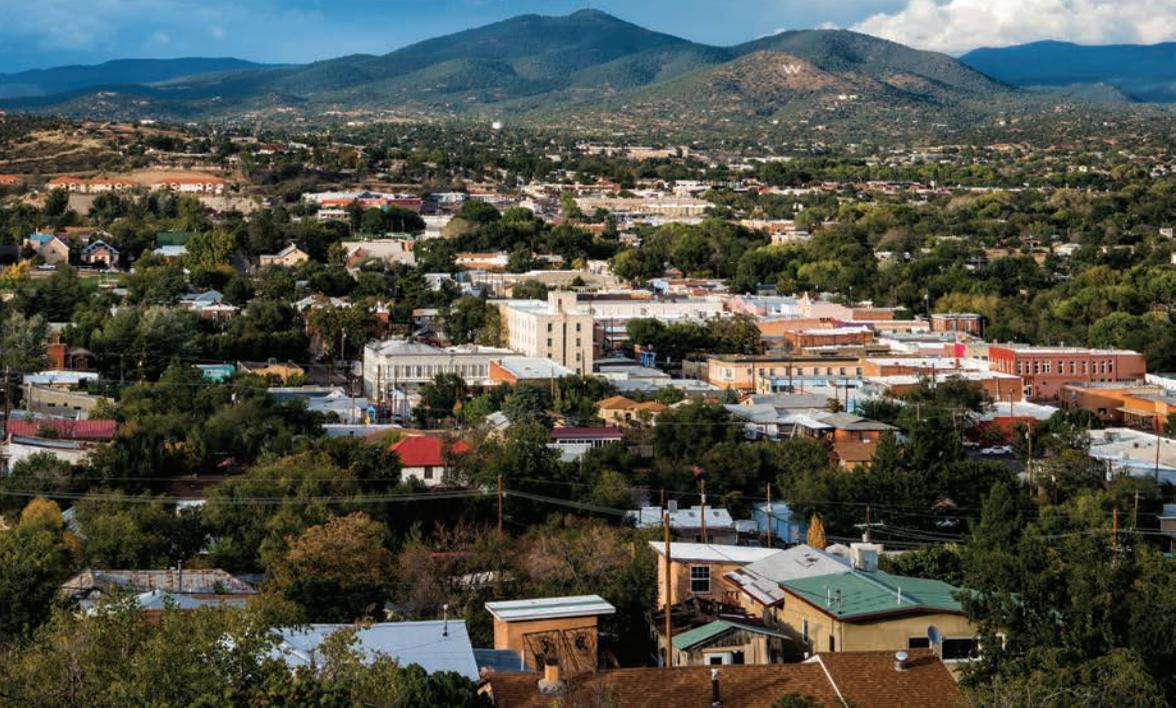


# SILVER CITY

## NEW MEXICO





# SPEND TIME, WALK THROUGH HISTORY, AND DISCOVER YOUR COLORFUL SIDE HERE.

Silver City's galleries, museums, historic theaters, renowned eateries, trails, and parks can keep a day-tripper busy from sunup to sundown, so many travelers opt to stay an extra night. The walkable downtown boasts a theater district plus a range of restaurants, bars, and coffee shops — not to mention an array of galleries and boutiques for art browsers and art buyers alike. The Gila National Forest's wide-open spaces delight outdoorsy travelers, and its geologic and biologic diversity leaves nature lovers in awe. Historical sites abound here — where Geronimo was born, where Mimbres black on white pots were painted, and where Billy the Kid roamed.





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Silver City has accommodations to suit every taste and restaurants that make everyone feel at home. You can indulge in New Mexican food for every meal, savor slow food downtown, or slice into a steak at an historic saloon. You can nosh on organic meat and locally grown produce at a few of the eateries, just grab a quick bite, or experience world cuisine at a number of restaurants. Know that wherever you go, it's perfectly acceptable to ask for green chile — either chopped or in sauce form — on everything. While you're filling your belly with good eats, you can quench your thirst by sipping on a glass of New Mexico wine or by guzzling a local microbrew on a downtown patio.

