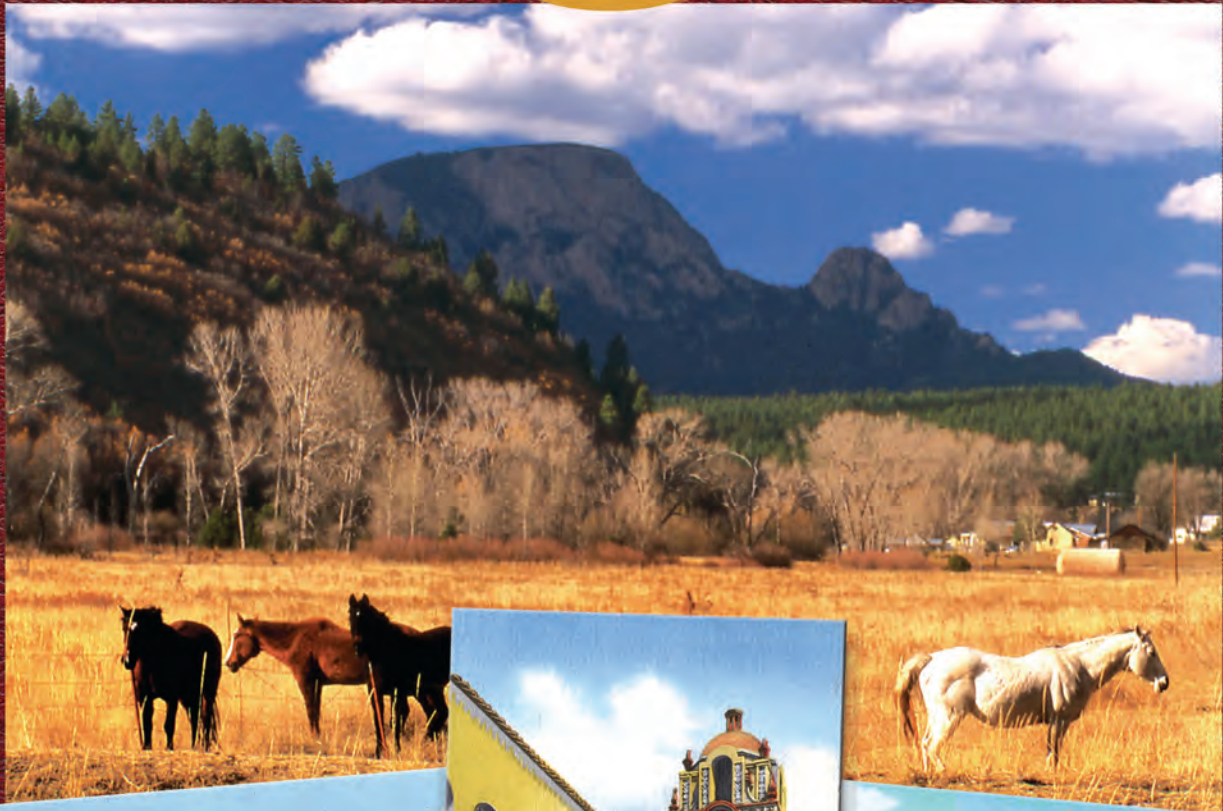


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You've read about our original Las Vegas in your history books, so walk past the rooftop where New Mexico was first declared a part of the United States and the still-standing hotel where Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders had their first reunion.

Stroll in a city known as the "wildest of the wild, wild west" and the biggest stop on the entire Santa Fe Trail. A city celebrated for its preserved architecture, its thriving arts community and its welcoming hospitality.

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The Charles Ilfeld Mercantile Store was built in 1883 and was recently renovated as an

**Las Vegas - San Miguel  
Chamber of Commerce**

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City of Las Vegas  
1700 N. Grand Ave  
Las Vegas, NM 87701  
(505) 454-1401

**Welcome to Las Vegas**

Uniquely situated where the Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains, Las Vegas is a thriving community of distinctive cultures. With access to history, recreation, higher education, tradition, arts and government our residents are active participants in cultural, civic, and public affairs. People of all ages take pride in our community and its unique offerings such as Fourth of July Fiestas, monthly art walks, annual historic home tours, and the Rough Rider Motorcycle Rally.

The natural beauty of our surrounding countryside and our diverse architectural heritage have made the original Las Vegas a favorite destination for many Hollywood films, including the Oscar-winning "No Country for Old Men."

The City takes pride in protecting and enhancing the natural environment by promoting a "greener and cleaner" Las Vegas. We at the City of Las Vegas are pleased to welcome you to our fine community! We hope you enjoy your visit here in "Las Vegas, a breath of fresh air!"

Sincerely,

Mayor Tony E. Marquez, Jr.




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# WELCOME TO

## The First Inhabitants

The earliest documented evidence of man in the Americas is Folsom man and Clovis man, whose remains were discovered in northeastern New Mexico. Archaeological digs in the Las Vegas area indicate that as early as 8,000 BC Paleo-Indians were living in this region. Characterized as pre-historic hunters and gatherers, they migrated throughout the area in small bands following great herds of buffalo, deer, horses, and camels. By 7,000 BC, however, large game had died out, including the horse which was later reintroduced by the Spanish.

Archaic and Puebloan occupations followed until the 1300s, at which time permanent settlements were abandoned and migration to the Rio Grande valley occurred. Two significant pueblo sites discovered in northeastern New Mexico are south of Las Vegas in Tecolote and Pecos. In subsequent years the Las Vegas Plateau was occupied by nomadic Plains Indians who eventually retreated, perhaps due to drought or fear of attack.

## The Spanish and Mexican Influence

Spanish exploration began with Coronado's expedition for gold in 1541. By the 1790s Spanish settlement had expanded from the Rio Grande valley into areas along the eastern face of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

In 1835 the Mexican government granted 29 individuals land which formally established Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de Las Vegas Grandes. On April 6, 1835, the *alcalde* (administrative justice) of nearby San Miguel del Vado measured off agricultural tracts and laid out a large plaza in the Spanish-Mexican colonial style. Settlers built side-by-side adobe and wood homes one room deep around the perimeter of the plaza to form a defensive enclosure in case of Indian attack.

## Santa Fe Trail Days

As early as 1822, the Mexican government was encouraging trade between the U.S. and New Mexico. However, the tales of profit and adventure told by Missouri merchant William Becknell (Father of the Santa Fe Trail) changed the course of

history. Missourians seeking to make their fortunes in silver *pesos* headed west, over 800 miles by horse and wagon, to Santa Fe. Unlike the California and Oregon Trails, the Santa Fe Trail was a mercantile trail and within a short time commerce along the trail was a million-dollar-a-year business.

Founded in 1790, San Miguel del Vado was the first settlement encountered by early traders and caravans making their way to Santa Fe. But soon after its founding in 1835, Las Vegas became the major port of entry for supply trains arriving on the Santa Fe Trail. Local government officials and the *ricos* of Las Vegas were quick to recognize an opportunity to make their own fortunes, establishing economic alliances with the Americans to send locally produced goods back to the *estados*.

The arrival of caravans at the plaza was a time of celebration for local people. Church bells rang and townspeople gathered in the fashion of a farmers' market, their carts filled with chile, pinon, bread, wood, cheese, and other goods. Townspeople and traders would then gather in the evening for lively *fandangos*.

In 1846 the U.S. declared war on Mexico and Las Vegas was the first New Mexico town to feel the impact. On August 14, 1846, General Stephen Kearney stood atop a plaza building and claimed the territory for the United States. (A plaque commemorating this event is located in Plaza Park opposite the Dice Apartments.) By 1851, Fort Union was built 20 miles outside of Las Vegas to protect Santa Fe Trail travelers from Indian raids. The trail also served as main supply artery for Union forces during the Civil War.

Nearby Fort Union contributed to the prosperity of Las Vegas, as well as San Miguel, Mora, and La Junta (now Watrous). The Mora Valley became known as the "bread basket" of the north with five mills processing locally grown wheat for the Fort's consumption. Many Las Vegas merchants made their fortunes supplying the Fort with timber, beef, mutton, wheat and dry goods.

