

The ancient, three-story West Ruins at Aztec Ruins National Monument.

## Welcome to Aztec!

**Explorers, rustlers, homesteaders, wildcatters, railroaders...** Aztec's effervescent history epitomizes the Great American West. Today, it is a community rich in multi-cultural heritage, civic pride and ancestral traditions. **Come play with us!**

### — CULTURAL HISTORY —

**Aztec Ruins National Monument:** Centuries ago the Aztec Ruins were a central gathering place, a thriving cultural capital for ancestral Puebloans. Mistakenly coined "Aztec" by others, the ancient Pueblo people lived and flourished at this very sacred and spiritual place. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage site and landmark to the roots of civilization. Tour the three-story, 450-room West Ruin. Explore the Great Kiva and marvel at 900-year-old roof timbers that shelter intact plaster rooms. Witness exquisite masonry before passing through mysterious T-shaped doorways.

**Dinétaḥ Homeland:** Dinétaḥ is the traditional homeland of the Navajo Indian Tribe. If you really want to experience the back country adventure, a trip to Largo and Crow Canyons is a must. It is here on BLM land, that one can view small Navajo ruins called pueblitos, which is Spanish for "little pueblos." In addition, there are numerous panels of rock art. The earliest rock art found in the region was carved by the Ancestral Puebloan people, the same people who built Aztec Ruins, Salmon Ruins,

and the ruins at Chaco Canyon, and Mesa Verde. However, majority of the rock art is Navajo with images of animals, humans, supernatural beings, plants, geometric figures, and weapons all carved or painted on the canyon walls. Crow Canyon has excellent examples of Navajo rock art. Later rock art consists of early Spanish settlers and explorers who left their names and sometimes the dates on the rock walls, often next to the Navajo rock art, or on top of them.

**Museum & Pioneer Village:** The Aztec Museum houses one of the finest collections of authentic western Americana. History comes alive at the Pioneer Village, where young and old are bedazzled by the resolve and fortitude of our forefathers. Tour firsthand the doctor's and sheriff's offices, blacksmith and foundry, an 1880s pioneer cabin, general store and post office, and the Cedar Hill Church—all painstakingly reconstructed from the original buildings.

**Historic Walking Tour:** Aztec proudly offers numerous structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties. Viewing starts at the Old Fire Station (now home to the San Juan County Historical Society) and meanders into downtown and through our heritage neighborhoods. Many of these historic places are described in a downloadable document at [www.aztecnm.com](http://www.aztecnm.com).

## Event Calendar

**April:** Earth Day 5K and 10 K Family Fun Run

**May:** Alien Run Mountain Bike Competition

**June:** Summer Solstice Sunrise Observation at Aztec Ruins

**September:** Founders Day; Antique Truck & Equipment Show

**October:** Aztec Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival

**December:** Aztec Sparkles Christmas Festival

For calendar dates, times and updates, please visit [www.AztecNM.com](http://www.AztecNM.com).



New Mexico, USA

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## OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE



# AZTEC, NEW MEXICO

*Your Four Corners  
Playground*  
(Since 1100 A.D.)

Aztec Ruins National Monument

Renowned Alien Run Mountain Bike Trail

Over 300 Natural Sandstone Arches

Fly Fishing on the Quality Waters  
of San Juan River

Navajo Lake State Park

Ancestral Pueblitos  
& Petroglyphs

...and more!

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Aztec is home to over 300 natural sandstone arches.



— RECREATION ADVENTURES —

**Water Recreation:** Nourished by the Pine and San Juan Rivers, Navajo Lake is 25 miles long with over 200 camping and picnic sites and three marinas. Recreation includes boating, sailing and other water sports, plus trophy fishing for brown, rainbow and cutthroat trout, largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, channel catfish and kokanee salmon.

Flowing from Navajo Lake, the lower San Juan River is ranked among America’s top-ten trout fishing waters. A 4.5-mile, nutrient-rich section below Navajo Dam is so spectacular for fishing that it has earned “Quality Waters” designation. Attracting sports enthusiasts the world over, the river further compels with multi-hued sandstone canyons and desert vistas.

**Hiking:** With vast acres of public lands, there are numerous places to hike. Aztec underscores the ethereal, camera-clicking beauty of the American Southwest. East and north of Aztec lies BLM lands with over 300 documented natural arches and windows. Search out breathtaking Arch Rock in Hart Canyon or visit spectacular Anasazi Arch in Cox Canyon. GPS directions and maps are available at the Aztec Visitor Center or at [www.aztecnm.com](http://www.aztecnm.com).

