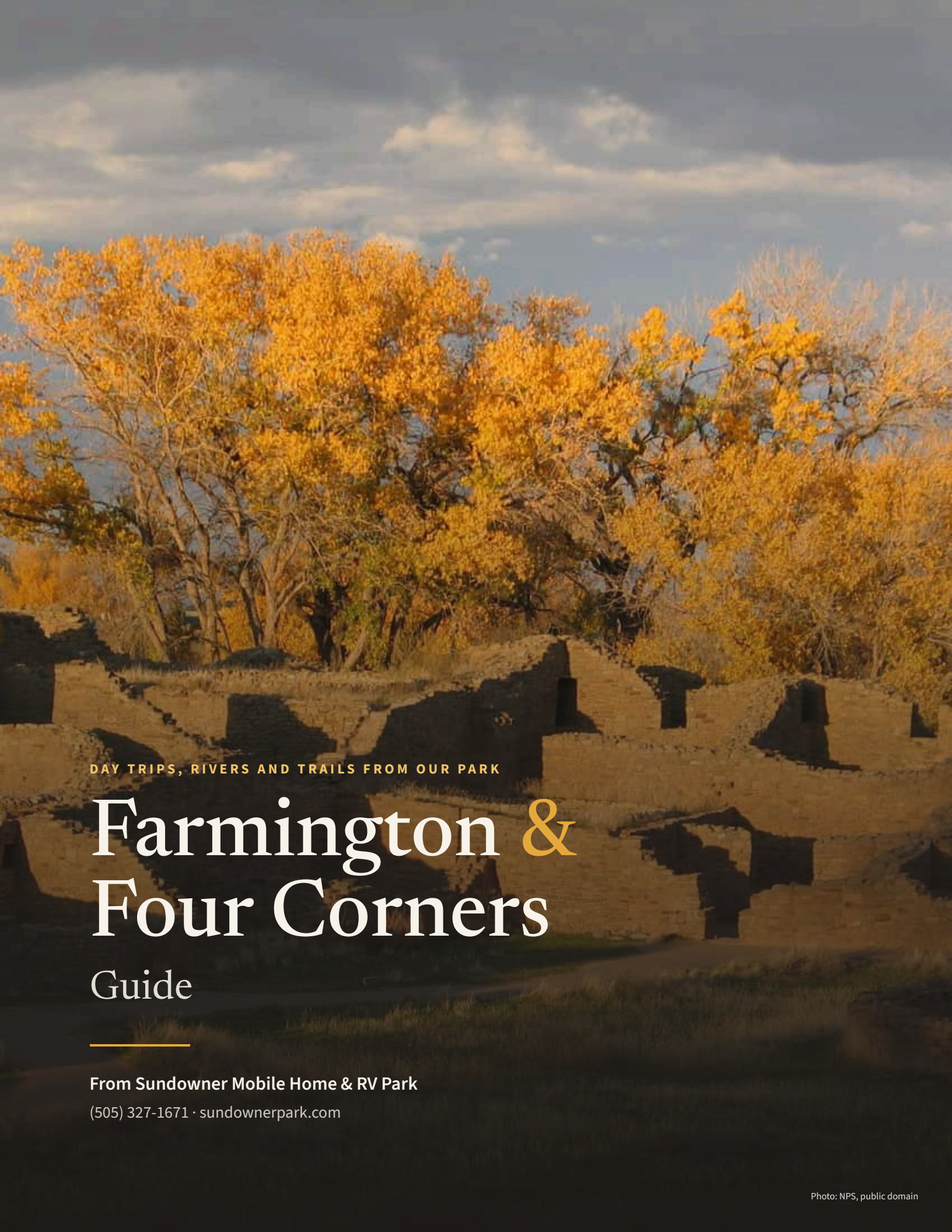


DAY TRIPS, RIVERS AND TRAILS FROM OUR PARK

Farmington & Four Corners

Guide

From Sundowner Mobile Home & RV Park

(505) 327-1671 · sundownerpark.com

Photo: NPS, public domain

WELCOME

Glad you are here

Farmington is a river town in the high desert. The Animas and San Juan rivers meet in the middle of the city, and some of the Southwest's great places are an easy day out from your site.

Walk the river trails under the cottonwoods, cast a fly on one of the best trout rivers in North America, stand inside a thousand-year-old great house, or watch the light change on the Bisti badlands. Ride a steam train into the Colorado mountains, or put a hand and a foot in four states at once.

Every place in this guide shows the drive from our park at 219 Airport Dr: the usual drive time and the miles by road. Hours, fees and road conditions change with the seasons, so check each place's official page before you head out. We list them at the back.

Many of these places are sacred to the Navajo Nation (Diné) and to Pueblo peoples. Walk gently, stay on the trails, and leave every stone where it lies.

Questions about a trip? Stop by the office or call us at (505) 327-1671. Enjoy the Four Corners.

Sundowner Mobile Home & RV Park

How far is it?

FROM THE PARK TO	MILES BY ROAD	DRIVE
Animas River Trails and Berg Park	3 mi	8 min
Farmington Museum at Gateway Park	5 mi	12 min
Lions Wilderness Park	8 mi	14 min
Salmon Ruins and Heritage Park	12 mi	20 min
Lake Farmington	13 mi	25 min
Aztec Ruins National Monument	18 mi	30 min
Shiprock (Tse Bit' A'i)	28 mi	35 min
Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness	40 mi	45 min
Angel Peak Scenic Area	34 mi	50 min
San Juan River Quality Waters	35 mi	50 min
Navajo Lake State Park	41 mi	1 hr
Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad	53 mi	1 hr 15 min
Four Corners Monument	61 mi	1 hr 15 min
Mesa Verde National Park	70 mi	1 hr 15 min
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	112 mi	2 hr 15 min

Drive times are typical, without traffic. The last miles to the Bisti and Chaco are dirt roads.

CLOSE TO HOME

Right here in Farmington

You do not have to go far. These are the easy outings, most of them a few minutes from your site.

Animas River Trails and Berg Park

About 8 minutes from the park, 3 miles by road

The Animas River trails are the heart of walking in Farmington. It is a certified National Recreation Trail. They are good for a stroller, a slow walk or an easy bike ride. Go early in the morning for birds near the water, and in fall when the cottonwoods turn gold.