By 1860, Las Vegas had grown to over 1000 people. Early merchants like Don Miguel Romero y Baca, Jose Albino Baca, Francisco Lopez and Miguel Otero had successfully established stores in place of the homes that once ringed the plaza. The



YMCA Building



Courthouse



City Hall

# LAS VEGAS



1860's also brought an influx of Jewish, French, Canadian and European traders, trappers and merchants. Emmanuel Rosenwald and Charles Ifeld became extremely prosperous and helped establish Las Vegas as a leading commercial center in New Mexico.

## The Railroad Arrives

The first large city to be reached by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad was Las Vegas, New Mexico. The railroad's arrival on July 4, 1879 was cause for great celebration. Teachers, ministers, desperados, and dance-hall girls descended on the boomtown, accompanying another influx of European immigrants and Jewish merchant families. Las Vegas' standing as a center of commerce for the territory was solidified. A town filled with makeshift tents gave way to a city of permanent commercial buildings. Because the tracks were laid east of the river, a "new town" called East Las Vegas was established with a competing commercial district and fashionable residential area. (West and East Las Vegas developed as separate communities until their merger in 1970.)

Railroad Avenue grew into a major commercial district of bustling mercantile houses, hotels, saloons, and dance halls. Horse-drawn street cars established a circular route between the depot and the plaza and a thriving commercial district emerged at Douglas Avenue and Sixth Street.

By 1882, Las Vegas had grown to a population of nearly 6,000 and was one of the largest towns in the region, rivaling Denver, El Paso, and Tucson.

The decline of Las Vegas from a prosperous commercial center began around 1905 when major rail traffic was diverted to the south. An agricultural depression in the mid 1920s, the Great Depression of the 1930s and a long drought put an end to Las Vegas' growth and its boomtown prosperity.

## Architecture

Because Las Vegas enjoyed the unique position as main port of entry during both its Santa Fe Trail and railroad days, it features an architectural diversity unparalleled in the state. Using modern materials imported via rail, individuals of diverse ethnic origins

built residential and commercial structures that left Las Vegas a rich legacy of architectural styles, including Queen Anne, Romanesque, Territorial, Eastlake, Italian Villa, Italianate, Renaissance Revival and Folk (or New Mexico Vernacular).

In 1976 the City of Las Vegas officially adopted the Las Vegas Historic Districts Ordinance, which has contributed significantly to the protection and perpetuation of outstanding historic properties and the revitalization of traditional neighborhoods to the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

In 1986 Las Vegas had over 900 buildings listed on the national, state, and local registers of historic places, and today boasts more preserved structures than any other city in New Mexico. Oddly enough, Las Vegas' economic decline helped preserve its architectural heritage as funds for both renovation and demolition were scarce.

In addition to architecture, Las Vegas is known for its unique city planning. The traditional Spanish-Mexican plaza in west Las Vegas, with side streets radiating like spokes on a wheel, follows natural features of the land such as arroyos, ditches and cow trails. In sharp contrast, the founders of east Las Vegas implemented eastern city planning by establishing an orderly and rational grid plan.

## The Culture

Las Vegas and the communities in San Miguel County are rich in history, architecture, cultural traditions, arts and natural beauty. These attributes offer natives and newcomers a quality of life which they are reluctant to exchange for a hectic 21st century lifestyle. In the outlying valleys and mountain villages, one can immediately sense that the people have deep cultural roots tied both to the land and the Hispanic traditions brought by Spanish and Mexican rule.

Little has changed in the past 100-plus years. Most area communities are trying to preserve the integrity of their towns and culture while carefully seeking ways to build a better future for their children. Residents have a history of welcoming visitors and newcomers interested in sharing, understanding and appreciating what locals consider their most cherished attractions... their traditions and culture. *So, explore, experience, enjoy... and welcome to Las Vegas!*



Duncan Opera



Street Scene in Old Town



Castenada Hotel



# LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Las Vegas is nestled at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, or as the locals like to say, where the Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains. Located near the heart of a spectacular wilderness area, sweeping forest lands, fascinating historic sites and wonderful national parks, Las Vegas welcomes visitors to this western boomtown to enjoy everything from trout fishing on the Gallinas River to searching for wagon ruts along the Santa Fe Trail.

If you don't know where it is or how to find it, just ask. Las Vegans have a tradition of hospitality that includes making new friends and welcoming them when they return. Hikers, campers, birders and fishing buffs have a wealth of outdoor fun within easy driving distance. Heritage travelers will revel in the architecture and history oozing from every structure!

## CITY HIGHLIGHTS

### CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The first and only surviving Carnegie Library in New Mexico, (and one of only a dozen or so functioning Carnegie Libraries nationwide) this beautiful library was built with a \$10,000 donation from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. This prime example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture, resembling Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, occupies one city block bordered by handsome Victorian-style structures. Fans of Western and Southwestern literature should visit the S. Omar and Elsa Barker Reading Room. Carnegie Library is located at Sixth and National.

### CITY OF LAS VEGAS MUSEUM AND ROUGH RIDER MEMORIAL COLLECTION

Housed in a New Deal-era WPA structure originally built to serve as city hall, the City of Las Vegas Museum and Rough Rider Memorial Collection is home to many pieces of the past that make up the diverse history of Las Vegas.

When veterans from Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Rider regiment named Las Vegas as their official reunion home, mementos and artifacts from the Spanish-American War accumulated here. Over time a healthy collection of memorabilia warranted a permanent location and in 1965 the museum opened at 727 Grand Ave.

In addition to the Rough Rider collection, the Museum boasts a variety of community-donated domestic artifacts that reveal much about life in Las Vegas and San Miguel County. Included are everything from Rio Grande weavings, porcelain dolls, and elegant Spanish Colonial furniture to ranching gear, tools and historic documents.

The museum offers permanent and traveling exhibits, living history demonstrations, interpretive history workshops, vintage movie screenings (Tom Mix had a studio here) and holiday musical performances.

Museum hours are 10am to 4pm, Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 454-1401, ext. 283.

### OLD TOWN PLAZA HISTORIC DISTRICT

Unmatched in its style and unparalleled in its history, the Plaza Historic District is built on the original town site founded as part of a Mexican land grant. The plaza, which originally served as a defensible enclosure and place to park wagons of Santa Fe Trail merchants, was also the site of vigilante gallows when a windmill was erected there in 1876. Today, beautiful examples of grand Victorian architecture and one-story adobe buildings stand side by side on the enduring square surrounding Plaza Park.

Cradled among the trees of Plaza Park is the gazebo, a lovely symbol of days gone-by and the centerpiece of historic Old Town. From the vintage Plaza Hotel to the Dice Apartments where Brigadier General Stephen Watts Kearny presided over New Mexico's 1846 transformation to a U.S. territory, the history of the West surrounds this enchanting structure. Summer evenings often bring music to the gazebo with Fridays al Fresco concerts.

### THE WELL

Just north of the Plaza Hotel, Hays Springs Well is located at 2213 Hot Springs Blvd. Now restored, it is the nation's oldest surviving well along the Santa Fe Trail.

Dug by settlers around 1840, the well was a favorite stop for William H. "Billy the Kid" Bonney. A century and a half ago, travelers who reached Las Vegas after the long Santa Fe Trail journey could stop at the spring-fed well to drink and water their teams.

Today's visitors toss coins into the historic well, a water source that in the 1930s granted residents' wishes for relief from a crushing drought. During the Dust Bowl era, the Rio Gallinas and virtually every well in Las Vegas went dry. The 6" X 17" shale bowl well, fed by seven springs, remained the community's only constant source of water. The well has a depth of just under 4 feet and maintains a year-round temperature of 50 degrees.





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# LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

## BRIDGE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

The link between Las Vegas' historic Old Town and New Town, Bridge Street is among the city's most scenic thoroughfares. A walk provides impressive views of century-old commercial buildings constructed in Victorian, Italianate and Panel Brick styles. Bridge Street is home to a revitalized commercial district where locals and visitors enjoy strolling among the galleries, shops, and restaurants. Bridge Street is also home to the Las Vegas Citizens' Committee for Historic Preservation and the Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Center, where walking tour brochures and other information are available.

