

Sandoval County

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE GUIDE



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SeeSandoval.org



WELCOME

The Heart of New Mexico Awaits Your Visit

Welcome to Sandoval County where the Rocky Mountains meet the desert. We invite both residents and visitors to discover and explore the many outdoor recreational amenities here. Sandoval County offers abundant opportunities to develop a personal relationship with the land—from hiking, cycling, and rock climbing to birding to horseback riding, and fishing to water and snow sports and more.

Use this guide to blaze your own outdoor adventure through Sandoval County and its numerous recreational possibilities from natural hot springs, snow-capped mountains, hiking trails and rivers. Your outdoor adventure playground is here. Marvel in the unrivaled opportunities you'll discover from our rich landscape infused with the legacies of many cultures. Whether you're here for a week, a day or an afternoon, Sandoval County presents many ways to experience our diverse terrain.

Have fun and thank you for visiting. We look forward to hosting you often.

The Sandoval County Board of County Commissioners

Placitas Open Space



SANDOVAL COUNTY IS THE HEART OF NEW MEXICO

Explore the epic vistas and discover the unexpected in Sandoval County. Around every bend and on each trail you conquer you'll find world class outdoor adventures, a vibrant cultural experience of epic history, dynamic deserts, majestic mountains and abundant sunshine.

Come discover The Heart of New Mexico.

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TO FARMINGTON



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OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



Valles Caldera National Preserve

Birdwatching

Sandoval County offers an appealing variety of wildlife habitats from pine forest to desert scrub, from alpine meadow to riparian wetland. Birders are likely to see more than two hundred species during a typical year of birdwatching.

EXPLORE

Corrales Bosque Reserve
Valles Caldera National Park
Bandelier National Monument

Mountain Biking

Kick up some dirt and catch some air on unmatched trails and undiscovered badland country. For mountain bikers of all levels to experience the beauty and scenery of the high desert, mountain trails, lush valleys and the Rio Grande. We have it all cross-country loops, steep technical downhill, long ascents, cruise the Bosque along the Rio Grande. We have it all!

EXPLORE

Corrales Bosque Reserve
Valles Caldera National Park
Bandelier National Monument

Horseback Riding

Saddle up for an adventure, put on your cowboy hat and buckle into those chaps and get away from it all. Check out the wide-open spaces and view the unparalleled wilderness of riding along streams and high mountains, meander through high desert and get up close and personal with wildlife.



EXPLORE

Applewood Equestrian
Red Horse – Riding Company
Valencia Farms

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OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Fenton Lake State Park

Fishing

With an array of waters, Sandoval County, is home to 139 lakes, rivers, and streams with a year-round season offering a diverse fishing opportunity, especially for trout, and yes, we do have winter ice fishing not to mention the incredible natural beauty that surrounds it all.

Lakes & Rivers

Location to location changes and so will your boating and paddling experience. Slip into a kayak to enjoy the morning mist on a serene mountain lake or a stand-up paddle board on the Rio Grande and if you want speed hold tight on that motorboat or water ski as you zoom across the glittering waters of a state park reservoir.

EXPLORE

Fenton Lake State Park
San Gregorio
Rio Grande River
Cochiti Lake
Zia Reservoir

Golf

When it comes to golf, we have it all, abundant sunny days, magnificent vistas and views and world class golf courses. Our clubs have full pro shops, driving ranges and putting greens for the PGA fanatic to the golf loving couple.

EXPLORE

Twin Warriors Golf Club
Sandia Golf Club
Santa Ana Golf Club



Twin Warriors Golf Club



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OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

San Pedro Parks Wilderness

Rock Climbing

Rock climbing is a high-adrenaline sport that will give you a rush like no other. Being on the southern tip of the Rocky Mountains, the terrain, types of rock and climbing varies dramatically. With over 797 rock faces climbers of every discipline and background, sport climbing, bouldering, multi-pitch or solo will find plenty to do on the limestone, granite, basalt and sandstone surfaces.

EXPLORE

The Upper East Fork in the Jemez Mountains offers over 47 Classic Climbs.

Hiking & Camping

The state and national parks are a hiking paradise full of beautiful scenery and mountainous terrain that promise adventure around every turn. We have miles of hiking trails, steep mountains, meadows, high desert, wildlife and the Rio Grande Valley, undiscovered wilderness awaits you!