Enter at Berg Park, where Scott Avenue meets San Juan Boulevard. The trails also reach the Riverside Nature Center and the whitewater park.

Official page: farmingtonnm.org/listings/animas-river-trails

Farmington Museum at Gateway Park

About 12 minutes from the park, 5 miles by road

The city museum on East Main Street has exhibits on Farmington and the San Juan County area. The city visitor bureau shares the building, so it is a good stop for maps and event lists. A growers market meets in the parking lot in the summer and fall.

Upstream at Gateway Park, behind the Farmington Museum, the city built the Gatewave, a river surf wave and the first of its kind in the Four Corners. It is unsupervised. The city asks surfers to ride without a board leash, which can trap you in moving water, and to wear a helmet and a life jacket.

Official page: farmingtonnm.org/listings/farmington-museum-and-visitors-center-at-gateway-park

Downtown Farmington

About 4 minutes from the park, 2 miles by road

Main Street is the easy evening outing after a long day trip, and a handy place for a meal or supplies before one.

Lions Wilderness Park

About 14 minutes from the park, 8 miles by road

For a real desert walk inside the city, head up to Lions Wilderness Park on the mesa north of Main Street. The city's walking guide rates its trails moderate to strenuous, on natural dirt, sand and rock. Wear real shoes, carry water, and plan on sun with little shade.

The park is also known for disc golf. Entry is free, it is open from dawn to dusk, and people play it all year.

Official page: farmingtonnm.gov/926/walking-trail-guide

Everyday errands

For a month or more with us, here is where the daily things are, nearest first.

San Juan Regional Medical Center — 4 min, 1 mi

The regional hospital on West Maple Street, with an emergency department.

Walmart Supercenter (West Main Street) — 4 min, 1 mi

The closest Walmart to the park, on West Main Street: groceries, RV supplies and a pharmacy.

Four Corners Regional Airport (FMN) — 6 min, 2 mi

The city airport sits on the mesa just above Airport Drive.

San Juan College — 13 min, 6 mi

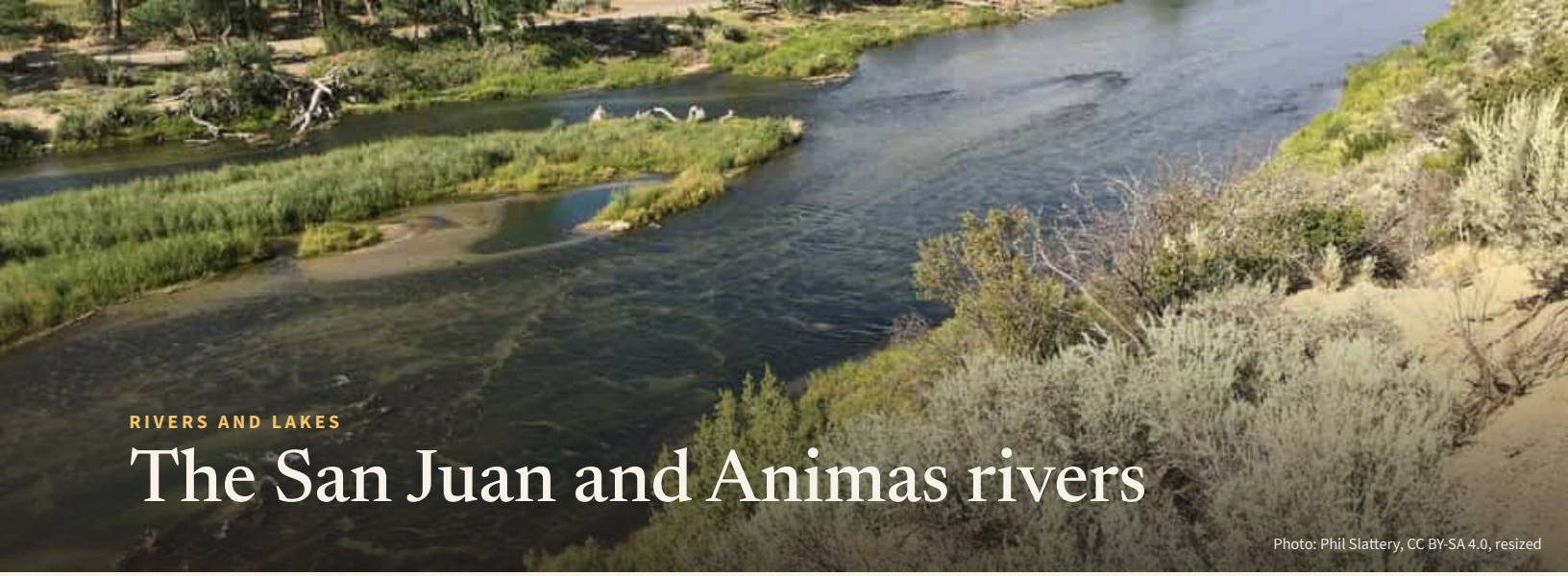
The community college's main campus on College Boulevard.

Walmart Supercenter (East Main Street) — 20 min, 8 mi

Groceries, RV supplies and a pharmacy on the east side of town.

Four Corners Power Plant (Fruitland) — 30 min, 19 mi

One of the area's large employers, west of town near Fruitland.



RIVERS AND LAKES

The San Juan and Animas rivers

Photo: Phil Slattery, CC BY-SA 4.0, resized

San Juan River Quality Waters

About 50 minutes from the park, 35 miles by road

Below Navajo Dam, the San Juan River runs clear and cold. Water released from the bottom of the lake is rich in food for trout, and it stays cold all year. The result, says the Farmington visitor bureau, is one of the best trout rivers in North America. Anglers come from around the world for its big rainbow and brown trout.

The stretch below the dam is the Special Trout Water, often called the Quality Waters. Because the water temperature stays steady, you can fish here in every season.

You need a New Mexico fishing license. The Special Trout Water has its own rules. Read the current New Mexico Department of Game and Fish rules booklet before you wet a line.

If you are new to the San Juan, a half or full day with a local guide is the fastest way to learn it.

