

ALBUQUERQUE and surrounding area



Consider heading an hour south to Albuquerque to visit **Explora, a children's museum**, and the **Albuquerque Biopark**,



home to the Albuquerque Zoo, aquarium and botanical gardens. Take a ride on the



world's longest tram to the top of Sandia Peak. Or visit Old Town, the part of Albuquerque that was founded in 1706. Easy transportation is available via the New Mexico **Railrunner** and the **Albuquerque bus system**.



The **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta** runs from October 3-11. Hundreds of hot-air balloons will fill the skies over Albuquerque in the early morning and light up the sky. See www.balloonfiesta.com for a schedule and more information, including easy transportation options on the New Mexico Railrunner.



Between Santa Fe and Albuquerque, check out **Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument**, which features unusual teepee-shaped formations of volcanic debris. This is easy hiking through colorful wind-swept caverns and slot canyons just off I-25 from exit 264 or 259. See http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/rio_puerco/kasha_katuwe_tent_rocks.html for information.



For those with canine traveling companions, Albuquerque has several off-leash dog parks where they can stretch their legs. See <http://www.cabq.gov/parks/dogparks.html> for information.