Albuquerque, New Mexico, is located on both sides of the Rio Grande River in the central part of the state and immediately west of the Sandia Mountains. Pueblo people lived in the area when the first Spanish explorers arrived in approximately 1540 under General Francisco de Coronado. In 1706, King Philip of Spain permitted a group of colonists to establish a new city on the banks of the river. They named the city in honor of the Spanish Duke of Albuquerque.

Albuquerque’s museums celebrate the many peoples of the region. The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center offers information and resources on Native American culture, history, dance, food, and art. The National Hispanic Cultural Center is a center for Hispanic arts and culture and features an art museum, a state-of-the-art performing arts complex, a library, and a genealogy center. African American Performing Arts Center and Exhibit Hall celebrates African-American history and culture. The ABQ BioPark Zoo, and community churches. Outpost Southwest, Tricklock Company specializes in absurdism, physical, and Musical Theatre Southwest, and KiMo Theatre, which is also home to Opera Theatrical performances are held at Albuquerque Little Theatre, Cell Theatre, learning center and children’s museum.

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science’s core exhibits offer a journey through billions of years of New Mexico’s natural history and features the Lockheed Martin Dymaxion Theater and the Planetarium.

The history of the development of nuclear technology and weapons starting with the Manhattan Project is revealed at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, which displays a full-scale panoramic timeline of authentic atomic-age weaponry and technologies. Heritage Park contains aircraft and other large artifacts.

Petroglyph National Monument contains more than 20,000 designs and symbols carved onto volcanic rocks by Native Americans and Spanish settlers 400 to 700 years ago.

The city is a multi-use entertainment and facility and hosts concerts, cultural events, sports, and equestrian shows. Special events include the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in April and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® in October.

Albuquerque maintain and manages more than 288 park sites, including 14 off-leash dog parks. Recreational opportunities include basketball, flag football, a shooting range, softball, tennis, pickle ball, model aircraft flying, wall rock climbing, model rocketry, skiing, snowboarding, bicycling, and swimming.

The ABQ BioPark comprises four facilities. Albuquerque Aquarium showcases the marine habitats of the Rio Grande and Gulf of Mexico and features coral reef fish, eels, stingrays, and sharks. Formal and whimsical gardens, including Mediterranean and Desert Sedum beds and a butterfly pavilion, can be found at the Rio Grande Botanic Garden. The 64-acre ABQ BioPark Zoo exhibits exotic and native animals in naturalistic habitats. Tingley Beach offers opportunities for fishing and boating. The Rio Line travels 1.5 miles along the Rio Grande bosque to connect the Aquarium, Botanic Garden, and Zoo.

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park offers opportunities to observe about 250 species of birds, including roadrunners and wood ducks. The park also has a trail system along the river, demonstration gardens, and indoor and outdoor wildlife viewing areas.

The Sandia Mountains in the Cibola National Forest offer access to hiking, mountain biking, climbing, and skiing. The Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway provides transportation a distance of 2.7 miles to the observation deck atop the 10,378 foot Sandia Peak.

Albuquerque Public Schools educate 84,000 students from Albuquerque, Corrales, Los Ranchos, Bernalillo County, Sandoval County, and the pueblos of Isleta and Laguna in 88 elementary schools (kindergarten through grade 5), 26 middle schools (grade 6-8), 27 middle schools, and 13 high schools. The district operates 11 whole school of choice.

Higher education is available at The University of New Mexico, a public research university with academic options that include a School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, and College of Nursing. Trinity Southwest University offers undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs with a biblically based discipline.

Two community colleges serve Albuquerque: Central New Mexico Community College and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, which is also the formally operated Bureau of Indian Affairs community college.

Several business and technical colleges also serve Albuquerque’s residents.

Albuquerque is served by the following health care facilities:

- Albuquerque–AMG Specialty Hospital, LLC: 25 licensed beds
- Central Desert Behavioral Health Services of New Mexico LLC: 26 licensed beds
- Central Hospital of New Mexico: 35 licensed beds
- Kindred Hospital Albuquerque: 61 licensed beds
- Lovelace Vencor Hospital: 263 licensed beds
- Lovelace UNM Rehabilitation Hospital: 62 licensed beds
- Lovelace Westside Hospital: 80 licensed beds
- Lovelace Women’s Hospital: 120 licensed beds
- Presbyterian Hospital: 353 licensed beds
- Presbyterian Kaseman Hospital: 85 licensed beds
- Turquoise Lodge Hospital: 60 licensed beds
- UNM Hospital: 527 licensed beds
- Raymond A. Murphy VA Medical Center: 298 beds (includes long term care and domiciliary)

City Population: 557,448
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population: 907,301
Per Capita Personal Income, Albuquerque, NM, MSA: $38,563