Official page: farmingtonnm.org/listings/san-juan-river

Animas River Whitewater Park

About 8 minutes from the park, 3 miles by road

The Animas River runs right through Farmington. The visitor bureau says the water near town is usually Class I and II, gentle enough for beginners and families when flows are right. Flows are highest in spring and early summer, when mountain snow melts in Colorado, and calmer in late summer and fall.

The easiest place to start is the Animas River Whitewater Park, between Berg Park and Animas Park.

Official page: farmingtonnm.org/listings/animas-river-white-water-park

Know the water

- New Mexico law says everyone on a canoe, kayak, paddleboard or raft must wear a life jacket, and so must everyone boating on a river. Children under thirteen must wear one on any boat that is moving.
- Mountain snowmelt keeps these rivers cold. The National Weather Service warns that falling into cold water causes a gasp and fast breathing called cold shock, which can quickly lead to drowning.

San Juan River Quality Waters

SEASON
All year on the Quality Waters. The water from the dam stays cold and clear.

LICENSE
A New Mexico fishing license is required. Special Trout Water rules apply.

ROAD
Paved highways to the dam, the lake and the river areas.

Animas River Whitewater Park

LIFE JACKETS
Required on every paddle craft and for everyone on a river in New Mexico.



RIVERS AND LAKES

Lakes for boats and paddles

Photo: Larry D. Moore, CC BY 4.0, resized

Navajo Lake State Park

About 1 hour from the park, 41 miles by road

For a big-lake day, drive east to Navajo Lake, the second largest lake in New Mexico. The state park has two marinas. The marina at Pine rents boats, offers fishing guides and has a store and a restaurant. Sims Marina rents boats and sells fuel. There are boat ramps and docks, a beach and room for every kind of boating: power boats, sailboats, personal watercraft, kayaks and water skiers.

Lake levels change from year to year. Check them before you tow a boat out there.

Official page: emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/navajo-lake-state-park

Lake Farmington

About 25 minutes from the park, 13 miles by road

Lake Farmington, also called Farmington Lake, sits on the east side of the city off East Main Street (NM-516). It is the city's water supply, so the rules are strict and the water is calm. No fuel-powered boats are allowed. Kayaks, canoes, paddleboards and other non-motorized craft may launch from mid-April to mid-October, during the hours the city sets.

Every craft is inspected before it goes in the water, at the station by the main entrance. The inspection is free. The city and the state wildlife department check for zebra and quagga mussels, which can spread on boats and gear.

Shore fishing is open all year with a New Mexico fishing license. The visitor bureau lists rainbow trout, largemouth bass, catfish and pike.

The visitor bureau warns that some map apps send drivers through Flora Vista on CR-3535 and CR-3544, where there is no vehicle access to the lake. Use the main entrance off NM-516, across from the flea market.

Official page: farmingtonnm.gov/674/Lake-Farmington

Navajo Lake State Park

BOATS

Paddle craft only at Lake Farmington. All kinds of boats at Navajo Lake.

FEES

Navajo Lake State Park charges a day-use fee. See the state park fees page.

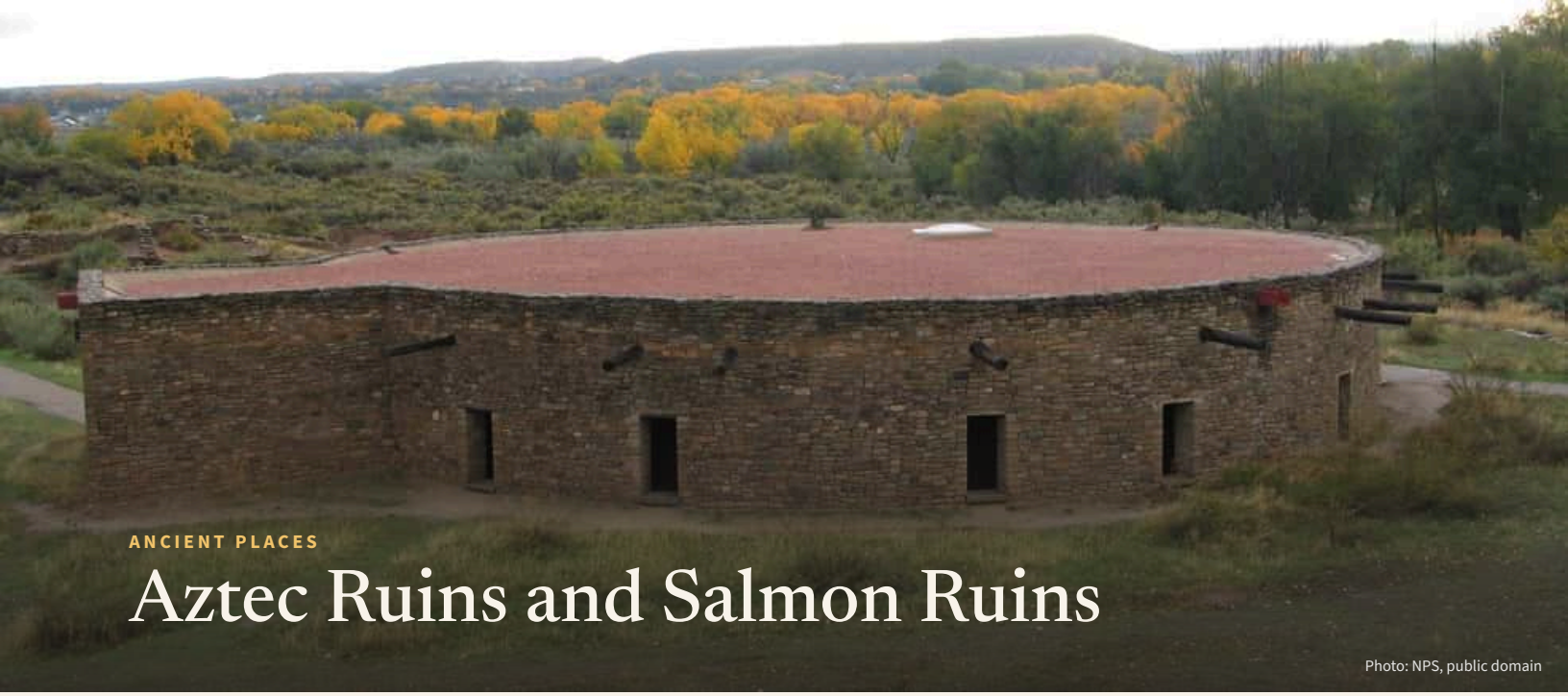
Lake Farmington

SEASON

Lake Farmington is open to paddlers mid-April to mid-October. Shore fishing all year.