## **WORLD-CLASS MENUS AND A VARIETY OF PLACES TO STAY MAKE FOR WELL-FED AND REFRESHED VISITORS.**

When it's time to turn in, you can sleep in another era, retreat at an out-of-the-way cabin, or snooze at one of the area's modern franchises. Glampers can enjoy close-to-town RV parks or plug in at further-flung sites, while tent dwellers can set up at one of the many developed campgrounds or seek sanctuary at a dispersed camping site elsewhere in the forest. Whether you prefer upscale cafés and charming hotels or Old West dining and rustic bed and breakfasts, Silver City has what you are looking for.





**PAIN  
T YOUR  
WORLD  
WITH  
THE  
COLORS  
OF  
SILVER  
CITY.**



Silver City is home to dozens of artists and a one-stop-shop for lovers of any creative medium. Studios and galleries are sprinkled from downtown to the outskirts of the county and large-scale youth-designed murals lie around every corner — from the Western New Mexico University campus to the downtown Historic District to the area's outlying neighborhoods. Many local artists band together and thrive in this laid-back arts scene. While local and traveling musicians provide live entertainment almost nightly, world-class theater productions happen frequently. Plus, art openings and workshops occur during peak events. Because of the diversity of activities and array of styles showcased here, it's possible for all visitors to interact with and appreciate this colorful community. Whether with an expert eye or a beginner's perspective, seeing Silver City's true colors is easy.



Adrenaline junkies and nature lovers, look no further than the Gila National Forest: a 3.3 million-acre playground with two separate wilderness areas. Solitude is within reach here, a prime destination for scenic adventures — as is fishing in the Gila's cool waters, hiking through untrammelled canyons and up 10,000-foot peaks, mountain biking on endless forest trails, kayaking the free-flowing Gila River, or pedaling along windy and nearly trafficless mountain roads.



Backpackers and horseback riders can access some of the country's most remote areas via beautiful trails, and they're often rewarded along the way with wildlife sightings and opportunities to relax in natural hot springs. Off-roading enthusiasts will find Jeep tracks and ATV trails abound in the forest, while those more comfortable in urban settings can venture into Silver City's greenways for a hike on public trails in town. The close-by Boston Hill and Little Walnut trail systems are visitor-friendly and popular with locals, too, especially since the Little Walnut trails connect with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in a couple of spots. As New Mexico's first Gateway Community to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Silver City welcomes thru hikers and section hikers, and the community shines as a highlight along this route.





