Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a desert city located along the Rio Grande and next to the Sandia Mountains. Albuquerque sits on historic Route 66, which runs from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California.

Albuquerque’s Neighborhoods

Albuquerque’s neighborhoods reflect the diversity of the city. Old Town follows the traditional Spanish pattern of a central plaza and church surrounded by homes and businesses. Many of the historic homes are still standing, but some have been converted into shops, galleries, and restaurants. There are six museums in the Old Town area: the Turquoise Museum, American International Rattlesnake Museum, Albuquerque Museum of Art & History, National Atomic Museum, Explora Science Center and Children’s Museum of Albuquerque, and New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. Nearby, the West Park neighborhood has a mix of single-family homes, duplexes, and courtyard apartments in a variety of architectural styles, including bungalows, Southwest Vernacular, and Art Moderne. About a mile from Old Town, downtown Albuquerque, where several of the area’s older buildings have been converted into lofts, the Pueblo Deco-style KiMo Theatre hosts local and national stage productions and other events. The Raynolds Addition neighborhood, just west of downtown, has recent and historic house, garden, and apartment buildings in styles that include Craftsman and Spanish Pueblo Revival. Also close to the downtown, Barelas, is an historic Hispanic neighborhood and the site of the National Hispanic Cultural Center and the South Broadway Cultural Center. The West Side has both the Petroglyph National Monument—with an estimated 20,000 ancient rock carvings—and a growing suburban community. The South Valley area, traditionally a farming community, has been occupied by Spanish and Mexican families for centuries, and some of the adobe homes in the area are 400 years old. Near the University of New Mexico, Nob Hill residential areas offer examples of the regionalism that influenced suburban housing tastes in Albuquerque from the late 1920s through the late 1940s.

Parks and Recreation

The Albuquerque Aquarium, Rio Grande Botanic Garden, Rio Grande Zoo, and Tingley Beach comprise the Albuquerque Biological Park, one of the many parks in the city. In Balloon Fiesta Park, where the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is held each October, the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum displays a large collection of gas and hot-air ballooning artifacts and exhibits. Roosevelt Park has a Disc Golf course and is the only park in the city where dogs are allowed off leash in the entire park.

In the Sandia Mountains, outdoor activities include hiking and mountain biking. The Sandia Peak Aerial Tram transports visitors from the base to the peak of the mountain.

Education

Albuquerque’s public schools educate approximately 89,000 students in 87 elementary schools, 26 middle schools, and 11 high schools. Thirty-four of the schools are magnet schools, with programs beginning at the elementary level. The school district also operates 10 alternative schools. There are 36 charter schools in Albuquerque and over 30 religious and nonsectarian private schools. The city is home to the University of New Mexico, which includes the School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, and College of Nursing. The University of New Mexico is one of the city’s major cultural centers with a symphony orchestra, theater and dance performances, art exhibits, lectures and sporting events, the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, and the University Art Museum. The University of St. Francis Department of Physician Assistant Studies is also located in Albuquerque, as are National American University, Trinity Southwest University, the Art Center Design College, and the Central New Mexico Community College. Several technical schools also serve Albuquerque’s residents.

Health Care

Albuquerque is served by 10 hospitals offering 1,831 licensed acute care and long-term acute care beds. These hospitals include an Indian Health Services hospital and a Veterans Affairs hospital. In addition, there are 153 beds dedicated to both pediatric and adult rehabilitation and 117 beds for pediatric and adult psychiatric care.