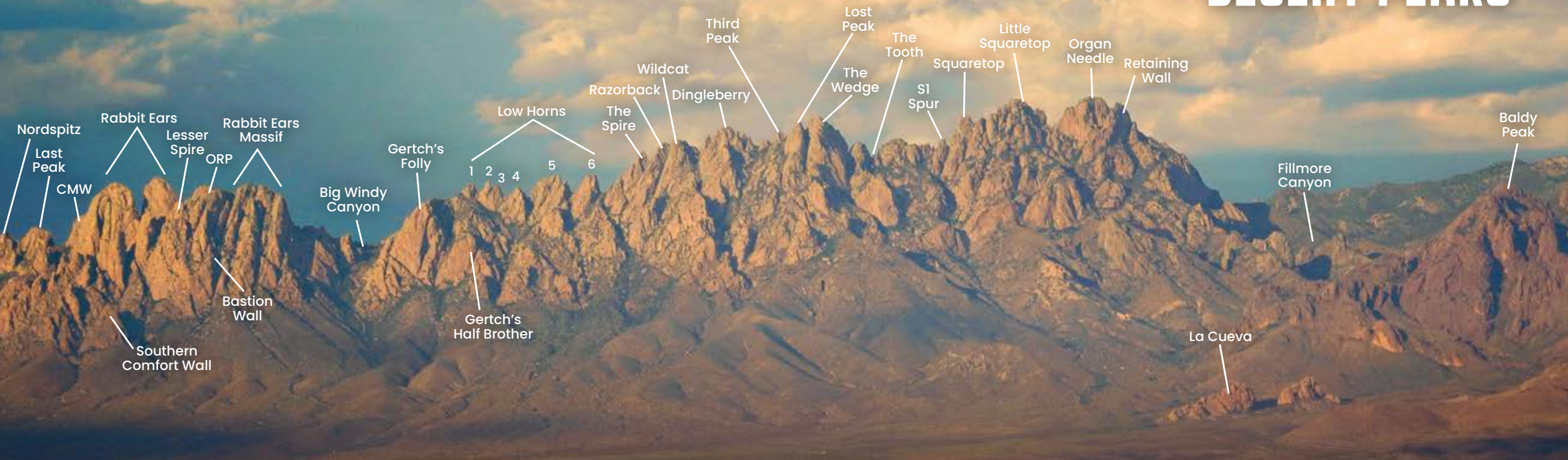
About Visit Las Cruces

Visit Las Cruces works to promote Las Cruces, New Mexico as a year-round premier southwest destination for travelers, businesses, organizations, groups and those looking to put down roots. Our team is ready to assist you in all aspects of planning your meetings, conferences, sports events and outdoor exploration of Las Cruces. Travelers also are welcome at our visitors center (336 S. Main St.) to ask questions and gather additional information about Las Cruces and its surrounding areas.

Visit Las Cruces is proud to be a program of the City of Las Cruces.



ORGAN MOUNTAINS -DESERT PEAKS



Our Beloved **LOCAL LANDMARK**

EST. MAY 21, 2014

ACREAGE: 496,330 ACRES

Marking a decade as part of the Las Cruces community, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument is characterized by majestic desert mountains surrounding the entire city, rising boldly from flat plains. The nearly 500,000-acre monument includes: the Organ Mountains, Robledo Mountains, Sierra de las Uvas, Potrillo Mountains and Doña Ana Mountains. The extensive ecological range of the monument allows for a variety of activity including hiking, mountain biking, bikepacking, horseback riding, OHV use, camping and wildlife viewing.

The Organ Mountains are the most established area of the monument and home to the popular Dripping Springs to the west and Aguirre Springs to the east. They contain

designated camping areas, a visitors center, well-marked trails and pet-friendly paths. The Potrillo Mountains are the most remote section of the monument with a volcanic landscape of cinder cones, lava flows and craters.

The Doña Anas are a favorite among mountain bikers and OHV enthusiasts due to its more rugged terrain. An arch located at the top of one of its hills is a photographer's dream.

Slot Canyon and Broad Canyon are nestled within the Sierra de las Uvas Mountains.

Neighboring the Uvas is the Robledo Mountains, which you can spot towering over the north end of the Mesilla Valley. The mountains are home to the popular hiking spot Geronimo's Cave, accessible when the Rio Grande isn't flowing.

SUNSEEKER PREP



LORENA LOZANO Director of Marketing

"Dripping Springs is beautiful, but some of the best hikes are those in the lesser known, but no-less beautiful, surrounding mountain ranges, like Tonuco Mountain, Broad Canyon and Ladera Canyon."



Las Cruces is in the northern portion of the Chihuahuan Desert— considered the most diverse desert in the Western Hemisphere and one of the most diverse arid regions in the world. The area is largely a dry climate with most of the rain falling between late June and early October. While the desert offers many opportunities for recreation and provides solitude and a surreal landscape, extreme temperature and changes in weather patterns can make it a dangerous place to be if one is not prepared. Follow these tips for a safe outdoor experience.



HYDRATE

Hydrate before you go and take plenty of water with you.



PLAN AHEAD

Plan activities for cooler times of the day; avoid strenuous activity during extreme heat.



AVOID HIKING ALONE

If you do, let someone know where you are going and when you will return.



BE PROTECTED

Wear clothing that fully covers your body to protect it from the sun. Wear hiking shoes or boots to protect from surface heat and injury.



BE PREPARED

Learn the trail, know your limits and bring navigation aids.



CHECK THE WEATHER

Avoid rural and low-lying areas when there is a chance for rain. Monsoon rains can come in fast and furious, causing washouts and flooding.



WATCH FOR ANIMALS

Wild or domestic, give them their space.

While the Chihuahuan Desert can seem like a harsh environment, it's quite delicate. The sensitive flora and fauna respond quickly to seasonal changes and ecological damage, and degraded areas can take decades to be restored. Please take only photos, leave only footprints and follow Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly principles. For more information, visit BLM.gov

GRAVEL GUIDE



Planning a biking trek through Doña Ana County is easy with the Las Cruces Gravel Adventure Guide.

The free field guide is a great tool for anyone looking to explore Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. It is a curated collection of 11 routes that range from 20 to over 100 miles of varying difficulty allowing you to explore our area's back country. The field guide is a pocket-sized with detailed illustrated maps and GPS routes. In addition, the guide provides important safety recommendations for desert trekking and an introduction to our community's vibrant culture.



WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the video created for the local guide here!

WHITE SANDS NATIONAL PARK



WHITE SANDS NATIONAL PARK

53 minutes, 52 miles from Las Cruces via Highway 70

White Sands National Park is home to world's largest gypsum dune field. Looking out, it is a striking, seemingly endless sea of sand engulfing nearly 275 sq. mi. of desert, with 230 sq. mi. for recreating.

White Sands was established as a national monument in 1933 and re-designated as a national park in 2019. It is open daily year-round except for December 25. Hours of operation vary throughout the year and unexpected closures may happen on occasion, so visitors are encouraged to check the park website before heading out.

- The 16-mile round-trip down Dunes Drive takes about 45 minutes, but visitors are welcome to stop along the way for a picnic, to take some photos, go on a hike or slide down the dunes.
- The park offers several ranger-led programs that allow visitors of all ages to experience the park in a more immersive way.
- Make sure to stop by the visitor center, a great example of "Pueblo-Revival" architecture constructed in 1938. Learn more about the park's programs, browse the bookstore and gift shop or learn about the animals and plants that have adapted to survive in the harsh environment.



**5 COOL FACTS ABOUT
WHITE SANDS**

INSTA-WORTHY *Areas*

DOÑA ANA ARCH

The Doña Ana Mountains north of Las Cruces is an area popular for four-wheel drive and OHV users. Hiking is also allowed and the view from the mountains' arch captures breathtaking sights of the Mesilla Valley.



PICACHO PEAK

Picacho Peak is a 4,959-foot-high peak just northwest of Las Cruces. The peak is a volcanic mountain composed of rhyolite that solidified at the surface approximately 35 million years ago. The recreation area has over 15 miles of mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian trails.



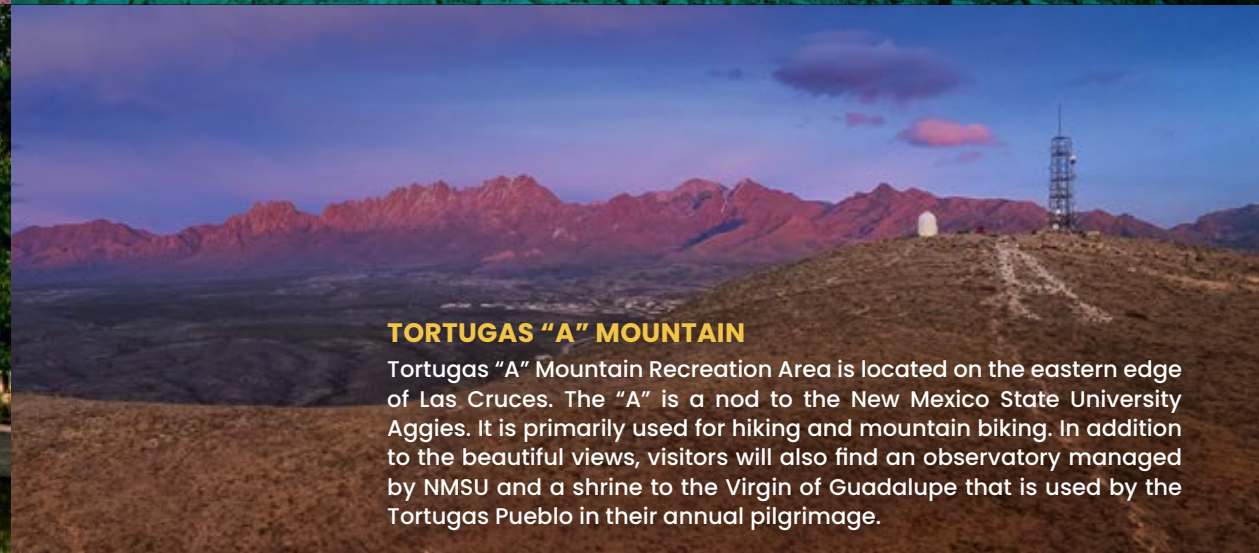
STAHMANN FARMS

Stahmann Farms' pecan trees line NM Highway 28, creating a surreal green canopy that shades the road during the summer months.



TORTUGAS "A" MOUNTAIN

Tortugas "A" Mountain Recreation Area is located on the eastern edge of Las Cruces. The "A" is a nod to the New Mexico State University Aggies. It is primarily used for hiking and mountain biking. In addition to the beautiful views, visitors will also find an observatory managed by NMSU and a shrine to the Virgin of Guadalupe that is used by the Tortugas Pueblo in their annual pilgrimage.



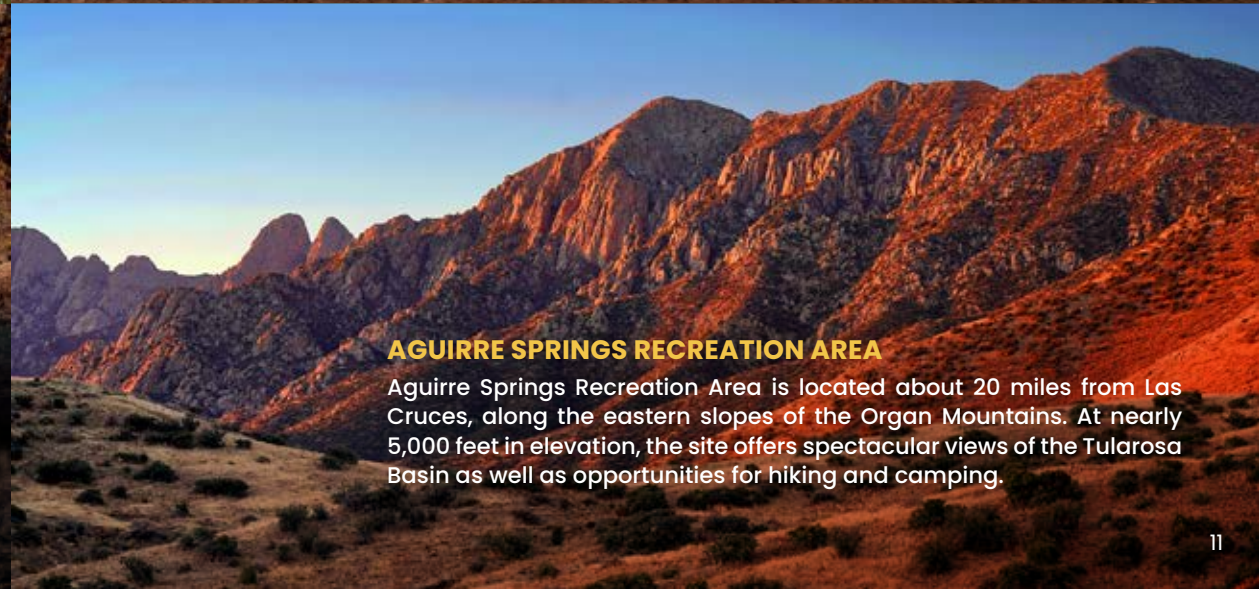
DRIPPING SPRINGS NATURAL AREA

The Dripping Springs Natural Area is situated about 10 miles east of Las Cruces and has over four miles of easy hiking trails, accessible restrooms, 12 picnic sites, a large group site and a visitor center that showcases the history, and flora and fauna of the area. Pets are only allowed on one trail.



