

Recreation Guide

SANDOVAL COUNTY

Let's get outdoors!



including a
Calender of Events



Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks

Sandoval County is
NEW MEXICO *True*

SeeMoreofNM.com

Communities: Bernalillo | Corrales | Cuba | Jemez Springs | Rio Rancho |
Tribal Communities: The Navajo Nation | Cochiti Pueblo | Jemez Pueblo | San Felipe Pueblo |
Sandia Pueblo | Santa Ana Pueblo | Santo Domingo Pueblo | Zia Pueblo

Year Round Activities

From hiking, biking, fishing and hunting to water activities, we have recreational opportunities all year round.

For more info., visit SeeMoreofNM.com

Hiking

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument provides one-of-a-kind hiking experiences amongst rocks formed by ancient volcanic eruptions. **Santa Fe National Forest** hikes are as plentiful and diverse as the life zones of the forest—with so many elevations and habitat types, there is year-round access to hiking trails in the forest. Popular hikes include **Battleship Rocks**, **Jemez Falls**, **Las Conchas Trail**, **McCauley Hot Springs**, **San Pedro Parks** trails north of Cuba and **Dome Wilderness**. (www.fs.usda.gov/santafe). The **Sandia Mountains**, close to Albuquerque and Placitas, offer a convenient chance to connect with nature. www.fs.usda.gov/cibola.



Cochiti Golf Course

Golf

Santa Ana Golf Course has a challenging layout and an unmatched view of the Sandia Mountains. Nearby **Twin Warriors Golf Course** is part of the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa. **Cochiti Golf Course** was designed by Robert Trent Jones Junior and **Club Rio Rancho Golf** is popular with locals as well as guests. www.newmexico.org/golf.



Rob Dixon

Biking in Valles Caldera

Biking

Road and mountain bikers will find miles and miles of beautiful scenery in Sandoval County. Cyclists will find a peaceful ride in the shade of cottonwoods on a trail that winds through the **Rio Grande Bosque** near Corrales. Intermediate and advanced riders can explore **Guacamalla** and **Paliza Canyons** (www.newmexico.org/true-outdoors). There are popular rides in **Placitas** (placitasareatrail.org), the **Ojito Wilderness** (www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/rio_puerco/white_mesa_bike_trails.html) and around **Jemez Springs** (alltrails.com/us/new-mexico/jemez-springs).

Hunting

There are more than 30 million acres of public lands open to hunting in New Mexico, with a comparable amount of private land also available. The **New Mexico Department of Game and Fish** publishes the annual Proclamation of Big Game and Furbearer Seasons in late January or early February with specifics for hunters. A current list of active outfitters or guides can be obtained from **New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides**, www.nmoutfitters.com or by calling 505.522.9845.

Fishing

Sandoval County is the perfect destination for those who love the outdoors and enjoy fishing. **San Pedro Parks Wilderness** is home to native cutthroat trout. **Fenton Lake** offers picnic areas, wheelchair accessible platforms and even ice fishing in the winter. **San Antonio Creek** offers plenty of catch-and-release fishing opportunities. Fly-fishing enthusiasts can enjoy the **Rio Cebolla** in the Jemez Mountains.

Visitors are welcome at **Seven Springs Fish Hatchery** near Jemez Springs. The Ice Pond is stocked and open to children 12 and younger and adults 65 and older. At **Cochiti Lake**, catch catfish, crappie, bass, bluegill and perch.



Fenton Lake

Water Activities

The gentle waters of the **Rio Grande** offer family-friendly adventures like kayaking, floating or paddleboarding. Spring is a great time to take a guided trip with **Quiet Waters Paddling Adventures**. You can sail, windsurf and swim at **Cochiti Lake**, which is popular year-round. If you are looking for a place to swim laps or entertain youngsters, check out the **Rio Rancho Aquatics Center** with an 8-lane 25-yard competition pool, 3-lane 25-yard warm up pool, recreation pool with play features, double flume slide, 2 multipurpose rooms for parties/conferences, water polo goals, and an ADA hydraulic chair lift.



Jemez Bath House

Hot Springs

Natural hot springs provide the perfect opportunity to slow down and relax while surrounded by scenic beauty. Sandoval County has several natural springs worth visiting, including **Jemez Springs**, **Spence Hot Springs**, **San Antonio Hot Springs**, **McCauley Warm Springs**, and **Soda Dam and Springs**.

The **Jemez Springs Bath House** is a non-profit business, owned and operated by the Village of Jemez Springs. Unwind and rejuvenate with cool or hot natural mineral spring soaks and healing massages by licensed therapists in private treatment rooms. Also in Jemez Springs, you'll find **Giggling Springs**. The location adjacent to the Jemez River gives you the chance to cool off. www.gigglingssprings.com.