**AND FEED YOUR SPIRIT  
IN ITS GREAT OUTDOORS.**

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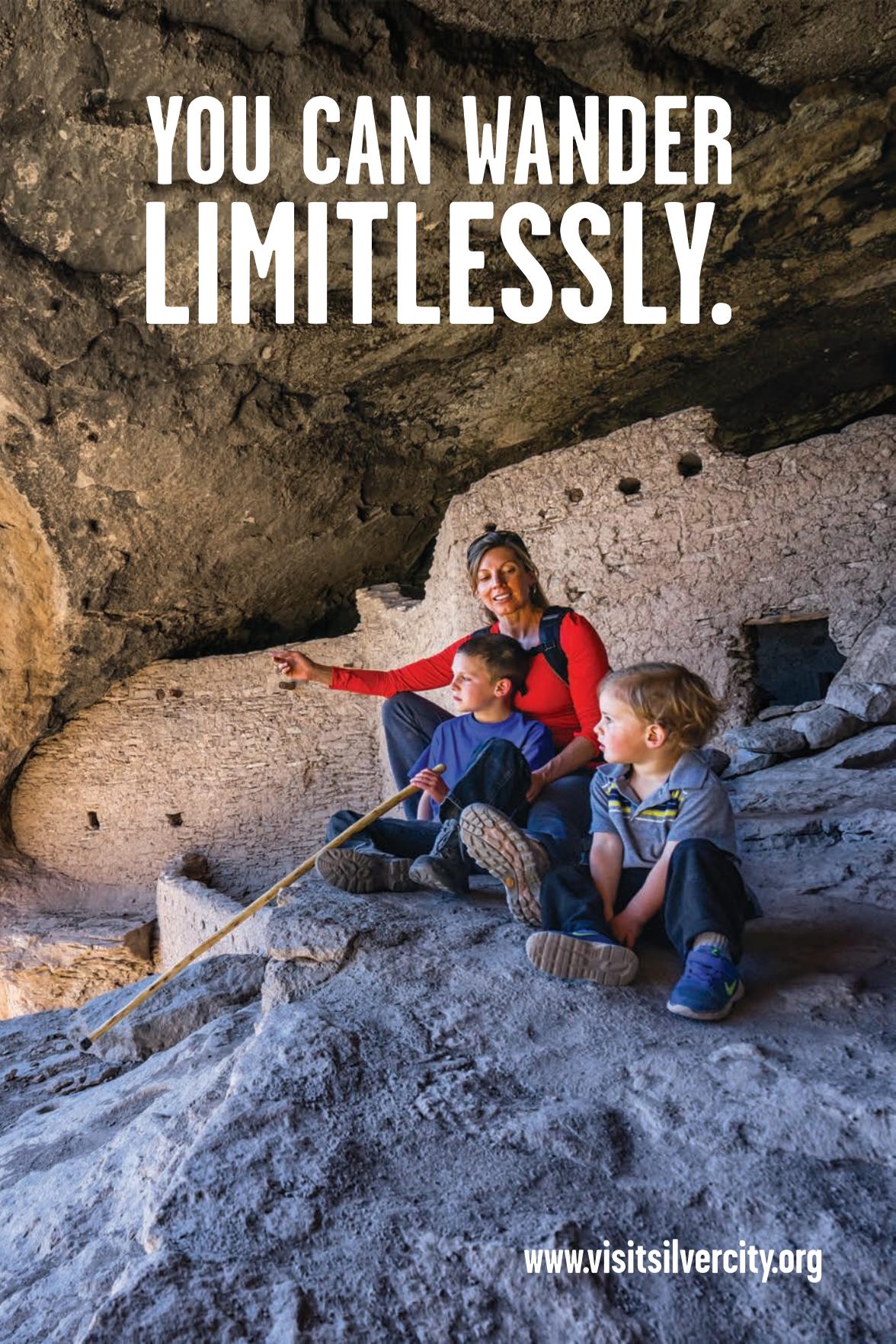


Prioritizing which natural and historic attractions to visit first proves tough, but hitting many all in one trip isn't difficult. The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, multiple hot springs locations, the old mining town of Pinos Altos, and the lustrous Lake Roberts all lie along a National Scenic Byway known fittingly as the Trail of the Mountain Spirits. The Mimbres Valley, City of Rocks State Park, Santa Rita Mining Overlook, Fort Bayard Historic District where Buffalo Soldiers lived and fought, apple orchards, a winery, some desert hot springs, and today's mining district are connected by another picturesque route that's popular among drivers, motorcyclists, and road bikers.

A day trip in the opposite direction can include ghost towns like Mogollon, an isolated settlement nestled high in the cool mountains, stops in farming and ranching communities, plus the Catwalk National Recreation Area, which boasts a thrilling pathway suspended over a narrow creek. Whether on foot, on horseback, on two-wheels or four, travelers can explore for days, even weeks, here. Some stay for years and their journeys never end.



# YOU CAN WANDER LIMITLESSLY.



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## AND BE ENTERTAINED ENDLESSLY.