RULES

A boat inspection before you launch. A New Mexico fishing license from age twelve.



ANCIENT PLACES

Aztec Ruins and Salmon Ruins

Photo: NPS, public domain

Aztec Ruins National Monument

About 30 minutes from the park, 18 miles by road

Despite the name, the Aztec people never lived here. The park service explains that explorers in the eighteen hundreds wrongly believed the Aztecs came from the Southwest, so they gave ruins names like Aztec. The people who built this great house were ancestral Pueblo people.

The park service says Aztec began as a satellite of Chaco Canyon. Later, after Chaco's role faded, it became the social, economic and political center of the region. That is why Aztec is part of the Chaco Culture World Heritage Site.

What makes Aztec special is how well it has lasted. On the self-guided trail you walk through original rooms, under original wood roof beams, past walls that still hold their first mortar. Then you step down into the Great Kiva, a huge round ceremonial room that has been rebuilt so you can feel its size from the inside.

Official page: nps.gov/azru

Salmon Ruins and Heritage Park

About 20 minutes from the park, 12 miles by road

Salmon Ruins (say it sol-mon) was one of the largest outlying colonies built in the Chacoan style. The stonework looks like what you see at Chaco Canyon. Research here still goes on, and the site holds a summer solstice event about ancient sky watching.

The name comes from the Salmon family, who homesteaded here and protected the ruins for close to a century. Their homestead is part of Heritage Park today.

Staff guides take small groups to places like Chaco Canyon and the Bisti Wilderness, with transportation and lunch included. If you would rather not drive the dirt road to Chaco yourself, call Salmon Ruins and ask.

Official page: farmingtonnm.org/listings/salmon-ruins

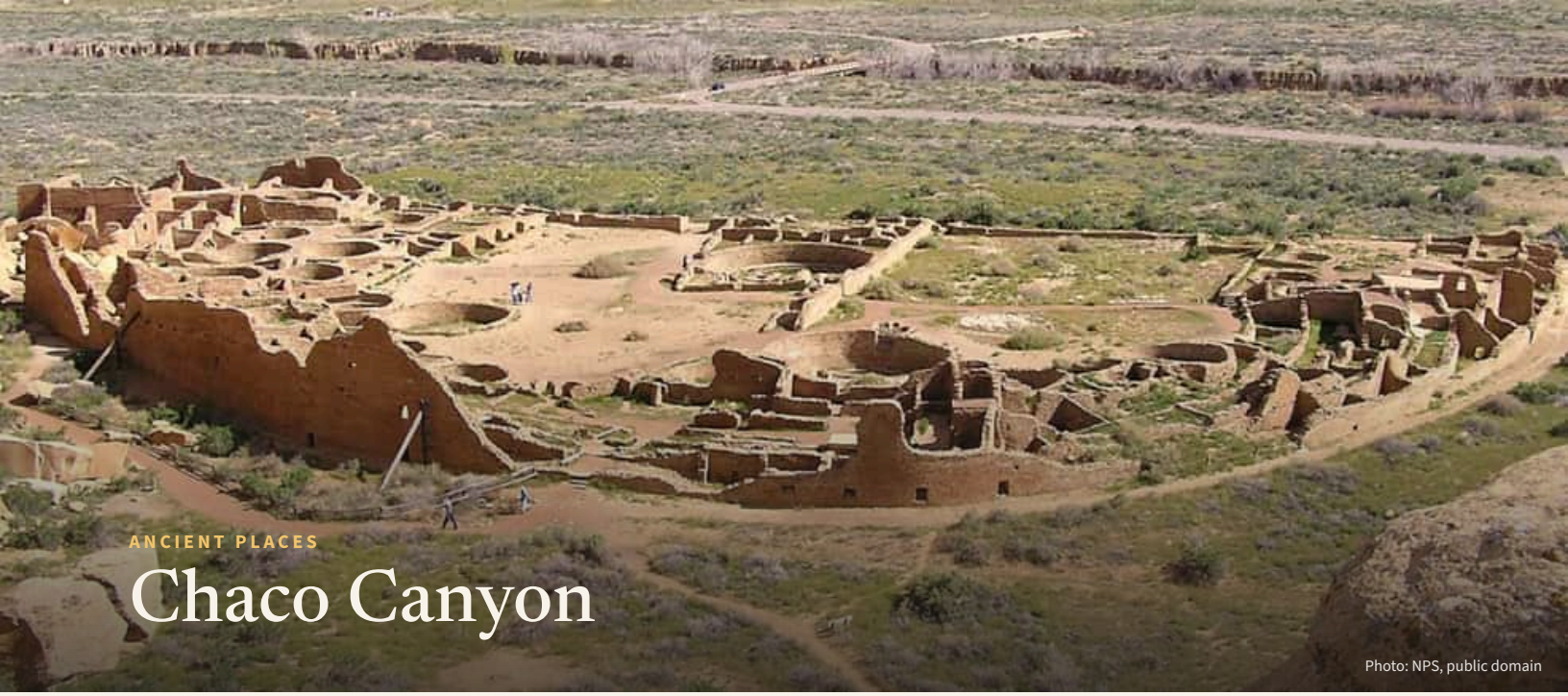
Quick facts

TIME NEEDED
About an hour or two at each site. Both fit in one easy day.

ROAD
Paved all the way. Fine for any vehicle.

OPEN
Both are open most of the year. Both close on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

ENTRY
Aztec Ruins is free. Salmon Ruins charges a small admission.



ANCIENT PLACES

Chaco Canyon

Photo: NPS, public domain

Chaco Culture National Historical Park

About 2 hours 15 minutes from the park, 112 miles by road

Chaco Canyon was the center of a thriving culture about a thousand years ago. People built huge stone great houses with many stories and hundreds of rooms. They planned each building from the start, which was new for its time.

