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noto by Karina Neurauter

RATON IS YOUR PASS TO an affordable adventure in the Wild West!

We're the perfect mix between the high desert and the Rocky Mountains. Located at the crossroads of New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado, we are centrally located to plenty of amenities and acres of fun.

Outdoor recreation abounds and our slow-paced days make for a little R&R away from the city.

As one of the best kept secrets in New Mexico, we pride ourselves on the fact that thousands of visitors from all the world come every year for hunting, fishing, and hiking in our backyard. Not to mention our exciting signature events and friendly locals will have you feeling at home in no time!

Get your boots on and Explore Raton!



Page 6 | ExploreRaton.com

REASONS TO VISIT RATON

THE HISTORY

Step into the shoes of an explorer looking for hidden treasure in the Southwest! Discover the Santa Fe Trail, coal mining, Native American artifacts, geological sites, and so much more!

THE PEOPLE

When you tour Raton, be our guest! We're hospitable and friendly. Come as strangers and leave like we're family. We can guarantee we will remember your face and coffee order!

LOCATION

We've got the mountains of Colorado at an affordable cost. Raton is your pass to undiscovered regional communities, beautiful sites to explore, and enchanting stories to hear.

THE OUTDOORS

Can we just say how fun it is to Explore Raton? Don't miss out on volcanoes, mountain peaks, mesas, fresh water lakes, and clean air. Today seems like the perfect day for a trout fry!

THINGS TO DO IN RATON



Your options are limitless and lucky for you, outdoor activity is literally at our doorstep!

There's over 1 million acres of fun in every direction for hiking, hunting, biking, fishing, and rock climbing!

ARTS & CULTURE

See performances and view local art in the Historic Arts & Cultural District! Located on Second Street, marvel at the preservation of the Shuler Theater, Old Pass Gallery, and the WPA art!

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Summer is the season to spend in Raton! Almost every weekend date is booked for live music, pin up contests, motorcycle rallies, comedy shows, shopping, and hot air balloon rides.

STEP BACK IN TIME

From the dinosaurs to the western era, and from the beginnings of rock 'n' roll to modern times, Raton and Colfax County's historical charm is unmatched. Learning is at every corner, and knowledge awaits.





FUN FACT

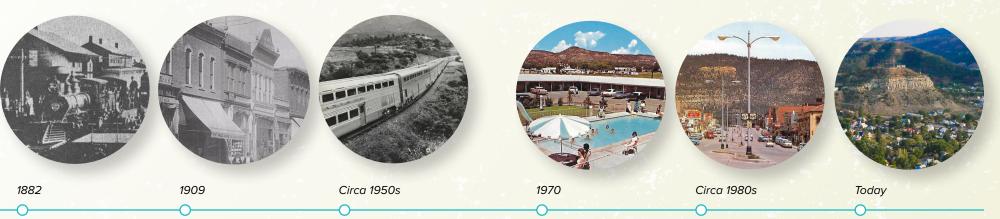
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Raton was the second city in the United States to have cable television! Yeah!

OUR STORY THE HISTORY OF RATON

For over 200 years, Raton has been connected to travel. Dubbed the highest point of the Historic Santa Fe Trail, Raton became known as a pit stop for weary tourists of many kinds. Fast forward to today, Raton is not just a stop at the gas station, but is drawing in young families seeking affordable adventures and mountaineous sights. There's more than meets the eye, and we can guarantee you'll want to become a part of our story.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Now established as its own community and its official name in 1880. Raton is bringing in commerce through many means, including that of coal mining, entrepreneurship, and cattle ranching. Many came via wagon or railroad along the Santa Fe Trail seeking to work in abundant coal deposits.

CULTURE IS BEGINNING

With a growing population, Raton attracted Dr. JJ Shuler, a surgeon who was elected as mayor and launched many recognizable infrastructure projects like the theater, water plant, and city park. It is stated that at the time Raton had four opera houses and theaters bringing in attractions like silent films, concerts, boxing, and wrestling.

GROWING AND THRIVING

In the 1940s, the first racetrack in New Mexico made its home in Raton-La Mesa Park. The park provided stability for the tourism industry and established a culture of horseracing in the hearts of longtime locals. Coal mining communities have sprung all across the front range of the Rocky Mountains, along with stores, restaurants, and industry.

