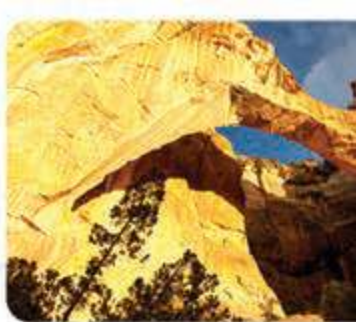


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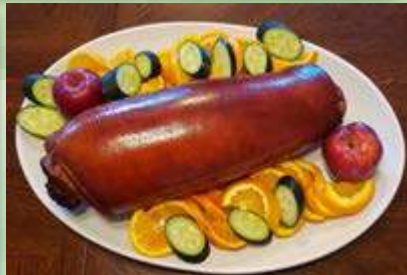




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Welcome to Grants and Cibola County

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Whether you decide to cruise Route 66 or take a bite out of the New Mexico True Green Chile Cheeseburger Trail, the road will always be scenic, the red or green chile (Christmas, if you want both) will always warm your belly and your soul, and the people will blow you away with their kindness.

In Cibola County, you can experience just that at Acoma Sky City Pueblo, the oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States, where the native inhabitants conduct guided tours.

Another gem in Cibola County is the El Malpais National Monument, where visitors can revel in one of the best continuous geologic records of volcanism on the planet. Molten lava spread out over the high desert from dozens of eruptions to create cinder cones, shield volcanos, collapses, trenches and caves.

The staff of the Cibola Citizen, the newspaper of Cibola County, have put together several possible itineraries to spark your imagination. You will find these in the pages that follow.

We invite you to take part in every New Mexico True experience you can find while you're here. New Mexico will stay in your heart and your mind long after you leave, and we'll look forward to having you back again.

Safe Travels,
Rebecca Latham
Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico
Tourism Department



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***66 hours in Grants is a publication of the Cibola Citizen, located in Grants N.M.**

Itinerary 1: Southern Cibola County



Highways 53/117 excursion:

1 or 2-day event.

Getting started: Enjoy a great breakfast at any one of the restaurants listed on page 34.

Directions: Head towards the west end of Grants and turn onto State Highway 53 south.

Places to visit: Zuni-Acoma Trail Head-for those hiking enthusiasts; El Calderon - for those cave explorers; Ice Caves/Bandera crater; El Morro National Monument; Wolf Sanctuary; Chain of Craters/ Big Tube; La Ventana; Sandstone bluffs.

ONE-DAY EXCURSION:

First stop: Ice Caves/Bandera Crater - see page 48

Second stop: El Morro National Monument - see page 18

Third stop: Wolf Sanctuary - see page 15

Fourth stop: La Ventana - see page 16

Fifth stop: Sandstone bluffs - see page 21

Return to Grants via 117 north to Route 66 back into Grants.

Ending the day: Enjoy a great dinner at any one of the restaurants on page 32.

TWO-DAY EXCURSION:

Day one

First stop: El Calderon/Cave explorations - page 22

Second stop: Ice Cave/ Bandera Crater - see page 48

Third stop: El Morro - see page 18

Ending the day: Stay at any one of Cibola County's hotels or motels - see page 33

Day two

First stop: Wolf Sanctuary - see page 15

Second stop: Chain of Craters/ Big Tube area - see pages 44-46

Third stop: La Ventana - see page 16

Fourth stop: Sandstone bluffs - see page 21

Return to Grants via 117 north to Route 66 back into Grants.

Ending the day: Enjoy a great dinner at any one of the restaurants on page 32.



Itinerary 2: Native American Tour

Laguna and Acoma excursion

Getting started: Enjoy a great breakfast at any one of the restaurants listed on page 32.

Directions: Head towards the east end of Grants and get on I-40 East.

Places to visit: Sky City, Old Laguna Pueblo, Several old Missions, Sky City Casino, Dancing Eagle Casino

EXCURSION:

First stop: McCarty's Mission - See page 58

Second stop: Sky City Pueblo - See page 55

Third stop: Old Laguna Pueblo - See page 57

Fourth stop: Dancing Eagle Casino - See page 56

Final stop: Sky City Casino - See page 54

Ending the day: Stay the night at Sky City Casino and enjoy dinner or head back to Grants and enjoy dinner at any of the restaurants on page 32.

Optional Itineraries:

Option 1: Zuni Mountain excursion

Option 2: Mount Taylor excursion

Zuni Mountain excursion

First stop: Zuni Mountain Auto Tour – see page 51

Second stop: Bluewater Lake – see page 53

Ending the day: Enjoy a great dinner at any one of the restaurants on page 32.

Mount Taylor excursion:

First stop: La Mosca Lookout, Water Canyon Trail or Gooseberry Springs Trail – see page 60

Ending the day: Enjoy a great dinner at any one of the restaurants on page 32.

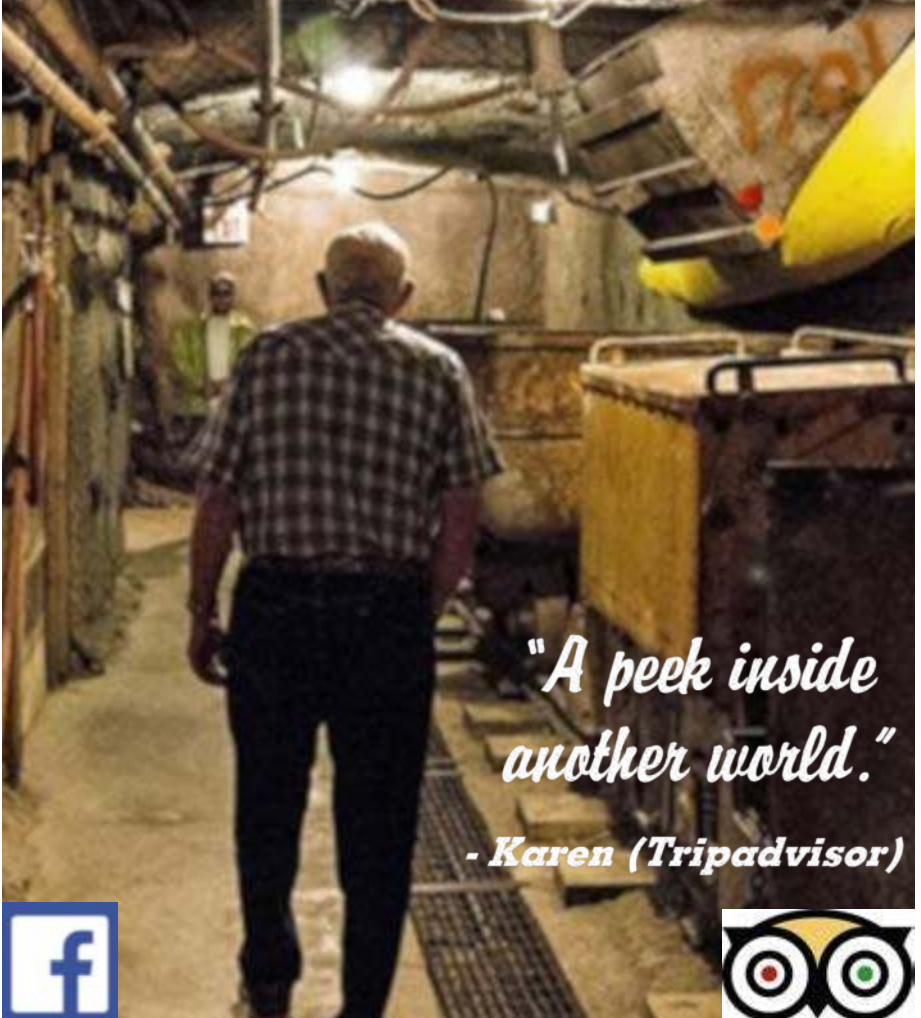


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Grants: A town with many distinctions

The City of Grants has had the distinction of a few different names and honors since its inception.

The first settler in the Grants area was Antonio Chavez, who lived on the south side of the San Jose River in the 1860s and planted cottonwoods by the river. In 1872 Don Jesus Blea made the first permanent European settlement in the Grants area and called it Los Alamitos, Spanish for “the small willows,” in reference to the cottonwood trees.

By the 1880s, the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad built tracks in the area. The contactors in charge of building the rail line were three Canadian brothers, Lewis, Angus and John

Grant. The brothers set up their base camp at Los Alamitos, which became known as Grants Camp. Soon a depot and coaling station were built, and the stop became known as Grants Station. In 1882 a post office opened and the name became Grant, without the “s” but in 1935 the name was changed once again, this time to Grants. Lands of the original townsite were conveyed by U.S. Patent Office on March 30, 1882, to Jesus Maria Blea by President Chester A. Arthur. It involved 164.23 acres.

With the railroad passing through Grants, the logging industry

See Grants, Page 43



Grants: The City of Spirit



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Young county, ancient history

A land where the past defines the present, where culture mingles to form families and where diversity distinguishes the citizens from all others - Cibola County.

Cibola County came to be on June 19, 1981 and is the youngest county to be formed in New Mexico. The name Cibola comes from the Seven Cities of Cibola, the famed land which the Spanish conquistadores sought. Cibola is the Spanish pronunciation of the Zuni Pueblo people's name for buffalo. The county seat is Grants. Cibola County is 11, 762 sq. km and home to more than 27,000 people living in 11,021 households which earn on average \$37,000 per year.

Cibola County has a wide variety of diversity from its people to its natural resources and its biggest resource is its vast wide-open spaces. Cibola has a rich history of mining, which include feldspar, copper, gold, silver, uranium and coal. In addition to the mining operations in the county, logging, cattle ranching, and agriculture all have rich history in Cibola County.



NEW MEXICO • EST. 1981

The history of the area, prior to becoming Cibola, is unique. Cibola County has the oldest continuously inhabited pueblo in Sky City on the Acoma Pueblo, the oldest continuously used mission in the country at McCarty's, and some of the oldest visible lava flows in the country.