EXPLORE

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Red Rock Trails | Valles Caldera National Preserve |
| Jemez Mountains | Rio Rancho |
| Corrales | Bandelier National Monument |
| Placitas | Cuba |
| Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument | |



Winter Trails

Skiing, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, snowboarding abound in Sandoval County. With consistent snowfall and sunny skies, the Jemez Mountains give way to a world that is a winter wonderland surrounded by turquoise skies and plenty of sunshine. The area offers wide open terrain, mountain ranges that will thrill you and fulfill the outdoor adventure dreams of all snow enthusiasts. The best skiing and snowshoeing are from late December through February.

EXPLORE

Fenton Lake State Park — *Hal Baxter Memorial Trail*
Valles Caldera National Preserve — *La Jara Loop*
— *South Mountain Trail* — *Rio Cebolla Trail*
Bandelier National Monument — *Frijoles Rim Trail*



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Red Rock Trail



OUR COMMUNITIES

Sandoval County is where the desert meets the mountains. Our cities and towns both big and small have endless things to do and places to see. We are home to countless eons of civilizations with a depth and richness to our cultural fusion of history, art, and our New Mexican cuisine that can only be found in the Land of Enchantment.

Algodones

Placitas

Bernalillo

Rio Rancho

Corrales

Town of Cochiti Lake

Cuba

Village of San Ysidro

Jemez Springs

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PUEBLOS & NATIONS

Sandoval County has 10 Pueblos and two Nations within its borders

With much history and tradition, each Pueblo holds a local spoken dialect including but not limited to Tiwa, Keres, Tewa, and Towa and are derived from three ancient language families. Within each community a vibrant and distinct artistic style has developed such as native pottery, weaving and jewelry.

Pueblo communities continue to celebrate the cycles of seasons through song, dance and prayer. Sandoval's Pueblos welcome visitors on feast days to share in these celebrations and traditions.

When planning a visit to these communities please be aware of restrictions on photography and other images and respect the traditions and privacy of the residents.

Cochiti Pueblo

Jemez Pueblo

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Laguna Pueblo

Navajo Nation – Counselor – Ojo Encino – Torreon

San Felipe Pueblo

San Ildefonso Pueblo

Sandia Pueblo

Santa Ana Pueblo

Santa Clara Pueblo

Santo Domingo Pueblo

Zia Pueblo

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FUN EVENTS



Las Fiesta De San Lorenzo

Held in early August at Rotary Park, Las Fiestas focus largely on the ritual dance drama known as Los Matachines and is the largest such dance in the region, marking a significant factor in Bernalillo's identity as a community.



Rio Rancho Fall Festival

Enjoy carnival games, pumpkin carving, food trucks, a beer garden, arts and crafts, and trunk or treating held at Campus Park in the City Center and in the Rio Rancho Events Center.



Corrales 4th of July Parade

Patriotism and community spirit, combined with a healthy dose of Corrales eccentricity, are on display at the village's Fourth of July parade. A colorful mix of horses and riders, carts and carriages, Tin Lizzies, vintage cars, old farm tractors, marching bands, Corralesños ride their favorite horses and proudly wave American flags.



Sandoval County Fair & Rodeo

Experience great food, dancing to live music, an exciting rodeo, youth events, livestock exhibits, and a parade. The fair starting on the first Tuesday in August through Sunday in the Village of Cuba.



Light Among The Ruins

Featuring over 1,400 farolitos (*sand-filled paper bags lit with candles*) which light the perimeter of Jemez Historic Site. Pueblo dancers, musicians and handcrafted items made by Pueblo members. Takes place the first Saturday in December in Jemez Springs.



Placitas Studio Tour

Every Mother's Day weekend throughout scenic Placitas. Artists painting, wearable art, photography, ceramics, woodworking, glass art, jewelry, mosaics, sculptures, metalwork, mixed media and more.



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BREWERIES & WINERIES

New Mexico is the oldest wine-producing region in the U.S. dating to 1629 when Franciscan monks planted the first grapes. Today the vineyards flourish in the continental desert climate of warm days and cool nights with diurnal shifts producing grapes that reflect the terroir and create award-winning wines that are light, bright, fruit-forward, and pair well with New Mexican cuisine.

New Mexico is emerging as the Craft Beer Capital of the Southwest. The breweries focus on micro-brewing, producing in small batches that are richer and more flavorful. The brewers produce a range of styles from India pale ales to stout, pilsner to port, and Belgian style to barley wine.

Bosque Brewing North

Brew Lab 100 Beer & Cider Co.

Casa Vieja Brewery

Cazuelas Mexican Grill & Brewery

Ex Novo Brewing Co.