THE GOLDEN YEARS -COAL BOOM

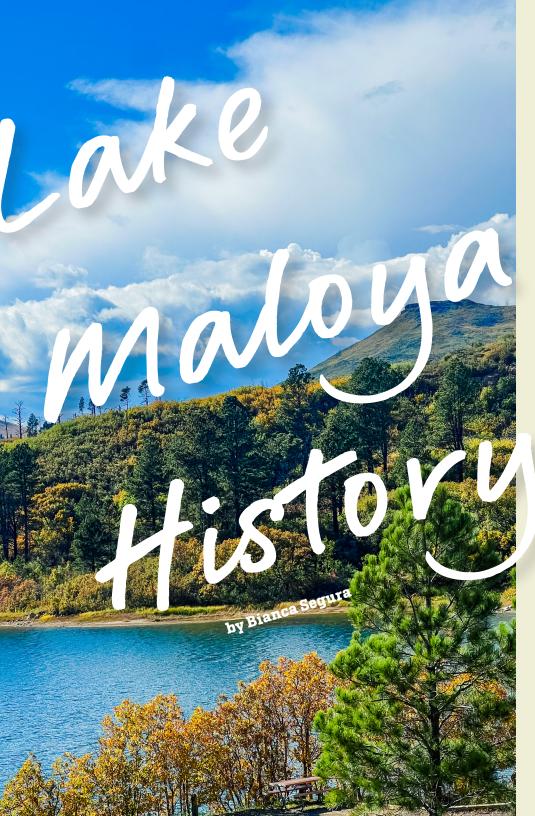
Many businesses opened and established in Raton. Citizens experienced a boom of opportunity in income and arts and culture. From the night life to the weekends, citizens and visitors enjoyed a lively downtown area. The NRA Whittington Center opened its doors to competition in 1973, which brought about a renowned care for outdoor recreation.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Along with the formation of Sugarite Canyon State Park in the 1980s, Raton began its endeavors into becoming an unmarked and hidden outdoor recreation hub. With bountiful wildlife and acres to explore, Vermejo Park Ranch (west of Raton on HWY 555) opened to paying guests wishing to experience a luxury nature reserve in the 1990s.

ENVISSIONING NEW POSSIBILITIES

Today, Raton is aleaming with hope as it strides forward with progressive leadership and the changing of local mindsets and culture. With a newfound pride to protect long established businesses and bring in new prized ideas. citizens are involved in almost every community aspect and are building for tomorrow.



Lake Maloya has an important and wellcelebrated past, not only to the community of Raton, but to travelers who enjoy Sugarite Canyon.

Built in 1916, Lake Maloya now offers recreational activities, but most importantly, it has been the area's water source for approximately 100 years. With due diligence, the community of Raton has provided every means necessary in order to keep Lake Maloya and Sugarite Canyon clean and accessible to the public.

Sitting in what was once called the Chicorica Canyon and Mesa, Lake Maloya was the home of the Comanche, Ute, and Apache Native American tribes. Immigrants soon settled alongside them in the early 1800s. Around the early 1800s. Around the early to mid-1800s, Sugarite Canyon hosted ranches as settlers found the land was beautiful and perfect for grazing and raising cattle.

Spanish explorers, mountain men, trappers, and traders traveled this canyon as an alternative to the Raton Pass, making it more popular to people looking for a piece of land to settle. In 1841, our area was purchased and sold as part of the Maxwell Land Grant.

Coal mining became a major part of Sugarite's history as the Chicorica Coal Company became the first coal mining company in the canyon in 1894. Other companies started mines in the canyon as the years progressed into the 1940s. In the early 1900s, a small community grew into the Sugarite Coal Camp, which had nearly 1000 residents at one time.

The Sugarite Coal Camp had a population that fluctuated from 100-200 residents year to year, yet in 1915 reported about 500 people. Many of today's residents in Raton have family history dating back to these early coal mines that surrounded Raton and provided jobs to many of its people. The stories of Sugarite families are vast and unique, being that most were originally from countries like Italy, Spain, Yugoslavia, Ireland, and even Japan.

Back in 1916, the town of Raton had used eminent domain to attain its water supply from one of the mines using the reservoirs. Once the powers of Raton had attained Lake Maloya, pipelines and a water system were put in place leading to the town.

Now a State Park, we invite you to experience the history of Sugarite Canyon and Lake Maloya, perfect for outdoor enthusiasts, families and friends, and solotrippers. The fishing at Lake Maloya is not just an amazing experience, it can be an opportunity to participate in activities such as boating, horseback riding, hunting, camping, bird watching, paddle boarding, kayaking, plus over 15 miles of different hiking trails to explore.

RVs are always welcome with plenty of camping spots to accommodate indoor showers, electrical hookups at no extra cost, and, of course, the great outdoors waiting for you.

Some of the most popular trails include the Little Horse Mesa Trail to see the heights above Lake Maloya. If time is of the essence, try to make it down to the Sugarite Coal Camp ruins as they offer a fun, historical experience and also have a guided tour offered by the State Park's rangers. The scenery among these trails can leave you breathless, figuratively and literally, as they are moderate to hike. You can also spot extraordinary wildlife along the way like deer and birds.

Sugarite hosts various annual events in the canyon, such as the Annual Fishing Derby, the Bodacious Butterfly Festival, and the Purgatory 4 Adventure Relay.

Locals and tourists love to go tubing in winter, take nature walks during Fall to see changing foliage, and head on guided tours with numerous outdoor groups. Every season, Lake Maloya is brought to life with the beauty of the mountains, fresh water, and fun attractions.



108 SOUTH SECOND STREET THERATONMUSEUM.ORG • FACEBOOK.COM/RATONMUSEUM





FREEBIES TO KNOW

Looking for a good deal or a free one? We have the insight to all the freebies you can enjoy as you explore history.

VILLA PHILAMONTE

During the summer, get a free tour guide from one of the Philmont boy scouts of the Villa Philamonte Historic District in Cimarron, New Mexico! The mansion was home to Waite and Genevieve Phillips with magnificent artifacts inside. 45 minutes from Raton.