AGUIRRE SPRINGS RECREATION AREA

Aguirre Springs Recreation Area is located about 20 miles from Las Cruces, along the eastern slopes of the Organ Mountains. At nearly 5,000 feet in elevation, the site offers spectacular views of the Tularosa Basin as well as opportunities for hiking and camping.



MONUMENTAL SIGHTS

MONUMENTAL LOOP

The Monumental Loop is a 250-mile bikepacking route that takes riders through all four regions of the Organ Mountains Desert – Peaks National Monument. While the route was created for bikepacking, it is suitable for any non-motorized use.

PREHISTORIC TRACKWAYS

The Prehistoric Trackways National Monument includes a major deposit of Paleozoic Era fossilized footprints within approximately 5,000 acres. Fossil viewing is limited as many of the fossils have been moved, but visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the entire Mesilla Valley as well as hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and OHV use. Paleozoic Era fossils that were found at the monument are housed at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. The Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science has a permanent exhibit about the trackways.

MESILLA VALLEY BOSQUE

This photo-worthy, Audubon-designated 'Important Birding Area' offers several easy hiking trails for hiking and bird watching. Spend time at the visitor center and learn about the unique bosque (woodlands) ecosystem, history and culture of the area, or stroll through the native plant garden. There is a small entrance fee; however, the fee is waived for those who are riding their bicycle.



**TREK OTHER NEARBY
STATE PARKS &
MONUMENTS**



Summer ON THE RIVER

Let your worries float away! During the summer months, Southwest Expeditions offers tubing and kayaking trips along the Rio Grande. The different distances offered allows you to select the perfect trip for you relax and take in some of the natural beauty of our unique desert environment. Book your excursion now at SWExpeditions.com.



**OUTDOOR RECREATING
DOESN'T STOP HERE!**

SHOP LOCAL OUTDOORS

1 Bluebird Running

136 S. Water St.
(915) 861-4054 | runbluebirdrun.com

Specialty running store carrying everything a runner needs from apparel to nutrition, as well as accessories for hikers and bikers.

2 High Desert Outfitters

1836 W. Amador Ave.
(575) 527-2697 | highdesert-outfitters.com

One stop shop for all of your archery, muzzleloader and precision rifle needs, as well as an indoor, air-conditioned 3D shooting range.

3 Outdoor Adventures

1424 Missouri Ave.
(575) 521-1922 | bikelc.com

Bicycle shop with bike accessories, outdoor gear, on-site repair shop and bike rental.



THINGS TO DO



Presented by Visit Las Cruces, imira! Las Cruces is a free, family-friendly spring festival highlighting the art and culture, cuisine, music and outdoor recreation that make the city and its surrounding communities one of a kind. It's the ultimate "Welcome to Las Cruces" event!

ANNUAL EVENTS

Spring

LAS CRUCES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The best in independent cinema gather to attend workshops and panels, with celebrity appearances, film screenings and VIP experiences.

COWBOY DAYS

This family-friendly event includes cowboy demonstrations, music, food and activities that celebrate the state's ranching traditions.

BATAAN DEATH MARCH

The Bataan Memorial Death March traverses the high desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range and Las Cruces in a challenging trek honoring the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II.

CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA IN HISTORIC MESILLA

A traditional Mexican fiesta experience with live entertainment, music, food and dancing on the Historic Mesilla Plaza.

Summer

NEW MEXICO WINE FESTIVAL LAS CRUCES

Held Memorial Day weekend, visitors can sample wine from multiple New Mexico wineries while enjoying live entertainment and local vendors.

FOURTH OF JULY ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE

A free, family-favorite event the night before July 4, the parade includes floats and cars draped in lights lining Las Cruces' streets.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION AND FIREWORKS

Annual July 4 firework display hosted by the City of Las Cruces with headlining music acts and family-friendly activities.



Fall

HARVEST WINE FESTIVAL LAS CRUCES

Held Labor Day weekend, visitors can sample wine from multiple New Mexico wineries while enjoying live entertainment, take part in grape stomping and browse local vendors.

HATCH CHILE FESTIVAL IN HATCH, NM

The Chile Capital of the World hosts a family-friendly event with a carnival, parade, vendors and live entertainment.

FRANCISCAN FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Set among pecan orchards at the serene Holy Cross Retreat Center, artists display and sell paintings, ceramics, jewelry, photographs, quilts, woodwork, glasswork and more. Enjoy the beloved enchilada lunch, paella, wine garden, raffle, silent auction, information booths and more.

DIEZ Y SEIS DE SEPTIEMBRE FIESTA IN HISTORIC MESILLA

Historic Mesilla commemorates Mexico's independence with a celebration on the plaza. Enjoy folklorico dancing, mariachi music, food, shopping and activities.

MESILLA VALLEY MAZE

Take a hayride to the pumpkin patch, enjoy family-fun activities, food and trek into the twists and turns of the corn field (design changes annually). Open throughout the fall season.

LAS CRUCES AIR & SPACE EXPO

The community event features an action-packed air show that featuring pylon air racing, touted as the "world's fastest motor sport." The Expo also includes air show entertainment, exhibits, family activities and so much more!

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR & RODEO

A reflection of the region's rich farming history, the fair highlights a midway, auction, livestock show, cowboy rodeo, live music, food, vendors and carnival.

ZOMBIE WALK

Participants dress as zombies and walk downtown Main Street. Live entertainment, vendors, food and music.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS IN HISTORIC MESILLA

The multi-day celebration of life includes a display of homemade altars on the plaza, live entertainment, candlelight procession, food, shopping and more.

LAS CRUCES SPACE FESTIVAL

A celebration of all things aerospace, astronomical, suborbital, and light years away! The festival is celebrated in Southern New Mexico due to the area's rich history with space and the first purpose-built commercial spaceport: Spaceport America.



SEE OUR COMPLETE LIST OF ANNUAL EVENTS!

Winter

RENAISSANCE ARTSFAIRE

Artisans gather to display and sell their artwork, put on live theater, dancing, live music and more. Also includes a beer and wine garden, children area, vendors and food all presented with a Renaissance theme.

HOMEGROWN

A New Mexico food show and gift market featuring only local and state vendors, wine tasting and full access to the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

LAS CRUCES TREE LIGHTING

Free, annual tree lighting on Plaza de Las Cruces, with live music, giveaways, refreshments, family activities, a visit from Santa and more.

LAS CRUCES CHILE DROP

A New Year's tradition with a countdown displaying a 19-foot chrome chile with 400 feet of LED lighting over Plaza de Las Cruces. Will it turn red or green at midnight? The night features live entertainment, food and more.

Las Cruces FARMERS + CRAFTS Market



- FREE
- 8:30 A.M. TO 1 P.M.
- RECURRING WEEKLY:
 - ☉ SATURDAYS
 - ☉ WEDNESDAYS
(A mini market on Plaza de Las Cruces)



ROCHELLE MILLER-HERNANDEZ

Executive Director
"Strolling the Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market on a cool fall Saturday morning is the best way to start the day."

The Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market is a Saturday tradition for locals and a must-shop for visitors! The nationally recognized, year-round market spans over seven city blocks throughout downtown Main Street and is regularly voted one of the "Top Farmers Markets in the Country" by Farmland.org. Those who attend can browse the nearly 300 vendors (new ones added regularly) selling handmade goods, artwork, baked goods, coffee, jewelry, food and more. Catch performances by local musicians through the entirety of the market and stop by local businesses and restaurants lining Main Street to make the most out of your visit.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, YEAR-ROUND MARKET

FOOD + DRINK

Food truck fare in Las Cruces is delicious and sought-after by locals. Luckily, the market has several different options lined up that serve up a variety of cuisine. You'll also spot other vendors throughout the market serving up baked goods, specialty drinks and more.

LOCAL GOODS

The market is filled to the brim with original offerings including homemade candles, hand knitted accessories, skincare items, soaps, wood pieces, leather pieces and more. There are also several vendors who create their own uniquely printed clothing items, useful tools, self-care items, decor and endless amounts and varieties of plants.

ART

Las Cruces is home to several artists who create breathtaking and unique art pieces. The market is a place for these artists to showcase their talents and the beautiful inner workings of their mind. Paintings, sculptures, photography, prints, pottery and ceramics are among the many kinds of art you will find.

JEWELRY

Jewelry items at the market are locally hand-crafted and designed. They often have touches of New Mexico and its wonderful culture. Necklaces, earrings, bracelets and anklets are among the large array of different jewelry options available.



HILARY DUTCHER

Destination Experience Manager
"I enjoy heading downtown to Plaza de Las Cruces to attend the Fine Art Flea Market on the first Friday of each month."



FINE ARTS *Flea Market*

9 DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET AND PLAZA DE LAS CRUCES
5 TO 10 P.M. | FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Join vendors, artists and art lovers on downtown Main Street and Plaza de Las Cruces to celebrate and appreciate local art, live music, a car show, entertainment, and food and drink.

The Fine Arts Flea Market is an evening market that hosts more than 80 local vendors, is free to attend and open to all ages.



FUN *on a* BUDGET



If you're looking for some fun activities, try some of the following budget-friendly suggestions.

LAS CRUCES FARMERS & CRAFTS MARKET

Stretching over seven blocks on Main Street in downtown Las Cruces, the market has close to 300 vendors, with new ones added regularly. You can explore goods, art, jewelry, foods and local entertainment. Full market Saturdays only.

PUBLIC POOLS & SPLASHPADS

Located in the heart of Las Cruces, take the kiddos to cool off at the city's splash pads and public pools. Check out the Regional Aquatic Center or Natatorium for indoor swimming.

HISTORIC MESILLA

Mesilla is home to historical attractions such as the San Albino Basilica. It also features a variety of contemporary boutiques, unique stores, galleries, wineries and restaurants.

LOCAL MUSEUMS

Free and open to the public:

- The Branigan Cultural Center (501 N. Main St.)
- The Museum of Art (491 N. Main St.)
- The Museum of Nature & Science (411 N. Main St.)
- The Railroad Museum (351 N. Mesilla St. #2567)

HIKES

- Picacho Peak Recreation Area, with views overlooking the entire Mesilla Valley
- Aguirre Springs Recreation Area, with scenic campgrounds and a chance to explore the eastside of the popular Organ Mountains
- Slot Canyon, with winding pathways and surreal sights
- Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, with wildlife viewing opportunities

ANNUAL EVENTS

Be sure to check out events that are happening during your visit! Most are affordable or free to attend.

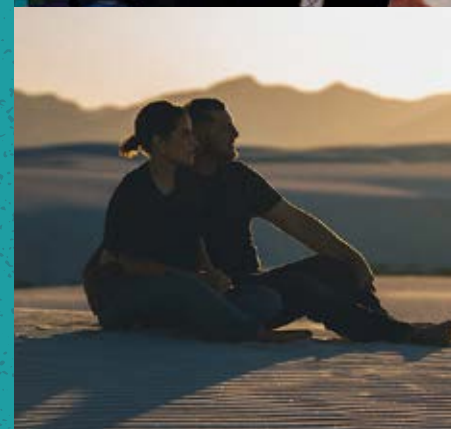


SONIA BAÑUELOS

Visitor Information Specialist

"Las Cruces is beautiful and a wonderful place to visit. There's so much to see and do, with many events that are little to no cost."