Time flies when you're having fun in Silver City. Visitors could conceivably come for one festival and stay in town for five more — in a matter of one month. The go-big-or-go-home entertainment tradition is carried on by arts and outdoors events year-round. The famously free Silver City Blues Festival and other ongoing music series present lively and affordable amusement, while the Red Dot ArtFest allows visitors a peek into artists' studios and offers numerous gallery events and workshops. Races like Tour of the Gila attract professional and amateur cyclists to the area's mountainous



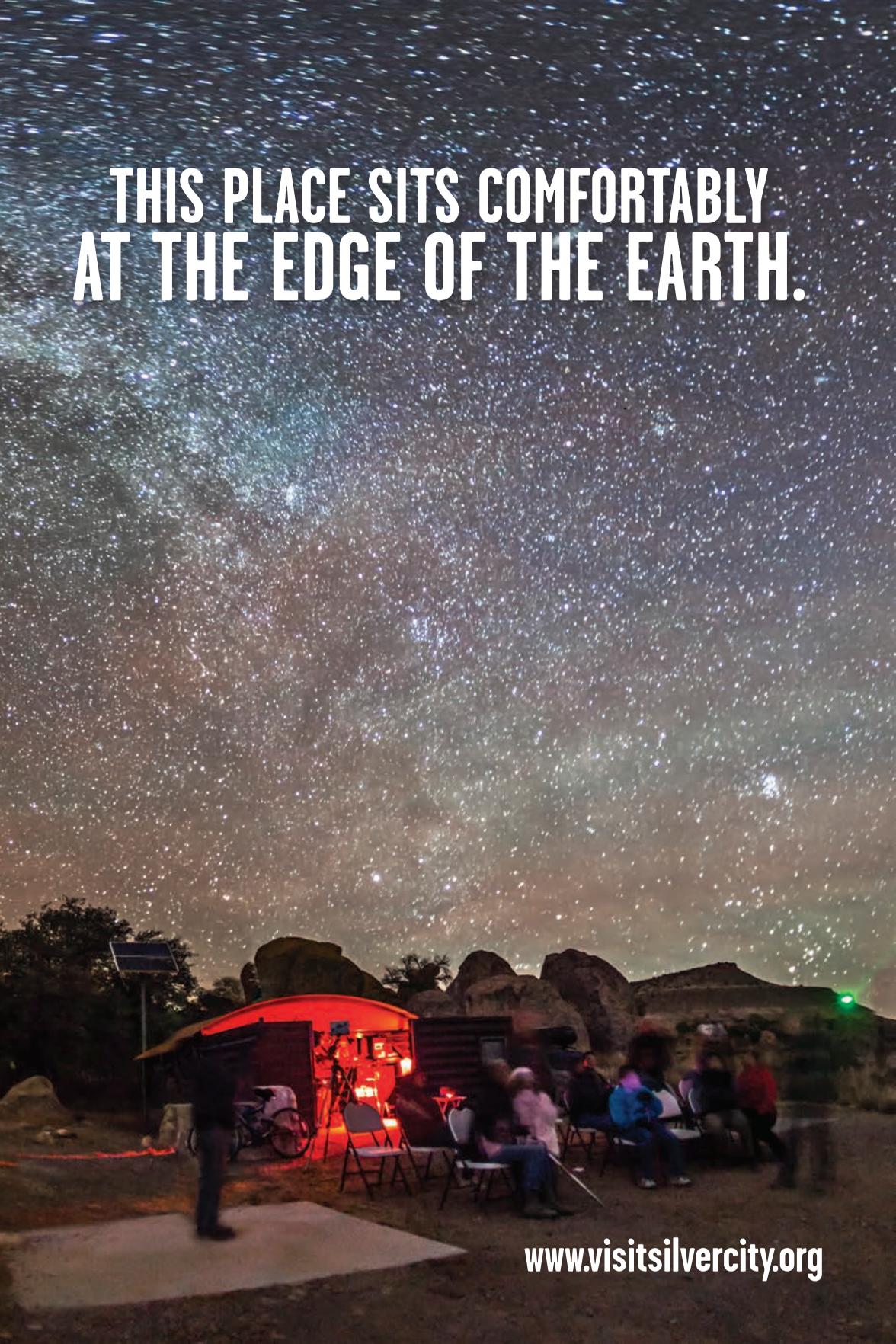
roads and trails, while regular group rides welcome travelers, too. Car clubs convene here frequently, and several Grant County communities host annual car shows, which sometimes include cruises on the area's curvy roads. Rock hounds from across the Southwest gather in Silver City annually, clay enthusiasts flock to town for two weeks each summer, and birders and boaters visit seasonally. Golf and baseball tournaments also draw athletes, while cultural events such as a downtown Day of the Dead celebration and a holiday-time Hispanic foods fiesta keep the region's traditions alive.

