



Albuquerque:

Where the Sky Shows Off!

Albuquerque, New Mexico is the kind of place that makes an ordinary vacation feel like it accidentally wandered into a postcard. One minute you're strolling beneath cottonwood trees along the Rio Grande; the next, you're looking up at the Sandia Mountains glowing pink at sunset. Yes; pink because "sandía" means watermelon and apparently even the mountains here know how to dress for dinner. With high desert sunshine, wide open views and an easygoing local spirit, Albuquerque makes slowing down feel like a very good use of your time.

Historic Old Town is where the city keeps its heart. You'll see adobe buildings, shaded plazas, local galleries, colorful chile ristras and enough turquoise to make your jewelry box feel underdressed. Come for the Southwest charm and stay a while because every corner seems to offer either handmade art, a great photo, or the tempting smell of fresh sopaipillas (fried dough pastry). Albuquerque's character is not manufactured, it is layered with Native American, Hispanic, and Route 66 influences; with a little lovable "Albuquirky" spirit mixed in for good measure.

Then there is the food; which politely but firmly asks your taste buds one important question: red or green? New Mexican chiles appears everywhere from enchiladas and breakfast burritos to burgers and occasionally; places you would not expect chiles to be. You can ride the Sandia Peak Tramway for soaring views, explore ancient petroglyphs, hike desert trails, or cruise Route 66 past retro signs and roadside gems. Albuquerque delivers culture, adventure and a healthy excuse to loosen your belt by one notch... maybe two.

And if you visit during the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, prepare to become the sort of person who wakes up before sunrise voluntarily. Hundreds of hot-air balloons rise over the city in a brilliant, floating parade that is equal parts breathtaking, joyful and delightfully surreal like someone gave the sky a box of crayons. Albuquerque is warm, flavorful, scenic, surprising and wonderfully real. You will max out your camera storage with memorable photos and videos that you will enjoy over and over.