To schedule your tour, call 575.376.2281

RATON WALKING TOUR GUIDE

For a small fee, visit the exhibits of the Raton Museum. Pick up a Downtown Raton Walking Guide pamphlet from the Raton Museum at 108 S. 2nd St. for a complete guide to the history behind each of our ornately-decorated buildings. While there, eat, shop, and drink in one our locally-owned establishments downtown!

COAL CAMP WALKING TOUR

Join one of Sugarite Canyon's rangers for an immersive hike and tour of the Sugarite Coal Camp. During the open season, Sugarite hosts many informational programs available to visitors like Coffee with a Ranger and Sugarite ROCKS!

For more info, call 575.445.5607







HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

by Billy Donati

From a ranch and forage station named Willow Springs, the town of Raton emerged on the Santa Fe Trail when the Atchison, **Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad decided to** locate its repair shop at the southern base of **Raton Pass-the year was** 1880. Within a year the population was nearly 3.000 and because of the rich coal deposits and ranching, the town grew.

Mercantiles, restaurants, hotels and saloons, made their appearance in response to the railroad. Then when the first automobile came over the Raton Pass into New Mexico, the automobile would become the primary form of transportation and only then did Second Street become the main thoroughfare.

Raton is a frontier city born of the railroad, coal mining, wild west shootouts, fights, and vendettas, theater and arts, and education–New Mexico's first public school was founded in 1884 in Raton. We talk-the-talk about Raton, but we also walkthe-walk in the downtown area with several interesting historical markers that make up the Raton Downtown Historic District Walking Tour. The tour re-traces the steps of the men and women who built the city and highlights many of the original structures they gave us.

Just some of the things you'll see include the Santa Fe Depot, which in the early 1900s served as many as 60 trains a day. The building was originally built in 1903 as a Mission Revival style building. Although still well-used as the main Amtrak rail gateway into Raton, it serves thousands of rail passengers including several thousands of boy scouts visiting nearby Philmont Scout Ranch every summer.

After several years of negotiations, the depot was recently deeded back to the City for use as part of the multi-modal facility for transportation, and plans are being developed for its renovation. Right across the street from the depot is Cook's Hall, built in the late 1880s as a meeting place. The first-floor display windows are divided by the original iron pilasters. The Abourezk Building from 1906 is adorned with garlands and two female figureheads. It's been used as a drug store and a grocery. The Labadie House, built in 1882, is one of the oldest dwellings in Raton.

Ripley Park was created in the early 1900s on railroad donated land. Its two sprawling acres of grass and trees are as beautiful as they were 100 years ago.

The A.H. Carey Hardware Store was one of the first buildings erected on Second Street, which is Raton's main street and business center. The two story stone building with brick facade is a common architectural style in Raton. The Seaberg Hotel was the brainchild of Hugo Seaberg, a Swedish immigrant who built the massive structure in 1903. It was widely known as one of the most luxurious lodging establishments in New Mexico before going bankrupt in 1937 and then succumbing to a major fire in 2012. All that remains now is an empty lot ready for an RFP proposal.

The DiLisio Building named for Italian immigrant Joe DiLisio, who owned and operated various successful local enterprises, was built in 1918. Originally the home of International State Bank, the building featured three Doric columns and stained glass tops on the lower windows. Just up Cook Avenue from the DiLisio Building, is the Arthur Johnson Memorial Library and is a superb example of early-twentieth-century neoclassical architecture. Formerly the United States Post Office, the library was renamed in honor of Raton banker Arthur Johnson.

The Swastika Hotel, built in 1929, maintains the familiar swastika insignia along its roof-edge. Although many think of Nazi Germany at the sight of the emblem, the original insignia, turned 90 degrees from the direction of the Nazi symbol, is actually an Indian symbol of good luck. The building is now the home of InBank.

The Shuler Theater, located on North Second Street, is a two-story live performance theater that currently hosts concerts, plays, and other live performances. The building was designed by the Trinidad based architectural firm of Rapp and Rapp in 1915 and originally functioned as City Hall and as a theater. The building's architectural style is decorative brick and the interior includes eight WPA murals by local artist Manville Chapman. The theater was a recent recipient of LEDA funding through the New Mexico's Historic Theater Initiatives program and received a digital film system upgrade.

El Raton Theater near the Shuler on Second Street is being renovated by its new owner, including a new marquee facelift. The building was constructed in 1930 as a late Gothic Revival style building, and includes extensive façade detailing and interior features. 1

The Raton Museum is currently located on Second Street in a twostory building originally built in 1910. The museum features regional artifacts associated with mining, ranching, and pioneer life.

Check out the Solano Building on South Second Street, the home of Solano's Boot and Western Wear. Also, take a look at the hidden silver dollars in the floors at 111 Park Espresso Bar, just across the alley from Solanos, which used to be the Silver Dollar Bar.

This is just a taste of what you'll see and learn when you walk the Raton Downtown Historic District. It's an easy and fun walk as the blocks aren't that big and there's plenty of new things to see and sift your imagination of early Raton.

YOUR PASS TO arts & culture!



RATON HUMANITIES

Theatrical performances, art shows, movies, and galleries make up the Arts & Cultural District in the heart of Historic Downtown Raton.

