



LOS ALAMOS

Historical Walking Tour

visitlosalamos.org

Ancestral Pueblo Dwellings

Walk in the footsteps of pioneers...

Visit an 800-year-old Ancestral Pueblo site. See one of the first homesteaders' cabins. Explore the unique architecture of Historic Fuller Lodge that has been a community gathering place for nearly 100 years. Stand in the very spot where the first atomic bomb components were assembled. This Historical Walking Tour map leads you to places in Los Alamos* where generations of pioneers have created ground-breaking innovations. Move at your own pace and discover the interactive museum exhibits and unique shopping and dining opportunities along your way.

*Spanish for cottonwoods

LOS ALAMOS

where discoveries are made

13) Manhattan Project National Historical Park

In 2004, President George W. Bush signed legislation for the National Park Service (NPS) to investigate whether the Manhattan Project should be the subject of a NPS unit. In 2015, President Barack Obama signed the park into existence. Run jointly by the NPS and Department of Energy, it includes three sites located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Hanford, Washington; and Los Alamos, New Mexico. The park preserves portions of the World War II-era sites where the world's first atomic weapons were developed. Because of the nature of the science being explored during the Manhattan Project—explosives work, for example—and the Los Alamos landscape with mesas and canyons, the Los Alamos park sites within the community and surrounding area are non-contiguous. Areas "behind the fence" at the still-active Los Alamos National Laboratory, show where and how scientists and technicians frantically worked to end World War II. A virtual tour and more is online (www.lacnm.com/oppie).

14) Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer & Gen. Leslie Groves Sculptures

The sculptures of the Laboratory Director (Oppenheimer) and the Military Director (Groves) of the Manhattan Project, were designed to memorialize the historic photo of the two men standing at Ground



Zero at Trinity Site after the successful plutonium bomb test on July 16, 1945. They honor two World War II leaders whose unique partnership won the wartime race to build an atomic bomb.

15) Historic Fuller Lodge

As the Los Alamos Ranch School grew in enrollment and prestige, director A.J. Connell wanted additional space to serve his students and staff. Along with a forest ranger, architect John Gaw Meem and Connell handpicked the 771 trees for the building. Construction finished in January 1929. Funding came from wealthy Michigan businessman Philo Fuller, whose son Edward had been on staff at the Ranch School before passing away. Thus, the name, Edward P. Fuller Lodge. In November 1942, when Gen. Groves saw Fuller Lodge, he reportedly finalized his decision to choose Los Alamos, with its existing infrastructure. After World War II, Fuller Lodge operated as the only place to accommodate visitors in Los Alamos. The Tudor-style wings were added in 1948 to provide room for more guests and amenities. In the 1960s, the Lodge became a cultural center, owned by Los Alamos County to this day. It remains, as it has since its construction in 1928, the heart and soul of the Los Alamos community.

16) U.S. Post Office - Los Alamos

This is the site of the first Post Office in Los Alamos. Named after the Otowi railway crossing at the Rio Grande, the Otowi Post Office was inside the Los Alamos Ranch School's Trading Post. Both the Trading Post and Post Office closed during the Manhattan Project. The secrecy of the work required all civilian residents' mail go to P.O. Box 1663 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Atomic Energy Commission constructed

this building in 1948 as part of the Community Center. Today, the building is on both the State and National Register of Historic Places.

17) Bradbury Science Museum

The first museum for Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory (now Los Alamos National Laboratory) appeared in 1954, was not open to the general public, and contained classified materials. The Lab opened a Museum and Science Hall that showcased unclassified objects and welcomed all in 1963. With a growing collection and thousands of visitors, the Museum and Science Hall moved to a larger site at the Lab's Technical Area 3 (TA-3) in 1965. In 1970, the museum was renamed in honor of the Lab's longest-serving director, Norris E. Bradbury, and In 1993, it was moved to its present location.

18) Manhattan Project Era Cafeteria

One of the few remaining World War II-era buildings in Los Alamos, the Performing Arts Center (PAC) was originally built as the East Cafeteria, serving members of the military during the Manhattan Project. The Los Alamos Little Theatre group formed in 1943 in an effort to stave off boredom. Its first production, "Arsenic and Old Lace," featured Laboratory Director Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer as one of the corpses. Owned and maintained by Los Alamos County, the PAC has hosted Little Theatre performances for over 75 years.

19) Manhattan Project Era Dormitory

Built during the Manhattan Project, this 40-person dormitory is one of the few remaining World War II-era buildings in Los Alamos. Dormitory buildings like this one housed single military men and scientists, teachers, the Women's Army Corp (WAC), and visitors. From the 1950s through the early 2000s, some dorms—including this one—were used as churches. The dormitory is an asset of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Los Alamos County acquired the property in 2019.

