

SILVER CITY

NEW MEXICO

Vacation Guide

visitsilvercity.org



[SILVER CITY]

Remotely settled in southwestern New Mexico, Silver City boasts dark skies, a pleasant climate, abundant sunshine, 339 species of birds, five life zones, and enough precipitation to transform the high desert hillsides into a gorgeous, lush landscape from summer through fall.

At 6,000 feet above sea level, Silver City's mountainous air maintains a moderate temperature year-round, yet the town experiences four distinct seasons. Snowbirds with a fondness for winter will enjoy the few magical flurries this area receives each year and then rejoice at the warm sunshine that removes all evidence of winter within days. Nature wows visitors to Silver City and Grant County, no matter their interests. Animal lovers and bird watchers in the area can observe the life that animates riverbanks, the forests, and the parks each season. Astronomers can set up shop under the Milky Way, as observatories are sprinkled



throughout the county, and star parties occur regularly. Some stargazers might even want to spend a couple of nights at the Cosmic Campground International Dark Sky Sanctuary, which is an easy drive from town.

The people make the place, and Silver City's population of 10,000 is a tight-knit community that welcomes strangers as family. You'll anticipate friendly conversation, as well as recommendations on best places to eat, hang out, and relax at one of our locally owned coffee shops.





Enjoy a morning walk along the historic flood-carved Big Ditch, which was at one time Main Street and is now a lush downtown park. Continue your day of exploring, and by afternoon, you'll understand why some of us never leave. By the evening, you'll know all the locals: the unofficial mayors, the sociable loners, and the life-long natives.

With abundant parks and playgrounds, as well as a rich variety of arts programming, Silver City is a great place to raise kids. The culture and atmosphere

work together to cultivate rich imaginations and create vibrant childhood experiences. Here, diversity is more than a goal or a buzzword; it's reality in our accepting and character-rich community. From toddlers to millennials, baby boomers to old timers, ranchers and miners to artists and retirees, the people who live in and visit our town represent a cornucopia of ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic groups.

For more info: **VisitSilverCity.org**

[EXPLORE]

Catwalk Recreation Area

— A scenic 65 miles from town on US 180, the Catwalk Recreation Area is home to stunning cliffs and streams. A steel walkway takes you through the canyon and can accommodate individuals of varying abilities.



City of Rocks State Park

— Formed from volcanic ash over 35 million years ago, this magical park is home to rows and rows of towering monolithic rock. It's easy to get lost in the walkways between rocks, so allow plenty of time for exploration. Camping and picnicking is allowed in the area.



Continental Divide Trail

— This 3,000 plus mile trail runs from the Montana/Canada border all the way down to the New Mexico/Mexico border. One of its highest points sits atop Pelona Peak in the Gila National Forest and is 9,220 feet high.





Fort Bayard

— Established in 1866, Fort Bayard's purpose was to protect miners and ranchers. Additionally, the fort was home to hundreds of Buffalo soldiers. Their influence can still be seen in a life-sized monument at Fort Bayard. Visitors can anticipate maintained historic buildings and other monuments when making a trip to Fort Bayard.

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

— This United States National Monument was created to protect the Mogollon Cliff Dwellings in the Gila Wilderness. It is located approximately 44 miles north of Silver City on Highway 15. Its unique location, exquisite beauty, and cultural significance make it a favorite for area visitors and an important part of New Mexico history.





Gila National Forest & Gila Wilderness

— Established in 1924, The Gila National Forest was the first designated wilderness area in the United States. It covers nearly 3.3 million acres of land, making it the sixth largest national forest in the United States.

A playground for campers, hunters and avid outdoors people, the forest is home to a plethora of wildlife, including the Gila Monster, deer, elk, bobcats, and wild turkey.

Historic Downtown

— Downtown is a mecca for the visual, performance, and culinary arts. Home to art galleries, three theaters, and award-winning restaurants, the historic downtown district is the number one attraction in Silver City.





Trail of the Mountain Spirits

— This scenic byway covers 95 miles and stretches from Gila Cliff Dwellings to the north, down to Silver City and east through San Lorenzo, New Mexico.

Western New Mexico University Museum (WNMU)