COUPLES *Getaway*



Las Cruces has plenty of accommodations to make your romantic getaway even more special. From a cozy bed and breakfast to nationally known hotels we've got options to compliment everyone's style.

OUTDOOR DATES

Try one of the local hiking trails in the **Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument** that offer beautiful scenery for your romantic weekend. Some of the most popular trails include Dripping Springs Trail which takes you to a historic site and a beautiful seasonal waterfall.

Another great hiking destination is the **La Cueva Trail**, which is an easy 0.5-mile trail leading to La Cueva rock shelter, an archaeological site located at the foot of the Organ Mountains. Dripping Springs and La Cueva are located within the Dripping Springs Natural Area and require a \$5 entrance fee for the day.

DINNER FOR TWO

There is no shortage of romantic restaurants to sample. For a fine-dining experience with a southwestern twist, visit **D.H. Lescombes Winery & Bistro**. It offers a wide selection of award-winning wines, as well as a menu of expertly crafted dishes featuring locally sourced ingredients.

EXPLORE LAS CRUCES HISTORY & CULTURE

One of the best parts of traveling is immersing yourself in the area's culture and trying new things. You and your partner can spend the day visiting **White Sands National Park** exploring the natural beauty of the stunning white gypsum dunes. Watch the sun set below the mountains, painting the sky and creating a truly romantic atmosphere.

For a taste of local history and culture, head to **New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum** to learn about the state's agricultural roots. Or take a charming day trip exploring **Mesilla**, the picturesque town is a step back in time.



DON'T STRESS!

Take the effort out of planning your trip with a variety of ready-made itineraries.

21+ DAY TO NIGHT



LGBTQIA+

THE REAL NEW MEXICO IS FOR EVERYONE

Known as a gay-friendly destination, Las Cruces has no shortage of LGBTQIA+ owned and operated businesses, restaurants, bars and entertainment venues.

In 2023, Las Cruces scored an 89 on the Municipal Equality Index by the Human Rights Campaign. This is a measure of how supportive Las Cruces and the internal policies of our city are of LGBTQIA+ individuals. Las Cruces is a leader in municipal equality and second in the state.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO PRIDE

Southern New Mexico Pride seeks to provide the LGBTQIA+ community with events and activities that are designed to unify the community and to be a resource for those seeking greater information and fellowship in the Las Cruces and southern New Mexico.

One of the many inclusive events is the annual SNM Pride Celebration held each year in October. It is the largest Pride celebration held in southern New Mexico.

SINGING OUT LAS CRUCES

Singing Out Las Cruces, or SOLC, is the first and only LGBTQIA+ & Ally choir in Las Cruces and was the very first mixed voice LGBTQ+ choir in New Mexico. SOLC works to give a voice to the LGBTQIA+ community and strives for a society where all people are respected and appreciated.

21+ Itinerary

10 AM

BRUNCH MIMOSAS AT SALUD!

Salud! de Mesilla is known for its unique tapas-style cuisine. They offer a beautiful assortment of cocktails for you to try, including a classic brunch mimosa. Stop by Sunday for their mimosa and Bloody Mary bar.



1 PM

MESILLA VALLEY WINE TOUR

Treat yourself to a guided wine tour. Mesilla Valley Wine and Brew Tours will take you to the finest wineries, breweries and distilleries in the area. Look through their options and select what's best for you!

7 PM

DINNER AT AMADOR W/ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Keep your evening going at AmadorLive where you can get your fill of food and entertainment. Built to host different kinds of events, AmadorLive offers up several options to best suit your night out. From their brewery to their cocktail lounge or rooftop bar, grab a drink, dinner or see a show.

9 PM

RAD RETROCADE RETRO GAMES & POP CULTURE DRINKS

Just down the street from AmadorLive you'll find retro arcade games at RAD, a 21+ environment after 8 p.m. You'll find a full kitchen and bar open late and packed with nostalgia and pop culture. Try one of their signature drinks or a "Slosh" Puppy!



Highlighting a Few of the Many INCLUSIVE BUSINESSES in Las Cruces

- Pick up a cup of coffee at **The Bean on Mesquite**
- Eat at **Salud! de Mesilla**
- Shop at **The Hissin' Kitten** or **Sol y Luna**
- Grab a drink and take in a drag show at **Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery**



SHOW YOUR PRIDE!

Learn about our featured businesses and LGBTQIA+ friendly Las Cruces

HAUNTED

and Historic

PAT GARRETT MURDER MYSTERY

Widely known as the lawman who shot and killed the infamous Billy the Kid in 1881, Pat Garrett was mysteriously killed in 1908. He was found dead on a barren stretch of road between his ranch and Las Cruces. Wayne Brazel was the man who killed Garrett in alleged self-defense. He was tried and found not guilty of murder. However, many conspiracies arose after the trial accusing him of conspiring to have Garrett killed as numerous things didn't appear to add up.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL

The old Doña Ana County Courthouse, located in downtown Las Cruces, was built in 1937 and served as the county courthouse until the 1980s. The building offers ghost tours, other activities and events. Many people believe that the spirits of former inmates and other entities haunt the building. Visitors have reported strange noises, slamming of cell doors, feeling of not being alone and unexplained cold spots in the courthouse.



MORE HAUNTINGS

Does the paranormal spark your interest? There's more haunted history to explore.

SHOP LOCAL

LIFESTYLE



Mew+Company

Q 300 N. Main St., Unit 2 | (575) 652-2964 | mewandcompany.com

A welcoming boutique located in the heart of downtown Las Cruces. Inviting all to embrace their creativity, it offers art supplies, fine paper and an art studio with classes. Full of unique home goods, art, jewelry and a children's boutique, it is the perfect place to find a meaningful gift.

Visit Las Cruces Visitors Center

Q 336 N. Main St. | (575) 541-2444 | visitlascruces.com

Located on the edge of downtown in the Visit Las Cruces building, the visitors center sells one-of-a-kind Las Cruces apparel, postcards, magnets, drinkware, children's items and other memorable souvenirs that allow visitors to take a piece of their vacation home or locals to show their city pride.

Eyeconik Records & Apparel

Q 224 N. Campo St. | (575) 222-0531

A locally owned store featuring movies, music and vintage memorabilia. Hard to find vinyl, CDs and VHS tapes are hidden treasures often found amongst its shelves. After perusing the posters and stickers with a music or film twist, enjoy old-school fun on the arcade games.

A DAY TRIP

Away



Las Cruces has that relaxed, small-city charm and a variety of lodging choices. Conveniently nestled at the crossroads of two major Interstates and a main highway, Las Cruces is a homebase that offers quick access to nearby getaways.

HATCH, NM

Via New Mexico Highway 185: 49 minutes, 40 miles

Highlights of taking this route: It's a back road through pecan orchards, agricultural areas and along the Rio Grande. Stop and hike Slot Canyon, Broad Canyon or Faulkner Canyon. Get drinks and food at the popular Blue Moon Bar in Radium Springs. Closer to Las Cruces, the highway offers access to Prehistoric Trackways and Fort Selden Historic Site.

Via Interstate 25: 42 minutes, 40 miles

Highlights: Hatch, NM is "The Chile Capital of the World." Stop by The Pepper Pot, the small town's signature restaurant for New Mexican food. Right off the highway, check out Sparky's Burgers, Barbeque and Espresso. Walk Main Street and check out other local spots.

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NM

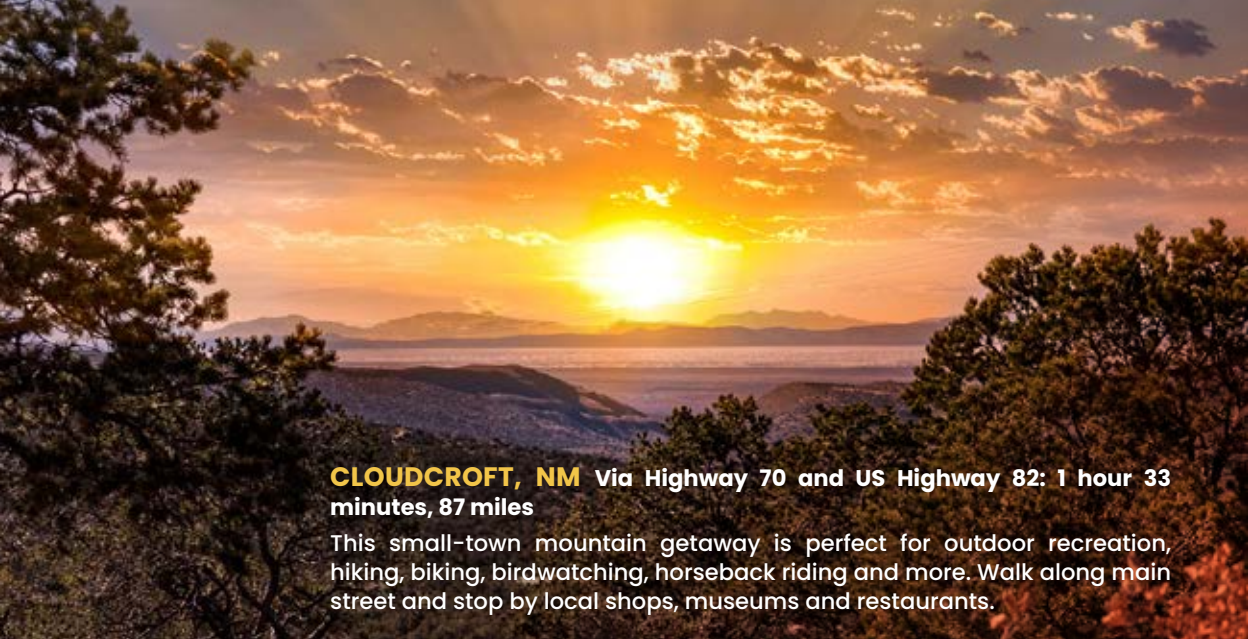
Via Interstate 25: 1 hour 10 minutes, 75 miles

Once named "Hot Springs," the town of Truth or Consequences was renamed after a game show. The small community is an oasis in the desert. Offering soaks both indoors and outdoors, and a downtown area with galleries, shops and dining, this small town is worth a visit.

ELEPHANT BUTTE LAKE STATE PARK

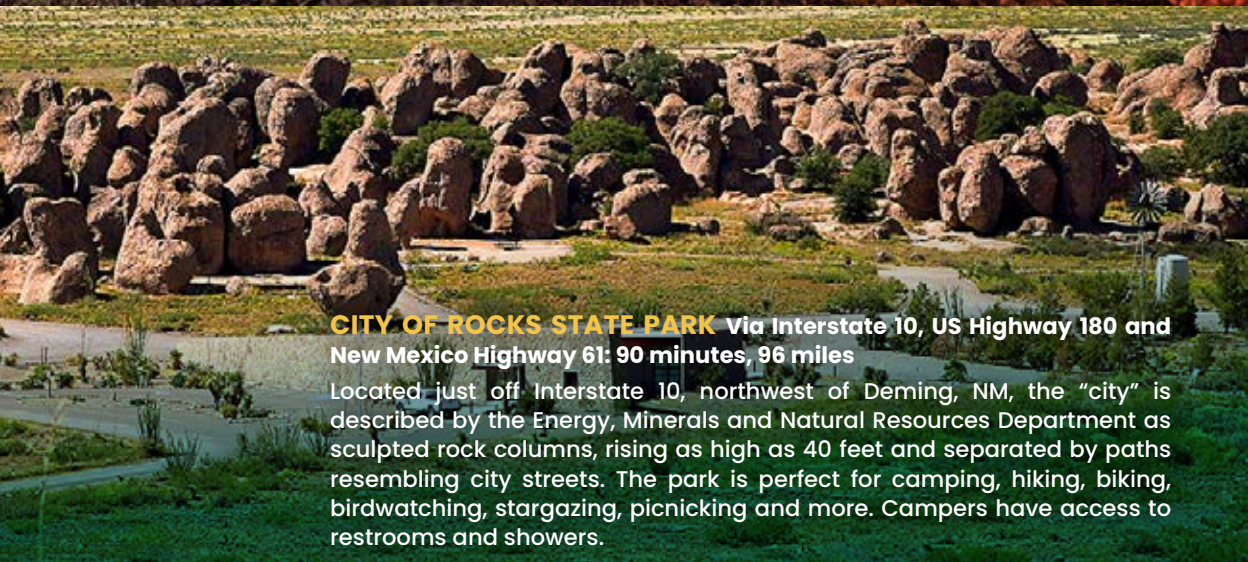
Via Interstate 25: 1 hour 15 minutes, 79 miles

The largest of New Mexico's state parks, Elephant Butte provides opportunities for camping, RVing, boating, fishing, hiking and swimming in a magnificent oasis in the desert. The area is named for the rock at the center of the lake resembling an elephant.