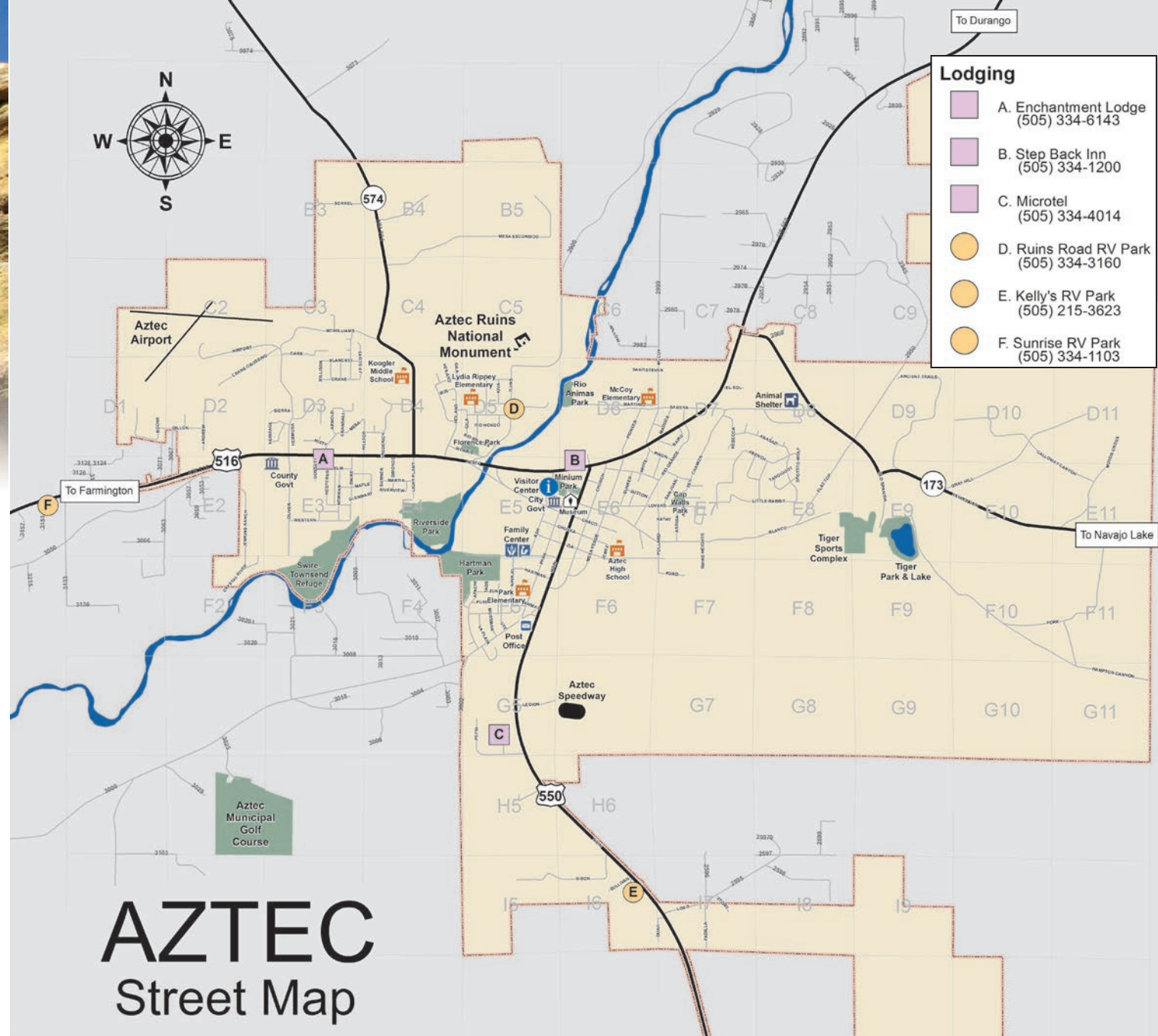
In addition to the arches are the badlands south of Aztec. Such areas include the Angel Peak

Recreation Area, Bisti/De-nah-zin Wilderness, and Lybrook Badlands. These areas once covered by ancient seas, expose various geological clay, silt, and sandstone beds which through millions of years of erosion provide for some very unusual formations, hoodoos, and out of this world landscapes. It is a haven for the outdoor photographer enthusiast.

**Mountain Biking:** Aztec boasts over 30 miles of mountain bike trails, this includes the Alien Run, ranked among the more technically challenging and scenic single tracks in the Four Corners. Routed near a storied UFO crash site, “The Alien” can be navigated by a novice yet is immensely challenging for experts.

**Aztec Municipal Golf Course:** Our 18-hole course is situated in a picturesque valley just two miles from downtown Aztec. The course is open seven days a week and tee times are not required. The course is also available for special and charitable events. Visit [www.aztecmunicipalgolfcourse.com](http://www.aztecmunicipalgolfcourse.com) for more information.

**Aztec Speedway:** Every summer since the early 1960s, Aztec Speedway’s legendary oval track has been thrilling audiences young and old with IMCA-sanctioned modified, sport mod, hobby and mini sprint stock car races.



Day Trips: Stay & Explore!

<b>Arizona</b>	Navajo Lake/Quality Waters ..... 27 mi	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>Utah</b>
Four Corners Monument ..... 76 mi	Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness ..... 70 mi	Durango ..... 36 mi	Hovenweep National Monument ..... 120 mi
Canyon de Chelly ..... 126 mi	Chaco Culture National Historical Park ..... 80 mi	Chimney Rock National Monument ..... 76 mi	Bluff ..... 123 mi
Window Rock ..... 145 mi	Chama Cumbres-Toltec Railroad ..... 106 mi	Mesa Verde National Park ..... 80 mi	Blanding ..... 140 mi
Monument Valley ..... 164 mi	Jemez State Monument ..... 155 mi	Anasazi Heritage Center ..... 80 mi	Valley of the Gods ..... 142 mi
Hubbell Trading Post ..... 173 mi	Albuquerque ..... 180 mi	Silverton ..... 84 mi	Goulding's Trading Museum ..... 167 mi
Navajo Nation Monument ..... 171 mi	Bandelier National Monument ..... 198 mi	Pagosa Springs ..... 86 mi	Natural Bridges National Monument... 178 mi
<b>New Mexico</b>	Santa Fe ..... 205 mi	Ouray ..... 105 mi	Moab ..... 195 mi
Salmon Ruins Museum ..... 11 mi	Taos ..... 210 mi	Black Canyon National Park ..... 156 mi	
Angel Peak Recreation Area ..... 27 mi			