## DISTRITO DE LAS ESCUELAS AND OLD TOWN RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

A tour of these districts reveals the city's oldest homes – early adobe structures built in the traditional Spanish style – some more than 150 years old. The structures are located south and west of the Plaza on New Mexico Avenue, South Pacific Street, South Gonzales Street and their adjacent side streets. Those interested in historic architecture will appreciate the homes at 1214 and 1216 South Pacific Street, a quartet of “shotgun” houses located on New Mexico Avenue just south of National, and the beautiful Our Lady of Sorrows Church one block west of the Plaza.

## RAILROAD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

One block east of Grand Avenue, this district represents the boom town-era that began July 4, 1879, when the Atchison, Topeka, and the Santa Fe Railroad made its way to Las Vegas. Within the district are a number of historically significant structures including the Castaneda Hotel, a Fred Harvey House, and the train depot which houses the Visitors Center.



## LINCOLN PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Impressive houses representing a wide range of architectural styles abound here in one of the community's earliest premier neighborhoods. Among them is the home at 403 Eighth Street, a handsome dwelling built from stone quarried at Tecolote.

## LIBRARY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

The houses surrounding the Carnegie Library are a lasting tribute to the grand architectural styles of the early 1900s.

## DOUGLAS-SIXTH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

The commercial center of East Las Vegas, the Douglas Avenue district was strategically founded in an area removed from the busy train depot. Highlights of the district include Old City Hall, the Historic El Fidel Hotel and the Masonic Temple. The Las Vegas-San Miguel Chamber of Commerce is located at 503 6th Street.

The stately residential structures of North New Town (situated north of Columbia from Sixth through Eighth streets) were built after 1890 for some of the city's leading business and political figures. Today, the district symbolizes the community's transformation from a Wild West town into an important center for trade and commerce.

## ACEQUIAS

Uniquely preserved in this community are at least 10 significant *acequias* (ah-say-kyas). Man-made channels that direct water to farmland, these early irrigation canals helped inland farmers make the most of rain and snowfall runoff.



# MOVIES IN LAS VEGAS

Considered America's oldest film location, in 1913 Las Vegas, NM became the western headquarters of Philadelphia-based Lubin Films and an obscure silent film producer, Romaine Fielding.

Just two years later in 1915 the Selig-Polyscope Company of Los Angeles took over Lubin Films. Emerging western film star Tom Mix, an honored guest at Las Vegas' inaugural Cowboys Reunion, stayed on to make movies. Mix and Selig-Polyscope, a forerunner of Fox Studios and MGM, made at least thirty silent features in Las Vegas between 1915 and 1916.

Las Vegas was forsaken as a film location until 1962 and the TV Western, *Empire*. Then, in 1969 Hollywood came roaring back to the Meadow City with *Easy Rider*. The rest is movie history!

A partial filmography includes these titles which were filmed, in whole or in part, in and around Las Vegas:

*All the Pretty Horses* (1999)  
*Astronaut Farmer* (2007)  
*Ballad of Gregorio Cortez, The* (1982)  
*Beer for My Horses* (2008)  
*Blind Horizon* (2004)  
*Brothers* (2009)  
*Buffalo Girls* (1994)  
*Comanche Moon* (2008)  
*Convoy* (1978)  
*Easy Rider* (1968)  
*East Meets West* (1995)  
*Fool for Love* (1985)  
*Georgia O'Keeffe* (2008)

*Golden God, The* (1913)  
*Hi-Lo Country, The* (1998)  
*John Carpenter's Vampires* (1998)  
*Lazarus Man, The* (1996)  
*Longest Yard, The* (2005)  
*No Country for Old Men* (2007)  
*North Country* (2005)  
*Not Forgotten* (2008)  
*Red Dawn* (1984)  
*Speechless* (1994)  
*Vampires* (1998)  
*Wyatt Earp* (1993)



## Fun Fact

As told in Milton W. Callon's book *Las Vegas, New Mexico...The Town That Wouldn't Gamble*, Tom Mix was a participant in the first Cowboys' Reunion in 1915. Mix and his fellow motion picture cowboys were challenged by the local working cowhands to a potato race. The outcome was reported by local Charley O'Malley:

*"Our lads were enthusiastic, but I'm afraid they became confused over the idea of the race. They kept spearing the moving picture fellows." When all was said and done, "the dad-burned dudes" won, beating the "real he-man, gun-totin' hombres 18 to 11."*



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS and SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**

For additional details go to [www.lasvegasnewmexico.com](http://www.lasvegasnewmexico.com) (Area code 505 unless otherwise noted.)

## ONGOING

**Second Saturday Artwalk** (Second Saturday of each month);  
Main Street de Las Vegas, 425-2606 or [www.mainstreetlvm.org](http://www.mainstreetlvm.org)  
**Glimpses of the Past from Fort Union** (third Thursday of each month);  
Las Vegas Citizens' Committee for Historic Preservation, 425-8803; 425-8025 or [www.nps.gov/foun](http://www.nps.gov/foun)  
**Montezuma Castle Tours** (Saturday tours per academic calendar & student schedules);  
United World College, 454-4221 or [Elizabeth.Morse@uwc-usa.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Morse@uwc-usa.org)  
**Ilfeld Auditorium** NMHU; Donna Martinez, Ilfeld Auditorium Director,  
454-3238 or [www.nmhu.edu/ilfeld](http://www.nmhu.edu/ilfeld)  
**Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge Events**; Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge,  
454-6115 or [janarrott@hotmail.com](mailto:janarrott@hotmail.com)

## EVENTS

### JANUARY-MARCH (2010)

**January 1: Polar Bear Plunge at Storrie Lake**; Leo Gonzales, 425-5204 or [Ivempjr@hotmail.com](mailto:Ivempjr@hotmail.com)  
**February 13: Las Vegas Winterfest**; Donna Martinez, 454-3238 or [www.nmhu.edu/ilfeld](http://www.nmhu.edu/ilfeld)  
**March 27-28: Civil War Weekend at the Glorieta Battlefield**;  
Pecos National Historical Park, 757-7210 or [www.nps.gov/peco](http://www.nps.gov/peco)  
**March (TBA): Faces of Woman Juried Art Show**;  
Las Vegas Arts Council, 425-1085 or [lvac@cybermesa.com](mailto:lvac@cybermesa.com)  
**March 13: Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**; Las Vegas First IBA, 454-0048

### APRIL-JUNE (2009)

**May: Cinco de Mayo celebrations**; Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce,  
425-8631 or [www.lasvegasnewmexico.com](http://www.lasvegasnewmexico.com)  
**May: Flower Power**; Las Vegas First IBA, 425-6113 (w/o 5/17/10)  
**June 6: First Fort Tour**; Fort Union National Monument, 425-8025 or [www.nps.gov/foun](http://www.nps.gov/foun)  
**June 13: Garden Tour**; Las Vegas Citizens' Committee for Historic Preservation,  
425-8803 or [historic@cybermesa.com](mailto:historic@cybermesa.com)  
**June 13: Luna/Highlands Annual Custom Car Show**; Anthony Baca, 429-0425 or [abaca@luna.edu](mailto:abaca@luna.edu)  
**June 13-14: Las Vegas Celebrates the Arts**;  
Las Vegas Arts Council, 425-1085 or [lvac@cybermesa.com](mailto:lvac@cybermesa.com)

### JULY-SEPTEMBER (2009)

**July 2-5: Annual Fiestas de Las Vegas**;  
Las Vegas Fiesta Council, 617-0565 or [santacines@wildblue.net](mailto:santacines@wildblue.net)  
**July TBA: Pecos Sheriff's Posse Rodeo**;  
Sheriff's Posse Rodeo Committee, 470-6283 or 757-6636  
**July 10-August 31: Fridays al Fresco**; Las Vegas First IBA, 426-9429  
**July 11-12: San Miguel County 4-H Rodeo**; San Miguel County Extension Office and  
Zamora Roping, 454-1497 or [www.sanmiguelextension.nmsu.edu](http://www.sanmiguelextension.nmsu.edu)  
**July 18-19: Cultural Encounters**; Fort Union National Monument, 425-8025 or [www.nps.gov/foun](http://www.nps.gov/foun)  
**July 24-26: Rough Rider Motorcycle Rally**; Motorcycle Rally Committee,  
425-7584 or [www.roughridermotorcyclerrally.com](http://www.roughridermotorcyclerrally.com)  
**July 27-August 2: Las Vegas Heritage Week**; Las Vegas Citizens' Committee for  
Historic Preservation, 425-8803 or [historic@cybermesa.com](mailto:historic@cybermesa.com)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## CITY OF LAS VEGAS and SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

For additional details go to [www.lasvegasnewmexico.com](http://www.lasvegasnewmexico.com) (Area code 505 unless otherwise noted.)