CLOUDCROFT, NM Via Highway 70 and US Highway 82: 1 hour 33 minutes, 87 miles

This small-town mountain getaway is perfect for outdoor recreation, hiking, biking, birdwatching, horseback riding and more. Walk along main street and stop by local shops, museums and restaurants.



CITY OF ROCKS STATE PARK Via Interstate 10, US Highway 180 and New Mexico Highway 61: 90 minutes, 96 miles

Located just off Interstate 10, northwest of Deming, NM, the "city" is described by the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department as sculpted rock columns, rising as high as 40 feet and separated by paths resembling city streets. The park is perfect for camping, hiking, biking, birdwatching, stargazing, picnicking and more. Campers have access to restrooms and showers.



LAKE VALLEY HISTORIC TOWNSITE Via Interstate 25, New Mexico Highway 26 to 27: 1 hour 18 minutes, 72 miles

The former mining town of Lake Valley is now a ghost town. Managed by the Bureau of Land Management, portions of the town have been restored to provide a glimpse into what life was like in the 1800s. Open limited days and hours.



**VENTURE OUT!
FIND MORE
DAY TRIPS.**

FOOD + WINE



Local Sabor

Let us help you find your new favorite dish with a Southern New Mexican flavor, or *sabor*, you won't forget. Here's a crash course in the anatomy of a few local favorites.

THE AGUA FRESCA



THE ENCHILADA

Red or green, and everything in between.



THE CHILE RELLENO

A deep-fried combo of chile and cheese that'll make your mouth water.



The dish is deep fried & can be eaten alone or wrapped in a warm flour tortilla

Order it CHRISTMAS STYLE

This means the dish will be served with both red and green chile sauce. Do not mix. Ladle red on one side of the entrée or dish and ladle green on the other. It's the best of both worlds!

Customer: *I'd like an enchilada plate, please.*
 Waiter: *Red or Green (chile)?*
 Customer: **Christmas!**



We Don't Just Grow Green Chile...

WE INVENT IT.



Chile, pronounced "chee-leh," refers to the hot peppers found in much of our delicious regional food. Due to our proximity to Hatch, New Mexico, the chile capital of the world, we have a special place in our hearts for the pepper.

In fact, you may find that Las Cruces is crazy about green chile! So much so, we're home to the Chile Pepper Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to researching chile peppers. They've even helped develop new varieties of chile, such as the ones shown below.

You can visit the Chile Pepper Institute at 113 NM State Rd. 101.

Chile varieties invented here in Las Cruces and their heat levels.

Chile is measured in Scoville Heat Units, or SHU's



WALK *of* FLAME



SI SEÑOR RESTAURANT

1551 E. Amador Ave.
575-527-0817 | sisenor.com

New Mexican Old Fashioned with red chile infused Ponderosa Sidewinder and a Melon Margarita with green chile agave.

TRUCK FARM & CANNON'S SWEET HOTS

645 S. Alameda | 575-523-1447 | sweethots.com
Seasonings, green chile cornbread, green chile stew, salsa, green chile marmalade, green chile relish, gifts and other items.



SPARKY'S BURGERS, BARBEQUE & ESPRESSO

115 Franklin St. Hatch, NM (40 min N of LC)
575-267-4222 | sparkysburgers.com
Green chile lemonade and a green chile shake.



CHILE PEPPER INSTITUTE VISITOR CENTER GIFT SHOP

113 NM State Rd. 101 | 575-646-3028
cpi.nmsu.edu/visit-us
Sauces, foods, merchandise and chile memorabilia/unique finds.



THE SHED

810 S. Valley Dr. | 575-525-2636
Eggs Benedict with green or red chile Hollandaise.



STROLL THE
ENTIRE WALK
OF FLAME!

A TASTE of Las Cruces



LIZ VEGA
Event Manager
"One of my favorite local spots is Burritos Victoria. It is your quintessential 'hole in the wall' restaurant with a variety of traditional Mexican dishes from the borderland."



ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE
Q 1983 Calle Del Norte | 575-526-1271 | andelerestaurant.com
Serving up Andele's signature dishes in a space that's pet friendly. It's a must-stop for those traveling with their four-legged friends.

Breakfast

GROUNDÉD CAFÉ Q 300 N. Main St.
575-571-4047 | thegroundedlounge.com

Located in the heart of downtown, this spot is perfectly described as a "vibe." May locals are regulars, and are often found grabbing a cup of coffee and dipping into a signature acai bowl. The menu also includes horchata overnight oats, pastries, a jackfruit fajita bowl, and a variety of seasonal options. Lunch and dinner served.

A BITE OF BELGIUM
Q 741 N. Alameda Blvd. #16 | 575-527-2483
abiteofbelgium.com

A Bite of Belgium is unlike any other place in Las Cruces, serving a Belgian menu that is both scrumptious and unique! Among their many options are eggs Florentine, several quiche varieties, and authentic Belgian waffles that can be topped with Bavarian cream. Their menu also offers gluten-free options.



DINE OUT!

At the many restaurants in and around Las Cruces.

Lunch

SALUD! DE MESILLA
Q 1800 Avenida de Mesilla, Ste. B
575-323-3548 | saludmesilla.com

Salud! de Mesilla has a lively interior with fresh local and fusion dishes, making it a radiant and original spot for lunch. It specializes in several eclectic and flavorful foods like their Blueberry Turkey Sandwich, Green Chile Pesto, Mexican tiramisu and a full tapas menu. Many gluten-free options are available as well, so it's a place most anyone can find something they will enjoy.

HABANEROS FRESH MEX Q 600 E. Amador Ave.
575-524-1829 | habanerosfreshmexlcnm.com

Habaneros Fresh Mex proudly states that it has been serving up "fresh, healthy" Mexican food in Las Cruces since 2006. The local hot spot not only includes traditional Mexican options, but vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free dishes. Favorites include their Welcome Soup, potato tacos, veggies enchiladas and mole dishes.

Dinner

AMADOR PATIO & GRILL Q 302 S. Main St. Suite B
575-541-7417 | amadorlive.com

Amador Patio and Grill is famous for hosting live music and entertainment. The complex includes expansive indoor and outdoor dining, entertainment stage, cocktail bar, rooftop bar, taphouse and house bar. There are several tasty dinner options including fried avocado tacos, 90-day aged 14oz ribeye, red chile shrimp scampi and the Crudo Burger.

D.H. LESCOMBES WINERY & BISTRO
Q 1720 Avenida de Mesilla | 575-524-2408
lescombeswinery.com

D.H. Lescombes Winery and Bistro is the perfect place for a date night or lavish dinner. They've crafted an extensive, epicurean-style menu that pairs well with their rotating selection of local wines. Try their guest favorite Southwest Meatloaf made with Hatch green chile, their Signature Nosh or their Bistro Burger. Lescombes offers gluten-free option and specialty menus for large groups, it houses a spacious outdoor patio, and occasional live music and entertainment.





LA DULCE VIDA

The Sweet Life

CALICHES FROZEN CUSTARD caliches.com
 Q 590 S. Valley Dr. | 575-647-5066
 Q 131 Roadrunner Pkwy. | 575-521-1161
 Q 1000 Lenox Ave. | 575-680-2229

A classic spot to satisfy any sweet tooth. The retro atmosphere makes it the perfect place for a fun date or a great family outing! Try their famous Green Chile Sundae, Mango Dango with salted pecans or a classic soda float! Caliche's is all about customization, so feel free to build your own sundae or caliche (toppings blended into the custard). Lactose intolerant? Don't miss out. The summer menu includes dairy-free options.

THE PALETA BAR Q2750 Mall Dr. Suite 240
 575-571-4385 | thepaletabar.com

Home to a wide selection of cool sweet treats. Pick your flavor of paleta and customize it with their chocolate dips, candy, nut, fruits and numerous other toppings! If you're looking for something different, they have mangoñadas, elotes, aguas frescas and other sweet and savory snacks.

INDULGENCE BAKERY & CAFÉ Q2265 S. Main St.
 575-523-1572 | indulgencebakerycafe.com

Incredibly tasty baked goods with a rotating dessert menu that features unique cakes in flavors like Raspberry Italian Cream, Death by Chocolate and Strawberry Margarita. Indulgence also makes numerous vegan cakes and some gluten-free options. Is your sweet tooth not satisfied? Try one of their many other baked goods or signature cream puffs. Extend your visit by taking a seat and ordering coffee, breakfast or lunch.

LEO'S BAKERY Q1310 E. Madrid Ave. | 575-524-3870

A local staple and favorite Mexican bakery. You can find a variety of donuts, conchas, biscochos, empanadas, and so much more! Leo's also bakes and decorates cakes for all sorts of occasions and even have birthday donuts for those celebrating (must order in advance). If your sweet tooth is aching, you're sure to satisfy it here.



ALBERT HERRERA Director of Sales
"My family ritual on Saturdays is to have breakfast at one of our many local establishments such as Indulgence Bakery & Café."



Take a Tour Inside a PANADERIA

Discover the treats you'll find at a Mexican bakery.



CONCHA (KONE-CHA)

Often referred to as pan dulce or sweet bread, Conchas are a fluffy, butter brioche-like pastry topped with a colorful streusel topping.



MARRANITOS (MAR-RUH-NEE-TOZE)

Gingerbread cookies flavored with molasses and shaped like pigs.



EMPANADA (EM-PUH-NAH-DAH)

A crescent-shaped, filled pastry that is either baked or fried. It can be filled with a sweet fruit or savory filling.



POLVORONES (POLE-VO-RO-NEZ)

Also known as Mexican wedding cookies, these are melt-in-your-mouth, fall apart, very crumbly, soft cookies somewhat like shortbread. While still warm, these cookies are rolled in confectioner sugar.



BISCOCHOS (BEE-SKO-CHOZE)

Shortbread-like cookie with base flavors of anise, cinnamon and sugar. They are sometimes referred to as "biscochitos."



SIP, SAVOR, *and Unwind*



Heard it Through the Grapevine

The adventurous history of winemaking in southern New Mexico began more than 400 years ago with the smuggling of Spanish grapevines by a Catholic monk and has now evolved into New Mexico's multi-million-dollar wine industry.

It started in the 1600s with the planting of the Mission grape that was used for ceremonial purposes and has expanded into the production of a diverse variety of award-winning wines made possible by a small group of winemakers, who in the 1970's saw the potential for wine production in the region.

Much of southern New Mexico's wines boast distinctive flavors only found in this region due to the rich and fertile Mesilla Valley soil. The area's climate is perfect for growing and production, bringing visitors from all over the world to sip and savor local blends. Whether you enjoy a traditional dry red or a flavorful sparkling white with a New Mexican twist, we have something to satisfy everyone's palate.

Today, the Las Cruces Wine Trail showcases locally-owned wineries and tasting rooms peppered throughout the city and Mesilla Valley. Annual wine festivals celebrate southern New Mexico's long and rich history of wine. Be sure to enjoy a glass, a flight or share a bottle during your stay!

WINE TRAIL



LA VIÑA WINERY

📍 4201 NM Hwy 28 (25 miles south)
575-882-7632 | lavinawinery.com

La Viña is New Mexico's oldest winery and host of the state's oldest wine festival which takes place annually in October. It was started in 1977 in a small adobe building with 14 acres of vineyards.



HEART OF THE DESERT PISTACHIOS AND WINE

📍 1701 Calle de Mercado
575-647-2115 | heartofthedesert.com

After successfully establishing itself as a New Mexico's first and largest producing pistachio grove, in 2002 wines were added to the Heart of the Desert product line. Wine from Eagle Ranch Winery includes the 2009 New Mexico State Fair Wine Competition winners.