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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 happy light that removes all evidence of winter within days. Nature wows visitors to 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.

**THIS PLACE SITS COMFORTABLY  
AT THE EDGE OF THE EARTH.**



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AND YET, THE COMMUNITY HERE IS  
**STRONG.**

The people make the place, and Silver City's population of 10,000 makes up a tightly knit one that manages to welcome strangers as family. Everyone knows everyone — and their pets — on a first name basis, and so the greetings at the farmers' market, at street dances, and in grocery store aisles are ceaseless.



Walk along the historic flood-carved Big Ditch, which was once Main Street and is a lush downtown park now, and you'll get to know the town's central social and physical landscapes. Stop for a chat at the coffee shop and you'll likely get invited to dinner at a local's kitchen counter. By afternoon, you'll understand why some of us never leave. And by evening, you'll know all of the town characters: the unofficial mayors, the sociable loners, and the life-long natives.



Families choose to raise kids here, where parks and playgrounds abound and where arts programming ensures children vibrant childhoods, helping to cultivate rich imaginations. Diversity is more than a goal or a buzzword; it's reality in this 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 this place represent many different ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic groups.





## **IN THIS FREE-SPIRITED COLLEGE TOWN, PEOPLE STAY IN THE KNOW.**

Western New Mexico University has a history as a teacher's and businessperson's school, and it has grown into a place where students of all ages can get a rich yet broad education. Its faculty and students lend a liveliness that's uncommon in places this remote, and its many programs enrich curious residents' and visitors' minds as well. This scholarly settlement boasts popular local trivia nights and frequent free learning opportunities, such as public lectures and hands-on workshops offered by knowledgeable citizens.



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Countless eccentric characters and historical figures came from here, while others have put down roots in the area. Billy The Kid hails from Silver City, and a cabin modeled after his childhood home sits at the center of town. Madame Millie earned her living here, running brothels and shrewdly opening new houses to meet the mining community's demands. Some of her historic establishments have been transformed into cozy homes that locals now lovingly inhabit. World-renowned Apache leader, Geronimo, was born at the headwaters of the Gila River, and a humble monument honors him in the wilderness today. The region's mining history brought the Spanish and the Native Americans into conflict over the land and drew adventurous types of all backgrounds here in the quest for gold, silver, and copper. Fort Bayard's remaining buildings, as well as the adjacent Ford Bayard National Cemetery, stand as a testament to a complex military history, while a nearby veterans memorial honors those who have served our country. This land is also where ranchers have raised beef and brought up their families for centuries, continuing to do so today. More modern heroes who've called Silver City home include golfer Billy Casper and astronaut Harrison Schmitt.





THEY'RE FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF  
**OUTSIDE THE BOX THINKERS**  
WHO'VE BEEN ENJOYING SILVER CITY FOR AGES.

