

Did you know....?

## 20 Fun Facts about New Mexico and Albuquerque



1. Albuquerque's elevation of 5312 feet makes it the highest metropolitan city in America.
2. Albuquerque is the geographical center of New Mexico; know throughout the nation as "The Land of Enchantment."
3. Albuquerque is in the heart of Indian pueblo country -- the oldest farming civilization on the North American continent.
4. The 2.7-mile aerial tramway located five miles northeast of Albuquerque is the longest in North America. It has the third longest span in the world. The tram whisks visitors from the base of 6600 feet to the top of 10,378 foot Sandia Peak in about twenty minutes.
5. The 10,378 foot-high Sandia Crest, high point of the mountains east of Albuquerque, offers a panoramic view of more than 11,000 square miles.
6. Albuquerque encompasses a metropolitan population of about 500,000.
7. A favorite spot with tourists is Albuquerque's famous "Old Town," the original town site founded in 1706.
8. Albuquerque is the Hot Air Balloon Capital of the world, and site of international competitions annually. A minimum of 400 hot air balloons from all over the world compete.
9. According to Weather Bureau records going back over 50 years, Albuquerque receives 78% of all available sunshine.
10. Within a day's drive from Albuquerque are nine national monuments (Aztec Ruins, Bandelier, Capulin Mountain, Salinas, Ft. Union, El Morro, Pecos, White Sands, and Gila Cliff Dwellings), and a national park (Carlsbad Caverns National Park).
11. The famed Rio Grande River bisects Albuquerque just west of "Old Town."
12. Prehistoric Man lived and hunted at Folsom Camp Site near Albuquerque more than 10,000 years ago.
13. Golf is played year-round in Albuquerque.
14. Albuquerque is the perfect headquarters for a family vacation, offering all kinds of outdoor recreation, plus most kinds of spectator sports. Indian pueblos, ceremonial dances, ancient ruins, and archaeological sites add greatly to vacation interest.
15. Sandia Peak Ski Area, located on the slopes of the Sandia Mountains east of Albuquerque, has a 7500-foot-long chairlift -- one of the longest in the world.

16. The chairlift is met at the top of Sandia Mountain by the aerial tramway. Restaurants are located at both the base and summit of the tram, offering exciting views of Albuquerque and the Rio Grande Valley.
17. The five extinct volcanoes, which appear on the horizon west of Albuquerque, are rare and distinctive landmarks.
18. Albuquerque's Rio Grande zoo is one of the most attractive in the southwest. In addition to elephants, monkeys, cats, giraffes, and seals, it has a children's zoo, fowls, reptiles, and a world famous exhibit of hoofed animals, including a rare herd of Greater Kudu.
19. Albuquerque is the convention city of the Southwest. Approximately 200,000 delegates attended conventions here last year.
20. Albuquerque enjoys blue skies and sunshine 310 days out of the year. The weather makes Albuquerque a sports lovers paradise and outdoor activities are popular with residents and visitors.

