

Outdoor activities:

" Although one could easily get lost in the history, food and culture of New Mexico, its natural beauty and outdoor access also deserve mention. New Mexico encompasses a vast array of geographic diversity, from the rugged mountains and valleys of the Colorado Plateau in the North to the gently sloping edge of the Great Plains in the East. While these regions have been made famous by the desolately beautiful White Sands National Monument, the glittering depths of Carlsbad Caverns, and the grandeur of the Rio Grande Gorge, New Mexico is also home to countless remote places of quiet beauty and adventure. Hikers, backpackers, rock climbers, bikers, and rafters would all find themselves hard pressed to exhaust the many opportunities afforded them here. Even at the peak of the summer, one can readily escape the heat of the valley and, within the hour, be nestled in the cooling boughs of Ponderosa pines in the Sandia Mountains or delve into Carson National Forest to spend an afternoon beside one of its many alpine lakes. Although the winters of highland deserts are often unpredictable, New Mexico and southern Colorado are also home to multiple ski areas including Wolf Creek and the Taos Ski Valley. Between clear, blue skies and easy access, one can readily explore the outdoors in this part of the country to their heart's content."

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