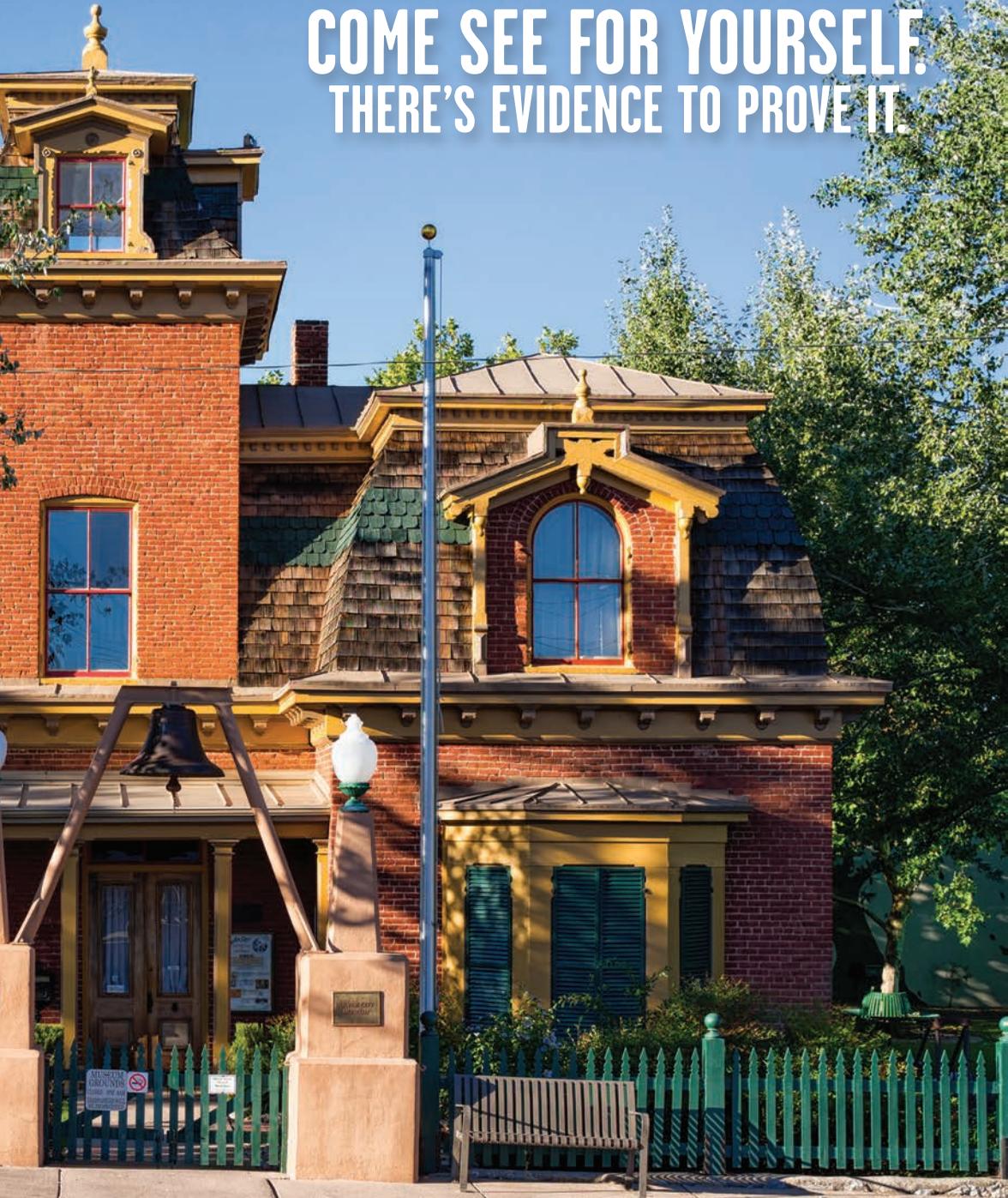
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Explore Silver City and Grant County's multistoried past and present at its many fascinating museums. In town, the Western New Mexico University Museum and the Silver City Museum celebrate and showcase southwestern New Mexico's cultural heritage. While the former is known for the NAN Ranch Collection, which features the world's largest collection of Mimbres culture pottery and materials, the latter's interactive exhibits bring the more than 20,000 objects in its collection to life. Other cultural attractions include the Pinos Altos Museum, the Imogene F. Wilson Education Foundation's Mimbres Culture Heritage Site, a 1,000-year old Mimbres pueblo, and the open air Mining Equipment Museum in Bayard. Since diving deeper into this place's rich history and varied cultures proves fun and easy, it's mostly a matter of getting here. Silver City continually enchants travelers of all sorts and its charms keep them coming back for more. You might fall for this place, too; just give it a try.



**COME SEE FOR YOURSELF.  
THERE'S EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT.**



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