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The Isabel Castillo School for the Performing Arts

123 N 2nd St. • Raton, NM 87740

A black box studio in a historic building that can be rented for breakout/practice space and is located next door ot the Shuler.

The Shuler Theater

131 N 2nd St. • Raton, NM 87740

Built in 1914, the Shuler is owned by the City and operated by the Shuler Restoration Board. It is available for rental, performances, and movies.

Highlights:

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- Free Tours Available
- WPA Murals
- Handpainted Stage Curtain
- New Lighting System

El Raton Theatre

115 N 2nd St. • Raton, NM 87740

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This historic picture showhouse is under new ownership and is currently being renovated! Follow © *ElRatonTheatre*

Highlights:

- Exterior Castle Architecture
- Refurbished Historic Marquee

Old Pass Gallery

145 S 1st St. • Raton, NM 87740

The Raton Arts & Humanities Council owns and operates the Old Pass Gallery, which is located in the former Wells Fargo building (circa 1910). The gallery features local and regional artists and exhibits throughout the year.

Highlights:

Gift Shop

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Art For Sale by Artists

WPA Murals & Work

Shuler Theater, Post Office, and Library

Visit the well-preserved Works Progress Administration murals that were commissioned back in the 1930s in downtown Raton.

Did you know? The brick slab ditches around downtown were also WPA works.



INNOVATIVE JOURNALING THE INK BAR

Arthur Scharf is a one-of-a-kind business man whose story is inspiring to say the least. Before becoming a leatherworker making bags, books, and everything in between, he has always been a writer. Arthur details that the highs and lows of life eventually influenced him to start writing after a hiatus in which he started researching how to make his own books.

Going through a few trials of his own, Arthur dove into making journals made of leather, which eventually became a business and a studio in Santa Fe, New Mexico called Innovative Journaling.

Not too long ago, Arthur moved his business to Raton. Innovative Journaling's "The Ink Bar" is a nook inside the shop where anyone interested can come inside and ink their thoughts, feelings, and heart on paper. Arthur welcomes anyone interested in watching him do leatherwork, and will gladly share his abilities with you.

Innovative Journaling has a great selection of journals, wallets, bags, and even bookmarks for you to purchase. All handmade by Arthur, you can also order custom work from a variety of colors in leather. Stop on by Innovative Journaling at 116 N. 2nd St. in Raton!













Carl Swanson Gallery by Patricia Duran

Downtown Raton is impressive for almost every visitor getting off the Southwest Chief. Many visitors have passed through mountains, deserts, and plains pondering the great Wild West, its history, and inhabitants.

Located on Historic First Street is a handful of locally-owned shops, restaurants, and businesses, including that of Carl Swanson's Gallery located at 210 S. 1st St.

Stepping inside the gallery, it is as if your imagination on the train ride in was painted on every canvas hanging inside the building. From buffalos to indians, and from mountains to familiar sights locals can point out, passersby can stop by the gallery on weekdays between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Carl Swanson was born on January 25, 1947 in Williamsport, Indiana. Carl believes it to be a significant day because it was the same day Al Capone died. When he was five years old, Carl's uncle moved him and his mother to Raton.

Carl realized his artistic abilities in the first grade, however, at the time, there wasn't an art program in the middle school or high school. All throughout his life, he painted as a hobby, but worked as a heavy equipment operator in Raton.

Carl retired in 2013 and devoted his time to painting 19th Century Trans-Mississippi art in wildlife and historic themes. Carl explains this is his favorite time frame because it is the last frontier and close enough in the recent past to still be etched into our minds.

"Frederic Remington, Charles Russel are artists that inspire me, as well as Dino Corney of Folsom, New Mexico," says Carl. "Dino is awesome for his graphite portrayals of contemporary ranching themes."

In 2016, he painted a large 75foot mural of a train in downtown Raton for the Raton MainStreet organization. Afterwards, he was approached by local business owner Wallace Sharts who was impressed with his skill and helped him start his own gallery.

Thus, Carl Swanson Gallery was born in 2018. However, shortly after, Carl's wife, Margaret, whom he was married to for 47 years and had four children with, got sick and passed away. "I couldn't do much with it and then the covid lockdowns started," said Carl. It wasn't until after the pandemic in July 2021 that Carl was able to open the gallery to the public.

"I did fairly well [the rest of 2021] selling my art."

In late 2022, Carl worked on a plan to sell his art online and commissioned a couple of business owners to help him take pictures of his art and build a website.

Over the years, Carl has won several first place awards and a couple best in show awards at the International Bank Art Show.

Typically, it takes Carl three hours to paint in either acrylic or oil a small study, or an entire week or more for a large landscape, wildlife, or historical piece. In his spare time, he likes to whittle on wood or build custom wood frames for his paintings.

"I want everyone to know visitors are always welcome at my gallery," says Carl. Visitors can watch Carl paint and browse his large collection of pieces.

Support local business owners and stop on by the Carl Swanson Gallery in downtown Raton or visit **CarlSwansonGallery.com** for a virtual view of Carl's art.

YOUR PASS TO outdoor recreation!



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- Full Food Service & Full Liquor License
- Tournament & Banquet Facilities Available
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OUTDOOR RECREATION IN RATON



FISHING

abundance of trout and fantastic views.

have ramps or docks perfect for paddling.