This area also has a rich diversity of people, ranging from the Native American Tribes, which include the Acoma, Laguna, Navajo, Ramah Navajo and Zuni, all of which still hold lands in the county, to more ancient tribes such as Anasazi people who established

See Young, Page 41



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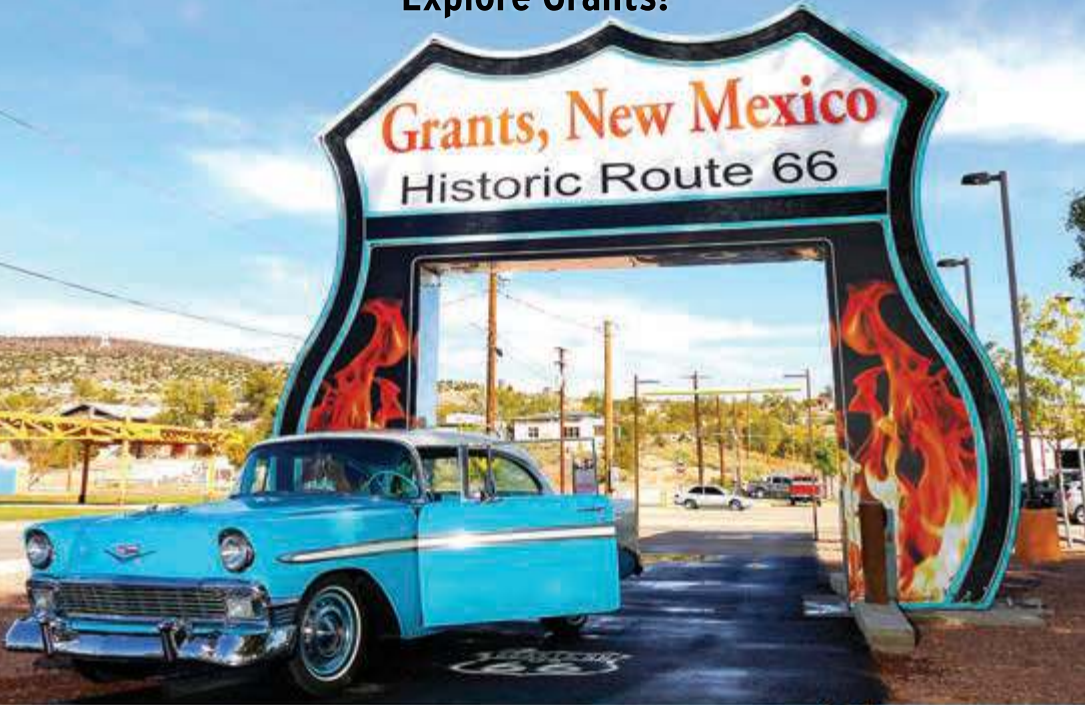
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The Mother Road

Historic Route 66, where memories are made, songs have been sung and people get connected

In 1921 the U.S. Congress modified the Federal Highway Act which initiated the construction of an interstate highway system that would link the United States. One of those proposed routes was Route 66 to connect Chicago to Los Angeles.

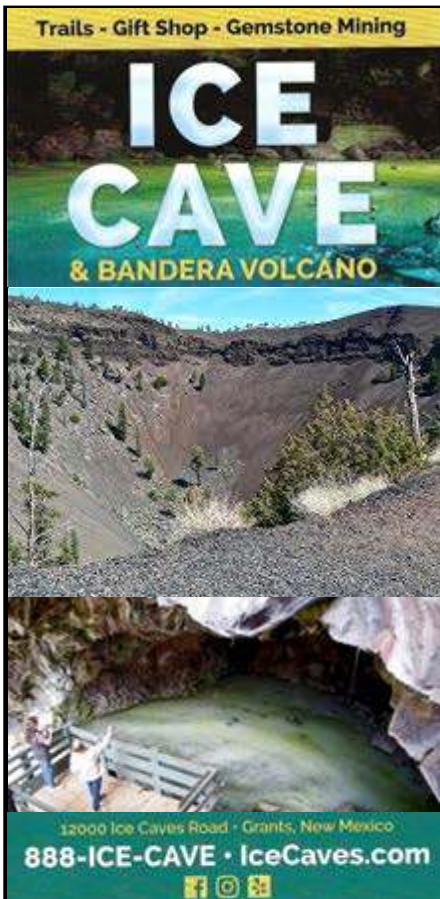
Route 66 at first was hampered by long stretches of dirt, sand and gravel but eventually became the first highway of its length to be paved from end-to-end. This sparked the American entrepreneur to serve the tourists traveling this historic road. Motels, cafés, and service stations

popped up all along the highway's path. This highway became the lifeblood for small towns and cities along its path from Chicago to Los Angeles.

New Mexico topographical and geological obstacles made it hard for workers to build the road, but this also made the stretch of road in New Mexico aesthetically stimulating to travelers. Route 66 was like a carnival ride through the state with many twists and turns and more than 500 miles on the original design, but by 1937 the highway was rerouted to a length of 399 miles of straighter and safer passage.

In Cibola County most of Route 66 is still drivable. At the eastern edge of the county, the Laguna to McCarty's section, this 17.7-mile road section passes through both Laguna and Acoma tribal lands. Along the path the road takes travelers through Budville and Villa de Cubero where fine examples of early American trading post architecture are present. Both trading posts have one-story stucco-coated buildings embracing the Southwest style. This segment of the road is dominated by the vista of Mount Taylor to the north.

The McCarty's to Grants segment of Route 66 takes travelers back to the time of volcanoes as this portion of the Mother Road is lined with lava flows, locally known as malpais. This 12.5 mile stretch of highway follows the



Mother



path of the Rio San Jose as it winds its way through a narrow corridor between the mesas before opening up to a vast field of lava beds and the sight of the Zuni Mountains to the west.

Route 66 continues on through Grants as the city's main corridor of travel which is named Santa Fe Avenue and continues in to the Village of Milan, where it reclaims its name of Route 66.

The highway continues west to the Cibola-McKinley County line. This segment of Route 66 takes travelers out of the Rio San Jose Valley as they gradually begin the climb to the Continental Divide.

From the east to the west in Cibola County, Route 66 plays a major role in tourist activity and many of the local businesses have benefited from the Mother Road passing their way.

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See the Wolves



The Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary in Candy Kitchen was established to take in wolves and wolf-hybrids.

The non-profit group provides rescue, a lifetime sanctuary with the highest level of care, enrichment and habitat for rescued animals, and offers education about the role all life forms play in the earth's ecosystem.

Jacque Evans, a wolf-dog owner, realized that few people knew much about caring for wild animals. So she opened the sanctuary in 1991, based in an historic log cabin. She began selling her paintings to keep the place going. Now the sanctuary is home to more than 60 animals, including wolves, wolf-dogs, an Australian dingo, coyote, New Zealand singing dog and a red fox, rescued after abandonment.

Guided tours are at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays through Sunday. Feeding and photography tours also are available. The refuge also offers

camping and lodging. To reach the sanctuary, continue along Highway 53 West about two miles, turn left onto BIA 125, go eight miles, turn right on the gravel road, BIA 120, and go four miles to the sanctuary.

For more information and to check roads conditions, call 1-505-775-3032 or go to:

Wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org





La Ventana; the window

La Ventana is a natural hole or window in the sandstone cliffs along State Highway 117. This arch was carved from years of water and wind. Known as the “window,” in Spanish, this is the second tallest arch in the state and visitors can be at its base after a one-quarter mile easy hike.

The eastern escarpment of the Cebollita Mesa consists of cliffs of Jurassic Zuni Sandstone capped by Cretaceous Dakota Sandstone. The arch formed in the Zuni Sandstone. The arch is just outside of the National Monument on the El Malpais National Conservation Area.

Directions from Grants: To get to La Ventana head east on I-40 to exit 89 turn right on State Highway 117 and travel south for 17 miles.

Directions from Itinerary 1: Travel from State Highway 53 across the Scenic By-way 42 to State Highway 117, then travel

north. This stretch offers wide-open vistas, vast lava flows, sculpted sandstone, old homesteads, petroglyphs, incising on rocks, and possible sightings of elk and antelope.

Soon after passing the Pietown Road is the pullout to the Lava Falls. A rough, one-mile hike across the youngest of five major lava flows offers different types of lava for viewing. This is part of El Malpais National Monument.

In some eastern side canyons to the north are remnants of homesteads, places where people tried to scratch out a living nearly 100 years ago. Also to be seen on some canyon walls are petroglyphs.

Further north along the highway is a place called the Narrows. Here, the lava is almost at the base of the sandstone mesa, the closeness only wide enough for the road. Around a hard right turn is La Ventana.

Native Basket Array



Native culture is on display in Grants, in the form repurposed satellite dishes. Sacred Wind Communications/Connect 66 Internet in conjunction with the Cibola Arts Council, the Village of Milan, the City of Grants, and Grants/Cibola County Chamber of Commerce got together and transformed old satellite dishes wrapped in vinyl to feature Native American basket designs. The dishes were placed along Santa Fe Ave as pieces of art for the locals and tourists to enjoy.

Catherine Nicolaou, the external affairs manager for Sacred Wind, said that these baskets are part of an arts project that we hope will be able to bring economic development to the area.

The paintings are the work of New Mexico artists Sam Chaves of Acoma and Santa Domingo pueblos, Gilbert Waconda of Laguna pueblo and Lezlie Williams of Albuquerque. They each received \$1,000 from Sacred Wind Enterprises, the parent company

See Native, Page 41



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El Morro National Monument

Inscription Rock

More than 2,000 carvings adorn this ancient rock

El Morro National Monument, "Inscription Rock," dates its importance in history from pre-Columbian times to the early 20th century. A long-time landmark, more than 2,000 carvings are found near the bottom of its sandstone walls, ranging from ancestral Pueblo petroglyphs to marks made by Spanish explorers and American frontier travelers.