AMARO WINERY

📍 402 S. Melendres St.
575-527-5310 | amarowinerynm.com

Amaro is a locally owned family winery that produces, bottles and serves a variety of high-quality New Mexican wine. Founded in 2009, its winemaker, Benjamin Maier, hails all the way from Germany.



**WIND YOUR WAY
THROUGH OUR
ENTIRE WINE TRAIL!**

ALE TRAIL

ICEBOX BREWING CO. NORTH MAIN TAPROOM

3231 N. Main St. | 575-556-9517 | iceboxbrewing.com

With many locations in Las Cruces, Icebox has a rotating menu of locally brewed craft beers. The North Main Taproom offers delicious pizza, wings, and more! Be sure to take a look at some of their other spots in town serving up different menus to pair with their beers.



NORM DETTLAFF

Communications Specialist

"When I travel, I like to check out the local craft beers wherever I go, and the ones here in Las Cruces give beer-lovers a great reason to visit our city."

PICACHO PEAK BREWING COMPANY

3900 W. Picacho Ave.

575-647-4797 | picachopeakbrewing.com

Microbrewery creating craft beer with a one-of-a-kind taste. Picacho Brewing Company opened its doors back in 2015. Pair your beer with their famous Taco Tuesday offerings, daily specials and Peak Nachos!



LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY

119 N. Main St.

575-556-9934 | www.littletoadcreek.com

Specializing in small-batch craft beer and spirits. A straight whiskey aged in five-gallon oak barrels is also among the many spirits Little Toad Creek produces out of its distillery in Silver City, in addition to its craft beers.



DISCOUNTS & REWARDS

Take advantage of discounts and rewards with our Sips Wine and Ale Trail.

SPIRITS

DRY POINT DISTILLERS 1680 Calle de Alvarez

575-652-3414 | drypointdistillersnm.com

Opened in 2018, Dry Point Distillers filled a void missing from Las Cruces. Now Dry Point serves up spirits, cocktails, dinner and live entertainment for those looking for the perfect night out. Get a glass or a cocktail featuring Dry Point Vodka, Gin, Bourbon Whiskey, Gin, Sotol or Mezcal. Be sure to pair your drink with a meal, appetizer or dessert from in-house restaurant Stone Crow Gourmet. Brunch is served every Sunday and the patio is a perfect setting for those cool southern New Mexico nights.



THE GILA RITA

A LITTLE TOAD CREEK ORIGINAL



Shake & strain over fresh ice. Enjoy!



MAKE YOUR OWN DRINK WITH A LOCAL TWIST!

SHOP LOCAL

FOOD + DRINK

Artisan Bread

1 New Mexico Marketplace & Bakery Proofed Bread Co.

Q 126 S. Main St.
(970) 209-3840 | nmmarketplacelc.com
Specializes in homemade bakery goods including soft pretzels and artisan loaves, as well as a wide variety of locally produced sweets and treats.



Chile

The Fresh Chile Co. & Gift Shop

Q 1160 El Paseo Road, Ste. D7A | (575) 800-8284 | freshchileco.com
Hatch chile sourced directly from locally owned farm in Hatch, New Mexico. Offers a variety of sauces and salsas, ranging from mild to spicy hot. Even freeze dried chopped green chile available! Sold in store and online.

2 Young Guns Hatch Valley Chile

Q 4611 Research Park Cir. | (575) 267-3001 | yghatchchile.com
Chile grown in the Hatch Valley. Made with simple ingredients of garlic salt, tomato and world-famous Hatch green chile. Branded "Aggie" local products, "Pete's Most Wanted Salsa." Sold in local stores and markets.



Pecans

3 Worthington Pecan Farm

(575) 415-3344 | worthingtonpecanfarm.com
Small farmer owned and operated offering fresh and flavored pecans, as well as unique pecan products such as jam, candy, lip balm, oil and soap. Sold online, in local stores and markets.

Candy

4 Sugar Drip LLC

Q 110 Picacho Ave. Ste. A | (575) 405-0201
facebook.com/sugardrip1908

Get your cotton candy fix from Sugar Drip. Offering a variety of flavors to satisfy your sweet tooth, as well as many other sweet treats. Sold online and at local markets and festivals.



Wine

5 Amaro Winery

Q 402 S. Melendres St. | (575) 527-5310 | amarowinery.com
A locally owned winery and tasting room with an abundance of outdoor space. Focused on producing a variety of high-quality New Mexico wine, the family business prides itself in serving award winning blends.

- **Cruces Sunrise:** Crowd favorite in the tasting room, this light table wine has just a touch of sweetness.
- **Angelica:** Follows the early New Mexico traditions of winemaking called Angelica resulting in this refreshing dessert wine.

Beer & Spirits

6 Elephant Ranch Bar - Market

Q 3995 W. Picacho Ave.
(575) 526-9284 | elephantranchbar.com

The popular beer garden and bar also has an attached shop that sells Elephant Ranch merch, local food, goods, alcohol and beer including specialty items like soju.

7 Little Toad Brewery & Distillery

Q 119 N. Main St.
(575) 556-9934 | littletoadcreek.com

Southern New Mexico brewery and distillery specializing in craft beer and spirits. The Las Cruces taproom features a variety of fresh brews, on-tap exclusives and canned craft cocktails made with all natural ingredients.

- **Hop-a-long Pale Ale:** Neomexicanus hops from the Gila River with a little rye in the grain results in an earthy and bright ale.
- **Aggie Rita:** A blend of premium 100% agave spirits, citrus, raspberry and a dash of agave nectar for the perfectly balanced cocktail.



Photo credit:
Mixed-Up Cocktail Co.

LAS CRUCES



PREHISTORIC TRACKWAYS NATIONAL MONUMENT

PICACHO PEAK

RIO GRANDE

RECYCLED ROADRUNNER SCULPTURE

MESILLA VALLEY BOSQUE STATE PARK

MESILLA, NM

APODACA PARK

W PICACHO AVE

N VALLEY DR

RIO GRANDE THEATRE

VISIT LAS CRUCES

AMADOR RD

S MAIN ST

AVENIDA DE MESILLA

APODACA PARK

DOWNTOWN

MEERSCHIEDT RECREATION CENTER

DACC

NMSU

I-10

I-25

E LOHMAN AVE

HWY 70

DACC

SONDIRA RANCH BLVD

VETERANS PARK

LAS CRUCES WETLANDS

MESILLA VALLEY MALL

NM FARM AND RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM

SPACE, MURALS MUSEUM

ORGAN MOUNTAINS

TORTUGAS "A" MOUNTAIN

Visit LAS CRUCES

DID YOU KNOW?

- Las Cruces is the second largest city in New Mexico.
- No one knows exactly how the name “Las Cruces” was selected for the city, although there are many stories that claim to be true. The name itself translates to “the crosses.”
- Las Cruces was founded in 1849. Initially the neighboring town of Mesilla was the larger settlement, until the railroad was built in the 1880s and New Mexico State University (first known as Las Cruces College) was founded in 1888, both contributing to the growth in population.
- The land Las Cruces sits on was ceded to the United States as a result of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848, marking the end of the Mexican-American War.
- Las Cruces is in southern New Mexico at the crossroads of two major interstates—Interstate 10 and Interstate 25.
- Fort Selden was built in 1865 and was the original home of the Buffalo Soldiers.
- Las Cruces is home to the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum which spans 47 acres and is the one of the most visited attractions in southern New Mexico.
- Geronimo’s Cave is located Las Cruces’ Robledo Mountains and is said to have been used by the Apache leader and his followers to escape from U.S. soldiers in the late 1800s. Today it is a popular hiking destination.
- Las Cruces is home to the world’s largest roadrunner and world’s largest chile pepper.
- Las Cruces was once home to the world’s largest enchilada. It was a flat enchilada made by local Roberto Estrada and held the title since 1980. The title was lost during Mexico City’s 2012 National Enchilada Fair when a larger, rolled enchilada was created. Some say it is not a fair comparison.
- In 1989, New Mexico made the “biscochito” or “biscocho” its official state cookie.
- In 1629, the first grapevines were planted along the Rio Grande and were originally smuggled from Spain by monks to make wine for ceremony and sacrament. This established southern New Mexico as the oldest wine-producing region in the nation.
- Pat Garrett, who became renowned for killing the infamous outlaw Billy the Kid, was the sheriff of Doña Ana County from 1896–1902.
- In 1996, New Mexico became the only state to establish an official state question, referring to its most famous product, chile. The question is “Red or Green?”
- Las Cruces is home to the Chile Pepper Institute, the only international, non-profit devoted to the education and research of chile peppers.
- New Mexico is the second largest pecan-producing state in the nation.
- Doña Ana County is the top pecan-producing county in the nation with over 32,000 acres of pecan orchards.
- For all those pop culture buffs, an entire episode of the 90s sitcom Wings revolves around a flight to Las Cruces. In the episode titled “Das Plane” a man pays \$10,000 at a charity auction for a flight anywhere. He chooses to fly from Nantucket to see his estranged brother in Las Cruces.
- In an episode of Boston Legal titled “Death Be Not Proud” an aerial shot of Las Cruces is shown to indicate the “Texas” city lawyer Alan Shore is traveling to.

CULTURE

Museums & Historical Sites



The New Mexico FARM + RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM

4100 Dripping Springs Rd. | nmfarmandranchmuseum.org

Agriculture is a major industry in southern New Mexico and carries an intriguing story that spans 4,000 years. As one of the most prominent attractions in the state, the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum shares this history with visitors of all ages through exhibits, hands-on activities, annual events and live demonstrations.

Nestled at the foot of the Organ Mountains, the Farm and Ranch Museum is a testament to

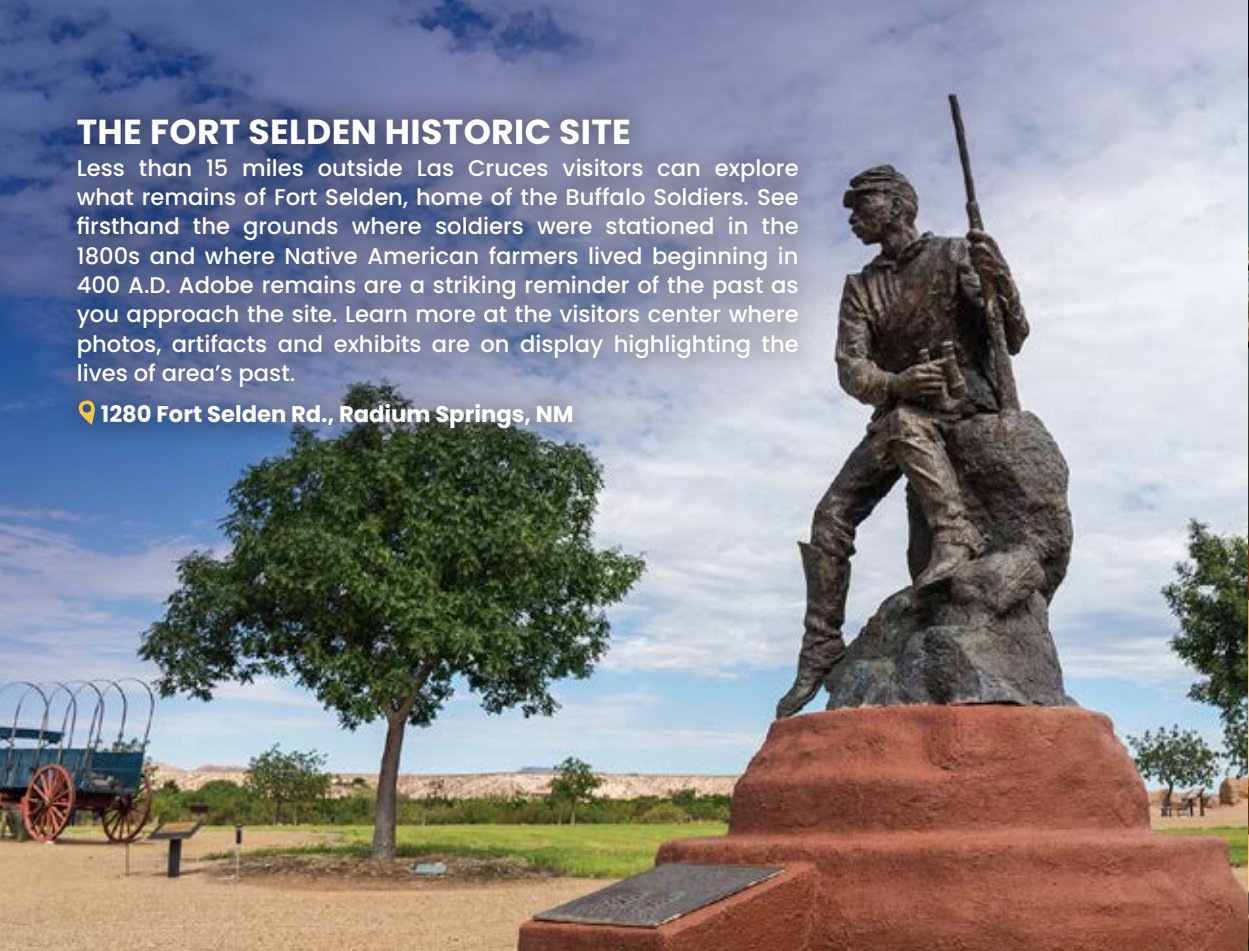
the enduring spirit of the farming and ranching community. It stretches 47 acres and is home to multiple structures that outline the history of agriculture from the ancient indigenous peoples who first settled in this area to the Spanish Colonial era to the settlers who traveled west seeking their fortunes. Through fascinating artifacts and interactive displays, visitors can gain a profound appreciation for their wisdom and resourcefulness. The 24,000-square-foot main building houses permanent and temporary exhibits, art exhibits, meeting and event spaces, a mercantile, working ranch, livestock, a gift shop and a theater.