**August 1: Places with a Past historic sites tour;** Las Vegas Citizens' Committee for Historic Preservation, 425-8803 or [historic@cybermesa.com](mailto:historic@cybermesa.com)

**August 2: Feast Day Mass;** Pecos National Historical Park, 757-7241 or [www.nps.gov/peco](http://www.nps.gov/peco)

**August 13-15: San Miguel/Mora County Fair;** San Miguel County Extension Office, 454-1497 or [sanmiguel@nmsu.edu](mailto:sanmiguel@nmsu.edu)

**August 15: Pecos Pony Up Auction;** Pecos Valley Medical Center, 757-6482 or [sigrdolson@pecoshealth.org](mailto:sigrdolson@pecoshealth.org)

**August 22: Candlelight Tours;** Fort Union National Monument, 425-8025 or [www.nps.gov/foun](http://www.nps.gov/foun)

**August 28: Music from Angel Fire;** Nancy Ondov, 888-377-3300 or [www.musicfromangelfire.org](http://www.musicfromangelfire.org)

**August 29-30: The People's Faire;** Las Vegas Arts Council, 425-1085 or [lvac@cybermesa.com](mailto:lvac@cybermesa.com)

**September 5-6: Cleveland Roller Millfest;** Mora Valley Chamber of Commerce, 575-387-2645 or [www.angelfire.com/folk/roller\\_mill](http://www.angelfire.com/folk/roller_mill)

**September 5-7: Bean Day;** Wagon Mound, NM, 575-447-1597

**September 12: Sabor de Las Vegas;** Las Vegas First IBA, 426-8678 or [yarellanes@yahoo.com](mailto:yarellanes@yahoo.com)

**September 26-27: Pecos Valley Artist Studio Tour;** Madeline Stark, 757-6851 or [madelinestark@yahoo.com](mailto:madelinestark@yahoo.com)

### OCTOBER-DECEMBER (2009)

**October 28-November 2: Dia de los Muertos Altars and Art Displays** (Day of the Dead); Casa de Cultura, 454-6771 or [cholared@yahoo.com](mailto:cholared@yahoo.com)

**November 27-28: Fiesta de Navidad;** Inez Gallegos-Lujan, 425-9746 or [santaeines@wildblue.net](mailto:santaeines@wildblue.net)

**November: Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge Fall Wildlife Drive** (Sundays); Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge, 454-6115 or [janarrott@hotmail.com](mailto:janarrott@hotmail.com)

**December 5: Second Fiesta de Navidad;** Inez Gallegos-Lujan, 425-9746 or [santaeines@wildblue.net](mailto:santaeines@wildblue.net)


**December 5: 20th Annual Electric Light Parade;** Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce, 425-8631 or [www.lasvegasnewmexico.com](http://www.lasvegasnewmexico.com)

**December 12: Holiday Historic Home Tour;** Las Vegas Citizens' Committee for Historic Preservation, 425-8803 or [historic@cybermesa.com](mailto:historic@cybermesa.com)

**December 12: Gingerbread House/Biscochito Contest;** Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce, 425-8631 or [www.lasvegasnewmexico.com](http://www.lasvegasnewmexico.com)

**December 12: Santa at the Park;** Las Vegas Fire Department, 425-6321

**December 19: Best Decorated Holiday Home Contest;** Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce, 425-8631 or [www.lasvegasnewmexico.com](http://www.lasvegasnewmexico.com)



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# HERITAGE WEEK

Heritage Week, a week-long, multi-event showcase of the diverse and colorful culture and history of Las Vegas runs from July 28 through August 2 and includes the following activities:

## TRAVELER'S BOOK BAG

*You've walked our streets and enjoyed our buildings. Now read the stories and learn the history that made Las Vegas the "wildest of the Wild West"!*

### Arts

*Dictionary of New Mexico & Southern Colorado Spanish*, Ruben Cobos  
*Historic Cookery*, Fabiola C. Gilbert  
*Mexican Cookbook*, Erna Fergusson  
*We Fed Them Cactus*, Fabiola C. de Baca

### Fiction & Folklore

*Bless Me Ultima*, Rudolfo Anaya  
*Child of a Rainless Year*, Jane Linskold  
*Cottonwood Saints*, Gene Guerin  
*Cuentos From My Childhood*, Paulette Atencio  
*Hermit's Peak*, Michael McGarrity  
*The Night Journal*, Elizabeth Crook

### History & Biography

*Blood & Thunder*, Hampton Sides  
*Gallinas Canyon Past and Present*, Betty Schwede  
*History of the Jews in New Mexico*, Henry Tobias  
*Myth of the Hanging Tree*, Robert J. Torrez  
*New Mexico Crypto Jews*, Ori Stoltes  
*Old Las Vegas*, Nasario Garcia  
*Red Light Women of the Rocky Mountains*, Jan Mackell  
*Sweet Nata*, Gloria Zamora  
*Wildest of the Wild West*, Howard Bryan

### Nature & Natural History

*Fly Patterns of Northern New Mexico*, Denison & Orr  
*Los Remedios*, Michael Moore  
*Trail Guide to the Las Vegas Area*, Joanne Sprenger

**Monday, July 27:** (through August 22); *Still Standing Guard: A Focus on Fort Union* photo exhibit by the Meadow City Camera Club. 116 Bridge Street, 10am to 3pm. Artists' reception Saturday, August 8. Free. Ray Drew Gallery, NMHU Campus; Photo exhibit "Highlands Memories". Free.

**Tuesday, July 28:** *Audrey of the Mountains*. Local author Dorothy Simpson on her mother, Audrey Clements Simpson, one of the first women journalists in NM. 7pm. Tome on the Range, 158 Bridge St. 454-9944. Free.

**Wednesday, July 29:** Dinner and History at the historic Plaza Hotel, 6pm. Enjoy a northern New Mexican buffet and short history lesson. New Mexico was declared a part of the U.S. right here in Las Vegas by General Stephen Watts Kearney. Learn the broader historical ramifications of that deed with David Clay, author of *Eagles and Empire: The United States, Mexico and the Struggle for a Continent*. Reservations recommended, 425-3591. Cost: \$15.00.

**Thursday, July 30:** Glimpses of the Past presented by CCHP and Fort Union National Monument. Living history re-enactors in period dress present the history of the First New Mexico Volunteers, the only Spanish-speaking unit in the Union army. 7pm. 116 Bridge Street. Free.

**Friday, July 31:** A Walking Tour of Historic Las Vegas, 9am-1pm. Begin at CCHP, 116 Bridge Street, with a tour of historic Plaza-Bridge Street, followed by a bus tour of other historic districts. Finish with a catered lunch and talk at the historic 1893 Masonic Temple building on Douglas Avenue. Reservations by July 28. Cost: \$15.00.

Fridays al Fresco Music in the Park, 4-6pm, Plaza Park. Sponsored by Las Vegas First IBA & Las Vegas Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board. Gather at the Old Town gazebo for a summer evening of music and dance. Free.

Dinner Theater, 5:30pm. Immaculate Conception School, 500 National Avenue. Traditional dinner of mutton stew, calabacitas, pinto beans and apple pie, sponsored by the IC Confirmation Program, Cost: \$7.00.

Stay for *Over the Edge* by the Nat Gold Players, Las Vegas' amateur theater group. This parody of a small town radio station's live morning program won rave reviews and sold out last year. With new material this year it promises to be another big hit. IC Auditorium, 7pm. Cost: \$10; Dinner & Play, \$15. Repeated Saturday.

**Saturday, August 1:** 20th Annual Places with a Past historic sites tour, 10am-4pm. Docent tour of 10 historic homes, buildings, and the Castle! Tickets \$20 at CCHP, 116 Bridge Street. 425-8803.