20) Manhattan Project Era Chapel

Originally constructed for Bruns General Army Hospital in Santa Fe in 1943, this chapel was moved to Los Alamos in 1947 as the military turned over the Manhattan Project base to the newly formed Atomic Energy Commission. It is one of 604 such chapels the Army built during World War II. At first, all faiths—Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant—used the chapel. On October 19, 1947, The United Church of Los Alamos was formed as an experiment in promoting unity among church denominations.

21) Life on the Pajarito Plateau

Volcanic eruptions from more than a million years ago and subsequent erosion formed the Pajarito (little bird) Plateau. From the top of Pajarito Mountain to the Rio Grande at the bottom of White Rock Canyon, the plateau's mountainsides, mesas, and canyons have been home to various people groups for 800 years. With its dry climate, high altitude, and rugged terrain, the plateau has never been an easy place to live. Ancestral Puebloans, and later homesteaders, used the plateau for farming and grazing. The unique terrain of the plateau was perfectly suited for the secrecy of the Manhattan Project and the Lab that continues the spirit of science and innovation here today.

Plan Your Visit

LOS ALAMOS VISITOR CENTER

475 20th St., Suite A, Los Alamos

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

800-444-0707 | 505-662-8105 | visitlosalamos.org

MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK VISITOR CENTER

475 20th St., Suite C, Los Alamos

Hours Vary: Please call before visiting.

505-661-6277 | nps.gov/mapr

BRADBURY SCIENCE MUSEUM & SHOP

1350 Central Ave., Los Alamos

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1-5 p.m. | Monday: CLOSED

505-667-4444 | lanl.gov/museum

LOS ALAMOS HISTORY MUSEUM & SHOP

1050 Bathub Row, Los Alamos

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Sunday: CLOSED

505-709-7794 | losalamoshistory.org

LOS ALAMOS NATURE CENTER & SHOP

2600 Canyon Rd., Los Alamos

Hours: Monday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday: CLOSED

Wednesday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED

505-662-0460 | losalamosnature.org

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT & SHOP

15 Entrance Rd. off NM4, White Rock

Park Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Visitor Center Hours: mid-May to mid-Oct: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.*
mid-Nov to mid-April: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

505-672-3861x0 | nps.gov/band

*Visitors must use the shuttle from White Rock Visitor Center between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. May-October. Some exceptions apply.

VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE & SHOP

NM4, 18 miles west of Los Alamos

Visitor Center: May-Oct: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Nov-Apr: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

575-829-4100 x3 | nps.gov/vall



1) The Baker House

Floyd Womelsduff, the chief mechanic at the Ranch School, built this house for himself and his mother in 1925. When the Manhattan Project arrived, the cabin served as emergency housing for essential personnel. Eventually, junior scientists, including Richard Feynman, crowded into the building and slept on bunk beds. In mid-1943, the cottage went to Sir James Chadwick, a scientist with the British Mission and recipient of the 1935 Nobel Prize in physics for the discovery of the neutron. After the war, many notable scientists and military personnel lived here. Richard Baker, a Manhattan Project veteran, chemist, and division head at the Lab, made this house his home from 1957 until 1995, thus the name Baker House. Los Alamos County purchased the property in 2022.

2) Memorial Rose Garden

Gardens have graced the area adjacent to Fuller Lodge since the days of the Los Alamos Ranch School. As early as 1930, Helen Sulier, the school’s nurse, created a small flower garden near this site. In the 1950s, when Los Alamos was owned by the United States government, no cemetery existed for burials. As memorials to their loved ones, families donated rose bushes to the Los Alamos Garden Club, which established the Memorial Rose Garden in 1958. Today, this beautiful and inspiring garden of more than 500 roses.

3) Five Eras of History

A thousand years ago, the first peoples on the Pajarito Plateau were hunter-gatherers who sought game and piñon nuts, along with obsidian from the nearby Valles Caldera. Beginning in the 1200s, the Ancestral Pueblo people began settling the area, building small home sites and eventually large pueblos. By the 1500s, drought,

overpopulation, and depleted soils drove the Ancestral Pueblos to the Rio Grande Valley. For 300 years, Indigenous American and Spanish settlers used the plateau for livestock, firewood, and crops.



In the 1880s, the land was opened for settlement under the Homestead Act. The homestead of H.H. Brook became the foundation for the Los Alamos Ranch School. In late 1942, 58,000 acres of the Plateau was taken over by the Army for the Manhattan Project. The area became a fenced-in beehive of activity with scientists, technicians, and engineers racing to develop the world’s first atomic bomb. After World War II, some stayed to continue nuclear science research. Today the Laboratory is a world-class center for scientific research in everything from supercomputing to astrophysics to climate science.

4) Ancestral Pueblo Site

In the 1200s, this site was home to a group of Tewa-speaking people who may have come from Mesa Verde or Chaco Canyon. This building was two stories high and contained bedrooms, cooking areas, storage rooms, and a semi-circular kiva—used for ceremonies and meetings—for the two to three families who lived here. Overpopulation along with drought, depleted soils, and declining numbers of game caused the Ancestral Pueblos to leave the Pajarito Plateau around the 1500s.