Lake Maloya • Eagle Nest Lake • Springer Lake

Maxwell Wildlife Refuge • Trinidad Lake

KAYAKING & BOATING

HIKING & BIKING

CAMPING





Whether you're a tent or RV person, wake up to radiant and majestic land.

Sugarite Canyon • Cimmaron Canyon • Trinidad Lake • Eagle Nest Valle Vidal • Red River • Capulin Volcano • NRA • Maxwell

Hidden in our valleys and canyons are fresh water oases filled with an

📕 Sugarite Canyon • Cimmaron Canyon • Vermejo • Eagle Nest Lake

Here's your excuse to bring ol' Serenity on your next vacay. Most of our lakes

Traverse trails from the mountains to gravel all across northeast New Mexico

Climax Canyon • Sugarite Canyon • Cimmaron Canyon • Fisher's Peak

Trinidad Lake • Eagle Nest • Maxwell Wildlife Refuge • Red River • NRA

and southeast Colorado. From easy to moderate, find a hike for you or the fam!

Red River • Springer Lake • Trinidad Lake • Valle Vidal





From private to state lands, we are rich in resources and population with awardwinning outfitters. Green chile deer jerky coming right up!

All an

Sugarite Canyon • Cimmaron Canyon • Vermejo • Eagle Nest NRA • Maxwell • Red River • Springer • UU Bar Ranch • V7 Ranch

ROCK CLIMBING

Thought-provoking with plenty of protection, climb uncrowded routes with gorgeous views.

Sugarite Canyon • Mills Canyon - Kiowa Grasslands • Angel Fire Philmont Scout Ranch • Vermejo

SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

Looking for fresh powder? The ski season begins the second week of December and last until March. Sometimes the season is extended into April.

Angel Fire Resort • Red River • Valle Vidal

STARGAZING

With designated dark skies, enjoy the splendor of meteor showers and the Milky Way. Capulin Volcano National Monuments hosts many star events!

📮 Sugarite Canyon • Johnson Mesa • Capulin Volcano

TOP HIKE VIEWS IN RATON



Climax Canyon Nature Trail

West end of Apache Avenue

Looking for a view of the entire city and our surrounding valley view? Climax Canyon Nature Trail is located in town at the top of Apache Avenue.

This trail is easy to hike, and we recommend this hike along with a friend or with fido.

Length: 2.7 mi Elevation gain: 446 ft Route type: Loop Activity: Hiking, Running, & Biking Best views: Spring through Fall

Crater Rim Trail

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46 Volcano Highway, Capulin, NM

Ever hike a volcano crater rim? Put Capulin Volcano Monument on your bucketlist!

This trail is easy to hike, and takes around 40 minutes to complete. At the top, be sure to enjoy the emmaculate views of the Raton-Clayton volcanic field with magma fields and various volcanic peaks.

Length: 1.1 mi Elevation gain: 347 ft Route type: Loop Activity: Hiking, Running, & Birding Best views: Yearround

Vista Grand Nature Trail

Soda Pocket Rd. Raton, NM

This trail is easy to hike, and perfect for wildflower hunting. Enjoy gorgeous mountain valley views of Sugarite Canyon and the Raton-Clayton volcanic field. Be sure to pick up the Nature Trail guide to learn about about our area's ecology and nature.

Length: 0.5 mi Elevation gain: 154 ft Route type: Loop Activity: Hiking Best views: April through October





RATON PARKS —

Climax Canyon Park

900 Apache Ave. Nature Hiking Trail (3mi.)

Goat Hill Park

Top of Hill St. Overlook of City of Raton Picnic Tables & Shelter • Memorial

Gate City Sports Complex

900-1200 blocks of S. 3rd St. Baseball • Softball • Soccer Fields

Heritage Park

S. First St. and Park Ave. Seating • History Plaques

Optimist South Park

Corner of Kearney Ave. & Vista Pl. Playground • Picnic Tables Basketball Courts

Ripley Park

N. 2nd St. and Savage Ave. Gazebo • Playground

Romero Park

E. 8th St. and E. Clark Ave. Playground • Picnic Tables and Shelter Basketball Courts • Large Open Space

Roundhouse Memorial Park

Roundhouse Rd. and Memorial Ln. 9-Holes Disc Golf Course • Horseshoe Complex • Bocce Courts • Softball Field • 1 Mile Paved • Walking Path Dog Park • Gazebos • Picnic Tables

Veterans and Legion Parks

S. 2nd St. and Legion Dr. Picnic Tables • Playground • Memorial

Stay & Play!

