

Carlsbad New Mexico

Pride of the Pecos

History & Culture



Carlsbad, NM—known as the **Pride of the Pecos**—is most famous for **Carlsbad Caverns National Park**. But the city also boasts an interesting history, as well as a wide array of art and cultural attractions. With a temperate climate and 350 plus days of sunshine a year, any time of year is perfect to come explore.



Top 10 Things to Discover about Carlsbad

1. Located along the banks of the Pecos River, Carlsbad was originally named Eddy after Charles B. Eddy, a livestock settler. The name was changed to Carlsbad after a famous European spa. It received city status on March 25, 2018 after surpassing a population of 2,000.
2. The **Pearl of the Pecos Arts & Culture District** helps promote the local arts scene. Named a “State Recognized Arts & Cultural District” by the State of New Mexico, Carlsbad has developed a reputation for a thriving arts scene.
3. Potash, a group of minerals containing potassium that are typically used in agriculture to help plants grow, was discovered near the city and played a major role in its early economic development. Currently, oil and gas production is creating a boom for the area.



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Carlsbad Museum



Carlsbad Caverns National Park

4. **The Cavern Theater and Performing Arts Center** in the heart of downtown was once the center of entertainment, screening the latest movie releases. Designated a state Historical Cultural Property, the property is currently being restored to its original glory, a prime example of International Style featuring minimal ornamentation and streamlined forms.
5. Once known as “Bat Cave,” **Carlsbad Caverns** received National Park status in 1930 and continues to be a major draw for tourists. Explore on your own or with a ranger-led guided tour. From October to May, witness thousands of bats exiting the cave.
6. **The Carlsbad Museum & Arts Center** is home to a collection of Native American ceramics from early Mogollon, Anasazi and Mesa Verde vessels to historic period pottery. You’ll also find work from early 20th Century New Mexican artists and unique rotating temporary exhibits.
7. **The Pecos River Flume** was once identified as the largest concrete aqueduct in the world. Ripley’s *Believe It or Not* named it the “World’s Only River that Crosses Itself,” thanks to a series of dams and canals built in the late 1800s to divert water for agriculture and livestock.
8. **Halagueno Arts Park** features winding paths, refreshing fountains and art exhibits. This beautiful area also plays host to a wide array of art and cultural events. You’ll also find live entertainment throughout the year on the park’s two performance stages.
9. Carlsbad’s thriving arts scene features a variety of local artists. Their work in textiles, sculptures, photography, pottery and painting can be found at the Artists’ Gallery in the heart of the **Pearl of the Pecos Arts & Culture District**. You’ll surely find something special to take home to remember your visit.
10. **Sheriff Pat Garrett**, the man who shot Billy the Kid, joined Charles Eddy and other investors to lay plans for a new town (Carlsbad) on the west bank of the Pecos River. The area was also being touted to European settlers to come enjoy the area’s clean air and sunny climate.



Sheriff Pat Garrett