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El Morro



Through the centuries, people have drunk from a pond at its base, about 10 feet deep, fed by runoff from winter snow and scant summer rain. The pond and inscriptions are reached by a paved one-half mile path from the visitor's center. Interpretive signs mark the flora of the area, which is also home to deer and antelope.

About 700 years ago, people lived atop the bluff, a natural fortification rising 200 feet above the El Morro valley floor. Stabilized ruins of their settlement can be viewed by a hike of about one mile, quite

steep in some places. The valley is mostly grassland, sparsely forested with pinon trees and fragrant pines.

The monument, about 42 miles west-southwest of Grants, also has a nine-place campground, without hookups. One of the older monuments in the nation, it was established in 1906. It is 7,182 feet in elevation.

The Zuni people call it Atsinna, "the place with writing on the walls." The Zuni Pueblo is another 30 miles west.



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Sandstone Bluffs Overlook

Ancient cliffs overlook a sea of malpais

From the Sandstone Bluffs lookout, every direction you turn gives you a different view with a different feature to focus on. From atop the massive palisade, you can see the frozen rivers of lava below and Dakota sandstone under your feet. To the north rises majestic Mount Taylor. At 11,301 feet in elevation, it is the second tallest mountain in the state. The lookout closes at dusk. A parking area is short drive off State Highway 117.

The Sandstone Bluffs lookout features many unmarked trails which skirt the edge of the sandstone ridge for miles. Other trails lead into the valley to old abandoned homesteads, petroglyphs and a large span natural arch. The bluffs overlook millions of years of geologic history from the 200-million-year-old sandstone, which was formed by ancient seas, to the

See Sandstone, Page 49



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El Calderon

In visiting El Calderon in the El Malpais National Monument, explorers will be treated to a rugged-looking volcanic landscape filled with adventure at every turn. This three-mile-plus trail loop will take hikers past several caves and geological volcanic features.

The El Calderon area is easy to reach, less than a half mile from NM 53. The gravel road ends in a parking area where a dirt trail will take thrill seekers south towards the high country know as Cerritos de Jaspe. Hikers will traverse through a mix of grassland and forest along with basalt lava. First along the path is the Junction Cave, a rather large lava tube with one branch.

Next on the trail is the Double

Sinks. This feature is two adjacent, 80-foot-deep sink holes which were formed from lava tubes collapsing. Climbing down these holes is not possible as the sides of these holes feature vertical drops to the bottom.

A half mile past the Double Sinks is the Bat Cave. This is a smaller lava tunnel that is home to at least four different species of bats. Entry into this cave is forbidden year-round.

Next on the trail is the Lava Trench, which is V-shaped scar in the landscape, filled with boulders from ancient lava flows from El Calderon. The trail then takes hikers to the El Calderon crater. This crater is 1,000 feet across and 200 feet deep.

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El Calderon Crater, above, is 1,000 feet across and 200 feet deep. The Double Sinks, below, are 80-foot-deep sink holes which were formed from lava tubes collapsing.



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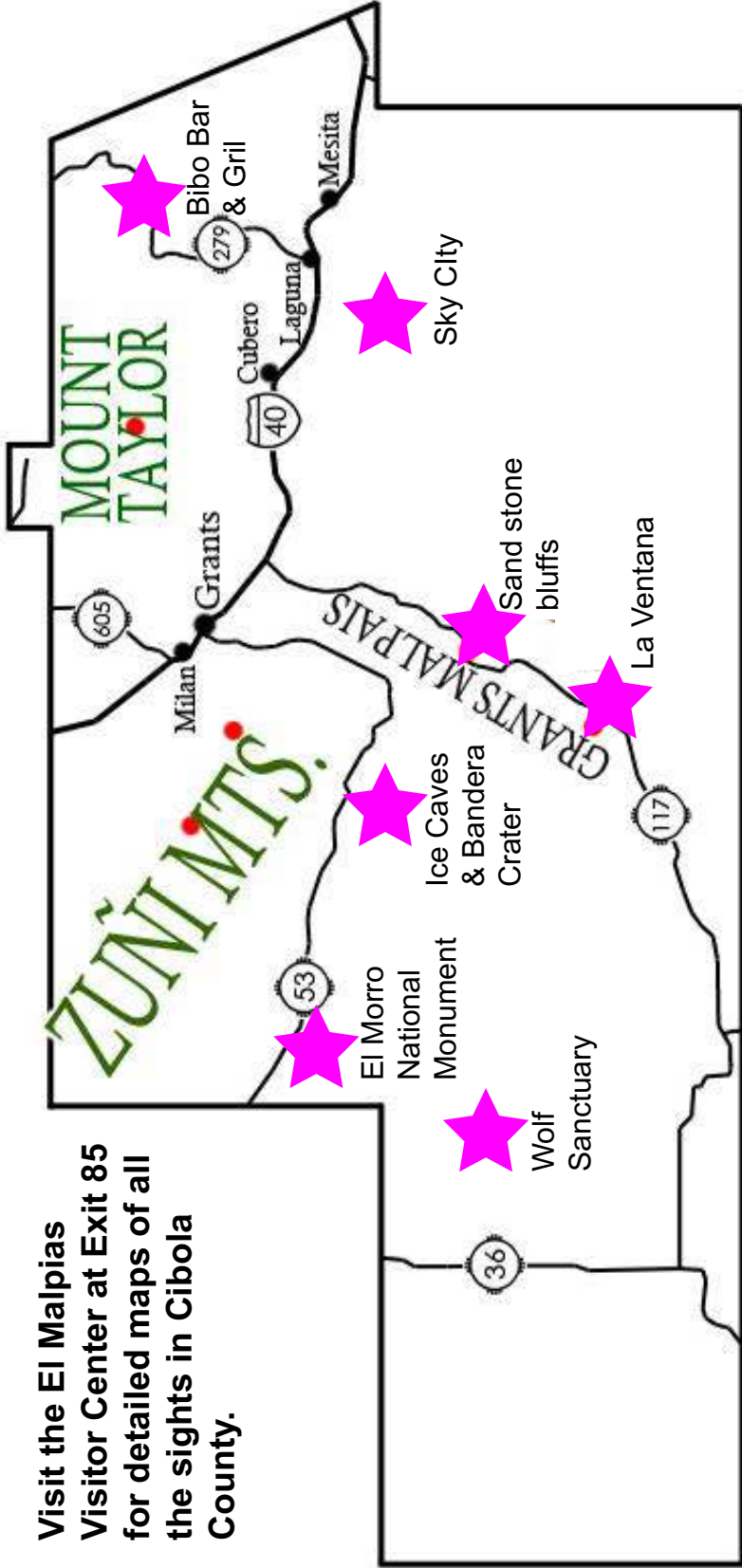
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Cibola County

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The New Mexico Mining Museum



The New Mexico Mining Museum was built in honor of local uranium miners and provides an array of unique and educational exhibits. The Museum seeks to inspire people of all ages to explore the world of mining. Anyone curious about the everyday life of a uranium miner is strongly encouraged to visit the Mining Museum and take a tour of the simulated uranium mine experience, which takes tour-goers underground for a view into the way these hard workers spent their time in the tunnels.

Along with keeping old mining traditions alive, the New Mexico Mining Museum also maintains the Honorary Miner's Registry, which recognizes current and past miners. The registry has collected more than 3,200 names of miners from the area, and anybody who wants to add a name to the registry can

complete a form at the Mining Museum.

The Mining Museum will be celebrating 81 years of mining comradeship in the area. This journey of mining in the area began with the mining of fluorspar in the 1930s, along with and followed by pumice and perlite. After this came the boom in the uranium industry, which quickly helped bolster the area's economy, making the Grants area grow exponentially. Coal mining began in 1984, and continues to this day, showing the hard work and stick-to-it-iveness that Cibola County's miners truly exhibit.

For more information please contact Tammy Legler at 505.287.4802, email discover@grants.org, or visit www.grants.org for more information.



The New Mexico Mining Museum in Grants, has a replica of one of the many Uranium mines that used to operate in Cibola Canyon.



The Mount Taylor Winter Quadrathlon

What is the Mount Taylor Winter Quadrathlon?

The “Quad,” the Mount Taylor Winter Quadrathlon, has a 36-year-old history, being one of the only four-event winter athletic competitions in the United States and the only winter quadrathlon in the world. The quad tests the limits of all competitors as they attempt to summit Cibola County’s Mount Taylor as quickly as possible; the challenge is not without the reward of summiting an old volcano in winter conditions, and for some, a healthy cash reward.

Staying consistent with its name, the quad features four events - bicycling, running, skiing and then snowshoeing their way up Mount Taylor. The quad kicks off at an elevation of 6,640 feet in elevation in the City of Grants with a 13-mile-long bike ride through the city up to the mountain, a five-mile run up the mountain, two miles skiing and one-mile snowshoeing up Mount Taylor, at the elevation of 11,306 feet. That, however, is only half the battle. Competitors then must come back down the same way they came up, for a total of 42

miles of winter weather and ground to cover.

The 2019 quad saw competitors from across the country, many of whom had been racing the quad for years, some even for more than 20 years. The quad is very community oriented, with local businesses sponsoring teams or parts of the event.

There are other races across the country, but there are no other quads in the world like the Mount Taylor Quad. The quad has several different categories, from soloists to teams, age specific groups and even a children’s quad which takes place at the same time as the main event. Every winner receives an award and soloists can win up to \$1,000.

The 2019 Mount Taylor Quad saw an increase of competitors from the past few years, Valdez said, with 326 competitors this year. Valdez said that the quad employed a new social media campaign and that, coupled with the weather Cibola County has been receiving lately, helped with the registration.

The quad only exists thanks to volunteers from the community, making the quad a truly Cibola County and New Mexico True event.

Native



Continued from page 17
of Connect 66 Internet.

