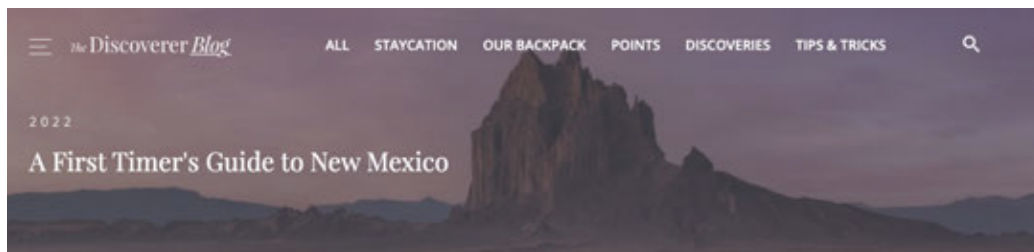


THE DISCOVERER BLOG

A First Timer's Guide to New Mexico August 3, 2022

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Home to 19 federally recognized Pueblo communities on ancestral land and displaying totally spellbinding natural landscapes like rugged mountains and vast deserts, New Mexico embodies some of the country's most diverse scenery.

Coupled with its blend of Native American, Mexican, Spanish, and Anglo-American cultural influences, New Mexico is a destination that also boasts historical and cultural significance. With a plethora of year-round festivals, an ever-flourishing dining scene, and plenty of outdoor recreation opportunities, the Land of Enchantment is a perennial favorite destination for travelers – whether you want to celebrate the fine arts, indulge in its fiery hatch chile-infused dishes, or explore its plunging canyon cliffs and red rock mesas.

New Mexico's largest city plays host to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta for nine days each October, drawing an influx of visitors to observe the morning mass ascensions when over 500 balloons take to the skies at dawn for an enchanting sight.

Otherwise, Albuquerque remains a destination that most travelers skip in favor of Santa Fe. But those who stay are rewarded with the opportunity to experience the city's dynamic blend of Spanish and Native American influences. Explore Old Town and its historic adobe buildings that house the San Felipe de Neri Church, a handful of museums, and a collection of shops that sell Native American handicrafts.

Celebrate the culture, history, and art of New Mexico's Pueblo people by visiting the [Indian Pueblo Cultural Center](#) two miles north of Old Town. Time your visit for the weekend when the courtyard comes alive to the beat of drums, shaking rattles, and Native American dancers in regalia. Then sample traditional Native American and feast day dishes like posole (a rich stew typically made with hominy, slow-cooked pork, and chiles), fry bread, and Tewa tacos at the on-site [Indian Pueblo Kitchen](#).

