

## Suggestions on places to visit around Socorro

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November is a great time to visit the southwest. However, the weather is unpredictable in New Mexico because of its high elevation. Mornings and nights are usually cool and sometimes cold but it should be sunny. This summary of places to visit around Socorro in November is organized by the amount of time for both driving and visiting the locations.

### **Historic District of Socorro (1-2 hrs)**

<https://www.socorronm.org/attractions/city-socorro-historic-walking-tour/>



### **San Lorenzo Canyon (20 minute drive, 1-3 hrs hiking/walking/exploring slot canyons)**

This is one of our local favorite places to explore and offers fantastic vistas of the mountains around Socorro!

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/san-lorenzo-canyon>



**Quebradas** (~2 hours there and back - highway on the return trip – or also see Bosque Del Apache below)

If you have a moderately good clearance vehicle, you should drive to the Quebradas. It is a 24-mile scenic drive, with amazing geology

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/quebradas-backcountry-byway>.

### **Bosque Del Apache** (1 – 1.5 hr)

If you go to the Quebradas and are interested in seeing birds or other wildlife, Bosque Del Apache is just down the road and is highly recommended. The best times to see the sandhill cranes are sunrise for the fly-out or sunset for the fly-in. Many sandhill cranes have returned by mid-November to winter over at this wildlife refuge.



<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque-del-apache>

### **Box Canyon** (1-2 hrs; 15 mins from Socorro)

This is another excellent place to stretch your legs on some easy hikes, great vistas or even (watching) rock climbing.

<https://www.socorronm.org/attractions/box-canyon-recreation-area/>



### **Magdalena** (1.5 – 2 hrs more if visiting the Kelly ghost town)

Magdalena is a quaint village that has an art scene.

<https://www.socorronm.org/magdalena-attractions/>

If you are interested in mining history, you would want to visit the ghost mining town of Kelly around the former

**Kelly Mine.** <https://www.newmexico.org/places-to-visit/ghost-towns/magdalena/>



After Magdalena, heading west towards Arizona on Rt. 60, you can see the awesome radio telescope dishes, of the **Very Large Array – National Radio Astronomy Observatory**, dotting the horizon (50 miles west of Socorro). You can

take a tour to this facility and go up to the base of one of them! Remember the movie Contact with Jodie Foster?

<https://public.nrao.edu/visit/very-large-array/>



The list below is for anyone that wants to spend over 2 hrs of driving to + visiting, but worth seeing if you have the time and interest. They are listed from the shortest to the longest distance.

### **Albuquerque (ABQ)**

If you fly into and out of ABQ and have time to spend or look around, several places here are recommended, but there are many more depending on your interests.

**Sandia Peak** (take the tram to the top! awesome views from Sandia peak) (1-2 hrs – check to make sure the tram is running and not too cold/windy up there, Sandia Peak is at 10,679') <https://sandiapeak.com/>

**Old Town Albuquerque** (1-2 hrs) <https://www.albuquerqueoldtown.com/>

A Great place to eat is Sawmill Market <https://www.sawmillmarket.com/>

**Turquoise Museum** (1-2 hrs may not be enough time to see everything!)  
<https://turquoisemuseum.com/>

**National Museum of Nuclear Science & History**  
<http://www.nuclearmuseum.org/>

**Other Museums in ABQ:** <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/media/media-kit/museums/>

### **Manzano Mountains and Mountainair**

Between Albuquerque and Socorro off to the east are the Manzanos and the town of Mountainair. There are great trails to hike in the Manzano Mountains.

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/manzano-mountains-state-park/>

There are three historic monuments in the area that are worth visiting:

<https://www.nps.gov/sapu/learn/historyculture/quarai.htm>

<https://www.nps.gov/sapu/planyourvisit/index.htm>

### **South of Socorro**

**Elephant Butte & Truth or Consequences** (TOC)– Elephant Butte is the largest water body in New Mexico. TOC has awesome hot springs; you can soak in a private tub overlooking Rio Grande.

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/elephant-butte-lake-state-park/>

<https://sierracountynewmexico.info/attractions/truth-or-consequences-hot-springs/>

### **Tularosa Basin** (southeast of Socorro)

Another favorite excursion from Socorro (2.5 hrs to White Sands NP) but it will take all day to visit all three places.

- 1) **Valley of Fires** <https://www.blm.gov/visit/valley-of-fires>
- 2) **Three River Petroglyphs** <https://www.blm.gov/visit/three-rivers-petroglyph-site>
- 3) **White Sands National Park** <https://www.nps.gov/whsa/index.htm>



### **Further away**

Beyond these areas, other popular places to visit in New Mexico include **Santa Fe** (2.5 hrs), **Taos** (3.5 hrs), and **Carlsbad Caverns National Park** (6 hrs). There are many more but just naming a few here.

NOTE: If outdoor Activities and Geology are your things, the NMBGMR has a great website, <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/tour/home.cfm>, which explores many of the geologic wonders of New Mexico. In addition, there is a lot more on our website that may be of interest if you are visiting New Mexico; take some time to explore the site.