Kaktus Brewing

Turtle Mountain Brewing Company

Turtle Mountain North

Milagro Vineyards & Winery

Casa Vieja

Placitas Winery

Ponderosa Valley Vineyards & Winery

San Isidore Vineyards

PONDEROSA VALLEY VINEYARD & WINERY



MILAGRO VINEYARDS & WINERY



BOSQUE BREWING



MOUNTAIN WEST FALL FESTIVAL



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FLAVORS OF SANDOVAL COUNTY

4 WAYS TO TASTE THE UNIQUE FLAVORS OF SANDOVAL COUNTY

Experience flavors that are true New Mexican — from the traditional to the innovative — at these most delicious spots.

PRAIRIE STAR



RANGE CAFE



HOT TAMALES



INDIGO CROW



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Discover Sandoval County's many delicious restaurants, scan QR code.



PLACES TO VISIT

Come discover these unique hidden gems and make many lasting memories.



KASHA-KATUWE TENT ROCKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Famous for its scenic cone shaped formations, composed of pumice, ash, and tuff deposits from volcanic eruptions 6-7 million years ago. The Monument includes a National Recreational Trail for hiking only. The Monument is managed by Bureau of Land Management (*BLM*). For public reopening, visit: blm.gov/visit/kktr



HOT SPRINGS & SPAS

Nestled within mountains, valleys and forests. Come enjoy an invigorating morning plunge or relax after an adventure-filled day, we've got hot springs and pools, all fed from natural, geothermal sources for your mindfulness.



SCENIC BYWAYS & NATIONAL PARKS

Explore our 6 recognized National Parks, and 8 scenic routes in New Mexico designated as a National Scenic byway, an honor given to only 55 routes in the nation.



GILMAN TUNNELS

The most photogenic and interesting stretches of road. Between the beauty of the box canyon and the visual history the tunnels represent, its an iconic setting perched above the Guadalupe River.



TIMELINE

700 AD

Prehistoric Indians began building above-ground communal buildings, and by 900 AD, they were probably settling into villages that evolved into the communities existing when Francisco de Coronado arrived.

1540–42 AD

Francisco de Coronado arrived at Tiguex Province in the Rio Grande Valley, where he kept his headquarters until his departure in the spring of 1542. The Tiguex War was waged against the pueblos during the winter of 1540–41.

1598

Juan de Oñate and his band of Spanish colonists passed by what would become Bernalillo on the way north to establish New Mexico's first capital at San Gabriel, near San Juan Pueblo.

1680

During the Pueblo Revolt, when the Spaniards were driven out of New Mexico, they hurried along the Rio Grande on the way to El Paso. The pueblos of what would become Sandoval County were profoundly affected by the coming and going of the Spaniards.

1692–96

Diego de Vargas re-conquered New Mexico.

1695

De Vargas established the community of Bernalillo.

1810

The Mexican Revolt against Spanish rule began. Because soldiers were moved south to fight insurgents, Apaches and Navajos resumed attacks on villages in the middle Rio Grande valley.

1821

The first pack train of goods arrived in Santa Fe over what would come to be called the Santa Fe Trail. This marked the beginning of legal business between New Mexico and the United States.

1842

The Mexican government made the beginnings of counties in New Mexico. Part of what would become Sandoval County was then in Santa Ana County.

1862

The U.S. Civil War found its way into the middle Rio Grande Valley as troops of the Union and the Confederacy moved from Texas north to Glorieta Pass, and then back south.

1876

Santa Ana County was absorbed by Bernalillo County.

1878

Town of Bernalillo became the seat of government for Bernalillo County.

1880

The railroad arrived in the middle Rio Grande Valley and Albuquerque, causing the most significant change in quality of life in New Mexico history.

1883

Bernalillo County seat is moved back to Albuquerque.

1903

Sandoval County was created with the Town of Bernalillo as seat of government.

1949

Los Alamos County was carved out of northeastern Sandoval County and a bit of Santa Fe County.

1961

The American Realty and Petroleum Company (AMREP) purchased 55,000 acres of land in southeastern Sandoval County. It came to be called Rio Rancho Estates.

1981

Rio Rancho was incorporated as a city.

TODAY

Sandoval County is the fastest-growing county in New Mexico. It encompasses 3,714 square miles of diverse geography and has a population of approximately 151,000 people. Sandoval County includes the incorporated municipalities of Bernalillo, Cuba, Corrales, Jemez Springs, Rio Rancho, San Ysidro, and the Town of Cochiti Lake as well as numerous unincorporated communities, and all or portions of 12 Indian Pueblos and Tribal Nations.



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