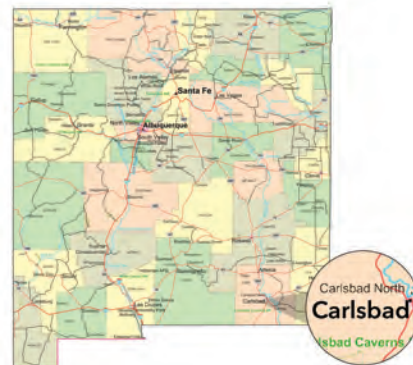




# Carlsbad, NM



Carlsbad, New Mexico, is located in the southeast corner of New Mexico, about 25 miles north of the Texas border. The city is situated along the Pecos River on the northeastern fringe of the Chihuahuan Desert. The city and its surrounding county were originally named Eddy for Charles B. Eddy, who established an irrigation system in the area and plans for a new town in the 1880s. In 1899, the city was renamed Carlsbad after the famous European health resort, Karlsbad, because a large spring located near the New Mexican irrigation flume reportedly had similar mineral qualities. Carlsbad Spring still flows near the Pecos Flume, one of the most impressive structures in Carlsbad.

The Carlsbad Museum and Art Center focuses on the history of Carlsbad and the surrounding region and includes exhibits of precious minerals and fossils of local prehistoric animals. The Art Center's preeminent display is the renowned McAdoo Collection of "Taos Ten" paintings. The Carlsbad Area Art Association is a local cooperative of artists that creates, displays, and sells paintings, photographs, sculptures, pottery, textiles, and other works.

Performing arts in Carlsbad include the Carlsbad Community Concert Association, which sponsors an annual series of four concerts by visiting performers. Each year the Carlsbad Community Theater produces four dramatic productions and a summer musical, which feature local talent. Local and touring groups participate in dance, theater, and musical productions sponsored by the Carlsbad Arts and Humanities Alliance.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Carlsbad is primarily a commercial and governmental area. The residential neighborhood to the west of the downtown area contains a mix of housing styles that include southern, mini-plantation, mid-20th century ranch, and older adobes. Development of this neighborhood began in the early 1900s and continued for about 50 years.

In the area between Pierce and Lea Streets, homes are primarily small, single story ranchers or adobes constructed between 1950 and 1970 on small lots.

Located near the Carlsbad Medical Center, the housing developments between West Pierce and Riverside Drive feature ranch and split-level houses that date from the mid-20th century. However, some of the original lakeside houses on Riverside Drive have been demolished and replaced with larger single- or two-story contemporary-style homes, many with access to Lake Carlsbad/Pecos River. These houses are situated on larger lots as are the houses across the lake.

Two new developments located near the hospital are Spring Hollow and Quail Hollow. Construction in Spring Hollow began in 2009 and is ongoing. Most of the houses are contemporary-styled, single-story homes on small lots; two-story houses are also available. Single-family homes dominate Quail Hollow, which features contemporary and contemporary adobe style homes on larger lots. Development began in 2007 and is ongoing.

In the far southern area of Carlsbad, the Farm View development features new construction of primarily single-story homes on large lots in a rural setting.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Carlsbad maintains 37 parks and recreational facilities that include a recreation center; shooting range; tennis complex; golf course; water park; softball, baseball, and soccer fields; basketball courts; indoor and outdoor swimming areas; playgrounds; skate park; and a hockey rink. Playground on the Pecos is a community-built playground that offers caves, rock climbing areas, and flumes in addition to towers, swings, and slides.

Heritage Park contains The Eddy House, which is the first homestead built in the County of Eddy. The park hosts an annual event honoring the area's pioneer families.

The 125-acre Lake Carlsbad Park is located alongside the Pecos River. Park facilities include a band shell on the beach, boat docks, playground, and a recreation area with soccer fields, tennis courts, racquetball courts, a 6-mile walking trail, and designated swimming and fishing areas.

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park contains plants and animals native to the Chihuahuan Desert.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park consists of more than 119 known caves that are hidden beneath the surface and were formed when sulfuric acid dissolved the surrounding limestone. The park's museum contains approximately one million cultural resource artifacts. Each evening from mid-April to late October, the park rangers' Bat Flight Program precedes the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Brazilian free-tailed bats from the caverns in search of insects to eat.

Many other recreational areas are located near the city. Avalon Reservoir is regularly stocked with fish for recreational fishing. Brantley Lake offers canoeing, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, birding, camping, and hiking; only catch and release fishing is permitted due to high levels of DDT in the water. Lincoln National Forest features mountain trails with scenic vistas. Guadalupe Mountains National Park, just across the Texas border, is known for its extensive backpacking trails, campgrounds, and diverse wildlife. Hiking, fishing, and wildlife-watching are available at the 1,200-acre Black River Recreation Area.

## EDUCATION

Carlsbad Municipal Schools educates approximately 6,300 students in 7 elementary schools; 2 middle schools; and 2 high schools, including the Early College High School, which offers students the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit.

Higher education is available at New Mexico State University Carlsbad, which offers associate degrees and certificates for professional development or transfer to a four-year university. Bachelor's degree completion programs in elementary education, nursing, and human and community services and master's and doctoral degree programs in community college leadership are offered through a partnership with New Mexico State University-Las Cruces.

Undergraduate and graduate degree programs are available at the University of the Southwest, which is a private, interdenominational, four-year university located nearby in Hobbs, NM.

## HEALTH CARE

Carlsbad is served by Carlsbad Medical Center with 115 licensed beds.

### CITY STATS

**2014**

City Population	28,185
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	56,395
Per Capita Personal Income, Carlsbad-Artesia, NM, Metropolitan Statistical Area	\$52,323