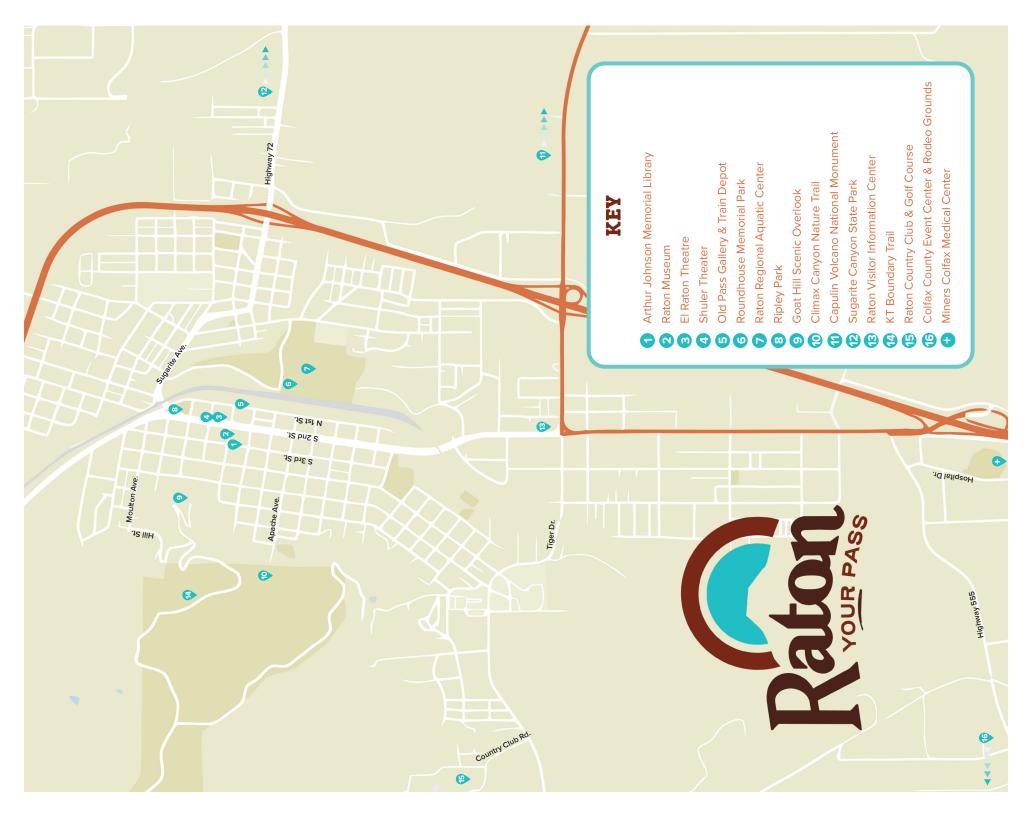
Raton Country Club & Golf Course

Stay in any hotel or motel in Raton, and play 18 holes free! Bring your lodging receipt to receive this promotion.

Golf in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains up against the famous and world-renowned Vermejo Park Ranch. Hang out atop the clubhouse deck with mesa and mountain views and a variety of wildlife, such as turkey, deer, elk, and bears.

Book a tee time today at 575.445.8113 or ratongolf.com

510 Country Club Rd. Raton, NM 87740



YOUR PASS TO events!

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FUN FACT

The Shuler Theater is said to be haunted by several energies including the ghost of Evelyn Shuler!



By now you've probably heard the news! On September 9, 2023, Raton Supercross will host the Rocky Mountain Riders Association (RMRA) championship circuit race at the Colfax County Events Center in Raton, New Mexico.

Long before the championship race, Raton's locals have been trying to bring racing back to Raton-horse racing, that is. Talk to a long-time community member, and they will tell you about the glory of days of boomtime in Raton when the mines were still open and the summer weekends were bustling with tourists and citizens alike.

Every weekend was a party waiting to happen, with plenty of saloons and bars to go dancing, including the daily horse races at La Mesa Park.

When La Mesa Park closed down in 1992, the town was left with a hole in its cultural heart. Many jockeys and enthusiasts longed for a warm weekend at La Mesa, and still do. Despite a few attempts at revamping or restarting our racing days, bringing racing back to Raton has not been an easy feat. However, a reimagining of racing has taken place with the Raton Supercross committee.

Back in May 2019, over 30 locals participated in the Recharge Our Community Economy workshop hosted by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) and GrowRaton, the city's certified Economic Development Organization by the state of New Mexico.

The workshop's premise was to help locals get more involved in their community to positively impact and affect the health and wealth of Raton's economic future by building and implementing a project or idea. Communities taking the RCAC workshop in the past, built small or large scale projects that had profound effects on the overall community wellbeing including economy. They help launch new businesses, create jobs, or help business expansion.

In 2019, one community project sat on the table with the potential to bring racing back to Raton via supercross. Spearheaded by Kim Davis, a local and employee at the Center for Community Innovation (CCI), Raton Supercross grew legs in early 2020. Kim rallied with then CCI Executive Director Geoff Peterson and now director Patricia Duran, and RCAC to launch this project.

Kim made some connections and phone calls to the RMRA, and Patricia and Kim created a presentation to sell Raton as a possible location for a Colorado circuit point race. A point race had the potential to bring 400 riders plus their families to the area for the weekend, create a newfound love for the sport in locals, and be a positive impact in the lack of youth events. The race was sure to help improve the city in many ways economically and through community-building.

Boasting about our possible race location, plenty of hospitality services, and accessibility to the Rocky Mountains, state parks, NRA Whittington Center, as well as a short 10-minute drive from the New Mexico-Colorado border, RMRA entrusted the team with its first supercross date.

Bringing Racing Back (cont.)

