

Spectacular Hiking and Camping in Los Alamos

Perched between the Southwest desert below and forested mountain peaks above, Los Alamos serves as a perfect home base for hikers and campers.

Hikers and campers have an abundance of trails to choose from in and around Los Alamos, which is surrounded by National Forest lands. And the nearby Bandelier National Monument, with its ancient pueblo ruins, offers spectacular backcountry hiking and camping.

For hikers, Los Alamos has an urban trail network unlike any in the Southwest. Within town, the trail network traverses 85 miles of trails. These trails wind through thick forests, cross deep canyons and meander along picturesque mesas right within the city limits.

In just a few short minutes after leaving your hotel or after visiting a downtown restaurant or coffee shop, you can begin your Rocky Mountain hiking experience in quiet woods filled with Southwest wildflowers, towering Ponderosa trees and captivating wildlife. Two new bridges within the urban trail network allow young and old to hike across the sheer-walled canyons that cut through the town's mesas.



Even more trails surround the town and beckon hikers of all abilities. Within 15 miles of town, hikers can experience 200 miles of trails. Take your pick from trails with steep climbs or gentle grades or choose from open trails wandering through high desert sagebrush and prickly cactus, overlooking the majestic Rio Grande.

Hikers and campers will delight in the sights of Bandelier National Monument, just 12 miles from Los Alamos. The 32,000-acre park was established in 1916 to preserve the ancestral cliff dwellings of the pueblo people. Interpretative trails take visitors along the ruins of the ancient Anasazi homes, which range in size from a few rooms set in the cliff

sides to large pueblos of several hundred rooms. Peek into the caves that were inhabited as far back as the 1100s and as early as 1550. See ancient petroglyphs carved into the cliff face, or climb the 100-foot ladders to the spectacular ceremonial cave.

Fast Facts: Hiking & Camping

Bandelier National Monument:

Hours: The park is open sunrise to sunset all year round, except for Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Special Events: Nightwalk, an amazing 1-hour silent walk in the darkness through archeological sites.

Camping, Hiking Info: Visit <http://www.nps.gov/band/> for more information.

Local Trails Information:

Recommended Book: "Los Alamos Trails, Hiking, Biking and Cross-Country Skiing," by Craig Martin

Maps: Visit Otowi Station Bookstore in Los Alamos for local and regional maps.

More info: Find descriptions of a variety of hiking trails in Los Alamos and White Rock online at <http://www.losalamos.com/hiking/>.

Climate:

Because Los Alamos is located at 7,400 feet with high desert and mountain terrain and some trails above 9,000 feet, hikers should be alert to quickly changing weather conditions. Be prepared with adequate clothing, maps, water and food.

Lodging/Packages: Call Los Alamos Meeting & Visitor Bureau at 1-800-444-0707 or on the web at visit.losalamos.com

Bandelier's rangers offer a wide range of interpretive activities at the visitor center. During the summer, artisans from local pueblos demonstrate the ancient crafts of the pueblo peoples.

Campers can extend their visits to explore the 23,000 acres of wilderness backcountry as well as the extensive cliff dwellings by staying in Bandelier's two campgrounds. Juniper Campground, set on one of Bandelier's wooded mesa tops, has 94 camping sites available seasonally, usually from mid-April to October. Ponderosa Group Campground, six miles from Bandelier's entrance station, has two

group sites with hiking trails descending into the lush Frijoles Canyon. Backcountry camping permits are available at the Bandelier visitor center.

Campers can also set up their tents in the Jemez Mountains and throughout the National Forest lands that surround Los Alamos.

The extensive opportunities to explore the high Southwest desert, the mountain peaks and Bandelier's ancient archeological sites make Los Alamos a rewarding destination for hikers and campers.