Dinner Theater, repeat of Thursday.

**Sunday, August 2:** Family Day on the Old Town Plaza. Call 425-8803 for details.



**Tome on the Range** welcomes you to Las Vegas, New Mexico! A walk through Tome will add to your enjoyment of the original Las Vegas. Visit us for regional mysteries, history & children's books. We stock local trail guides, area USGS maps and fly-fishing guides.

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 M-F 10-6 • Saturday 10-5 • Sundays July-August



# ARTS AND CULTURE

## Las Vegas: An Arts & Cultural District

Las Vegas remains proud of its glorious and infamous past. Historical, cultural, and architectural reminders are everywhere. And so, community residents, organizations, and leaders have mined our richness to create opportunities for the town's economic revitalization.

For Las Vegas, one road to recovery leads to art and culture. In 2006, the State Legislature enabled the creation of "Arts and Cultural Districts" in New Mexico, as a vehicle for economic development. Las Vegas was one of two New Mexico cities to receive this designation from the New Mexico MainStreet Program, in January, 2008. This prestigious award was presented by Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish and the Cabinet Secretaries of Tourism, Cultural Affairs, and Economic Development. The 2006 state legislation provides incentives for development of arts-related businesses, institutions, and real estate. Las Vegas' successful completion of the rigorous application process is testament to its precedent-setting collaboration among all its non-profits whose missions include arts, economic development and historic preservation.

## What does that mean to a visitor?

Our Arts & Cultural District spans a mile-square portion of three downtown areas: Old Town, New Town and Railroad Avenue. A stroll through our historic commercial districts reveals an array of aesthetic riches, from traditional art of carved wooden saints and softly painted retablos, to bold modern offerings of up-and-coming artists in every genre and media. The creations of talented silver- and goldsmiths and other local jewelers are not to be missed. And every season is filled with opportunities to photograph our mélange of Spanish, Victorian, and Territorial architecture.

Each month, artists, gallery owners, musicians and writers share their creativity during the Second Saturday Artwalk. This day-long event begins with an artists' breakfast followed by author events, art openings, artist receptions, art talks, demonstrations, live music and other offerings from our vibrant art community. Shops and restaurants join this monthly celebration, too. An Artwalk Guide with complete listings of weekend activities, open studios, and special events is available at participating shops and galleries.

The District is also home to a variety of arts programs throughout the year. The Las Vegas Arts Council's annual "Faces of Woman" juried art show each March showcases local and international entries, and its Las Vegas Celebrates the Arts Studio Tour invites you to visit local artists in their home studios during a June weekend. The People's Faire brings together artists, craftspeople, and local organizations for public enjoyment on the beautiful grounds of the Carnegie Library every August. The Nat Gold Players stage several theater productions during the year, from comedies and musicals to award-winning dramas. New Mexico Highlands University offers student art and other exhibitions at their Ray Drew and Burris Hall Galleries. If music is your passion, NMHU's beautifully restored Ilfeld Auditorium hosts countless musical events featuring the various University choirs, community musicians, and professional acts.

Though the Arts & Cultural District has definite boundaries, what you'll find inside it does not!

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for the  
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New Town,  
& the  
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# LODGING & RESTAURANTS

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<b>Best Western</b>	2020 N Grand Ave.	426-8000
<b>Budget Inn</b>	1216 Grand Ave.	425-9357
<b>Comfort Inn</b>	2500 N Grand Ave.	425-1100
<b>Days Inn</b>	2000 N Grand Ave.	425-1967
<b>El Camino</b>	1152 N Grand Ave.	425-5994
<b>El Fidel</b>	500 Douglas	425-6761
<b>Holiday Inn</b>	816 Grand Ave.	426-8182
<b>Historic Plaza</b>	230 Plaza	425-3591
<b>Inn of Las Vegas</b>	2401 Grand Ave.	425-6707
<b>Palomino</b>	1330 N Grand Ave.	425-3548
<b>Regal</b>	1809 N Grand Ave.	454-1456
<b>Sunshine</b>	1201 N Grand Ave.	425-3506
<b>Super 8</b>	N Grand Ave.	425-5288
<b>Thunderbird</b>	400 S Grand Ave.	425-1471
<b>Town House</b>	1215 N Grand Ave.	425-6717
<b>Ventana Inn</b>	1133 Grand Ave.	425-6791



## RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND LAS VEGAS

- Arby's**, 1711 7th St., 425-5448  
**Beans & Sweets Bakery**, 1209 National, 425-6699  
**Blake's Lota Burger**, 2302 7th St., 425-8460  
**Buba's Pizza**, 506 Grand Ave., 425-0999  
**Burger King**, 1355 Grand Ave., 425-9113  
**Charlie's Spic & Span Bakery & Café**,  
 715 Douglas Ave., 426-1921  
**Corner Brew Coffee Bar**, 500 Douglas Ave., 425-6761  
**Dairy Queen**, 200 Columbia Ave., 454-0745  
**Dairy Queen**, 2408 7th St., 425-6682  
**Daylight Donuts**, 3001 Hot Spring Blvd., 454-0453  
**Deja Vu Cafe**, 1133 N. Grand Ave., 425-6791  
**Dick's Deli**, 705 Douglas Ave., 425-8261  
**El Encanto**, 1816 Plaza, 454-9195  
**El Rialto**, 140 Bridge St., 454-0037.  
**El Sombero**, 825 Mills Ave., 425-3705.  
**Estella's Café**, 148 Bridge St., 454-0048  
**Hillcrest Restaurant**, 1106 Grand Ave., 425-7211.  
**Hwy General Market Restaurant**, 227 South Pacific, 454-0440  
**Joe's Ringside**, 405 S Grand Ave., 425-7252.  
**Johnny's Mexican Kitchen**, 717 Grand Ave., 454-1769  
**K-Bob's**, 1803 7th St., 425-6322  
**Kentucky Fried Chicken**, 1139 Grand Ave., 425-3815  
**Kocina de Raphael**, 1610 Legion Dr., 454-1667  
**La Fiesta**, 814 7th St., 454-9828  
**Laguna Vista Quik Stop**, Hwy. 518, Sapello, 425-7706  
**Landmark Grill**, 230 Old Town Plaza, 425-3591  
**La Risa**, Hwy 3, Ribera, 421-3883  
**Little Moon Chinese Restaurant**, 1217 Grand Ave., 425-0939  
**Little Saigon**, 2001 N. Grand Ave., 454-1842  
**Los Gonzales Restaurant**, 414 Grand Ave., 425-6358  
**Mary Ann's Kitchen**, 528 Grand Ave., 426-8929  
**McDonald's**, 1501 7th St., 454-1103  
**Panchos Roadside Café**, 1154 Grand Ave., 454-8169  
**Pendaries Lodge**, Hwy 94 & 105, Rociada, 425-3561  
**Pino's Family Restaurant**, 1901 Grand Ave., 454-1944  
**Pinos Truck Stop**, 1901 Grand Ave., 425-8387  
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**Pizza Pro**, 2514 7th St., 454-4040  
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**World Treasures and Traveler's Cafe**, 1814 Plaza, 426-8638



## City of Las Vegas Museum and Rough Rider Memorial Collection

The Museum preserves, displays and provides information about the heritage of the Las Vegas area. The galleries tell stories through ranching and farming tools, household items, Native American pottery, the Santa Fe Trail and objects pertaining to the 1st Volunteer Cavalry Regiment (Rough Riders). Changing exhibits, permanent displays, videos and interactive stations invite visitors to stay and explore.



**Hours: 10:00am to 4:00pm Tuesday - Saturday**  
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# RECREATION AND OUTDOORS

## **BIRDING**

The Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1965, is home to thousands of wintering and resting birds as they pass through northern New Mexico. The refuge is open year-round, seven days a week. Sundays in November, an additional wildlife drive is open to the public allowing visitors into normally inaccessible areas of the Refuge. Canada geese, sandhill cranes, snow geese, golden and bald eagles are among the winter guests. Common sightings include prairie falcon, mule deer, coyote, bobcat and a variety of hawks and shore birds. A one-mile nature trail, available to the public with a permit, provides a look at native plant life and smaller bird life. For information on schedules, nature trail permits and a birding list containing names of 244 species of birds sighted since 1965, contact the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge at (505) 425-3581 or their web link: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/lasvegas/index.html>. Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge sponsor interpretive programs throughout the year. For topics and program dates call Jan Arrott at (505) 454-6115.