Both **Jemez Springs Bath House** and **Giggling Springs** have changing rooms, beverages and unique gift shops with clothing items, jewelry and handmade lotions.

Jeep Tours

Jeep tours are for the adventurous traveler who wants to explore the history, culture and land. Tours are guided and personalized and can include seeing ancient petroglyphs, wild horses and Spanish ruins. Photography tours are also available. www.nmjeeptours.com.

Winter Activities

An easy 2½ mile cross-country loop trail starts near Redondo Campground in the Jemez, but cross-country aficionados will thrive in the challenging **San Pedro Parks Wilderness** or the open space at **Valles Caldera**. Telemark skiers can practice on the west side of **Corral Canyon** and **Upper San Antonio Canyon**. There are also open mountain trails on the east side of **San Antonio Creek**. www.newmexico.org/ski.



Cross Country Skiing north of Cuba

Camping

Sandoval County has a number of camping opportunities. In Bernalillo, there's a **KOA Campground** on South Hill Road, close to locally owned restaurants. Across the river, overlooking the Rio Grande is **Coronado Park** which accommodates RV stays. In Rio Rancho, **Stagecoach Stop RV Resort** is a quiet park away from the city traffic and noises.

The **Santa Fe National Forest** covers 1.6 million acres in the heart of north central New Mexico and includes much of Sandoval County. For those who like to pack in and camp, **San Pedro Parks Wilderness**, **Ojito Wilderness** and the Jemez Springs area offer quiet nights under the stars. **Santa Fe National Forest** offers a variety of campgrounds ranging from highly developed, with RV sites and electrical hook ups, to primitive, with only toilets. Please visit www.recreation.gov for reservations.



Santa Fe National Forest

Horseback Riding & Camping

Horseback riding and packing are popular activities, especially in the high country. Four designated Wilderness areas are open for horsepacking and there are many other trails as well. Be aware of group size limits (specific wilderness restrictions at www.wilderness.net), and learn the Leave No Trace principles specific to stock use. Use caution with fire and pack out anything you pack in.

Calendar of Events

-  **Annual Park 'N the Park**
Family fun takes place in April each year at Cabezon Park in Rio Rancho with the annual Park 'N the Park Car Show.
-  **Placitas Studio Tour**
This annual event takes place Mother's Day weekend throughout scenic Placitas. www.placitasstudiotour.com.

-  **Annual Old Church Artfest**
Artfest showcases a variety of juried original arts and crafts by local artists each May at the Old San Ysidro Church in Corrales. www.villageinthevillage.org.
-  **Annual Corrales Garden Tour**
Get a look at the gardens that often hide behind the ubiquitous adobe walls in Corrales in June. www.corrales-gardentour.com.
-  **Sandoval County Fair**
Good, old-fashioned fun for the entire family takes place in the Village of Cuba, late July–early August. www.sandovalfair.org.

-  **Pork & Brew BBQ State Championships**
at the **Santa Ana Star Center**
The best barbecue vendors from around the region gather for a three-day festival featuring food and beer during the fourth of July weekend. www.riorancho.org.
-  **Annual Corrales Art in the Park**
This is a juried art and fine craft sale occurring on Sundays, June to October in the beautiful, tree-lined La Entrada Park in Corrales. www.nmartistsmarket.org.
-  **Las Fiestas de San Lorenzo**
Held in early August at Rotary Park, Las Fiestas celebrates Bernalillo's identity as a community. www.townofbernalillo.org.

-  **The Great Southwest Brew Fest**
New Mexico craft breweries meet in early September at Loretto Park in Bernalillo. www.nmbeer.org.
-  **Jemez Mountains Elk Festival**
Experience and learn about elk on the **Valles Caldera National Preserve** and participate in activities throughout the Jemez Mountains region.
-  **Corrales Harvest Festival**
Experience the charming Village of Corrales in all of its autumn beauty in September. www.corralesharvestfestival.com.
-  **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**
The world-renowned **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta** is a spectacular weeklong event, held the first week in October. www.balloonfiesta.com.

-  **Winterfest Celebration**
The **Winterfest Celebration** at the Rio Rancho City Center is a free way to kick off the holidays with family activities. www.riorancho.org.
-  **Taste of Rio Rancho**
After the holidays, Rio Rancho restaurants have an array of savory treats to offer visitors at the **Santa Ana Star Center**. www.riorancho.org.

For a listing of events in our Tribal Communities visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, www.indianpueblo.org.

 Spring  Summer  Fall  Winter



To see the full Travel Guide, visit SeeMoreofNM.com