RMRA race promoter Mike Zawacki worked hand-in-hand with the supercross committee at CCI to see a race happen in Raton. With safety requirements and promoter costs to be paid, Raton Supercross needed to work with stakeholders, volunteers, and local government to pull off the race in time.

However, fate took a turn and COVID happened, canceling the 2020 race date, which allowed the committee extra time to work on the checklist of requirements needed for the race to occur. The team had many other items to finish like creating a Raton





Supercross brand with merchandise and getting sponsors.

For the proposed location, the Jim Young Rodeo Arena in Raton, the committee needed to work with the county to change the name to the Colfax County Events Center, and expand the arena and install LED lighting for the safety of the riders, which could also help improve the arena for attracting future events aside from Supercross.

In 2021 and 2022, Raton received two race dates in the RMRA circuit and the supercross committee worked diligently to fundraise and make improvements by expanding the arena 50 feet, update and install new LED lighting, upgrade the dirt, and install a new sound system. In total, the committee provided over \$250,000 in volunteer work and local business donations and materials necessary to improve the Colfax County Events Center for future events.

Both races were major successes. Racers and families enjoyed the new dirt track in Raton and our local amenities so much that RMRA decided to give Raton Supercross the championship race date for 2023.

With so many positive partnerships, hard-working volunteers, and organizations, Raton Supercross is excited for the upcoming race season and is expecting a great turn out from both riders and local spectators this year.

Follow for updates on RatonSupercross.com or on Facebook.com/RatonSupercross

RATON SUPERCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, September 9, 2023 Colfax County Event Center

> To purchase tickets: RatonSupercross.com

ANNUAL EVENTS IN RATON

Annual Sun Valley Rides Summer Carnival June 22-25 Raton High School ratonmainstreet.org

International Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally July 1-3 La Mesa Airfield • Highway 555 ratonmainstreet.org

4th of July Celebration - Fun on Historic First Street July 4 Historic First Street ratonmainstreet.org

Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous June 10-18 Coal Canyon • NRA Whittington Center nrawc.org

Run to Raton July 20-22 Downtown Raton • 224 S. 1st St. runtoraton.com

Miss Run to Raton Pin-Up Contest July 22 Downtown Raton • 224 S. 1st St. runtoraton.com





Honky Tonk Hodgepodge Early August 32230 US HWY 64 • Cimarron, NM 87728 Coldbeernewmexico

Gate City Music Festival Labor Day Weekend Historic First Street & Shuler Theater • Raton, NM ratonmainstreet.org

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Colexico Spaghetti & Westerns Festival Mid October Trinidad, CO • Raton, NM spaghettiandwesterns.com

The Purgatory 4 Adventure Relay September 8-9 Trinidad, CO • Raton, NM purg4.com

Festival of Lights - Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting Day After Thanksgiving Historic First Street ratonmainstreet.org

City of Bethlehem Display After Thanksgiving - New Years Climax Canyon





YOUR PASS TO unique events!

Colexico Experience Colexico Experience

The Colexico Experience celebrates the Southwest Chief route on Amtrak by hosting annual comedy festivals between venues in Raton and Trinidad, CO, as well as on the train ride over the Raton Pass.

Upcoming is the Spaghetti and Westerns Festival in October where riders can take the train between our two historic cities eating spaghetti and watching Western movies with comedians.

Why we love it: The Colexico Experience's is mash up between our state names, Colorado and New Mexico. This festival is unique in that it is a modern take that pays homage to the railroad and western history. **Gate City Music Festival (***PatonMainstreet*

The Gate City Music Festival (GCMF) started as a dream from Crystal and Will Yates as they came to play at the Shuler Theater in Raton for a singersongwriter competition. Falling in love with the theater, they felt a calling to launch a festival in Raton that would help open up the city and its downtown economy.

After many collaborations, GCMF was born, and is now run annually by Raton Mainstreet bringing in many talented acts, vendors, and fun to Raton on Labor Day Weekend.

This year, Mark Wills will be the headliner on Sunday, Sept. 3.

Tickets are on sale at GateCityMusicFestival.com

Why we love it: Each year is different, and Will and Crystal Yates come down every year to open up for the headliner. They are practically citizens!



Fourth of July in Raton () *RatonMainstreet*

Balloon riders anticipate coming to Raton every year for the International Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally because of our abundant outdoors and 4th of July celebration!

We recommend you come the weekend before July 4, to get a chance to ride in a hot air balloon and speak to friendly pilots in the early hours of the day.

When Independence Day rolls around, spend the day on Historic First Street eating, drinking, and dancing. When dusk hits, pack up some blankets and snacks, and open up the tailgate for an up close and personal firework display!

Why we love it: This is the event that will make you feel like this is home! We dare you to come visit us this summer.



Run To Raton

Northern New Mexico's picturesque byways make the perfect setting for some summertime rides. Run To Raton is an annual motorcycle rally where the summer can never get more wilder and hotter, but it does!

Enjoy car and bike shows, tattoo artists, live bands, and a lovely pin up contest. What are you waiting for? Let's party!

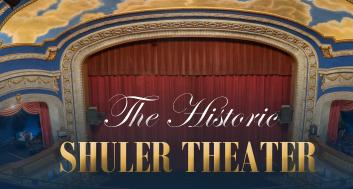
Why we love it: Young and seasoned motorcyclists travel for miles around to come to Raton and enjoy our city and surrounding areas. Each year, there is a bike raffle; this year's bike is 1948 Pan Shovel!