Many of the buildings line up with the sun, the moon and the four directions. Roads linked the canyon to great houses across the region, and the park service calls Chaco the ceremonial, trade and political center of the San Juan Basin.

Pueblo people today describe Chaco as a special gathering place where many clans came together. Many tribes still hold it sacred, so walk gently and stay on the trails.

Pueblo Bonito is the best known great house at Chaco, and it is one of the major sites on the loop road. Walk among stone walls and rooms that people built by hand, many stories high in places.

From the visitor center, a paved loop road leads to the main great houses. Each one has a short self-guided trail. You can see a lot in a few hours without a long hike. Chaco is a certified International Dark Sky Park, far from city lights.

Official page: nps.gov/chcu

Quick facts

TIME NEEDED
A full day. Leave early and plan to be back after dark.

ROAD
Dirt only for the last part. Rough, and impassable when wet.

BEST SEASONS
Spring and fall. Summer is hot; winter can bring snow and mud.

ENTRY
Entrance pass required. Card only, no cash. America the Beautiful passes accepted.

SERVICES
No gas, food, ice or auto repair in the park. Water and restrooms at the visitor center.

BEFORE YOU GO

Until the north road reopens, the park service says to come in from the south. From Farmington, that means driving south on NM-371 toward Crownpoint, then east on NM-9. The park service says the south road is not recommended for RVs and can be impassable after rain or snow. If you are staying with us in an RV, leave the rig at your site and take your tow car or truck.



ANCIENT PLACES

Mesa Verde

Photo: Carol M. Highsmith, Library of Congress, public domain

Mesa Verde National Park

About 1 hour 15 minutes from the park, 70 miles by road

Mesa Verde was the first national park set aside to protect the work of people, not only nature. It holds thousands of ancestral sites, from early pithouses on the mesa tops to stone villages tucked under cliffs. Cliff Palace, the largest cliff dwelling in the park, is the one most people come to see.

The park is a World Heritage Site and a certified International Dark Sky Park. The park service also reminds visitors that all of Mesa Verde is an ancestral home that many tribes hold sacred today. Stay on trails, and leave every stone and shard where it lies.

This loop is the heart of a self-guided visit, and it is open all year. Eleven stops show pithouses, villages and overlooks of cliff dwellings, including Cliff Palace and Square Tower House. Each stop has signs, and some have short paved paths. Download the park's audio tour, which tells the story from a Pueblo point of view.

To step inside a cliff dwelling, you must join a ranger-led tour. Tours run from spring to fall. Tickets are sold only on Recreation.gov or by phone, they open a short time ahead, and they fill up early, so book the moment your dates are set. Your ticket is digital. Take a screenshot or print it before you go, because cell service in the park is very limited and rangers must see it.

Official page: nps.gov/meve

Quick facts

TIME NEEDED
A full day. The park road alone is a slow, winding drive.

TOUR SEASON
Late spring to mid fall, by reservation on Recreation.gov.

WINTER
Open daily. See cliff dwellings from overlooks on the Mesa Top Loop.

ENTRY
Entry fee or pass required, card only. America the Beautiful passes cover entry.

RVS AND TRAILERS
Trailers and towed vehicles must be left near the entrance. See the park's vehicle rules.



THE HIGH DESERT

Bisti badlands and Angel Peak

Photo: BLM, public domain

Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness

About 45 minutes from the park, 40 miles by road to the main Bisti parking area; the last few miles are graded dirt

The Bisti is a wilderness of eroded badlands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Wind and rain have carved soft clay and sandstone into hoodoos, which are thin rock towers left standing as the land wears away.

The rocks date to the Late Cretaceous, the last age of the dinosaurs. Petrified wood and fossils lie on the surface in places. Look closely, take photos, and leave every piece where you find it.

Popular spots for first visits include the King of Wings and the fields of egg-shaped rocks that people call the egg hatchery. There is no path to follow, so most people navigate with a downloaded map or GPS.

Head south from Farmington on NM-371, a paved highway. The BLM says to turn east onto CR-7297, a dirt road, follow it to a T, turn left and drive to the main Bisti parking area. The dirt roads can turn slick or impassable after rain or snow, and the BLM recommends high clearance. Most guests leave the RV at their site and take a truck or car.

Official page: blm.gov/visit/bisti-de-na-zin-wilderness

Angel Peak Scenic Area

About 50 minutes from the park, 34 miles by road

Angel Peak is a tall sandstone landmark above a wide basin of colorful badlands. From the overlook, the canyon drops away in bands of gray, tan and rose. It is a great quick trip, a picnic spot and a sunset view.

From Farmington, drive east toward Bloomfield, then south on US-550. The BLM says to turn east onto CR-7175 and follow it to the overlook parking. A gravel road then follows the canyon rim past three picnic areas, called Sage, Castle Rock and Cliffs.

Each picnic area has shelters, tables, fire grates and trash cans, and there are vault toilets. A short rim trail has signs about the rocks and fossils. Angel Peak sits in an active gas field. Watch for heavy trucks on the road, and stay away from well pads and pipelines.

Official page: blm.gov/visit/angel-peak-scenic-area

Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness

TIME NEEDED
Half a day for the Bisti. An hour or two for Angel Peak.

ROAD
Paved highways, then gravel and dirt. Muddy or impassable when wet.

BEST SEASONS
Spring and fall. Summer is very hot with no shade.

BEST LIGHT
Sunrise and the hour before sunset.

ENTRY
Free. No permit needed for a day hike.

BEFORE YOU GO

The Bisti is beautiful and easy to get lost in. Every wash and clay hill starts to look the same. Plan as if your phone will not work, because it may not.



THE HIGH DESERT

Four Corners Monument and Shiprock

Photo: Christian David, CC BY-SA 4.0, resized

Four Corners Monument

About 1 hour 15 minutes from the park, 61 miles by road

This is the only place in the United States where four states meet at one point: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. A granite and brass marker shows the spot.

The monument is a Navajo Tribal Park, run by Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation. Around the plaza, Navajo vendors sell handmade jewelry, crafts and food. Buying from them is a great way to bring home something real and support local families.

Plan on a line for the marker photo on busy summer days. Put one hand and one foot in each state, smile, and let the next family have a turn.