The museum offers a wide variety of tours and activities that enhance the overall experience. Visitors can choose from guided tours, group tours, livestock tours, and youth camps or attend one of the many popular annual events held at the museum, among them, Ice Cream Sunday, Cowboy Days and Homegrown.

THE FORT SELDEN HISTORIC SITE

Less than 15 miles outside Las Cruces visitors can explore what remains of Fort Selden, home of the Buffalo Soldiers. See firsthand the grounds where soldiers were stationed in the 1800s and where Native American farmers lived beginning in 400 A.D. Adobe remains are a striking reminder of the past as you approach the site. Learn more at the visitors center where photos, artifacts and exhibits are on display highlighting the lives of area's past.

📍 1280 Fort Selden Rd., Radium Springs, NM



THE CHILE PEPPER INSTITUTE

A one-of-a-kind place, the institute conducts research and educates people from around the world about chile. The Institute gives visitors the opportunity to tour the gardens and learn about the peppers up close. See original varieties grown in-house, as well as some of the world's hottest peppers. The Chile Pepper Institute also sells seeds and different New Mexico and chile-themed goods at a gift shop. Please call ahead for availability and tours.

Research Facility & Shop: 📍 113 NM State Rd. 101



BRANIGAN CULTURAL CENTER 📍 501 N. Main St.

Showcasing the wonderful culture of New Mexico, the center displays a wide selection of diverse and meaningful art, cultural, and historical exhibits. The center hosts regular educational classes and events, as it serves as a resource for people of all ages to learn about Las Cruces, its history and culture.



LESLIE GABALDON Executive Assistant
"My kids (ages 4 and 8) are huge fans of the Museum of Nature and Science in downtown Las Cruces. They love the animal exhibits and I love that it's free!"



MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE 📍 411 N. Main St.

The museum allows visitors to explore and learn about New Mexico wildlife, prehistoric animals, space, history and more. Stop by and see live animals, fossilized trackways, and learn about the roles that native animals and humans have on local wildlife. Check out several interactive exhibits for visitors of all ages to enjoy.



NO MATTER YOUR INTERESTS, THERE'S A MUSEUM FOR YOU!

THE RAILROAD MUSEUM 📍 351 N. Mesilla St. #2567

Located at the historic Santa Fe Railroad Depot, the Railroad Museum is devoted to helping people discover the history of railroads in New Mexico. The museum is an interactive and informative resource on the industry's impact on the state. View memorabilia, models, featured exhibits or attend one of the museum's special events. All ages welcome.

TRADITIONS

Spring

CASCARONES

Hollowed out colorful eggs filled with paper confetti. It's a tradition to chase your family around during the Easter season and crack an egg on their head.

BAYLOR CANYON PASS WILDFLOWERS

If the rains are generous enough, in spring, yellow poppies blanket the northern foothills of the Organ Mountains along Baylor Canyon Pass. All visitors are asked to be respectful and not step on, pick or crush the flowers while at the site.



Summer

CALABACITAS

Southern New Mexico has a great climate for growing squash and zucchini, making "Calabacitas" a perfect summer dish. Although it translates to "little squash," this dish often incorporates sautéed corn, tomatoes and onion. Chile and cheese are welcome additions.



Fall

CORN MAZES

The Mesilla Valley becomes ripe with fall festivities during the season. As a renowned agricultural community, its corn fields and pumpkin patches are frequented throughout September and October, and made even better by the idyllic weather. Get lost in one of two of the area's corn mazes— La Union Maze or Mesilla Valley Maze.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

In late fall, Mesilla and Doña Ana hold Día de los Muertos celebrations. The holiday honors deceased loved ones. Ofrendas or small altars are built to honor their memory and consist of colorful decorations and offerings. It is celebrated over three days locally and encompasses Oct. 31, known as Day of the Dead; Nov. 1, known as All Saints Day; and Nov. 2, known as All Souls Day. The celebrations can vary by region.



Winter

LUMINARIAS

Luminarias are traditional New Mexico holiday decorations. The paper lanterns are weighed down by sand with a candle nestled safely inside. Tealights or bulbs are used now. They are sometimes referred to as "farolitos."



BISCOCHOS

Every family seems to have their own "secret" recipe for these melt-in-your mouth, shortbread-style cookies. Anise, cinnamon and sugar create the base flavors to this holiday and family-gathering favorite. It's what each family adds to their own recipe that makes it special.

PONCHE NAVIDEÑO

This hot, spiced fruit punch is made with fruits like guava and tejocotes. It is flavored with piloncillo, cinnamon sticks, jamaica and sugar cane. Some recipes may also add dried plums, apples, oranges, tamarindo, cloves and alcohol.



CHAMPURRADO

This is another hot beverage perfect for warming those cold desert nights. Base ingredients include masa (corn dough), piloncillo, cinnamon and other spices. The masa adds a creamy consistency that makes the texture and flavor unique.

TAMALES

Tamale making is one way to involve family in the making of their own meal. The process consists of spreading masa on a dried corn husk, adding your filling— red chile meat, green chile cheese, green chile chicken and more— wrapping it, then steaming the tamales in large batches. The process is time consuming, but well worth the wait!



POSOLE AND MENUDO

Posole and menudo are cure-alls for a lot of people. The soups start off with a hominy and then deviate from there. Menudo has tripe and a red chile base, which sets the flavor apart from posole. Posole typically has chicken, pork or beef to flavor the broth along with either a red chile or green chile base. Lime, oregano, onion, radish, cabbage are toppings that add even more flavor and texture to the heartiness of the dish. Recipes can vary significantly from family to family, making it a staple dish during the holidays.

Art Museums + GALLERIES



Kainz 2024

THE UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM AT DEVASTHALI HALL

Q 1308 E. University Ave. | 575-646-2545 | uam.nmsu.edu

The University Art Museum curates original exhibitions and stewards over 4,200 works in the university's permanent collection, including the country's largest collection of Mexican retablos. The Museum also hosts public lectures, gallery talks, workshops, films and symposia. Guided tours available upon request. Limited hours.

LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF ART

Q 491 N. Main St. | 575-541-2137 | lascruces.gov

The Museum of Art hosts changing contemporary art exhibits and programs for visitors of all ages.

THE HOOD

Q 3206 Harrelson St. | 575-621-0931 | thehoodnewmexico.com

This one-of-a-kind gallery and gift shop showcases mechanical art objects, model cars, curios, gadgets, trinkets, antique toys, paintings, jewelry and other collectibles.

THE POTTERIES MESILLA

Q 2260 Calle de Santiago | 575-524-0538 | thepotteriesmesilla.com

Three potters have been producing artwork at the gallery since 1986, all with their own distinct style. See everything from lighting fixtures to dinnerware. Open limited days and hours.

MESQUITE ART DISTRICT

This historic district boasts a blooming art scene. Lining the historic byway are several galleries for art lovers to check out.

NOPALITO'S GALERIA

Q 310 Mesquite St. | 575-524-0003 | nopalitosgaleria.com

Displaying a variety of local and regional artwork in an adobe home from the 1800s. Contemporary, experimental, traditional and classical artwork on display.

MESQUITE ART GALLERY

Q 340 N. Mesquite St.

575-640-3502

mesquiteartgallery.com

Featuring photography of Mel Stone as well as selected local and national artists.



ART LOVERS!

Check out more of Las Cruces' galleries.

Art in THE WILD



WOMEN'S VETERAN MONUMENT

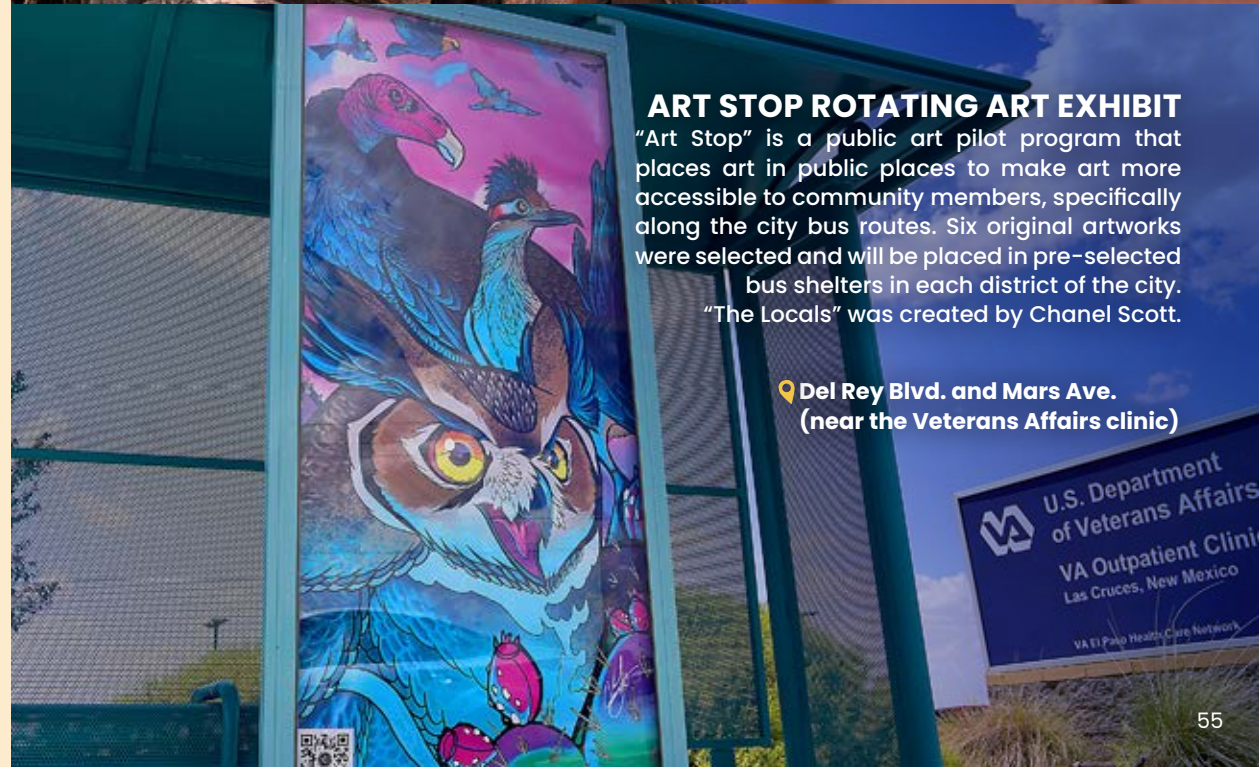
Dedicated in 2018 after years of planning by the United Military Women of the Southwest, the six statues honoring women veterans are only the second of its kind in the nation. Architect Patricia Grumet Decker designed the monument. The statues weigh 300 lbs. each and were created by Utah artist Matt Glenn. The statues pay tribute to women's participation in: World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, Vietnam, the Cold War and the Iraq-Afghanistan wars. Each one is outfitted in garb representative of the era.