Chaves, a self-taught artist, grew up at Acoma Pueblo before moving to Texas with his parents and returning to New Mexico after he married. His mother's family is from Acoma and his father's is from Santa Ana Pueblo. After retiring about three years ago, Chaves took up art as a full-time occupation. He paints Acoma designs on canvas and pottery. Chaves's work can be seen and purchased in Albuquerque annually during the Christmas season at Monte Vista Elementary School and at St. Pius High School. His biggest exhibit is at Santo Domingo's annual Labor Day arts and crafts show.

Waconda's painting is an illustration of St. Joseph's Mission at Laguna Pueblo and incorporates depictions of prayer feathers and water.

Waconda got his start in the arts when his grandfather, who raised him, gave him his first jack knife. As a student at an Arizona boarding school for Native children, Waconda learned silversmithing from Zuni students when he helped them complete a project for a Native art exhibit. Today Waconda describes himself as a multi-media artist because he paints, carves, draws and makes silver jewelry. He is also a drummer and vocalist, and often works with bands as a soundman. His art can be viewed on his Facebook page.

Williams received bachelor and master's degrees in fine arts from Miami University in Oxford



Ohio. Prior to moving to Albuquerque in 2003, she lived on the Rosebud/Lakota (Sioux) Indian Reservation in South Dakota and taught watercolor and printmaking at Sinte Gleska University. She is now a freelance artist, owns Laughing Crow Studio, has been a book and magazine illustrator and teaches wood block printing and engraving.

Williams said she is thrilled to have been selected for this outdoor art installation because Route 66 is a recurring theme of her artwork.

The paintings by Chaves, Waconda and Williams will be enlarged and wrapped onto satellite dishes and placed in Grants along Route 66 from the Mining Museum to the end of City Hall Park. Two other baskets with Native designs were erected in that space in June.

Cibola Arts Council provides the citizens it represents, especially youth, with experiences in the Arts by providing an educational resource, promoting area artists, and celebrating the region's cultural diversity.



Cibola Living at its finest

Sprawling forests, immense culture and wonderful people are only part of the charm that Cibola has to offer.

Not only will you be living in a comfortable community with a volcano to your back, you'll be no more than an hour away from a big city to your east and west. This makes Cibola the ideal location for any person looking for a small-town vibe without shedding that big city style.

The wonders that await in Cibola National Forest in the form of craters, lava rock, caves and waterfalls are only part of the incredible territory you get to be a part of. Encompassing Mount Taylor, an extinct volcano, and the Zuni Mountains, you don't have to travel far to find yourself in a wonderland setting with trees, unique rock and rich history surrounding you.

If fairy tale living isn't your cup of tea, that's okay. Cibola offers a little something for everyone. Maybe you're the sort that enjoys

going to catch a movie? Well Cibola offers a quaint and cozy theater in the City of Grants, a summer series where movies are played in the amphitheater at the Riverwalk Park and a once-per-year event in the Village of Milan where fireworks and the burning of a puppet named Lummi celebrate the harvests and future of the community. For more entertainment, the Grants High School Performing Arts Center showcases plays, concerts and all manner of culture.

If movies and plays aren't your thing, the community sports a national award winning JROTC program, great local sports teams, several gyms and a slew of beautiful parks to enjoy yourself.

The Carrot Express public transportation serves the community with its fleet of buses, offering access across the county. The Carrot Express can get you to the doctor's office, grocery store and movie theatre all in a day if you need.

Cibola Living



Every face up down the street is a dreamer just like you, but dreamers need sustenance to get where they want to be. Cibola offers a 50's style diner, Wow Diner, just off old Route 66, a steakhouse near the center of town, La Ventana, and a series of other restaurants that are sure to fill you up no matter your taste. With food options like Indian from the Spicy Bite - one of America's top 100 restaurants, to a variety of Asian options and everything in-between.

Safety is paramount to determining where to live to travel, Cibola offers some of the safest places in New Mexico to live. The Cibola County Sheriff's Department is headed by the secretary of the Western States Sheriff's Association; the Village of Milan's Police Department was recently awarded for their proactivity and

work to keep the community safe through the Children's Youth and Families Department of New Mexico. The City of Grants Police Department was awarded for its commitment to the citizens of New Mexico by the McKinley County Emergency Management Office. Cibola County is full of people proud to live and work in it, people who keep crime low down and celebrate each other's differences, rather than fighting over them.

Cibola County is New Mexico True, it embodies the enchantment that is N.M.

In Cibola, your neighbor can be your friend.

In Cibola, the forests are yours to explore.

In Cibola, boundless opportunity awaits.

Make Cibola your home today and grow with us.





7 Trails of Gold Geocaching

Geocaching is the world's largest treasure hunt. It's like a grown-up version of the beloved childhood pastime, except it's no joke. Geocaching is the real deal. The high-tech treasure hunt combines GPS tracking with outdoor adventure, and it's fun for all ages.

Grants MainStreet Project, Inc. has over 50 geocaches that are available throughout the year for tourists to find. Over the past year Grants MainStreet has tracked how many people stop and log the geocache sites, and in just two sites in Cibola County more than 50 geocaches have been logged.

There are more than 2 million geocaches are hidden all around the world in parks, trails and urban areas. In fact, there are probably some near you as you're reading this. But finding the GPS coordinates is only half the game. First, you must find the box.

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.

How it's played

At its simplest level, geocaching requires these 8 steps:

1. Register for a free Basic Membership.
2. Visit the "Hide & Seek a Cache" page.
3. Enter your postal code and click "search."
4. Choose any geocache from the list and click on its name.
5. Enter the coordinates of the geocache into your GPS Device.
6. Use your GPS device to as-

ist you in finding the hidden geocache.

7. Sign the logbook and return the geocache to its original location.

8. Share your geocaching stories and photos online.

There are many other levels to the game. Keep reading the guide to learn more.

Rules

1. If you take something from the geocache (or "cache"), leave something of equal or greater value.
2. Write about your find in the cache logbook.
3. Log your experience at www.geocaching.com.

What do I need to go geocaching?

The only necessities are a GPS device or a GPS-enabled mobile phone so that you can navigate to the cache, and a Geocaching.com Membership.

Where are geocaches located?

Geocaches can be found all over the world. It is common for geocachers to hide caches in locations that are important to them, reflecting a special interest or skill of the cache owner. These locations can be quite diverse. They may be at your local park, at the end of a long hike, underwater or on the side of a city street.



Area churches



Assembly of God

Lighthouse Christian Center

1100 Franciscan Aveune
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-2518

New Life Assembly of God

218 E. Washington Ave.

Grants, NM 87020

Prewitt Indian Assembly

Prewitt, NM 87045

Baptist

Bible Baptist

530 Jefferson Ave.
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-3219

Central Baptist

701 E. Sage Ave.
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-9294

Faith Baptist

36 Golden Acres Lane
Grants, NM 87020
505-285-6643

Grace Baptist

717 Aspen Ave.
Milan, NM 87021
505-287-2841

Immanuel Baptist

518 Valencia Street
Milan, NM 87021
505-287-8510

Laguna-Acoma Baptist Church

1564 State Road 124
Cubero, NM 87014

Mt. Taylor Baptist Church

312 E. Stephens Ave.
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-4120

San Mateo Baptist Mission

San Mateo, NM 87020

Catholic

Our Lady of Light

Cubero, NM 87014

Our Lady of Sorrows

Seboyeta, NM 87014

Santa Maria Missions

San Fidel, NM 87049

San Mateo Mission

San Mateo, NM 87020
505-287-9327

San Rafael Mission

San Rafael, NM 87051
505--287-9327

Saint Anne Mission

Casa Blanca, NM

87007

Saint Teresa of Avila

500 E. High St.
Grants, NM 87020
505-285-6645

Saint Vivian

501 Sand Street
Milan, NM 87021
505-285-9327

Christian

Calvary Christian Fellowship

117 N. First Street
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-3379

First Christian Church of Milan

703 Valencia Drive
Milan, NM 87021
505-285-6791

Church of the Nazarene

517 Jefferson Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

The Potter's House Christian Center

342 N. First Street
Grants, NM 87020
505-285-6543

The Way, The Truth & The Life

1005 Mesa Blvd.
Grants, NM 87020

Zion Ministries

511 W. Highway 66
Milan, NM 87021
505-285-6920

Church of Christ

Church of Christ

920 N. First Street
Grants, NM 87020

Church of God

222 E. Monroe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020
505-285-6965

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Mt. Taylor Ward

1010 Bonded
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-2548

Laguna-Acoma Branch

Budville, NM 87007
505-552-7285

Episcopal

All Saint Episcopal Church

605 San Mateo Rd.

Milan, NM 87021

505-240-4418

Jehovah's Witnesses

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

South Highway 53
Grants, NM 87020

Lutheran

Mt. Calvary Lutheran

1501 Cordova Ct.
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-2382

Methodist

First United Methodist

510 N. First St.
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-3573

New Hope Outreach

1105 W. Highway 66
Milan, NM 87021
505-287-5565

Non

Denominational

Community Out Reach Center

907 W. Santa Fe Ave
Grants, NM 87020
505-285-4070

Pentecostal

Mesa View

Pentecostal

322 Washington Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

San Fidel Pentecostal

San Fidel, NM 87049

Temple of Peace

Pentecostal

610 Valencia St.
Milan, NM 87021

Presbyterian

First Presbyterian

400 Nimitz Drive
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-4841

Laguna United

Presbyterian

Casa Blanca, NM
87007
505-552-0228

Seventh Day Adventist

Seventh Day Adventist

638 Warren St.
Grants, NM 87020
505-876-0508

Los Portales



Spiritual healing

Hidden deep in the majestic forests of Cibola County sits Los Portales, a shrine of worship that is believed to have healing properties.

Removed from Albuquerque by 61 miles to the west, the shrine resides just outside the village of Seboyeta. The area was originally colonized by Spanish settlers making their north trek from Mexico in 1746, this is considered to be one of the Spanish governments only attempts to Christianize the Navajo people in the area. The attempt was considered a failure after a mission was established in the area and the new residents felt that their lives had become boring, the residents later left the colony. Fifty years after the colonists left the settlement a royal decree was sent down from Spain to colonize the area and provide land to settlers, this grant is known today as the Cebolleta Land Grant.