Official page: navajonationparks.org/tribal-parks/four-corners-monument

Shiprock (Tse Bit' A'i)

About 35 minutes from the park, 28 miles by road

On the drive west, you will see Shiprock long before you reach it. The Navajo name is Tse Bit' A'i, the rock with wings. It rises high above the desert floor, with long ridges of dark rock running out from it like walls.

Shiprock is sacred to the Navajo people. The Navajo tourism department asks visitors to view and photograph it only from the paved roads, US-491 or Navajo Route N13. Hiking or climbing on the peak is forbidden.

For the best views, the Farmington visitor bureau suggests US-64 west of Farmington, or US-491 south of the town of Shiprock.

Official page: farmingtonnm.org/listings/shiprock-pinnacle

Four Corners Monument

TIME NEEDED
A half day for the monument. Add time for Shiprock views on the way.

ROAD
Paved highways the whole way.

OPEN
Daily, with longer hours in summer and shorter hours in winter.

ENTRY
Navajo Nation fee per person. National Park passes not accepted.

DRONES
Not allowed at the monument. Leave the drone at home.

GETTING THERE

The whole drive is on paved highways, so it is fine for any vehicle, including your RV. Fill your tank in Farmington. Long stretches of the drive cross the Navajo Nation. Drive the speed limit, watch for livestock on the road, and do not pull off onto dirt tracks.



INTO THE MOUNTAINS

Durango and the steam train

Photo: Carol M. Highsmith, Library of Congress, public domain

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

About 1 hour 15 minutes from the park, 53 miles by road

The Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad has carried people between Durango and the old mining town of Silverton since the early days of the railroad in the West. It is a National Historic Landmark, and many trips still run behind a coal-fired steam engine.

The track follows the Animas River up through the San Juan National Forest. You pass cliffs, river canyons and high mountain views you cannot see from any road. Bring a camera and a jacket.

From May through October, trains run the full route up the Animas River to Silverton. The ride is a few hours each way, with a stop of a couple of hours in Silverton for lunch and a walk around the historic town. It is a long day, and every minute is scenic. In fall, the aspens along the river turn gold.

From late November to early May, the train climbs to Cascade Canyon and turns around there. It is a shorter trip in heated coaches, with snowy peaks and the river below. It makes an easier winter day trip from Farmington.

Official page: durangotrain.com

Quick facts

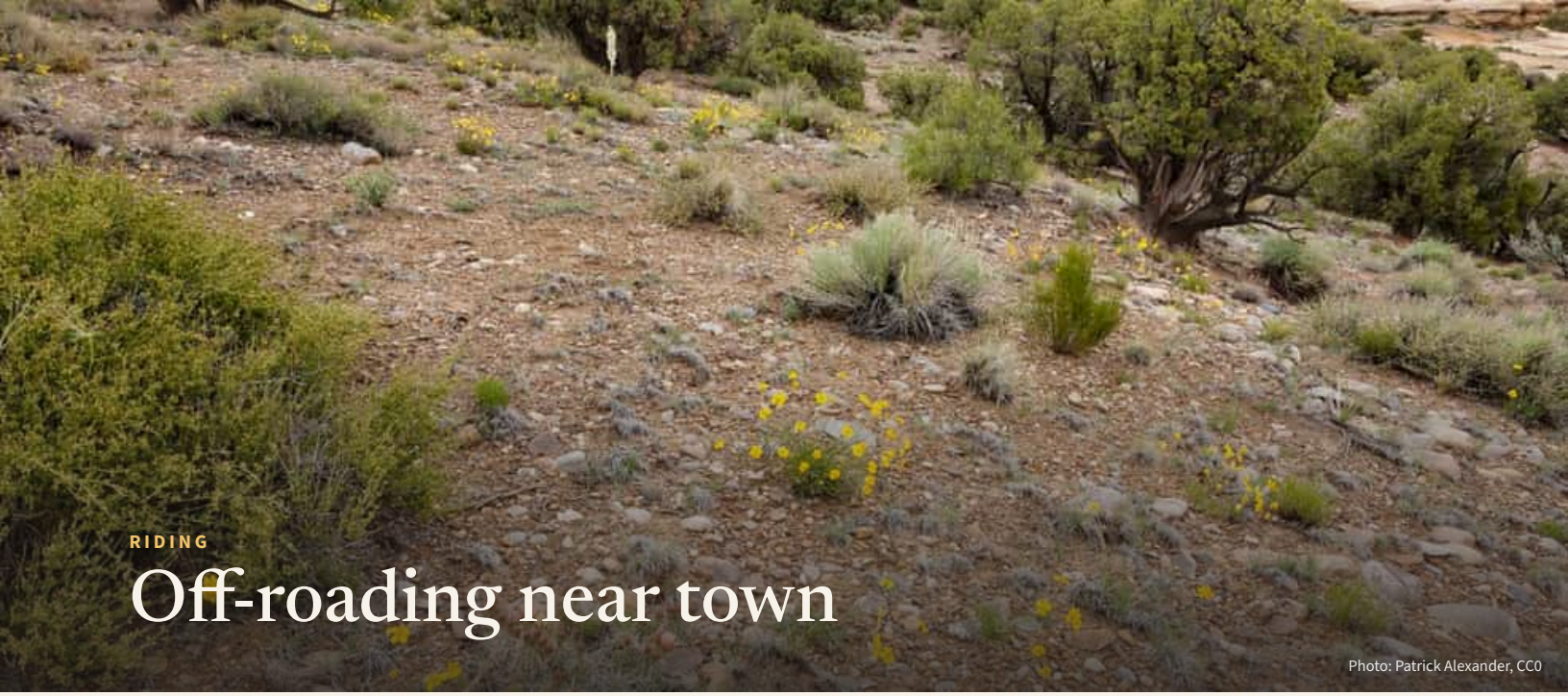
TIME NEEDED
A full day for Silverton. Most of a day for the winter Cascade trip.

SEASON
Silverton trains May to October. Cascade Canyon trains late November to early May.

TICKETS
Book ahead online or by phone. Seats are assigned.

ROAD
Paved highways to Durango. Fine for any vehicle.

PARKING
Paid lot by the depot. Buy parking with your ticket or at the lot.