## **CAMPING**

Las Vegas is fortunate to have a backyard playground that features high forested mountains, lush wilderness areas, and an abundance of designated camping areas. Tent campers can find sites that offer a range of recreational opportunities and services, from remote wilderness locations to state parks and private campgrounds. Storrie Lake State Park, McAllister Lake, Morphy Lake State Park, Coyote Creek State Park, and Conchas Lake all have camping sites available. For RV camping, there are at least a dozen private campgrounds in San Miguel County, such as the KOA Kampground, only 4 miles south of Las Vegas (800-562-3423), and the Pecos River Campground, 25 miles south of Las Vegas in San Jose. Pecos Wilderness Area camping includes Iron Gate, Windy Bridge, Jacks Creek, Field Tract and many more. To order maps and obtain specific information on designated camping areas, contact the Las Vegas Ranger Station at (505) 425-3534 or the Pecos Ranger Station at (505) 757-6121 or New Mexico State Parks (888) 667-2757 [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com)

## **CROSS COUNTRY SKIING**

Visitors seeking cross country skiing and snowshoeing opportunities will enjoy designated trails around the Sipapu Ski Resort (see contact information below), as well as the serenity of snow packed trails (used by hikers and backpacker in warmer months) in the national forests and wilderness areas within and around San Miguel County.

## **DOWNHILL SKIING**

Within an hour's drive of Las Vegas visitors can experience two of northern New Mexico's best ski areas, Sipapu and Angel Fire Ski Resorts. Sipapu, an Indian word meaning the "little opening" in a ceremonial kiva from which spirits are released, is known for its spectacular high mountain setting, narrow trails, and rustic lodges and cabins. This family-friendly resort is located 55 miles from Las Vegas on NM 518 and has 37 runs at an elevation of 8,350 – 9,200 feet. Information on the season's activities, ski rentals, rates and lodging is available by calling (505) 587-2240, or (800) 587-2240 or [www.SipapuNM.com](http://www.SipapuNM.com)

Angel Fire Ski Resort is nestled in a beautiful alpine valley approximately 60 miles north of Las Vegas. Angel Fire sports 76 runs at an elevation of 8,500 – 10,500 feet, a variety of lodging options, restaurants and bars. For more information call (800) 633-7463 or [www.angelfireresort.com](http://www.angelfireresort.com).

## **FISHING**

Quality fishing abounds in all directions in San Miguel County, from secluded back country wilderness areas to better known popular spots. Fisherman of all skill levels will find beautiful northern New Mexico mountain scenery, clean air, moderate year round temperatures and sparkling streams that promise trout and other game species. Some prime fishing destinations in the area are Storrie Lake, Morphy Lake State Park, Villanueva State Park, McAllister Lake, Conchas Lake State Park, El Porvenir, and the Gallinas and Pecos Rivers.

A New Mexico fishing license is required for anyone over 12 years who plans to fish. Licenses for residents and non-residents may be purchased for a year, five days or one day. Contact the Department of Game and Fish (505) 425-0041 or (505) 757-6360 for additional information and to obtain copies of the state fishing regulations and map.



# RECREATION AND OUTDOORS



## GOLF

The Gene Torres Golf Course of New Mexico Highlands University, redesigned by noted golf course architect Jeffrey Brauer, is a links course where players of varying ability can test their skills. The 9-hole course is open to the public (weather permitting) from March 1st to November 30th and features a pro shop, electric cart rental, driving range, club rental and private lessons by appointment. La Piedra Grill, a full service restaurant featuring a variety of sandwiches and New Mexican cuisine, is open 11:00am to 7:00pm. For more information on tournaments, course fees, rentals, lessons, and other services contact (505) 425-7711 or check out [www.newmexicohighlandsgolf.com](http://www.newmexicohighlandsgolf.com)

For those interested in high country golfing, try 18 holes at Pendaries Village Golf Course 25 miles north of Las Vegas in Rociada. This beautiful course is open to the public and well worth the drive. Electric carts and club rentals are available as well as private lessons with resident golf pro, Larry Webb. For more information call the pro shop (505) 425-9890 or visit [www.pendaries.net](http://www.pendaries.net)

Lakeside golfing is offered at Conchas Lake State Park, 76 miles southeast of Las Vegas on NM 104. This course features 9 holes and is open year round to the public. Pull carts, a club house with snacks and a lock box for greens fees are available.

A disc golf course is available at Sipapu Ski Resort.

## HIKING

Las Vegas is only minutes from thousands of acres of natural countryside and forest areas that afford hikers and backpackers a variety of beautiful terrain and trails. Popular hiking trails are Hermit's Peak Trail #223, Dispensas Trail #222, Porvenir Canyon Trail #247 and Gallinas Trail #216. Trails range from moderate to difficult depending on the experience and ability of hikers.

Visitors can arrange for informal guided outings and field trips that include day hikes, overnights, backpacking and mountain climbing by contacting the Sierra Club at (505) 983-2703. Call the Las Vegas Forest Service at (505) 425-3534 or the Pecos Ranger Office at (505) 757-6121 for Forest Service maps of the area. USGS topo maps and a local trail guide to the Las Vegas area are available for sale in town.

## HORSEBACK RIDING

There are many opportunities for visitors to experience the great outdoors on horseback. Guided outings that include hourly, half day, full day rides and pack trips into the Santa Fe National Forest and Pecos Wilderness can be arranged with local outfitters. Private guest ranches and camps also boast unspoiled mountain areas and sparkling streams to be discovered on horseback. Cow Creek (505) 471-9120 and Terrero Riding Stables (505) 757-6193 are located in the Pecos, NM area. Closer to Las Vegas, Ride to Pride Partnership offers private riding lessons and overnight boarding for horses. For more information call (505) 454-9738.

## HOT SPRINGS

Northern New Mexico abounds with natural hot springs. Less than 10 minutes from Las Vegas are the rustic but soothing Montezuma Hot Springs, a popular haunt for locals. Originally part of the famous Montezuma Hotel, several natural hot springs are available to the public year round. The hot springs are located 6 miles north of Las Vegas on Highway 65, bordering the grounds of the Armand Hammer United World College of the American West. Call (505) 454-4245 for more information.





# RECREATION AND OUTDOORS

## HUNTING

Northern New Mexico's hunting areas offer the avid sportsman a variety of game including elk, deer, bear, grouse, squirrel, turkey and mountain lion. Near Ocate, the Black Lake – Whites Peak area is a popular elk and deer hunting site and is accessible by vehicle. The Pecos Wilderness, a more challenging terrain, can only be reached by foot or on horseback.

Hunting licenses are required and available through licensed vendors; however, applications to draw for limited licenses (antelope, elk, bighorn sheep and other species) can only be made by contacting the Game and Fish Department. Seasons vary from area to area so hunters should obtain the New Mexico Big Game and Turkey Seasons Proclamation which is a detailed journal of dates, laws and regulations governing the various hunts available. Proclamations are available from the Department of Game and Fish at (505) 425-0041 or (505)757-6360.

## MOUNTAIN BIKING

Exploring San Miguel County by mountain bike enables visitors to experience the countryside from an entirely different perspective. Back roads open up to high country and ranch land for two wheel adventures into the Santa Fe National Forest including Pecos Wilderness canyons and forest roads. The Gallinas Canyon Recreation Area near Las Vegas offers similar biking experiences. For more information call (505) 425-3534 or (505)757-6121.

## RUNNING

Popular jogging routes in town include the historic business and residential districts as well as the path along the Gallinas River stretching from Mills Avenue in the north, south to Grand Avenue. Walkers and bicyclists are regulars along the river walk as well. The Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge, 5 miles east of Las Vegas off Hwy 104, is also used by many runners. For more information call (505) 425-3581 or check the web link [www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/lasvegas/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/lasvegas/index.html)

## SWIMMING

New Mexico Highlands University offers an indoor swimming pool open to the public for adult lap swimming. For information call (505) 425-7511. The Abe Montoya Recreation Center offers an indoor swimming pool as well. Call (505) 426-1739 for a schedule and fees.