The area, now known as Seboyeta, was recognized by the United States Government in 1869, after several setbacks due to the American Civil War.

The area known as Los Portales sits in the Cebolleta Land Grant area, and as one local legend has it, was the only sanctuary for women colonists who were travelling with children during attacks on the village.

Los Portales itself has high surrounding walls and a small overhang of stone, making the area very defensible. One legend says that the area was used protection from the Navajo people after an attack on the village which left the village with no more than 15 men.

Locals say that the natural springs in Los Portales have healing powers, making it a unique site to Cibola County, and one of only a few locations in New Mexico with revered holy



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Los Portales can be found just off of NM 279 in Seboyeta. Los Portales is a genuinely New Mexico True experience, not only is it full of history and spiritual power, the area gives everyone a wonderful opportunity to explore the beauty of Cibola County.



Local Activities

January

Annual Grants-Cibola County Chamber Awards Banquet

January 30-31

Pueblo of Acoma Officers Feast

February

Mt. Taylor Winter Quadrathlon

March 19

Pueblo of Laguna St. Joseph's Feast Day

May 7

Pueblo of Acoma Santa Maria Feast Day

May

Field of Honor

June 3

7 Trails of Gold Outdoor Festival

June 10

New Mexico Mining Museum
"Hard Hat & Boots Gala"

Summer Weekends

Rockin' the Riverwalk Summer Concerts Series
Reels at the Riverwalk Summer Movie Series

July 1-6

4th of July Celebration & Wild West Days Rodeo

July 4

4th of July Extravaganza,

Parade & Fireworks Display

August

Autumn Saturday through October Grants Farmers Market

September 2

Pueblo of Acoma San Estevan Feast Day
Red, Green & Blue Concerts

September 17

15th Annual Tour de Acoma

September 19

Pueblo of Laguna St. Joseph's Feast Day

September 30

Mt. Taylor 50k

October 7

Ancient Way Fall Festival & Arts Market

October 14-15

Historic Route 66 Fall Festival

October 17

Pueblo of Laguna St. Margaret Mary's Feast Day

November 11

Salute to Veterans

December 09

Holiday light parade (in Grants)

December 24

Annual Christmas Eve Luminaria Lighting

RE/MAX
Elegance
1120 W Santa Fe Ave
Grants, NM 87020
Office: (505) 287-7110
Cell: (505) 290-7206
hporter@remax.net
grantsnmhomes.com

Heather Porter
Qualifying Broker
License #18150

Each office is independently owned and operated.

Cibola Living



**Grants-Cibola County
Chamber of
Commerce**
505-287-4802

**Grants Water
Department**
600 W. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-7927

**Continental Divide
Electric Cooperative
Inc. & Redbolt
Broadband**
200 E. High St.
Grants, NM 87020
505-285-5666

**New Mexico Gas
Company**
990 Sakelares
Boulevard
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-3740

**Cibola General
Hospital**
505-287-4446

Cibola Wireless
1109 Mesa Blvd. #A
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-2159

**Sacred Winds
Communications**
411 W. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020
505-905-6000

Waste Management
505-891-6964

Recycle Cibola!
505-552-2166

**Carrot Express Cibola
Transit**
505-287-9816

**Cibola Senior Citizens
Center**
505-876-2366



Hours:

Tues. - Fri. • 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed: Sun. & Mon.

1600 W. Santa Fe Ave.

Grants, NM 87020

Call Us Today!

505-290-0083

El Cafecito

820 E. Santa Fe Ave.

Grants, NM 87020

Open Monday-Friday

7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday

7:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Closed Sunday

505-285-6229

El Cafecito



**Authentic
New Mexico Cuisine**

Larry and Angela Baca started their business in 1986. The Bacas began almost 33 years ago serving authentic New Mexican cuisine and that tradition continues to this day. El Cafecito has been a decades-long Grants tradition. It was and is a hometown favorite for the citizens and a welcome stop for visitors. El Cafecito embodies everything a small town cafe should and more.

Like Us on Facebook!



Area Schools

Elementary Schools

Bluewater
505-285-2694

Cubero
505-552-9441

Mesa View
505-285-2721

Milan
(505) 285-2732

Mt. Taylor
505-285-2738

San Rafael
505-285-2749

Seboyeta
505-552-6384

Saint Teresa of Avila

Catholic
(505) 287-2261

St. Joseph Mission
505-552-6362

Middle Schools
Los Alamos Middle
505-285-2683

High Schools
Laguna-Acoma High
505-552-6683

Grants High
505-285-2651

Universities

**New Mexico State
University-Grants**
505-287-6678



1300 Motel Dr. • Milan, NM 87021

505-287-3801

*Everything is “WOW” from our Appetizers,
Burgers, Salads & Sandwiches, to our Pasta,
Seafood, Chicken & Steaks*

*We serve Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Doughnuts made fresh daily!*

Tuesday thru Sunday • 6 a.m. to Midnight

Important contacts

Cibola
County
Sheriff
505-876-2040

New Mexico
State Police
505-287-4377

Grants Police
Department
505-287-2984

Milan Police
Department
505-285-3466

Grans Fire
Department
505-876-2245

Milan Fire
Department
505-287-7366

Cibola EMS
505-876-2245

City Of
Grants
505-287-7927

Village Of
Milan
505-285-6694

Grants
Municipal
Court
505-287-3835

Cibola
County
Courthouse
505-287-8881

Grants-Milan
Municipal
Airport
505-287-4700

New Mexico
Roads
800-432-4269



*Great Mexican Food
in a Hurry!*

Open
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday

*Opened in 1981, Taco Village
specializes in tacos, burgers,
New Mexican style food and offer
specials daily.*



*2019 Best
Burger of the Year Award
Super Deluxe Special*

505.285.6811

700 E. Roosevelt Avenue • Grants, NM 87020

*La Ventana is the only restaurant in the area
that has a full service liquor license.*

La Ventana is in its 50th year of existence.

*We cut our own steaks using only choice black angus beef
and grind our hamburgers from the same beef.*

*All of the salad dressings, salsa, chile, chicken fried steak,
apple crunch, even the potato chips are made in house.*

*We use only the finest ingredients and
are proud of the consistency of our food.*

Happy hour daily from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



Come Taste Our Reputation!

110 1/2 Geis St.
Grants, NM 87020

505-287-9393

Open Monday-Saturday
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Closed Sunday



Cibola Cuisine

La Ventana
505-287-9393
110 1/2 Geis St,
Grants, NM 87020

Iron Skillet Restaurant
505-285-6621
1430 Motel Drive,
Milan, NM

Denny's
505-285-4610
1700 Sidney Dr
Grants, NM 87020

El Cafecito
505-285-6229
820 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

Huwaka Restaurant
1-888-759-2489
I-40 Exit 102
PO Box 310
Acoma, NM 87034

Great American Diner
505-552-7711
I-40, Exit 108
Casa Blanca, NM

Cocina Camacho
505-290-0083
1600 W. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

Ancient Way Cafe
505 783-4612
NM 53

WOW Diner
505-287-3801
1300 Motel Drive,
Milan, NM 87021

Taco Village
505-285-6811
700 Roosevelt Ave,
Grants NM 87020

El Rancho Café
505-876-1032
705 Rte. 66
Milan NM 87020

Canton Cafe
505-287-8314
1212 E Santa Fe Ave
Grants, New Mexico 87020

Asian Super Buffet
505-285-5505
508 E Santa Fe Ave,
Grants NM 87020

Kentucky Fried Chicken
505-287-8223
1800 W Santa Fe Ave,
Grants NM 87020

McDonalds
505-287-3584
1700 W Santa Fe Ave,
Grants NM 87020

Blakes Lotaburger
505-287-8438
1021 F Santa Fe Ave,
Grants NM 87020

Sonic
505-287-8738
1446 W Santa Fe Ave,
Grants NM 87020

Taco Bell
505-288-3501
1518 E Santa Fe Ave,
Grants NM 87020

Subway
505-287-9498
1497 E Santa Fe Ave,
Grants NM 87020

Dairy Queen
575-635-1483
I-40 Exit 72

Bibo Bar & Grill
505-552-9428
1175 Highway 279
Bibo, NM 87014

Surf Shack Pizza
505-287-8876
320 E Stephens Ave
Grants, NM 87020

Pizza Hut
505-287-4442
108 Santa Fe Ave,
Grants, NM 87020

Domino's Pizza
505-876-2323
615 W Santa Fe Ave
Grants, New Mexico 87020

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**JOIN US
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ROOM**

**HAPPY
HOUR
2-5PM
EVERY
DAY**



**FULL
MENU
AVAILABLE
ALL
DAY!**



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SONIC
APP**

**1446 W. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM
505-287-8738**

LIMITED TIME ONLY \$4.99 Burger Deal

Single-patty Sonic Cheeseburger
(1/4 lb. pre-cooked), Medium tots
or fries and Medium soft drink



Tax not included.
Add-Ons cost extra.
Offer expires March 31, 2020.