Q 2651 Roadrunner Pkwy., Veterans Memorial Park



VIEW THE FULL DEDICATION

and incredible interview with one of the first women to join the military.



ART STOP ROTATING ART EXHIBIT

"Art Stop" is a public art pilot program that places art in public places to make art more accessible to community members, specifically along the city bus routes. Six original artworks were selected and will be placed in pre-selected bus shelters in each district of the city. "The Locals" was created by Chanel Scott.

Q Del Rey Blvd. and Mars Ave.
(near the Veterans Affairs clinic)





The RECYCLED ROADRUNNER

📍 Las Cruces Scenic Overlook Rest Area,
Exit 135, Interstate 10 Eastbound

Calk, Smith 1993



The giant Recycled Roadrunner is a must-see roadside attraction in Las Cruces that has garnered national and worldwide attention. Currently, the 20-foot-tall, 40-foot-long bird overlooks the Mesilla Valley, sitting atop the west mesa at the scenic overlook rest area off Interstate 10. Designed in 1993 by local artists Olin Calk and Dan Smith, the sculpture is currently made up of old shoes, phones, keyboards, crutches, bicycle parts, recycled metals and other repurposed materials. The roadrunner originally sat at the Las Cruces Landfill and was created as part of recycling education program to bring attention to the importance of waste and consumption. In 2001, it was moved to its current location, and later restored by one of the original artists with updated materials to reflect more current consumption habits.

MURALS



FROM SEED TO HARVEST (KLEIN PARK BANDSTAND)

Artist Raquel Madrigal created the mural in partnership with Las Esperanzas, Inc. and the City Art Board. 2024 marked the 25th anniversary of Las Esperanzas, an organization focused on the revitalization of the Mesquite Historic District which is located in the original townsite of Las Cruces.

Madrigal 2024

LA LLORONA

Originally produced in 1995 by artists Anthony Pennock and Joe Ireland, the mural on the underside of the bridge at La Llorona Park was created to represent the parks namesake— La Llorona. The folklore of La Llorona tells the story of the spirit of a woman doomed to wander this earth searching for her children who drowned in the river. Over the years, the mural was damaged by wear and tear and graffiti. Recently, the City of Las Cruces Public Art Board dedicated funds to its restoration by one of its original artists.

Pennock, Ireland 1995



**INTRIGUED BY INSPIRATION
BEHIND THE MURAL?**
Watch a telling of the
Legend of La Llorona.



SHOP LOCAL

ART + CULTURE

Jewelry

1 Prickly Trail Jewelry pricklytrail.com

Locally handcrafted artisanal jewelry featuring raw materials that are ethically sourced and of the highest quality. One of a kind, limited quantity unique pieces 100% handmade in Las Cruces. Sold online and at the Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market.



Original Pieces & Prints

2 Agave Artists

2250 Calle De San Albino, Mesilla
(575) 339-9870 | agaveartists.com

An art cooperative located in historic Mesilla featuring original artworks created by nearly 20 artists and jewelers. Housed in a historic adobe structure, the artist-owned gallery offers a variety of art and special event lectures and workshops.



3

Photography

Wayne Suggs Photography waynesuggsphotography.com

Las Cruces native Wayne Suggs is an award-winning photographer known for his uncanny ability to capture the outdoor beauty of the Southwest. His breathtaking work can be seen in galleries, state and national publications and more.



Photo credit:
Wayne Suggs Photography



WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE

White Sands Missile Range Museum
WSMR P Rt. 1, White Sands Missile Range



A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE AREA'S SPACE HISTORY AWAITS!

The Birthplace of America's **MISSILE + SPACE PROGRAM**

Lying a few miles west of the Organ Mountains is a sign that welcomes visitors to White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), the "Birthplace of America's Missile and Space Program." It's an accolade that very few people know about but space, and the continued exploration of the Universe, has long been a strong influence on industry in the region and in Las Cruces.

- The very first image of Earth from space was taken on October 24, 1946 by a rocket launched from WSMR.
- Renowned astronomer Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered Pluto, lived and worked at New Mexico State University. He also discovered other celestial bodies and

developed instruments such as the Intercept Ground Optical Recorder, which remained in use at WSMR for the next 30 years.

- In 1963, NASA established the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) in the western foothills of the San Andres Mountains. The primary mission of the facility was the support NASA's Space Station program and previously the Shuttle Program. Today WSTF primarily participates in propulsion systems testing and often their testing can be heard across Las Cruces in the Mesilla Valley.
- 50 miles southwest of Las Cruces lies a maar volcanic crater with ties to NASA's Apollo Space Program. Kilbourne Hole and its neighbor Hunts Hole were used by NASA to train Apollo Astronauts.
- The public is welcome on base to visit the White Sands Missile Range Museum documenting the American missile, atomic and space history and history of the White Sands area.

SPACE TRAIL

A trip to Las Cruces offers lots of open spaces, with one of the most enchanting being outer space. Southern New Mexico is full of space history, spanning from NASA test launches long before astronauts took flight to the first commercially manned Virgin Galactic spaceship flight.

Listed are a few of the must-see spots for the proud space enthusiasts:

SPACE MURALS MUSEUM

📍 12450 US Highway 70 | 575-382-0977 | spacemurals.net
The museum is abundant in donated relics from the space program, historic photographs and a water tank with murals of the U.S. Space program history.

TOMBAUGH OBSERVATORY

📍 1320 Frenger St. | 575-646-1868 | astro.nmsu.edu
Home to the custom-built telescope created by Clyde Tombaugh, the discoverer of Pluto, the observatories are operated by the Astronomic Society of Las Cruces.

Photo credit:
New Mexico State University

SPACEPORT AMERICA

📍 County Road A021, in Truth or Consequences, NM
575-267-8500 | spaceport.com
Final Frontier Tours: 575-267-8888

The world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport boasts a 12,000 by 200-foot runway, vertical launch complexes and tenants such as Virgin Galactic. Tours available leaving from the Visit Las Cruces Visitors Center, 336 S. Main St.

LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE (MoNaS)

📍 411 N. Main St. | lascruces.gov

MoNaS is designed to inspire curiosity and life-long learning and discovery of nature and science. One of three permanent exhibits include Desert Light and Space with interactive exhibits.

NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF SPACE HISTORY

📍 3198 State Route 2001, in Alamogordo, NM
575-437-2840 | nm spacemuseum.org

The New Mexico Museum of Space History is located in Alamogordo. It is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Museum and home to space age artifacts and displays, interactive exhibits and more.

SUNSPOT SCENIC BYWAY AND NATIONAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY

📍 3001 Visitor Ctr. Rd. | 575-434-7190
sunspot.nmsu.edu

The 15-mile stretch begins near Cloudcroft, New Mexico and ends at the Sunspot Visitor Center and Observatory. Follow the signs representing planets along the way and enjoy the interactive exhibits once there.



STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT!

Check out some of the best stargazing spots.

Photo credit:
New Mexico State University



MESILLA

A Historic Hub

Neighboring Las Cruces, Mesilla, NM is a historic town that's home to the striking San Albino Basilica, a variety of contemporary boutiques, unique stores, galleries, wineries and restaurants serving New Mexican cuisine, fine dining and American fare.

The small town hasn't changed much over the years, allowing visitors to take a step back in time, walking the plaza

that a hundred and 50 years ago was a major stop for those traveling between San Antonio, TX and San Diego, CA. The town is often associated with outlaw Billy the Kid, who once stood trial for murder in a Mesilla courtroom. Also, the Mesilla Plaza was a major stop for the Butterfield Stagecoach. Originally, Mesilla was part of Mexico, but with the signing of the Gadsden Purchase in 1854, the village

became part of the United States. The Mesilla Plaza is anchored by the Basilica of San Albino. The church, originally built of adobe in 1855, still offers masses today, both in English and Spanish. Outside the church is a memorial to parishioners who died in combat.

Mesilla's plaza is the heart of the historic town, hosting many local and nationally recognized events honoring the area's culture. Dine nearby at the famous Double Eagle Restaurant, The Bean at

Josefina's, Don Félix Café and La Posta de Mesilla. However, there is plenty to do and see outside the plaza. Grab a drink or bite to eat at local favorites like Palacio Bar, Chala's Wood Fire Grill and Andele's or shop local goods at Heart of the Desert and FARMesilla on the way into town.



**TAKE A STEP
BACK IN TIME**



Mesilla DINING

CHALA'S WOOD FIRE GRILL

📍 2790 Avenida de Mesilla, Las Cruces, NM
575-652-4143

Chala's Wood Fire Grill is all about gathering as a family. Frankie, the owner of Chala's, creates dishes that take after past family traditions and recipes. Chala's serves up a variety of New Mexican, Mexican and American food with their own touch — including their carne al pastor burrito, New York Strip fajita plate, and the hefty Cuban sandwich. For brunch, they have specials such as steak and eggs, smoked carnitas hash and crème pancakes.

DOUBLE EAGLE

📍 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, Mesilla, NM
575-523-6700 | doubleeagleonline.com

Double Eagle offers fine dining in southern New Mexico. The building has been around since 1849 and remains similar to how it once looked as a home, creating a beautiful dining atmosphere. Each room is based on historic events and previous residents, and there are hand-cut chandeliers throughout the restaurant, making it an unforgettable experience. In addition to the fine dining that the Double Eagle provides, there is a more casual patio dining option called Peppers. Peppers serves items such as crispy fish tacos, St. Louis ribs and a Catus Jack BBQ burger.

LA POSTA DE MESILLA

📍 2410 Calle De San Albino, Mesilla, NM
575-524-3524 | lapostademesilla.com

La Posta de Mesilla dates back to 1939. It has grown from a hole-in-the-wall eatery along the Butterfield Trail to an iconic restaurant with two bars, a patio, event space, a tequileria and drink service to the neighboring historic theatre. La Posta was built on family recipes and is known for serving classic regional dishes. In addition to locals and tourists, movie stars and presidents have stopped by. Make sure to try the expansive margarita selection or order up the margarita flight to find your favorite. The restaurant is a beautifully colorful historic building that is filled with New Mexican artwork, plants, fish and birds, making it a beloved southern New Mexico staple.



SHOP LOCAL *Mesilla*

1 Silver Assets

📍 1948 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla, NM
(575) 523-8747 | silverassetsnm.com

Full of antique cases displaying a wide selection of silver and other fine jewelry, both locally made and from across the world. Around the corner from the Mesilla Plaza.

2 The Ristramn Chile Co.

📍 2351 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla, NM
(575) 526-8667

Known for growing, drying and assembling chile ristras as well as roasting chiles during the harvest season. Gift shop is full of chile products, salsas, spices, decorative gourds, local honey, pecans and more.

3 Thunderbird de la Mesilla

📍 2380 Calle Principal, Mesilla, NM
(575) 524-1823

Gifts, jewelry, imports, home decor, religious décor and southwest art.

4 Heart of the Desert Pistachios & Wines

📍 1701 Calle de Mercado, Ste. 1, Mesilla, NM
(575) 647-2115 | heartofthedesert.com

Offering a wide variety of roasted and flavored pistachios, grown in nearby Alamogordo. Peppered throughout the store are a broad variety of gifts including jewelry, clothing, trinkets and home goods.

5 Matteo Jewelry by Design

📍 1948 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla, NM
(575) 524-2800 | matteojewelry.com

A gallery of skillfully crafted handmade jewelry and gifts from award-winning local and national artisans.



Extend your **SOUTHWEST STAY**



Hacienda de Las Cruces

Stay at this home away from home in the heart of downtown Las Cruces. Hacienda de Las Cruces is an 1880s adobe home offering four different suites. Guests will find a beautiful interior with original stone floors, handcrafted beams, adobe walls, hand-painted motifs and more stunning details that help create a memorable getaway.

Owners Tamera and Eric Ahner offer amenities for each suite such as a kitchenette, coffee and tea bar, private bath, TV, washer and dryer, comfy robes and slippers. The establishment is only a short walk from downtown museums, live theatre, farmer's market, restaurants and shops.