## WINDSURFING/WATER SPORTS

Storrie Lake has become the windsurfing capital of northeastern New Mexico. With consistent winds, warm waters, sunny blue skies and spectacular views it attracts windsurfers from throughout the region from late spring to early fall. Mornings are noted for calmer waters which suit beginners while more experienced windsurfers enjoy the stronger winds associated with afternoons. For information on windsurfing at Storrie Lake call (505) 425-7278.

Conchas Lake also attracts windsurfers and water sport enthusiasts. With over 70,500 acre feet of water, this lake is one of the most popular recreation sites for boating, waterskiing and other water sports. Call (575) 868-2270.

## WORKOUT SPACES

For those interested in outdoor exercise, Las Vegas has 22 public parks throughout the city. For local gyms and fitness classes see the Las Vegas yellow pages under "Health Clubs" or check "Fitness Center" via the Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce website [www.lasvegasnewmexico.com](http://www.lasvegasnewmexico.com). The Abe Montoya Recreation Center has a fitness center plus racquetball courts, a skate park, and basketball courts. Call (505) 426-1739 or check the Las Vegas City website [www.lasvegasnm.gov](http://www.lasvegasnm.gov)





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# SIDE TOURS

## Day Tours and Side Trips

In all directions, northeastern New Mexico abounds with exciting cultural opportunities and natural beauty. Set aside enough time to fully appreciate your journeys off the beaten path.

### Loop Tour through Santa Fe & Pecos

From Las Vegas, travel southwest on I-25 passing the small communities of Ribera, San Jose, and Villanueva. (Exit on Rte. #3 if you are traveling to the Villanueva State Park.) Exit right at Rowe and take #63 left to Pecos National Monument. This historic ruin was one of the most significant Indian settlements in New Mexico. Continue on #63 to Pecos, turn left on #50 past Glorieta Battlefield. This is the site of the Civil War battle between Union Volunteers from Colorado and the Texas Mounted Volunteers on March 28, 1862. A re-enactment takes place each June; call 505-827-0312 for information. Pick up I-25 again and continue on to Santa Fe, the oldest seat of government in the country. Santa Fe is known for its architecture, fine arts and craft galleries, museums, Old Town Plaza shopping district, wonderful restaurants and year round entertainment. (Call the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-777-CITY for a calendar of events and visitor guide). From Santa Fe head north on #84 through Pojoaque to #503 and turn right which leads northeast to Nambe Pueblo and the beautiful Nambe Falls picnic area. Turn left on #520 and continue through picturesque mountain villages and high desert terrain to Chimayo, a town that is famous for the historic Santuario de Chimayo. Each year on Good Friday the Santuario is the destination for hundreds of New Mexico pilgrims (arriving on foot) seeking cures to ailments or answers to prayers. Chimayo is also known for its weavers and fine dining. After Chimayo, turn right on #76 which leads through beautiful mountain villages of Truchas, Las Trampas, and Chamisal.

Turn right on #75 into Penasco, then right on #518, a high country road surrounded by beautiful alpine scenery, as it winds through Tres Ritos and Cleveland. In Cleveland, stop and visit the Cleveland Roller Mill Museum, a significant pre-war flour mill. The museum features an exhibit tracing the history of Mora County from pre-historic times to the end of WWII. (Hours are 10am-3pm weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day.) An annual Millfest of crafts and music is held on the grounds each Labor Day weekend. For information call 575-387-2645. Continue #518 through Mora, once known as the breadbasket of the north, and return past Storrie Lake State Park back to Las Vegas.

### Loop Tour Through Taos

From Las Vegas head northeast on I-25 through ranchland and wide open plains. Take the exit in Watrous and follow the signs to #161 which leads to Fort Union. This fort was built in 1851 to protect the Santa Fe Trail from Indian attacks and was one of the largest in the territory. Fort Union hosts many events throughout the summer, including living history demonstrations, lectures, conferences and tours. Call 505-425-8025 for details. Follow the road back to the intersection of #161, turn right and continue on #161 through the prairie and experience what early travelers and traders crossing the Santa Fe Trail did. Turn north (right) where the road meets #518 and continue on to La Cueva and view the historic mill and church at the Salman Raspberry Ranch. Stay on #518 until you reach Mora, then take #434 which winds through picturesque countryside, past beautiful Coyote Creek State Park (fishing and camping), Guadalupita and Angel Fire. Angel Fire is a popular resort for summer vacationers and winter ski buffs.

From Angel Fire, continue on #434 to Taos, an artists' community and home of the Taos Pueblo, the spectacular Rio Grande Gorge and beautiful Taos Ski Valley. Taos has a myriad of galleries, shops, restaurants and special events scheduled throughout the year. From Taos head south and turn west on #518 to Talpa and into alpine country. This road goes through Tres Ritos, Vadito (Sipapu Ski Resort), Holman and Cleveland. In Cleveland, stop at the Cleveland Roller Mill (see loop tour through Santa Fe.) Continue south-east on #518 into Mora and turn right on #94 to Ledoux and Tierra Monte. Turn right on #105 which leads to Pendaries Resort and Country Club in Rociada. Return back to #518 which travels through Sapello and past Storrie Lake State Park back to Las Vegas.



## PECOS and EL VALLE

Sometimes the best journey starts when you slow down. Sometimes you hear more in a quiet place; experience a high point in your life down in the valleys; reach deep inside yourself up on the ridge tops. Pecos is a place for people who want to explore the simpler, purer path. It isn't a park and it doesn't have a theme. It's a village tucked into a river valley, with a horizon that scans mountains and mesas and plains.

Pecos is a western saga, situated near an all-weather pass where the west was lost and won time and time again. A gateway through the southern Rocky Mountains connecting Santa Fe to the Great Plains, the trail through Pecos was used by Indian tribes, Spanish settlers, traders on the Santa Fe Trail, Civil War soldiers, and cruisers on Route 66. Beautiful in every weather, Pecos offers today's visitors trout fishing in the scenic Pecos River; camping and horseback riding in the glorious 223,000 acre Pecos Wilderness; a visit to the ruins of a pueblo and 18th Century mission church at the Pecos National Historical Park; and a walk through significant Civil War battlefields. Enjoy restaurants and shops; cheer at the Pecos Rodeo; and if the need arises, be tended to at the excellent Pecos Valley Medical Center.

Just 30 minutes east of Santa Fe and 35 miles west of Las Vegas, Pecos is an ancient place with modern amenities. A village of small, family-owned lodges, restaurants, shops and guiding services, Pecos is a charming collection of historic buildings tied together by narrow, winding roads. Located six miles from Highway I-25, Pecos is for people who want to hear the beat of a bird's wings and the wind in the high mountain forest. It's a place to feel the joy of leaving no tracks. A place to remember what it's like to be civilized in the wilderness. A place of sense for people who value their sense of place.



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El Valle is an area more than a location. The valley that's formed by the Pecos River includes many little communities from Rowe to Villanueva. While farmers and ranchers were the first to profit from the Pecos River's waters, El Valle is also home to artists, accountants, veterinarians, doctors, lawyers, and politicians.

Pecos Pueblo is a significant contributor to the history of El Valle. Many that work the land have found countless traces of the Pueblo peoples and most locals display collections in their homes.

No matter which way you're heading in the valley you'll pass La Risa Cafe in Ribera. Rainbows and German Browns are the catch of the day in the Villanueva area and at Villanueva State Park. But a visit to El Valle offers more than the scenic Pecos River Valley. Award-winning table wines are available to sample and buy at the Madison Winery in el Barranco.

For more El Valle information, visit [www.elvalle.com](http://www.elvalle.com).



