

NORTHWEST NM

BELOW LEFT: Ship Rock (PHOTO: TIM KELLER) MIDDLE: Kayaking at Navajo Lake (PHOTO: KATE RUSSELL)
TOP RIGHT: Acoma Pueblo's Sky City Cultural Center (PHOTO: GABRIELLA MARKS) MIDDLE: Traditional jewelry
on display (PHOTO: JULIEN MCROBERTS) BOTTOM: Gallup's historic El Rancho Hotel (PHOTO: JULIEN MCROBERTS)



Span

FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT

Stand at the junction of four states (Arizona, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico) at the granite-and-brass monument in the Navajo Nation. (928) 871-6647, navajonationparks.org

Visit

ACOMA PUEBLO

Along with Taos Pueblo, Acoma Pueblo's Sky City shares the accolade of being the longest continuously inhabited community in the U.S. Start at the **Haak'u Cultural Center** for a guided tour of the mesa-top village perched 370 feet above the desert floor. As you wander the wide lanes among stacked adobe homes, browse the pueblo's signature black-and-white pottery from local artisans. (800) 747-0181, acomaskycity.org

Trace

EL MORRO NATIONAL MONUMENT

Native Americans, Spanish conquistadors, and Anglo settlers have all found respite at the base of this sandstone bluff outside Grants. Over hundreds of years, these travelers have left their marks via inscription—more than 2,000 signatures, dates, and messages. (505) 783-4226 x 801, nps.gov/elmo

Hike

EL MALPAIS NATIONAL MONUMENT

These lands outside Grants may have seemed "bad" to the Spanish settlers who gave them their name, but the intriguing volcanic landscape is rich in recreation. Treks reveal natural arches, cinder cones, lava tubes, and other fascinating formations. (505) 876-2783, nps.gov/elma



Stay

EL RANCHO HOTEL

Sleep where John Wayne, Katharine Hepburn, and Humphrey Bogart once stayed. The rambling El Rancho Hotel earned landmark status when these Hollywood stars turned in there while filming westerns in the area. (505) 863-9311, route66hotels.org

Dip

NAVAJO LAKE STATE PARK

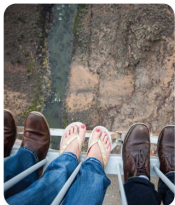
The second-largest body of water in the state is a boon to boaters, with two marinas and launches for craft from motorized boats to kayaks. Fishing devotees, however, worship in the frigid waters below the dam, where some 80,000 trout populate the San Juan River. (505) 632-2278, nmparks.com

NORTHWEST NM

SPOTLIGHT: FARMINGTON

Set in the far northwest corner of the state, Farmington draws outdoor adventurers of every age. In town, bike, run, or watch for wildlife along eight miles of riverside nature trails that weave through **Animas** and **Berg Parks**. Outside of town, hike in the **Angle Peak Scenic Area**, the namesake formation set in the 10,000-acre Kutz Canyon. (505-564-7600, blm.gov/nm) During family getaways, get an overview of local history and culture at the **Farmington Museum** at Gateway Park before getting hands-on at **E3 Children's Museum and Science Center** with giant puzzles, a puppet theater, and other activities. (505) 599-1174, fmtn.org; (505) 599-1425, fmtn.org





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NORTHEAST NM

Watch

SHULER THEATER

This 1915 theater exemplifies early 20th-century high style, featuring a painted sky above the proscenium and original drop curtains depicting a Roman villa and Ratón's Rixley Park. Today the Ratón landmark is a regional music venue, including summer performances of the Music from Angel Fire chamber music festival. (575) 445-4726, shulertheater.com



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Eat, Drink, Play

SEE Northeast New Mexico's best sights are often right out the car window during drives along the eastern front of the Rockies and across the short-grass prairie plains.

STAY Get tucked into two historic accommodations, the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas and the St. James Hotel in Cimarron, where the saloon ceiling still bears the bullet holes of its Wild West past.

DRIVE Route 66 blazes a neon path across this region. Find original stretches of the Mother Road in Tucumcari and Santa Rosa.