575-654-5622 | haciendadelascruces.com

Places TO STAY

With nearly 60 different hotels and over 3,000 hotel rooms to suit your lodging needs, Las Cruces offers comfort and affordability. There are plenty of popular, nationwide chains to stay throughout the city, or make your stay feel more like a getaway. Other forms of lodgings are located across the city and near some of Las Cruces' local hot spots for your convenience.

Hotel Stay

HOTEL ENCANTO DE LAS CRUCES

📍 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

575-522-4300 | hotelencanto.com

Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces is a unique New Mexico hotel with an ambiance reflective of Spanish and Mexican Colonial history and tradition. Conveniently located near a variety of attractions and businesses, Hotel Encanto offers an on-site restaurant and bar, an outdoor swimming pool and more than 35,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting and event space.



Bed & Breakfast

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

📍 105 Jose Serna Ave., Hatch, NM (40 minutes North of Las Cruces)

720-272-4026 | historicstfrancisdesales.com

This mission-style compound is a beautiful nod to days past, in the center of chile country. This Hatch hidden gem serves as a bed and breakfast with your pick of a casita, room or bell tower suite to make your stay memorable. The grounds also house a church, rectory and expansive courtyard, making it the perfect place for any special event.



Airbnbs

AIR STREAM "AIR DREAM" WITH A HOT TUB

This 1968 Airstream is a "Guest Favorite" stay in Las Cruces. Decorated in a vintage style with a touch of New Mexico enchantment. Described by the owner as "lovingly curated with elements of nostalgic Americana and contemporary desert chic," this unique stay offers all the modern amenities with a relaxing hot tub and porch area, nestled in the quiet Mesilla Park area of Las Cruces.

CASA AGUILA DORADA "GOLDEN EAGLE"

Guests in town and no room for them at home? There is plenty of space in desert oasis tucked into the scenic hills of the Organ Mountains. The spacious home offers guests four bedrooms, seven beds, three baths, multiple outdoor spaces, a sauna, child-friendly space and more. Retreat from the city noise and enjoy a beautiful getaway in this beautiful home.



EXPLORE ALL THE PLACES TO STAY IN LAS CRUCES

RVING + CAMPING



AGUIRRE SPRINGS RECREATION AREA is located 20 miles east of Las Cruces. The area offers 55 individual sites on a first-come, first-served basis and two group sites available by reservation. Each site has a shade shelter, picnic table, grill and tent pad. Water is available at the entrance of the site and vault toilets are located near the pay station. Because of the tight curves leading to the site, the recommended max length for RVs is 23 feet.

575-525-4300 | BLM.gov

SIESTA RV PARK is conveniently located near Interstate 10 and NM Highway 28. This pet-friendly site offers 50 full hookup, tree-shaded RV sites with gravel pads and picnic tables. Back-in and pull-through sites can accommodate up to 40-foot rigs. Guests can also enjoy free Wi-Fi as well as laundry, restrooms and showers that are open 24/7. The pet-friendly site also has a fenced-in dog park and dog grooming studio on-site!

575-523-6816 | siestarvparklascruces.com



SUNNY ACRES RV PARK is an adult RV park for travelers 55 and older. This park is centrally located and within walking distance to several restaurants, grocery stores and shops. Several amenities are offered to make guests comfortable, including private restrooms and showers, laundry facilities, free Wi-Fi, meeting room, kitchen facilities, a large park for gatherings, and more. Indoor pets are allowed, and visiting children and grandchildren are welcome. 595 N. Valley Dr. | 575-524-1716 | goodsam.com



DISPERSED CAMPING

Much of the public land that surrounds Las Cruces is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is open for dispersed camping only if it does not conflict with other authorized uses. Please follow leave no trace principles and avoid ground fires when camping on public lands. Check with the BLM Las Cruces District Office for details and limitations on dispersed camping throughout the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Prehistoric Trackways National Monuments.



FIND MORE SCENIC STAYS

From a state park to a KOA overlooking the city, find more spots to stay.



Special OCCASIONS



THE BLUE DOOR VENUE

Tucked away where Las Cruces meets historic Mesilla, The Blue Door is an intimate venue adorned with authentic Italian tile, handcrafted wood features, quaint lighting, and a Cantera stone water feature from Mexico. Suited for a group of 150 or fewer, guests can have access to the patio, courtyard, loft and more. The event venue provides packages for small to large gatherings that include set up, linens, security, waitstaff and more.

1750 Calle de Mercado | 575-800-0802 | bluedoorvenue.com

RIO GRANDE WINERY/HOUSE

Located along the scenic Highway 28, Rio Grande Winery and House welcomes guest to the 28-acre estate and vineyard. Sip wine while taking in a breathtaking view of the Organ Mountains during your special event. The location hosts meetings, weddings, or other intimate gatherings. There is even the added bonus of access to pickleball courts or the opportunity to park your RV and stay on site.

5321 N. Highway 28 | 575-201-3744 | riograndewinery.com



Rio Grande Winery/House



ALBERT HERRERA, DIRECTOR OF SALES

575-541-2387 | ALHERRERA@LASCRCUES.GOV

Whether it a convention, group travel or work event, Albert's got you covered. Reach out for more information about why Las Cruces is the best place for your next professional gathering.

SPORTS

in Las Cruces



ED CARNATHAN

SPORTS SALES MANAGER | 575-541-2216
ECARNATHAN@LASCRCES.GOV

"Outside 365!" may be Ed's motto but Las Cruces is filled with both indoor and outdoor options for your next game day. Don't hesitate to reach out, Ed has all the information you'll need to make Las Cruces the home of your next tournament or event.

PICKLEBALL

PICK·LE·BALL /'PIK(ə)L'BŌL/

This on-the-rise paddle sport combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong.

Las Cruces has a thriving pickleball community with players of all ages and skill levels. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, you're sure to find other players to challenge you and help you improve. Our warm and sunny climate allows for year-round pickleball play, but we also have indoor courts where you and your teammates can beat the heat during hot summer days. In addition to the climate, you can enjoy stunning views of the Mesilla Valley and the Organ Mountains while you play the day away. Pack your paddles, grab your friends, and come experience pickleball paradise in Las Cruces.

If you're looking to meet other pickleball players in Las Cruces, consider joining the Organ Mountains Pickleball Club.

Places to Play

Las Cruces offers both indoor and outdoor courts.

MEERSCHIEDT RECREATION CENTER

Q 1600 E. Hadley Ave. | 575-541-2563
•4 outdoor, lit pickleball courts

EAST MESA PUBLIC RECREATION

COMPLEX Q 4582 N. Sonoma Springs Ave.
575-541-2550
•8 outdoor pickleball courts
•Additional lighting and amenities

RIO GRANDE WINERY

Q 5321 Highway 28 | 575-201-3744
•Members of the Rio Grande Winery Wine Club have exclusive access to the winery's pickleball courts. Become a member and reserve your court today.

APODACA PARK Q 801 E. Madrid Ave.

575-541-2550
•8 outdoor pickleball courts



GOLF *in Las Cruces*



SERGIO SALINAS Distribution Specialist
"My favorite place to catch sight of our sunsets is at the Player's Grill Restaurant and Bar located inside the New Mexico State University Golf Course Clubhouse."

Nestled in warm southern New Mexico, Las Cruces is home to exciting championship-style golf at amateur prices, adding yet one more way to enjoy our 320 days of sunshine a year. Local courses take advantage of many desert characteristics, forcing golfers to steer clear of tricky desert brush and unforgiving desert rough. At almost 4,000 feet above sea level, golf balls travel farther, sometimes bringing into play unexpected obstacles that can require some creative shot making.



NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE Q 3000 Herb Wimberly Dr. 575-646-3219 | golf.nmsu.edu

Designed by Floyd Farley in 1963, the 18-hole course is framed by the majestic Organ Mountains to the east and the picturesque Mesilla Valley to the west. Measuring over 7,000 yards, the course provides a challenge to golfers of all skill levels with a unique combination of traditional and desert golf featuring large greens and generous fairways.

RED HAWK GOLF COURSE Q 7502 Red Hawk Golf Rd. 575-513-7628 | redhawkgc.com

This 18-hole Ken Dye course is the newest addition to Las Cruces' golfing community. Opened in October 2011 and measuring in at 7,523 (from the tips), the links-style course features rolling and generous greens with a challenging yet spacious design.

SONOMA RANCH GOLF COURSE Q 1274 Golf Club Rd. | 575-521-1818 | sonomaranchgolf.com

Designed by Cal Olson, Sonoma Ranch Golf Course is longish with rolling hills, strewn with bunkers and undulating bent grass greens. With five tee boxes, it offers a stimulating challenge for all levels of golfer. It is equipped with paved cart paths and a clubhouse with a full-service restaurant.

PICACHO HILLS COUNTRY CLUB Q 6861 Via Campestre | 575-523-8641 | picachohills.com

Picacho Hills is the only private golf course in Las Cruces, offering reciprocal agreements with other private clubs. At nearly 7,000 yards, this par 72 desert-style course features lush bluegrass fairways and bent-grass tees and greens.

SPORTS + RECREATION



WHOLE ENCHILADA TOURNAMENT

Las Cruces is home to the world's largest single-weekend slow pitch softball tournament. Originally a standalone tournament that started over 40 years ago, it's grown into the largest non-world tournament in the country sanctioned by the USSSA. It draws more than 250 teams and thousands of players from coast to coast each year. The tournament brings in as many as 6,000 visitors, with over 70% of teams being from out of town.

SWIMMING

With warm and sunny weather throughout the year, swimming is an activity that can be enjoyed year-round in Las Cruces. Whether you prefer an outdoor pool with stunning views of the desert landscape or an indoor pool for year-round swimming, there are plenty of options to choose from in Las Cruces.

CORNHOLE

Originating as a backyard tailgate game, cornhole has turned into a competitive sport. It is an up-and-coming sport in the Las Cruces area, gaining more traction, so much so that a Labor Day tournament has become an annual event and local establishments like Blue Moon Bar & Grill, AmadorLive Eatery and Entertainment District and others offer play at their establishments.



320 DAYS OF SUNSHINE

There's no excuse not to play in Las Cruces.

AGGIE UP!

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY,
HOME OF THE AGGIES

Whether an Aggie past or present, or visiting Las Cruces, New Mexico State University athletics drive and determination are almost always on display. NMSU is a member of Conference USA in every sport. The university also is a member of the NCAA Division 1 Western Athletic Conference in 15 of its 16 sports. The NMSU football team is the exception and plays as an independent.

NM STATE SPORTS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS IN SEASON!

Fall AUGUST–NOVEMBER

- Women's Soccer
- Volleyball
- Men's Cross Country
- Women's Cross Country
- Football

Winter SEPTEMBER–MARCH

- Men's Basketball
- Women's Basketball
- Women's Swimming and Diving

Spring JANUARY–MAY

- Baseball
- Softball
- Men's Tennis
- Women's Tennis
- Men's Golf
- Women's Golf
- Women's Track and Field (indoor/outdoor)

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.
For more information, visit nmstatesports.com



AGGIE FIGHT SONG

Show Your Support!

Aggies, Oh Aggies!

The hills send back the cry,

We're here to do or die!

Aggies, Oh Aggies!

We'll win this game or know the reason why!

And when we win this game,



ED CARNATHAN Sports Sales Manager and "Voice of the Aggies"
"One of my family's favorite things is going to New Mexico State University games. They get to see our teams and hear me in action!"

We'll buy a keg of booze,

And we'll drink it to the Aggies 'til we wobble in our shoes!

A-G-G-I-E-S!

AGGIES! AGGIES!

GO AGGIES!



In spring 2023, two mural designs were presented for public vote in collaboration with Cruces Creatives and artist, Tina Ballew. Over 700 participants selected the "Lady of Las Cruces." This design features a woman with flowing hair forming the Organ Mountains under the sunrise. Painted in October 2023, the block-long mural was completed in just three days with the help of over 100 volunteers of all ages.



Volunteers painting Lady of Las Cruces on The Cruces Creatives Building, located at 205 E. Lohman Ave.



"Lady of Las Cruces"

"Originally planning a brief stay, I moved to Las Cruces in 2012. I quickly fell in love with the people, the vibrant art community, and the stunning landscape—and I've never left. 'Lady of Las Cruces' is my artistic tribute to the muse who captured my heart and made this place home."

-Christina Ballew, designer & muralist