Hotels & Motels



**Apache Canyon Ranch
Bed & Breakfast**
505-377-7925
No. 4 Canyon Drive,
Laguna, NM 87020

Bar S RV Park
505-876-6002
I-40 Exit 81 Milan, NM
87021

Blue Spruce RV Park
505-287-2560
I-40 Exit 81 1708
Grants, NM 87020

Cibola Sands KOA
505-287-4376
I-40 Exit 81 26
Grants, NM 87020

**Cimarron Rose Bed &
Breakfast**
505-783-4770
Highway 53 689
Grants, NM 87020

Comfort Inn
505-287-8700
1501 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

Crossroads Motel
505-287-9264
1601 W. Highway 66
Milan, NM 87021

**Dancing Eagle Casino
RV Park**
505-552-7730
I-40 Exit 108

Casa Blanca, NM 87007

Days Inn
505-287-8883
1504 E. Santa Fe Ave.,
Grants, NM 87020

**El Morro RV Park &
Cabins**
505-783-4612
4018 NM-53
Ramah, NM 87321

**Holiday Inn Express
Hotel & Suites**
505-287-9252
1512 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

**Inn at Halona Zuni
Reservation B & B**
505-782-4547
Zuni, NM 87327

**La Hacienda de los
Migueles**
505-552-9428
Highway 279
Bibo, NM 87014

Lavaland RV Park
505-287-8665
1505 Interstate 40
Grants, NM 87020

Leisure Lodge
505-287-2991
1204 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

Motel 6

505-285-4607
1505 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

Best Western
505-285-4676
1469 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

Sands Motel
505-287-2997
112 McArthur Street
Grants, NM 87020

**Sky City Hotel &
Conference Center**
505-552-6017
I-40 Exit 102
Acoma, NM 87034

Sky City RV Park
888-759-2489
32 Indian Road I-40
Exit 102
Acoma, NM 87034

Southwest Motel
505-287-2935
1000 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

Super 8 Motel
505-287-8811
1604 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM 87020

Sure Stay
505-287-7800
1604 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants NM 87020



11.5 miles
north on scenic
Highway 279

1175 Highway 279
Bibo, NM
(505) 552-9428

Bibo Grille Hours:
Mon. - Sat. - 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sun. - 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.



La Hacienda de Los Migueles

combines the magic of a remote getaway with the convenience of a nearby highway. Come stay with us and you will understand why La Hacienda de Los Migueles is considered one of New Mexico's best-kept secrets!



For Reservations:
(505) 552-9428
Bibo, NM



Cibola Communities

Cibola County, NM

Population: 27,053
45% Urban 55% Rural
Estimated Median Home Value: \$112,741
Land area: 4,539 sq. mi.

Grants, NM

Population: 9,203
Estimated median home value: \$89,930
Elevation: 6,460 feet
Land area: 14.86 sq. mi.

Milan, NM

Population: 3,123
Estimated Median Home Value: 110,955
Elevation: 6,519 feet
Land area: 4.34 sq. mi.

San Rafael , NM

Population: 930
Estimated median Home

Value: 108,475
Elevation: 6,470 feet
Land area: 10.32 sq. mi.

San Meteo, NM

Population: 161
Estimated Median Home Value: 143,182
Elevation: 7,313 feet
Land area: 4.77 sq. mi.

Bluewater, NM

Population: 626
Estimated Median Home Value: \$142,105
Elevation: 6,749 feet
Land area: 10.06 sq. mi.

Cubero, NM

Population: 289
Estimated Median Home Value: \$142,857
Elevation: 6,217
Land area: 9.37 sq. mi.

Ramah, NM

Population: 368
Estimated Median Home Value: \$113,616
Elevation: 6,929 feet
Land area: 3.87 sq. mi

Pine Hill, NM

Population: 88
Estimated Median Home Value: \$107,884
Elevation: 7,119 feet
Land area: 3.36 sq. mi

Mesita, NM

Population: 804
Estimated Median Home Value: \$75,549
Elevation: 5,669 feet
Land area: 10.71 sq. mi

Laguna, NM

Population: 1241
Estimated Median Home Value: \$76,287
Elevation: 5,807 feet
Land area: 2.58 sq. mi



505-552-9511
State Rd. 124
Cubero, NM 87014

Legend tells us Hemingway holed up here in the 50's to finish his masterpiece. "The Old Man and the Sea."

Stop by and visit our friendly clerks selling groceries, cold beer, wine and liquor.



Young



Continued from page 10

Chaco Canyon, which had more than 5,000 inhabitants.

As settlers began to move west, the Cibola County area was first visited by cattle and sheep ranchers and soon the railroad and logging moved into the area. Agriculture followed with farming of carrots, which gave the area the title of Carrot Capitol of the World. Next came the mining operations when Paddy Martinez, a Navajo, discovered uranium in the area which brought an economic boom to the area.

Through it all ran fabled Route 66, the "mother road."

Today, the county has become a growing tourist destination. With the wide-open spaces, the ancient

histories and beautiful scenery, travelers come from all over the world to witness this young county with ancient history.



Cibola County Mascot - Buffalo



Come visit
our taproom
just off of I-40 Exit 85
in Grants. Open 3pm - 10pm Daily.

1901 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Grants, NM
(505)287-8665
www.elkinsbrewing.com



Cibola Trekking

Many trails and open dirt roads embrace the enchanting terrain and vibrant landscape of the Zuni Mountains.

Deep gaping caves, sandstone cliffs, fragrant forests, flower speckled volcanic cinder cones, lush canyons and traces of ancient lava are all among the treasures to be viewed and explored in the conifer inhabited region.

Whether a person is looking to climb, hike, or grind gravel on a mountain bike, the Zuni Mountains offer solace for anyone searching for an immersive nature-filled experience.

The Zuni-Acoma Trailhead, the El Calderon trail and Bonita Canyon can all be found along Highway 53, west of Grants.

Beginning at the El Calderon trail, hikers and cave-crawlers can enjoy a starter-level stroll which weaves between multiple caves, one of which is home to a colony of bats off limits to cave explorers. Be sure to obtain a free caving permit from the El Malpais National Monument headquarters in Grants, as well as the proper equipment, before entering any of the caves. Bat out-flights, hosted by the National Park Service, can be attended and viewed during the summer months, when Brazilian free-tailed bats flock out of the cave at sunset to feed.

The Zuni-Acoma Trail, for those searching to find more of a

See Trekking, Page 45



Grants . . .



Continued from page 9

boomed, and Grants prospered as a result of the railroad logging in the nearby Zuni Mountains. The Zuni Mountain Railroad short line had a roundhouse in town (near present-day Exit 81 off Interstate 40) and housed workers in a small community named Breecetown, after the logging magnate Breece. The timbers were shipped to Albuquerque where a large sawmill converted the timber into wood products that were sold around the west.

In 1927, Bluewater Dam was built which ushered in the agriculture industry and Grants became known as the “Carrot Capitol of the United States.” The region’s volcanic soils provided the ideal conditions for farming. Also, during this time, Route 66 was being created along the National Old Trails Road between New Mexico and California.

By the 1950s, Grants would undergo another transition when a Navajo shepherd, Paddy Martinez, discovered uranium ore at the foot of Haystack Butte. This discovery led to the mining boom and the creation of the neighboring village of Milan. The mining industry required excessive amounts of water for ore processing, which brought an end to the farming in the area. The mining industry lasted until the 1980s. The collapse of mining pulled the area in to a depression, but now Grants enjoys a resurgence based on interest in tourism and the scenic beauty of the area. Grants is a growing tourist destination favored for its hunting, fishing, boating, golfing, national monuments, forests and its proximity to ancient histories.

Grants is the county seat of Cibola County and its motto is “City of Spirit.” Grants still has the distinction of being known as the “Uranium Capitol of the World.”

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Big Tubes

The Big Tubes are a series of lava tubes where hardy hikers can explore these underground passages. The terrain can be unstable, with jagged lava piled upon itself. Some of the tubes can be 40 feet in diameter with twists and turns amid complete darkness.

The tubes are for more experienced hikers. A permit - available at the visitor center in Grants - helmets, gloves and at least three sources of light are required.

To reach the Big Tubes take State Highway 53 west to County Road 42, a couple of miles west of the Ice Caves. Follow this, which can be impassable in wet

weather, about eight miles to Lava Tubes Road and go a couple of miles to the parking area. Rock cairns mark the less than one-mile trail over the undulating lava to different tubes, bearing such names as Four Windows and Caterpillar Collapse.

Also accessible from County Road 42 and along its length is the Chain of Craters. The chain is made of 29 old volcanoes, their cones rising above the mostly pinon forested landscape.

County Road 42, about 33 miles in length, joins up with State Highway 117. That 33-mile stretch takes nearly three hours to drive, however. Be sure to carry food and water.

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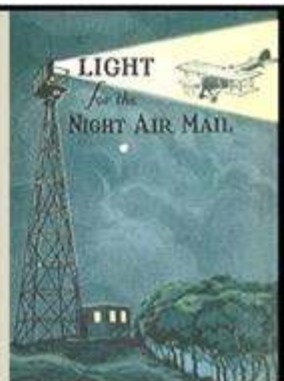
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Trekking . . .



Continued from page 42

challenge, spans more than seven miles across a number of the major lava flows and takes between six and eight hours to hike. Cairns, stacks of rocks placed intentionally, mark the path.

Before setting off on an adventure, preparation is key. Pack water, food, proper clothing, footwear and gear as needed along with knowledge of the area and forecasted weather conditions. Also remember to take nothing but photos and leave nothing behind but foot prints.

Mount Sedgwick is an opportunity for hiking, cycling or even driving. Summer and springtime picnicking is an enjoyable pastime here. With little creeks and tall trees, butterflies and dragonflies weave between sunbeams while tadpoles swim below. Hug a Ponderosa pine, bury your nose between the cracks in the bark and take a deep whiff of what some say is an aroma similar to butter-scotch or vanilla. Ponderosas are tall with bright orange and brown bark which splits into puzzle-piece shaped scales.

Stunning views can be seen from the peak of Mount Sedgwick, including the valley of the Rio San

Jose to the east and across from the valley a picturesque vision of Mount Taylor, a volcano.

To the south one can see the sandstone bluffs which overlook the El Malpais National Monument, a field of lava that stretches more than 100,000 acres wide.

The Ojo Redondo campground is a great starting point to hike from.

The Ramah Mormon Pioneer trail rambles along the ridgeback beside Timberlake Ranch. Stone steps and a well-marked path make for an easy-going hike. The trail system is very extensive, with enough miles of path that if measured out end to end would be able to span from the east coast to the west coast more than four times.

The entrance of the trail is marked by a small red flag. The parking area lies along the road to the Ramah Lake dam. The trail climbs to the summit of the ridge and follows north where it ultimately slopes through the old Pasture Hollow rodeo grounds, through a yawning arroyo and then up a cliff on the right-hand side.