5) The Big House

The Los Alamos Ranch School dormitory, known as the Big House because it was the largest building on the Pajarito Plateau, stood near this site from 1917 until 1948. Students slept on unheated, screened porches no matter what the weather. During the Manhattan Project,



it housed some of the first scientists to arrive here, who shared its one bathroom. The Atomic Energy Commission tore down the Big House in 1948 to make way for the Community Center, now known as Central Park Square.

6) Bathtub Row

When the top-secret World War II Manhattan Project took over the Los Alamos Ranch School, housing for the hundreds and then thousands of people pouring into town was limited. The log and stone cottages on this tree-lined street had been home to Ranch School staff and proved to be the nicest living quarters. The highest level scientific and military personnel on the project, including Laboratory Director Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and base commander Col. Whitney Ashbridge, lived in the homes—the only ones in town with bathtubs. All living quarters built by the Army came with showers—no tubs. When the Atomic Energy Commission took over Los Alamos in 1947, Bathtub Row was officially dubbed the very boring name: 20th Street. In the early 1950s, the pastor of the United Church and his wife lived in one of the Bathtub Row houses known as the Arts & Crafts House. As young women moved to Los Alamos to teach and work in the community, they were often housed in women’s dorms. Finally, in 2007, Los Alamos County officially renamed the street to what everyone in town called it: Bathtub Row.

7) Hans Bethe House

The original dwelling on this site, a small staff cottage for the Los Alamos Ranch School, burned in 1931. The replacement stone home served the school’s finance director, Fred Rousseau. During World War II, Edwin McMillan, who won the 1951 Nobel Prize in chemistry, and his wife Elsie lived here. Right after the war, Hans Bethe, the 1967 winner of the Nobel Prize in physics, and his wife Rose moved in. The building is named in honor of Bethe’s significant contributions to scientific work in Los Alamos. Today, the house is part of the Los Alamos History Museum.

8) The Oppenheimer House



Los Alamos Ranch School director A.J. Connell originally built this stone cottage for his sister May, a painter who taught art and music at the school. During the Manhattan Project, from 1943 to 1945, Laboratory Director Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, his wife Kitty, and their young children Peter and Toni lived here. The house became part of the Los Alamos History Museum in 2020.

9) Power House

This stone building, which replaced a wooden one that burned in 1933, housed Los Alamos Ranch School’s electrical generators. The power needs of the Manhattan Project soon outstripped the capacity of the Ranch School’s electrical system. The 600-square-foot building was remodeled to help ease the project’s housing crunch, and explosives expert and E-Division Group Leader George Kistiakowsky moved into the Power House.

10) Pajarito Mountain Ski Area

Skiing has always been a favorite pastime for Los Alamos residents. Ranch School boys trudged up Sawyer’s Hill and skied the short incline. During the Manhattan Project, European scientists, accustomed to spending winters on the slopes, built a rope tow. In 1943, the Los Alamos Ski Patrol was established on Sawyer’s Hill and eventually moved to Pajarito Mountain, a 10,441-foot peak that is part of the Santa Fe National Forest. Between 1957 and 1962, volunteers moved buildings, developed runs, and built the first lodge at Pajarito Mountain. Today, the ski area is privately owned, with year-round recreation, including downhill and cross-country skiing, biking, and hiking.



11) Ashley Pond Park

Homesteaders in the early 20th century used a small depression in the landscape on this site, fed by snow melt and rainfall, for watering stock. In 1923, the Ranch School created a shallow pond and called it “Ashley Pond” after the founder, Ashley Pond, Jr. Throughout most of the school’s history, the pond had enough water for students to swim and canoe in warm months and ice skate and toboggan in winter. During the Manhattan Project, the army built the Laboratory around the pond. The army fenced off the area, but firefighters frequently used its water to put out fires at the Lab. In the 1950s, as the Laboratory moved south across Los Alamos Canyon and the Atomic Energy Commission tore down the temporary wartime buildings, officials considered filling the pond. A group of citizens set about proving its historical and cultural importance to the town. In 1967, the first County Municipal Building was built to the west of the pond, solidifying the value of the park in the heart of downtown Los Alamos. When County operations were relocated and the old Municipal Building was torn down in 2010, improvements to the park began. The project was completed, and Ashley Pond Park was dedicated to the public on May 9, 2014.

12) Ice House Memorial

This memorial marks the site of the Los Alamos Ranch School Ice House, used to store blocks cut from Ashley Pond in winter. The original building was made of logs. In the mid-1920s, a stone building replaced the wooden structure. Because of the building’s cool interior, technicians assembled the core of “the gadget,” the test plutonium bomb, here during the Manhattan Project. In the early 1950s, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory (now Los Alamos National Laboratory) opened a museum in this location. In 1966 a memorial was resurrected, combining the log and stone styles of the previous buildings.