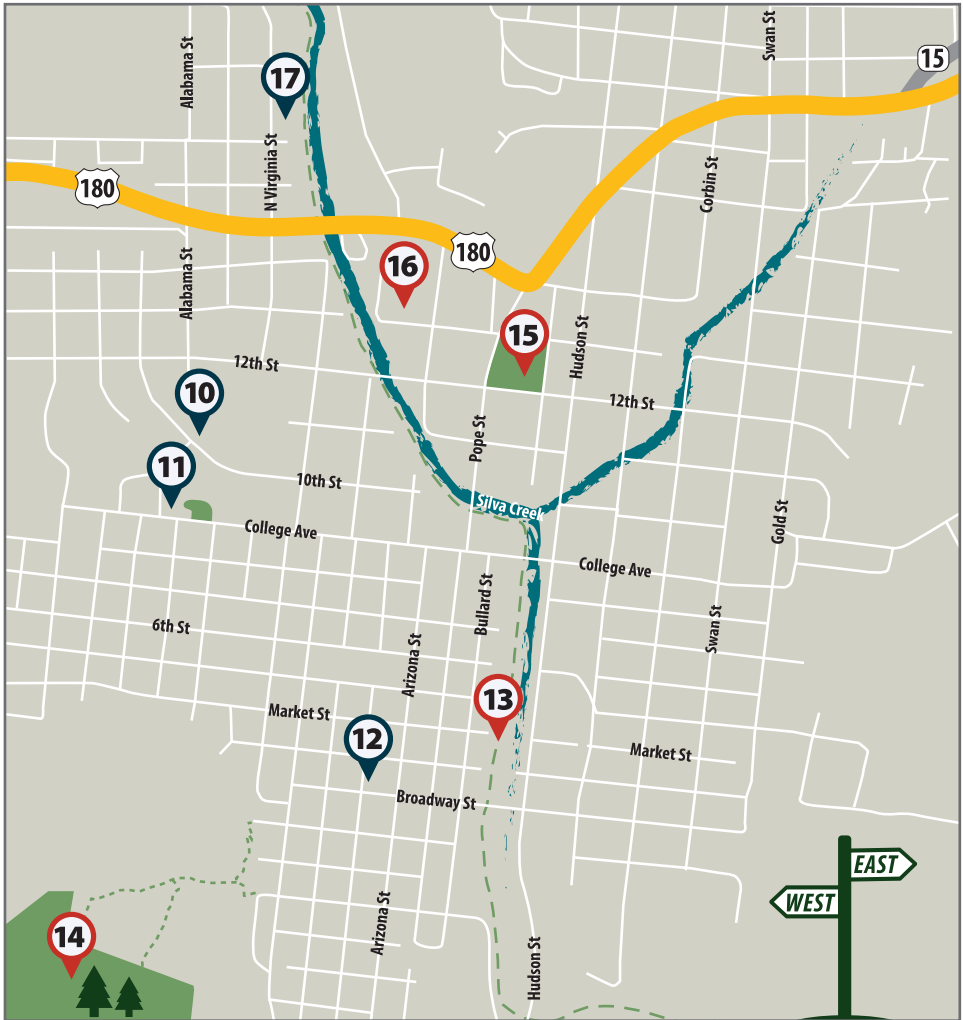
— WNMU is home to a number of unique cultural assets, including the NAN Ranch Collection. This features the world's largest collection of Mimbres culture pottery and materials.



COURTESY OF WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY/JAY HEMPHILL

Silver City & The Surrounding Areas

- ① Catwalk Recreation Area
- ② City of Rocks State Park
- ③ Continental Divide Trail
- ④ Fort Bayard
- ⑤ Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
- ⑥ Gila National Forest Visitor Center
- ⑦ Bear Canyon Reservoir
- ⑧ Lake Roberts
- ⑨ Mining District, Chino Mine
- ⑩ Western New Mexico University Museum
- ⑪ Light Hall Theater
- ⑫ Silver City Museum
- ⑬ The Big Ditch Trail
- ⑭ Boston Hill Open Space
- ⑮ Gough Park
- ⑯ Penny Park
- ⑰ Silva Creek Botanical Gardens





[STAY]



There is no shortage of places to stay in and around Silver City and Grant County. From historic hotels to rustic cabins, there's something for every style of traveler.

For RV and camping lovers, the area boasts a number of RV parks with a variety of amenities and tons of scenery, as well as a number of campgrounds and State Parks open for both camping and RVs. For a quaint, quiet stay, visitors will find over 30 B&Bs, comfortable cottages, and cabins scattered throughout Grant County.

For more contemporary amenities, Silver City is home to a number of local historic hotels in and around downtown, as well as corporate chains.

[VisitSilverCity.org/stay](https://www.visitSilverCity.org/stay)





[EAT]



Silver City has no shortage of eateries both locally owned and national brands.

Our plethora of coffee shops will keep any caffeine cravings at bay and our fresh eats from local bakeries and lunch spots will appease any traveler's hunger. From pizza, to New Mexican, fine dining and casual comfort food, there's plenty to please your palette throughout town.

[VisitSilverCity.org/eat](https://www.VisitSilverCity.org/eat)





[ARTS]



Silver City is an artists' mecca. From mixed media and pottery to local live music and theater, it's easy to find the media that speaks to you. Not only is downtown home to a number of studios and galleries, where you can happen upon an artist perfecting their craft, but there are also dozens of galleries scattered throughout town, as well as along the outskirts of town. Silver City serves as inspiration for writers alike, with the Southwest Festival of the Written Word taking place every other year.



Well known art organizations like the Grant County Art Guild, the Mimbres Region Arts Council, Silver City Art Association, Southwest New Mexico Clay Arts Trail, Theatre Group New Mexico and the Western New Mexico University Cultural Affairs Department can connect visitors with events and artists.



VisitSilverCity.org/arts



[EVENTS]

Silver City has events to entertain those with a wide variety of interests. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy events like the Tour of the Gila and the Gila Monster Gran Fondo that take cyclists through the extraordinary Gila Wilderness.

For artists, the Clay Festival is a town favorite, and the Red Dot Art Studio Tour and Weekend at the Galleries can guide you on a path to discovering unique and inspiring artists who specialize in an array of media from print to weaving and painting to pottery.

Whatever your interests, you're sure to find unique and exciting events on your visit. Listed are just a few events.

For current dates and a full listing of all events, visit our website.

VisitSilverCity.org/events



TOUR OF THE GILA

Annually beginning of May

RED DOT SPRING STUDIO TOUR

Annually in May

BLUES FESTIVAL

Annually end of May

WILD WEST PRO RODEO

Annually second weekend of June

FIESTA LATINA

Annually third or fourth weekend in June

CLAY FESTIVAL

Annually mid-July

GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

Annually first weekend of September

GILA RIVER FESTIVAL

Annually end of September

SOUTHWEST PRINT FIESTA

*Annually Columbus Day
Weekend in October*

RED DOT WEEKEND AT THE GALLERIES

*Annually Columbus Day
Weekend in October*



Catwalk Recreation Area

A path above the rest. [TRUE]

Silver City is
NEW MEXICO *True*

visitsilvercity.org