RIDING

Off-roading near town

Photo: Patrick Alexander, CC0

Glade Run Recreation Area

About 8 minutes from the park, 4 miles by road to Glade Road at Piñon Hills Boulevard, where the BLM route into Glade Run starts

Glade Run is the big one, and it starts right at the edge of town. The Bureau of Land Management runs it as a recreation area of sandy arroyos, slickrock and rolling hills dotted with sagebrush, junipers and pinyon pines. Riders come for off-highway vehicle trails and rock crawling.

The area has two zones. Most of it, the northern part, is a limited zone where you must stay on marked trails. The BLM's simplest route from town is Piñon Hills Boulevard to Glade Road (CR-1980), then north to the Glade entrance.

Official page: blm.gov/visit/glade-run

Chokecherry Canyon

About 8 minutes from the park, 4 miles by road to Glade Road at Piñon Hills Boulevard, where the BLM route into Glade Run starts

Chokecherry Canyon is the reason many Jeep owners know the name Farmington. The Farmington visitor bureau describes it as rock piles, boulders, slickrock, washes and technical climbs for every skill level. The canyon hosts the W.E. Rock Grand Nationals, a national rock crawling competition, and the visitor bureau also lists a yearly four-wheel-drive week and group trail rides.

Official page: farmingtonnm.org/listings/chokecherry-canyon-glade-run-recreation-area

Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Area

About 12 minutes from the park, 4 miles by road to the BLM map point for the Dunes area off NM-371; there is no parking lot

South of town on NM-371, the BLM's Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Area (the visitor bureau calls it the Dunes Vehicle Recreation Area) is a smaller area of large sand dunes, steep and gentle hills and sandy arroyo bottoms. There are no restrooms, no water, no BLM trails and no parking lot. You pull off and park at your own risk.

Official page: blm.gov/visit/dunes-ohv-area

Glade Run Recreation Area

MACHINES

Jeeps and trucks, side-by-sides, ATVs, dirt bikes and mountain bikes.

BEST SEASONS

Spring and fall. Summer is hot with little shade, so ride early.

ENTRY

No fees at Glade Run, the Dunes or Head Canyon. Your machine needs registration or a permit.

FACILITIES

Vault toilets at Glade Run and Brown Springs. No water anywhere. Nothing at the Dunes.

GETTING THERE

New Mexico requires every off-highway vehicle on public land to be registered or carry a permit. Out-of-state riders with a valid home-state OHV registration are covered. Riders from states with no OHV registration must buy a New Mexico nonresident permit before they ride.

MORE TO DO

Golf, rodeo and scenic drives

Golf

Piñon Hills Golf Course

About 11 minutes from the park, 5 miles by road

Piñon Hills is the city's full eighteen-hole course. The city says Golf Digest keeps ranking it as one of the best city courses in the country. Book a tee time on the course website.

pinonhillsgolf.com

Civitan Golf Course

About 9 minutes from the park, 3 miles by road

This nine-hole, par-three city course is good for beginners and a quick round. Footgolf and disc golf share the same holes, and golf carts are not allowed. The city plans to close it from mid-December to mid-March for pond work, so check first.

farmingtonnm.gov/274/Civitan-Golf-Course

Rodeo and the county fair

San Juan County Fair

About 20 minutes from the park, 9 miles by road

The county fair at McGee Park has youth livestock and horse shows, outhouse races and a carnival, plus a parade downtown. The fair's website lists the next fair for August 2027.

sanjuancountyfairnm.net

Sheriff's Posse rodeos

About 20 minutes from the park, 11 miles by road

The San Juan County Sheriff's Posse holds rodeos and a gymkhana series at its arena on Marseille Boulevard. Its Stampede rodeo has had bull riding, bronc riding, roping and barrel racing. Check the Posse's events page for the next dates.

sjcsp.net/upcoming-events

Casper Baca Bullriding Extraordinaire

About 20 minutes from the park, 9 miles by road

Casper Baca Rodeo Company brings its open bull riding show to the McGee Park Coliseum. The company calls it the longest running bull riding show in the nation. Its next show is set for the first two nights of January 2027.

bacarodeoco.com/extraordinaire

Scenic drives

Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway

New Mexico's Trail of the Ancients runs on US-64 through Farmington and west to the Arizona line. The state tourism site calls Chaco Canyon the center of the byway. It also points you to Aztec Ruins and Salmon Ruins near town.

newmexico.org/places-to-visit/scenic-byways/trail-of-the-ancients

Durango and the San Juan Skyway

About 1 hour 15 minutes from the park, 53 miles by road

Ride north through Aztec on US-550 to Durango. The town is on Colorado's San Juan Skyway, a loop through Silverton, Ouray and Telluride that also passes Mesa Verde. The state calls the part from Ouray to Silverton the Million Dollar Highway. These are mountain roads, so check Colorado road conditions before you go.

codot.gov/travel/colorado-byways/southwest/san-juan-skyway

PLAN BY SEASON

When to go

The high desert has four real seasons. Spring and fall are the sweet spots for most trips. Summer is for early starts and the water. Winter is quiet, with the mountain train running through the snow.

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Aztec and Salmon Ruins	Comfortable for walking	Go in the morning; ranger programs at Aztec	Comfortable for walking	Quiet trails, low sun on the stone
Chaco Canyon	Most comfortable	Hot; storms can turn roads to mud	Most comfortable	Cold nights, at times snow
Mesa Verde	Tours start again	Busiest, every tour running	Quieter and cooler; tours to mid fall	Open daily; overlooks only, icy roads
Bisti and Angel Peak	Best: mild days, soft light	Go at sunrise, out by late morning	Best: mild days, soft light	Quiet; snow and thaw mean mud
Four Corners Monument	Comfortable	Longest hours, most vendors, midday heat	Comfortable	Short days; leave in the morning
Durango train	Cascade Canyon trains, then Silverton from May	Silverton trains	Silverton trains through October; gold aspens	Cascade Canyon Winter Train
San Juan Quality Waters	Popular	Busiest on the river	Popular	Quiet and cold; dress warm
Navajo Lake	Calmer for fishing and paddling	Boating and water skiing season	Calmer for fishing and paddling	Check lake conditions first
Lake Farmington	Paddling from mid-April	Paddling season	Paddling to mid-October	Shore fishing only
Glade Run riding	Most pleasant riding	Ride early, off by midday	Most pleasant riding	Good on dry, sunny days
Walking trails in town	Best season	Walk early or in the evening	Best season	Good on dry, sunny days

BEFORE YOU GO

Know before you go

A little planning makes the long days easy. These come up again and again on the trips in this guide.