If the entrance cannot be found, try walking down the road for ten minutes into the canyon. On the left will be a set of stone steps leading up to the ridge.

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Chain of Craters

The Chain of Craters Backcountry Byway is a wonderful stretch of road for thrill seekers to traverse. The road stretches for 33 miles along County Road 42 through the El Malpais National Conservation Area and the El Malpais National Monument. The Backcountry Byway connects NM 53 with NM117.

The Chain of Craters Backcountry Byway is open year-round, depending on the weather, and there are no fees involved. Parts of the route define parts of the boundaries of the West Malpais Wilderness and the Chain of Craters and El Malpais Wilderness Study Areas. It provides access to the Big Tubes area and a segment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. This scenic route provides views of the lava flows and volcanic cinder cones as well as the sandstone bluffs to the east. The road is dirt

and gravel and can usually be driven in a 2WD vehicle with high clearance. In rain or snow the road may be completely impassable (even for 4WD). Its best to visit the local ranger station for a map and road conditions before traveling along this route.

There are plenty of volcanic geological formations in the area to explore as well as an excellent opportunity to see wildlife, such as elk, mule deer, bear, cougars, coyotes, turkeys and a variety of other birds.

To get there: Take the San Rafael exit off the I-40 west of Grants and go south on NM 53 for about 25 miles to where County Road 42 begins on the south side of the road. Or, get off the I-40 about 5 miles east of Grants and head south on NM 117 for about 35 miles to the junction with NM 42 (on the east side of the road).





Chain of Craters

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Land of **Fire** and **Ice**

The “Land of Fire and Ice” lies in the western and southern expanses of Cibola County. Be aware of spotty cell-phone service out here. A day trip through this vast landscape offers visitors excursions of dormant volcanoes, some filled with ice, others miles long. Creatures living in the area include deer, bear, mountain lion, antelope and wolves.

First stop is the Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center for information about all the places to visit. The phone number is 1-505-876-2783.

Start in Grants and go south on Highway 53. About 15 miles along is a home once owned by actress Anne Baxter and nearby are fluorspar mines, worked through World War II.

The Ice Caves and Bandera Crater, also known as, “The Land of Fire and Ice,” is located on NM 53 along the Continental Divide.

ICE CAVE

Located in part of a collapsed lava tube, the Ice Cave’s temperature never rises above 31° F. The trail to the Ice Cave is nearly a quarter mile long and takes 20 minutes to complete. The viewing platform is located 70 steps from the initial landing near the surface of the lava tube. The final landing is located in-

side of the cave, with a spectacular view of the ice and natural cave formation. The ice cave features natural layers of ice that glisten blue-green. This color is due to the arctic algae in the frozen waters and is illuminated by reflected rays of sunlight. The historic structures once housed a resort, complete with a bar in a dance house and a trading post. The Zuni Mountains were logged for about 50 years and the Ice Caves were a popular amusement spot. The trading post has artifacts from the area and has a small snack bar.

BANDERA VOLCANO

The volcano is 800 ft. deep and exploded in volcanic fury some 10,000 years ago—very recent in geologic time. It is one of the finest examples of an erupted volcano in the country, and one of the most accessible. The trail to the Bandera Volcano is nearly half a mile long and takes 40 minutes to complete. The trail rises gradually, from the base of the volcano to its lookout, a sum of 150 feet. The lookout gives a clear vantage to observe the lava fields from the Bandera eruptions. Its lava flow stretches almost 23 miles and a lava tube is 17 miles long.

Sandstone . . .



Continued from page 21

3,000-year-old lava that borders the cliffs. This land the bluffs overlook is a reminder of the culture and people who have and continue to live in the area.

During the exploration of the bluffs, visitors will encounter potholes in the sandstone, called tinajas. When filled with water from rains and snow, this tinajas provide a micro-ecosystem to a variety of life. Area wildlife use these tinajas as waterholes.

There is no fee to visit the Sandstone Bluffs lookout, and the best time to visit is from sunrise to sunset, with the sunsets being the most popular time to view the horizon.

A Bureau of Land Management ranger station is just north along the highway, while Interstate-40 is several miles ahead for your return to Grants.

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East meets west

Here traverses more than 100 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Nationwide, the trail travels 3,100 miles across five states, 775 of those in New Mexico.

Locally, the Cibola Trail Alliance meets regularly to maintain this area's portion of the trail.

From south to north the route travels from the high desert plains, home to antelope and mule deer, through forests of pinon and juniper, to the majesty of 11,301 feet Mount Taylor with its elk herds, bear, turkey and mountain lion. From its summit you can see the curve of the earth. The trail parallels the Chain of Craters, about 30 dormant volcano cones along a 30 mile stretch.

National Scenic Trails are

created to conserve the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural and cultural qualities of the area. In addition, National Scenic Trails are designed for recreation and the enjoyment of these very special places.

In 1995, the Continental Divide Trail Alliance was formed to cultivate and develop the public and private enthusiasm for the trail. Through the years, CDTA coordinated volunteers to complete over 1,000 miles of non-motorized new or reconstructed tread for the CDT and created a national public awareness program to raise the profile of the CDT. The Cibola Trail Alliance is part of the national group.



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Historic Auto Tour

The Zuni Mountain Historic Auto Tour, operated by the U.S. Forest Service, is a 45-mile journey to 18 separate historical logging sites left behind by lumber companies more than 50 years ago.

The journey begins at the New Mexico Mining Museum located on Santa Fe Avenue along Route 66 in Grants. Follow Santa Fe Avenue west to State Highway 53, cross over Interstate-40 and turn right onto Zuni Canyon Road. Follow Zuni Canyon Road to the forest service boundary and from there the self-guided tour begins. Interpretative signs describe each site.

It is recommended that a car with four-wheel drive is used to explore the tour, as the forest-system roads along the tour are unpaved. Caution must be used,

especially when rainy weather results in muddy conditions.

The American Lumber Company began logging in the area in 1901, exporting 35-50 million board feet of lumber per year to eastern markets.

Over the course of the next several decades, other lumber companies also pervaded the area, along with a 55-mile railroad created by the Atlantic and Pacific Line which was used to transport 160 logging cars pulled by six engines. Ruins of the logging sites and traces of the railroad can be found still in place, like an open window into the past.

Signs mark each of the sites along the tour.

Be sure to pack water, a lunch and some hiking gear, as this will be an all day trip that tempts exploration.



Off-Roading in Cibola

The roads, backroads and byways of Cibola County offer off-road enthusiasts a wide variety of terrain. There are old logging roads throughout the Zuni Moun-

tains with steep ravines and park-like meadows, switchbacks galore winding up the 11,301 feet Mount Taylor and tire punishing lava and deep sand along County 42, the Backcountry Byway.

Each year, the New Mexico Off Highway Alliance holds its "7 Trails of Gold" adventure for three days. All manner of machines take part - all terrain vehicles, four-wheel drives and dual-sport motorcycles.

NMOHVA is a statewide non-profit alliance of motorized off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and organizations. Its mission is promoting, protecting, and preserving responsible OHV recreation through education, safety training and responsible land use ethics.

The event is held in conjunction with Grants MainStreet Project's "7 Trails of Gold Outdoor Festival." The festival highlights all of the wonderful trail-based recreation in Cibola County. The festival will include live music, BBQ/food vendors at the Fire and Ice Park in downtown Grants.



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- **WATER BOARDS**
- **TUBES**

Bluewater Lake



The alluring Bluewater Lake State Park is located 25 miles west of Grants, at the base of the Zuni Mountains, and is home to a 1,200 acre lake popular for tiger muskie fishing.

The tiger muskies grow quickly, heightening the chances of hooking a real whopper which could weigh between 10-50 pounds.

A fishing permit can be purchased at Walmart and other outlets.

The lake is regularly stocked with many delicious species of fish including cutthroat trout, catfish and rainbow trout. The lake is accessible to year-round fishing, with ice fishing during the late winter months. The lake is also friendly to conventional fishing as well as fly fishing.

FE Guide Service has been

guiding Bluewater Lake since 2013, and they offer a very professional operation with the objective of landing tiger muskies whether it be on the fly or conventional fishing gear. FE Guides have been featured in national publications and TV shows such as In-Fisherman and Lenders Angling Edge and have even guided an angler to an IGFA World record line class tiger muskie, so you know this isn't their first rodeo. If you want to go fishing with a diehard musky junky that's been heavily targeting tigers since 2006, Matt Pelletier of FE Guides would love to show you a great time on the water! He also packs great lunches, cold drinks, and provides all the tackle and boat. Contact him to go fishing at FEGuides.com.

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Sky City Casino

Sky City Casino Hotel is located just off exit 102 on Interstate-40, offering grand Vegas-style table games, more than 640 slot machines and live bingo games.

Sky City Casino Hotel is constantly offering new chances to win big, new games to play and it has great rooms, so you can stay.

Majestic Mount Taylor, a dormant volcano, is well within the view of Sky City Casino Hotel and is only one of the great amenities you will enjoy during your stay; southwestern architecture will enthrall you, while the heated pool draws you into a state of comfort.

The casino offers live entertainment every weekend, no-smoking rooms and the chance to view and purchase authentic Acoma pottery.

Sky City is your gateway to Native tourism where the friendly people of Acoma Pueblo welcome you to discover 2,000 years of living history.

November is National Native American Heritage Month, and visitors will be hard pressed to find a better place to celebrate than New Mexico.

Throughout the month of No-

vember, there are numerous opportunities to learn more about Native culture in the Land of Enchantment.

Experience a living history at Acoma Pueblo Sky City

Acoma Sky City was voted the top USA Today Native American Experience and is a three-time recipient of the Trip Advisor Excellence Award. Take a Native-guided tour to this mesa-top pueblo dating back to 1100 A.D. Museum exhibits and a gift shop are also on site.