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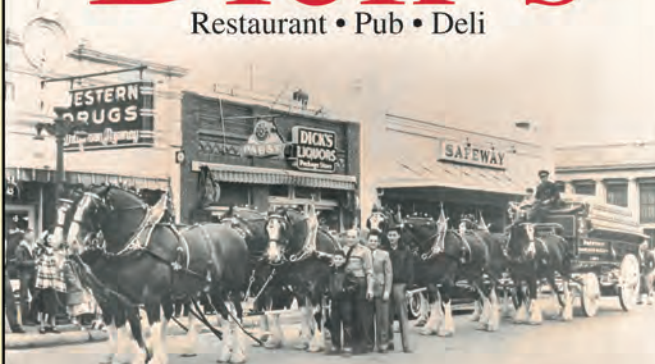
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# OLD TOWN WALKING TOUR



## Plaza-Bridge Street Walking Tour (In Las Vegas)

Begin the tour at the: (1) Veeder buildings (1809-1815, NW corner Old Town Plaza); the building to the right, built in 1880, is an example of commercial Italianate architecture. To the left, and built in 1895, the second Veeder building is an example of local brickwork done in a Moorish style. (2) Plaza Hotel (230 N. Old Town Plaza) was built in 1882 by a partnership of prominent businessmen, including Benigno Romero, to meet the need for lodging after the railroad came to town. It's a classic example of Italianate architecture. (3) Charles Ifeld building (222-224 N. Old Town Plaza) was built in stages, the first in 1882 and the final two-thirds in 1890. The Ifelds were extremely prosperous and became the largest mercantile firm in the state with warehouses and stores throughout New Mexico. (4) Louis C. Ifeld building (220 N. Old Town Plaza), built by the son of Charles Ifeld, in 1921, to serve as his law office. Designed in a mixture of periods, the façade shows the restraint of turn-of-the-century classicism. (5) Dice Apartments (208-210 N. Old Town Plaza), a one-story adobe building, is the only building on the Plaza which pre-dates the Mexican American War of 1846. It is here on the roof that General Stephen Kearney stood to claim New Mexico for the United States. (6) Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall (1810 E. Old Town Plaza) is one of the few remaining adobe buildings on the Plaza. The curving parapet on the façade dates to the 1930's and is a picturesque cultural element. (7) Romero Block (178 Bridge St.) is a landmark built by Secundino Romero, a wealthy political leader, in 1919. One of the last large buildings to be erected on the Plaza, its California Revival styling is reminiscent of the Murphey Drugs building at 6th and Douglas in New Town. (8) Anicito Baca building (148 Bridge St.) currently houses Estella's Restaurant and was constructed in 1884. Another example of the Italianate Commercial style which predominated on Bridge Street, it features heavy, decorative hoods over arched windows and ornate cornices supported by brackets, as well as elements of the palazzos of Italian Renaissance merchant princes.

(9) Stern and Nahm building (114 Bridge St.) was built in the early 1880's soon after the arrival of the railroad. It housed a saloon and Stock Growers office before Stern and Nahm took it over in 1897. This typical commercial building has large display windows, cast iron columns and pressed and folded sheet metal ornamentation above. Crossing to the south side of Bridge Street see the (10) Winternitz Block (125-127 Bridge St.) built in 1895. Its vertical piers, recessed panels and stepped brick are good examples of decorative brick work. (11) E. Romero Hose & Fire Company (155 Bridge St.), originally constructed in wood, was replaced in 1909 by this Neo-Classical brick building featuring pressed metal capitals and a modest cornice with dentils. (12) Hedgecock Building (157 Bridge St.) was constructed in 1882. Although it has lost its bracketed metal cornice, it still reveals its original Italianate style. It has been home to Stern's Famous Dry Goods, Charles Hedgecock Boot and Shoe Factory, a saloon, police station and jail. (13) 1st National Bank building (179 Bridge St.) Built in 1880, it features a combination of Italianate architecture and local contrasting sandstone masonry work. (14) Courtroom building (213 S. Old Town Plaza) was erected in 1882, and served as a courtroom for three years. As with many local buildings of the 1880's, inexpensive local stone rubble was used for the side walls, reserving fancier brick and sandstone for the façade. The arched recesses around the windows were the design of a local builder. (15) Wesche-Dold building (1803-1805 W. Plaza) was built in 1867 on a site purchased from the Catholic Church by Santa Fe Trail traders Andres and John Dold. It is an example of Territorial style which features a combination of massive adobe and stone masonry and the classical proportions and detailing of Greek Revival architecture as introduced by the U. S. Army in New Mexico.

*Information provided by the Las Vegas Citizens' Committee for Historic Preservation. For a comprehensive tour brochure and local history exhibits, visit them at 116 Bridge Street (Monday-Saturday, 10am-3pm). For additional information about annual Heritage Week events and historic sites tours call 505-425-8803.*



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# COMING TO

## LOCATION

Las Vegas is 64 miles northeast of Santa Fe on Interstate 25, 78 miles southeast of Taos (Hwy 518), and 123 miles northeast of Albuquerque on Interstate 25 to Denver, 325 miles away.

## CLIMATE

Possibly one of the most misunderstood features of Las Vegas is the climate. Located in high mountain meadows with the southern Rocky Mountains to the west and the Great Plains to the east, Las Vegas enjoys four distinct yet mild seasons. The terrain is unlike the desert landscape typically associated with New Mexico, and visitors are usually surprised by the pleasant climate. The weather is comfortable but it is best to dress in layers. Summer days can be quite warm but evenings usually require a light sweater or jacket.

Elevation	6,470 feet
Annual Rainfall	15.1 inches
Annual Snowfall	32 inches
Days of sunshine	300

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
January	45 F	17 F
July	85 F	54 F



## MEDIA

Newspaper: Las Vegas Optic (M, W, F)

Magazine: Gallinas

Radio Stations: KNMX (540AM); KMDZ (96FM); KFUN (1230AM); KLVF (100.7FM) & KEDP (91.1FM)

## TRANSPORTATION

**Albuquerque International Airport** – 123 miles SW on Interstate 25.

**Las Vegas Airport** – Municipal airport located five miles north of Las Vegas. The airport provides accommodations for single engine aircraft, small commercial jets and helicopters. Both runways are paved and equipped with medium intensity lighting. Current runway lengths are 8,200 ft. and 5,000 ft.

**Amtrak** – One northbound stop and one southbound stop in Las Vegas daily. The remodeled depot, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, serves as the city's Inter-Modal Transportation Facility. (Car rentals available.) The depot also houses the Visitors Center, which is open from 9am – 4pm Monday through Friday and 10am to 4pm on weekends.

## Nearest Interstates

US Hwy 84	5 miles
I-25 (at Exits 343-347)	0 miles
I-40	55 miles
US Hwy 54	61 miles
US Hwy 104 (at Exit 345)	0 miles



# LAS VEGAS



## STATISTICAL GLANCE

### DEMOGRAPHICS

Population City 15,000  
County 31,000

Median Age (County) 34  
18-24 yrs: 73.62%  
25-44 yrs: 12.85%

Educational Attainment  
High School Graduates: 45.55%  
College Graduates: 14.05%

Median Household Income: (2007) \$30,073

Median Home Price: \$122,000

### EDUCATION

Las Vegas has quality public and private school systems for grades K through 12. The county boasts three institutions of higher learning: New Mexico Highlands University; Luna Community College; and The Armand Hammer United World College of the American West.

### HEALTH

Alta Vista Regional Hospital	56 Beds
Behavioral Science Institute (Mental Health)	626 Beds
Vida Encantada	102 Beds
Physicians	23
Dentists	8
Optometrists	3
Chiropractors	3

*Las Vegas is also home to many alternative health care providers.*

### TAXES

Las Vegas and San Miguel County Property tax mill rate:

Residential		Non-residential	
Las Vegas	.028806	Las Vegas	.036683
San Miguel	.021348	San Miguel	.029033

### Gross receipts (sales) tax

Las Vegas 7.6875  
San Miguel 6.375

### WORKFORCE

Civilian Labor	13,276
Employed	12,510
Unemployment Rate	5.8%
Unemployed	766

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

There are many clubs and organizations throughout Las Vegas and San Miguel County. The following list is only a sample of the various membership organizations.

- 4-H Club
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Boy Scouts
- Friends of Carnegie Library
- Girl Scouts
- Habitat for Humanity
- Kiwanis International
- Las Vegas Arts Council
- Las Vegas Citizens' Committee for Historic Preservation
- Las Vegas First Independent Business Alliance
- Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce
- Literacy Council of Northeastern New Mexico
- Main Street de Las Vegas
- Rotary Club





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