Plan for no signal

Download offline maps. Cell service is weak or missing for much of the drive. Plan as if your phone will not work, because it may not.

Fill up in town

Fill your tank in town before you leave. There is no gas in the park. No gas, food, ice or auto repair in the park. Water and restrooms at the visitor center.

Carry water

Carry more water than you think you need. There is none out there, and no shade. Wear a hat, sunscreen and shoes with good grip.

Dirt roads and rain

Paved highways, then gravel and dirt. Muddy or impassable when wet. Most guests leave the RV at their site and take a truck or car. Skip the trip if storms are in the forecast.

Storms and washes

Summer storms can also flood dry washes with little warning. Stay out of washes when storms build, and never drive into moving water. The National Weather Service says about a foot of moving water can carry away most cars.

Heat

Summer days get hot, and the desert trails at Lions Wilderness and Glade Run have little shade. Walk or ride early in the morning or in the evening, carry more water than you think you need, and wear a hat and sunscreen.

On the Navajo Nation

Navajo Nation Parks charges an entry fee per person at the monument and does not accept National Park passes. Drones are banned at Navajo Tribal Parks and will be taken. Climbing is not allowed on Navajo land. The monument closes on major holidays and Navajo Nation holidays.

Leave it as you found it

Visit with care. These are ancestral places for many Pueblo tribes. Stay on the trail and do not sit or climb on walls. Leave every shard and stone where it is.

LEAVE THE RIG, TAKE THE CAR

On dirt roads and long day trips, most guests leave the RV set up at their site and drive a truck or car. Your site is right where you left it when you get back.



YOUR HOME BASE

Stay a while at Sundowner

Sundowner Mobile Home & RV Park is a monthly RV and mobile home park at 219 Airport Dr in Farmington, a few minutes from downtown, the hospital and the stores.

We have 37 RV sites with 30/50 or 50 amp power, 36 home sites, and mobile homes for rent. Monthly stays are our focus, so you can settle in, learn the back roads and take the trips in this guide at your own pace.

The clubhouse fitness room and the laundromat are open any time, day or night, with a door code from the office.

Planning a shorter RV stay? Contact us for availability.

Call for availability

(505) 327-1671

sundownerpark.com

219 Airport Dr
Farmington, NM 87401

CHECK BEFORE YOU GO

Official pages

Hours, fees, road conditions and closures change. Each place's own page has the latest.

Animas River Trails and Berg Park
farmingtonnm.org/listings/animas-river-trails

Farmington Museum at Gateway Park
farmingtonnm.org/listings/farmington-museum-and-visitors-center-at-gateway-park

Lions Wilderness Park
farmingtonnm.gov/926/walking-trail-guide

San Juan River Quality Waters
farmingtonnm.org/listings/san-juan-river

Navajo Lake State Park
emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/navajo-lake-state-park

Lake Farmington
farmingtonnm.gov/674/Lake-Farmington

Animas River Whitewater Park
farmingtonnm.org/listings/animas-river-white-water-park

Aztec Ruins National Monument
nps.gov/azru

Salmon Ruins and Heritage Park
farmingtonnm.org/listings/salmon-ruins

Chaco Culture National Historical Park
nps.gov/chcu

Mesa Verde National Park
nps.gov/meve

Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness
blm.gov/visit/bisti-de-na-zin-wilderness

Angel Peak Scenic Area
blm.gov/visit/angel-peak-scenic-area

Four Corners Monument
navajonationparks.org/tribal-parks/four-corners-monument

Shiprock (Tse Bit' A'i)
farmingtonnm.org/listings/shiprock-pinnacle

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
durangotrain.com

Glade Run Recreation Area
blm.gov/visit/glade-run

Chokecherry Canyon
farmingtonnm.org/listings/chokecherry-canyon-glade-run-recreation-area

Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Area
blm.gov/visit/dunes-ohv-area

Piñon Hills Golf Course
pinonhillsgolf.com

Civitan Golf Course
farmingtonnm.gov/274/Civitan-Golf-Course

San Juan County Fair
sanjuancountyfairnm.net

Sheriff's Posse rodeos
sjcsp.net/upcoming-events

Casper Baca Bullriding Extraordinaire
bacarodeoco.com/extraordinaire

Durango and the San Juan Skyway
codot.gov/travel/colorado-byways/southwest/san-juan-skyway

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The San Juan River below Navajo Dam. Photo: Phil Slattery, CC BY-SA 4.0, resized. Source, licence.

A sandstone cove at Navajo Lake State Park. Photo: Larry D. Moore, CC BY 4.0, resized. Source, licence.

The rebuilt Great Kiva at Aztec Ruins National Monument. Photo: NPS, public domain. Source, licence.

Pueblo Bonito from the cliff above. Photo: NPS, public domain. Source, licence.

A cliff dwelling in a sandstone alcove, Mesa Verde National Park. Photo: Carol M. Highsmith, Library of Congress, public domain. Source, licence.

Hoodoos in the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness. Photo: BLM, public domain. Source, licence.

Shiprock rising above the high desert plain. Photo: Christian David, CC BY-SA 4.0, resized. Source, licence.

A Durango & Silverton steam train in the fall aspens above the Animas River. Photo: Carol M. Highsmith, Library of Congress, public domain. Source, licence.

Hood Mesa above Chokecherry Canyon, Glade Run Recreation Area. Photo: Patrick Alexander, CC0. Source, licence.

The office and clubhouse at Sundowner. Photo: Sundowner Mobile Home & RV Park.

Drive times and miles by road are from the park at 219 Airport Dr, Farmington, NM 87401, as of November 2026.

SEE YOU ON THE ROAD

Sundowner Mobile Home & RV Park

219 Airport Dr, Farmington, NM 87401

(505) 327-1671

sundownerpark.com

Monthly RV sites, home sites and mobile homes for rent. Shorter RV stays: contact us for availability.