Sky City Casino and Hotel, minutes from Grants, NM offers 134 deluxe guest rooms and suites. Easy access to I-40 allows a scenic one hour drive to Albuquerque or Gallup. Located at the base of Mount Taylor and historic Route 66, the amenities ensure your comfort and convenience. Sky City Hotel has a beautiful outdoor courtyard, seasonal heated pool and hot tub (closed November - May). In addition to meeting space and A/V rental, events and exhibit space will satisfy group demands. The casino, arcade and gift shop, in addition to the RV Park and nearby Travel Center, complete your travel requests.



Acoma Pueblo Sky City

The Pueblo of Acoma's Sky City is a sight to behold, standing 6,460 feet above sea level, and at only a 30-mile drive from Grants, this is a stop you don't want to miss. The entire pueblo is beautiful, the people maintaining their traditional building styles helps to feed your sense of wonder; and if you're looking for real food, you could stop at Y'aak'a Café to indulge in the cultural foods of the area.

The Pueblo of Acoma offers a cultural center and museum where you can enjoy the native pottery, and crafts, and learn about the enchanting mountains.

Sky City is a very beautiful, majestic sight; it is as old as time. Standing near Sky City rests the Enchanted Mesa, a very tall mountain with steep sides and a flat base. Tradition holds that this mesa was once the home of the Acoma people, until a great storm destroyed the only access to the top. Both mountains are breathtaking sights and hold visible Acoma sandstone, a beautiful rock which makes up most of the structures.

The Pueblo makes its money from the Sky City Casino Hotel, a great place to gamble, eat and rest. Sky City Casino Hotel is known for making more millionaires out of its

players than any other casino in New Mexico.

Enjoy the tasty native foods, the awe-inspiring sights, and the rich history that Acoma Pueblo has to offer. Stay a night in in the Sky City Casino Hotel, and immerse yourself in the vivid culture; it's worth it.



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Dancing Eagle provides all the amenities any traveler would need. Dancing Eagle offers live entertainment on Friday and Saturdays. There is a full 24-hour travel center, a grocery store and a Dairy Queen along with great games.

Dancing Eagle has two fine culinary establishments, the Café 108 Grill featuring the world famous Laguna Burger and the Great American Diner.

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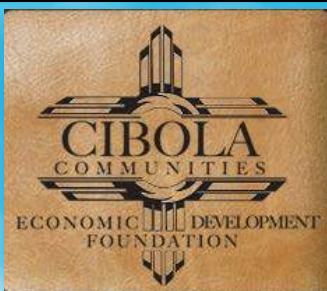
Laguna Pueblo

Just 30 miles east of Grants, the Laguna Pueblo is the largest of the Keresan Pueblos. The Keresan people, original inhabitants of the area, built multi-story dwellings for themselves. The easiest visible of the historic Pueblo's landmarks is the St. Joseph's Church, completed in 1705. The church is whitewashed, lending a radiant glow to the traditional adobe style of Laguna.

The modern Laguna Pueblo was established after the Pueblo revolt of 1699, when the Spanish were driven from the country. The village was built onto yellow sandstone, just west of the San Jose river.

The natural beauty of Laguna is pronounced by its grand mountains and proud, variegated sandstone. The typical architecture in Laguna is a mix of Spanish and native American influences, giving way to the creation of some beautiful buildings.

Laguna Pueblo is just off Route 66 and offers delicious, juicy burgers at the Route 66 Pit Stop, making Laguna ideal to stop at, enjoy a burger, and learn about the history of the Laguna people. It is important to note that photography, sketching or any type of filming is generally not allowed. Permission may be granted by Pueblo officials if asked.



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The Cibola Communities of northwest New Mexico offer both newcomer and visitor alike a friendly and safe home - one ideal for businesses and families.

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Missions of Cibola County

The Santa Maria mission, a grand sandstone church, is the oldest place of worship in the Diocese of Gallup, and records indicate it may be the oldest place of Christian worship in the Americas. Although we don't know the exact time the mission was built, the history within its walls is evident. The mission is nestled quaintly in Cubero and can be found on Pueblo Road. The Santa Maria Mission is a sight to see, both for Catholics and non-Catholics. Being made of sandstone the mission can blend in with its surroundings, giving an even more grand illusion to this already majestic church.

St. Joseph's Mission in the Laguna Pueblo was completed in 1705 and was modeled after the "fortress-churches" - so aptly named by their resemblance of a military fort - in what was then Mexico. The art of St. Joseph's declares the mission's beauty and shows the influence of Spanish culture on Native American culture. St. Joseph's can be found at 1 Friar Rd, Laguna.

Our Lady of Loretto was constructed in the 1880s in Bibo. The mission has a very simple charm to it, being one room, and with a welcoming small window in the shape of a wagon wheel as if to say, "you're safe here." The mission was a site of worship for the miners from Jackpile, the largest open-pit uranium mine in the world, according to local lore. Our Lady of Loretto can be found at the north end of Bibo.

The Mission San Rafael is a church which has seen its fair share of dark times, having burned down in 1930. Rebuilt, the church looms over San Rafael with dignity and power, with a covered entry way, a beautiful stained-glass window reminiscent of Victorian styled churches and a grand bell tower giving this church the beauty of a New Mexico sunset. Visit Mission San Rafael at 100 Guadalupe Plaza, San Rafael.

Missions . . .



Our Lady of Sorrow in Seboyeta tells the rich history of its town. The church has a gabled roof and a bell tower. Not far from the church is a grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, making this a must-see spot for anyone travelling to our state. You can find Our Lady of Sorrow at 1350 NM Highway 359.

St. Margret Mary in Paraje is made of red sandstone and was heavily influenced by pueblo culture in its architecture. The mission was dedicated in 1935. It is seven miles away from the Laguna Pueblo on the Historic Route 66. You can find the Mission on the northeast end of Paraje.

San Estevan Del Rey rests in the Acoma Pueblo, and was originally dedicated to St. Stephen the Martyr. The mission is comfortably nestled amid the grand mountains and plateaus of the Acoma Pueblo.



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Mount Taylor, the Turquoise Gem

Have you ever wanted to stand on top of the world and just take it all in--to see miles and miles of landscape or maybe even the curvature of the earth? Well, here in Cibola County there is just such a place. It's called Mount Taylor.

Spectacular views, abundant wildlife and ancient history is what Mount Taylor, elevation 11,301 feet, has to offer those who brave the slopes and summit of this majestic volcano. Mount Taylor is situated by itself in the vast expanse

of New Mexico's high desert region. The views from the summit are breathtaking. Hiking to the summit is not a challenging event, and using the Gooseberry Springs Trail makes the hike more enjoyable.

Mount Taylor is an extinct stratovolcano which last erupted 1.8 to 3.2 million years ago and it's been speculated that the mountain's pre-eruption height could have been as high as 25,000 feet above sea level. It was named in 1849 for then president Zachary Taylor. Prior to that, it was called Cebolleta (tender onion) by the Spanish. This ancient mountain is surrounded by a rich culture of Native American folklore and is considered to be one of the four sacred mountains by the Navajo Tribe. According to Robert Julyan's "The Place Names of New Mexico," the Navajos identify Cabezon Peak "as the head of a giant killed by the Twin War Gods" with the lava flow to the south of Grants believed to be the congealed blood of the giant. It is also known as Turquoise Mountain. In April 2009, Mount Taylor was added to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's Most Endangered Places.

Mount Taylor and the surrounding area is home to large elk



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Finding beauty in Cibola's wilderness

Hiking, going for a walk or just traipsing along an old trail is something that can be done just about anywhere in the world. But if you're looking for a place with unmatched diversity and beauty then Cibola County is where you want to come to lose yourself in the wilderness.

Cibola County is considered a high mountain desert area which includes rugged mountains to mountain prairies to grass-swept plains, and amongst these features you can find a trail, an old logging road, a game trail or even a ridgeline to travel along to lose yourself in wild beauty.

The county has two major mountains systems within its boundaries, the San Mateo Mountain Range, home to Mount Taylor, and the Zuni Mountains, home to hundreds of square miles of forested land filled with a variety of geological features.

On Mount Taylor there are two popular trails for visitors, hikers and those weekend thrill seekers to enjoy.

Gooseberry Springs Trail

This trail is approximately 2.5 miles to the top of the 11,301 feet high Mount Taylor. This hike has an elevation change of more than 2,000 feet and can make for a challenging adventure. The round-trip experience will take about four to five hours to complete. During the trek, hikers will be able to enjoy interesting geological formations and see a wide variety of plant life and wildlife, such as elk, deer, mountain lion, bear, fox, coyote and a wide variety of birds. Once at the summit, viewers can see all the way into Colorado on a clear day.

Water Canyon Trail

Take an adventure into the heart of this dormant stratovolcano when you head out on the Water Canyon Trail. This trail, which begins at the La Mosca saddle, is 2.5 miles long and descends the eastern slope of the horseshoe-shaped volcano crater. This dense crater is filled with old growth fir and pine.



Mount Taylor . . .

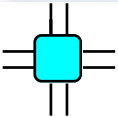
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herds, mule deer, black bear, mountain lion and Merriam's turkey. Bird species are particularly diverse in the area and include great blue heron, white-faced ibis, canvasback, common merganser, rough-legged hawk, red-tailed hawk, ferruginous hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, osprey, golden eagle, barn owl, great horned owl and kestrel, whip-poor-will, white-throated swift, western kingbird, warbling vireo, western meadowlark, house finch, swifts, swallows, prairie falcon, gray-headed junco, Steller's jay, and pinyon jay. Furthermore, the area offers excellent raptor-nesting habitat on the various cliffs that

spill down into the Rio Puerco valley below.

This beautiful gem offers a variety of things to do, including hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing and is host to the annual Mount Taylor Winter Quadrathlon in the winter and a 50k run in the summer.

Access to the mountain is simple. Once in Grants, take State Highway 547 also known as Lobo Canyon Road and follow it until the pavement ends. Then continue on the dirt road for another five miles, then take a right turn onto Forest Road 453 to the Water Canyon Trailhead. From there, the summit will be in view for a wonderful hike to the top.



enerdyne llc



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