Go to **RunToRaton.com** for raffle info.



Photos by Colexico Experience





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BANDS • POKER RUNS • BBQ • MISS RUN TO RATON • BIKE GIVEAWAY • CAR SHOW • BIKE SHOW • VENDORS

EXPLORE

New Mexico

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YOUR PASS TO the big screen!

FUN FACT

Over a dozen projects and productions have been filmed in and around the Raton area including The Hill & The Hole movie!

hoto by William M. McLar

NE.

EL RATON MEDIA WORKS

by Ann Theis & Jessica Barfield

Misson

El Ration Studios is an innovative nonprofit Arts2Work workforce development and career opportunity hub serving Colfax County and surrounding areas. We empower the community to thrive in a technology and media-driven world by providing access to tools, training, and careers in all aspects of media arts and production. We are committed to promoting community engagement, creative self-expression, and life and career skills for youth and adults.

Vision

Our vision is to bring film, television and emerging media projects to northern New Mexico to invigorate the local economy and create a wide-range of community and workforce development opportunities through partnerships, collaborations and investments with local and regional businesses and educational institutions.

Filmmaking and television production requires building entire worlds. Fully realizing these visions requires not just production crew like cinematographers, directors, actors and scriptwriters, but it also needs a complete economy of workers such as electricians, carpenters, welders, plumbers, chefs, tailors, painters, hair/makeup artists and mechanics. We believe the development of learning and media production facilities will provide educational resources and workforce development opportunities to the community to grow the regional economy in a myriad of ways including increasing demand for local businesses, youth and adult career pathway education and job opportunities.



The Plan

El Raton Media Works has created a phased plan to develop a workforce development training facility centered around the booming film and TV production industry in New Mexico. We are developing a first-of-its-kind in New Mexico, state-of-the-art XR studio and educational center in an historic Raton public school. This facility has 20,000 square feet of usable space and will house not only a 3,200 square foot educational XR studio but also dozens classrooms for training in all aspects of modern media production, including the vocational trades needed for the complete production process such as culinary arts, art design and production, woodworking, costume design, plumbing and electrical work.

This workforce training phase will gear up the region for the final phase of the project, which is the development of a 10,000 square foot professional facility that includes a professional soundstage. Without an existing higher learning center in the area, the primary purpose of this facility will be to serve as a training site for middle, high school, and college students to adults of all ages so the region's workforce can fill the workforce gap with locally trained talent.

Why Raton?

El Raton Media Works is committed to creating a diverse, inclusive and equitable environment for filmmakers, educators, students, volunteers and employees. ERS welcomes diversity in its many forms – including, but not limited to age, gender, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, cultural perspective and economic circumstances – with the goal of providing all area residents platforms to learn, strengthen community, and advance a strong media and ancillary business workforce.

Located off I-25, at the scenic base of the Rocky Mountains, the City of Raton and the surrounding area is a prime location for many different types of film projects and are completely unique from other film studio locations in New Mexico. The city streets are lined with historical buildings, gift shops, eateries/breweries and the surrounding area has even more to offer: Vermejo Park Ranch, Capulin Volcano, Sugarite Canyon State Park (including Lake Alice, Lake Maloya, & the Chicorica River), the NRA Whittington Center, and the Philmont Boy Scout ranch. The region boasts 273 days of sun, warm summers, cold winters, any southwestern environment you could possibly need, all in one location.

Crews can drive from Denver or Albuquerque, charter flights into Raton Municipal Airport, or take one of the daily train rides from Chicago or L.A. Because of the location's unmatched natural resources and beauty, we are promoting those offerings and then matching it with unparalleled technology. This XR Studio would be a first in New Mexico, and combined with an educational facility and a complete soundstage, it would be a draw for productions all across the region and the U.S.

Promoting Filmmaking in the Region

El Raton Media Works is working with GrowRaton, local officials, and property owners to attract film and other media productions to the unique and beautiful locations in Raton and across Colfax County.

The locations are shot with a drone cinematographer, and edited to highlight the features of each location. These aerial location videos will live in an online mapped interactive portfolio of Colfax County Locations. Although our primary purpose is to attract film productions into choosing our area as their next location, these stunning videos can be used for a variety of purposes to attract visitors to the region.

Our goal is to give local businesses and residents a platform to showcase the charm of Colfax County and bring economic opportunity in kind. We are working to obtain additional grants to film more locations. If you have a location fit for filming, make sure you're signed up on our website ElRatonMediaWorks.org.

And if the beauty isn't enough, Raton is located in New Mexico Film Commission's Uplift Zone, which makes projects eligible for the state's largest film tax credit rate of 30-35% (Film-TV). Meaning it is located at least sixty miles outside of the exterior boundaries of Bernalillo and Santa Fe Counties. This allows film production companies to take an additional 5% credit on money spent in this rural, emerging film community. To sign up your business or learn more about becoming a qualified New Mexico vendor, please visit our website ElRatonMediaWorks.org.

YOUR PASS TO RatonBIZ!

YESTERYEAR'S TOMORROW

by Anita Valdez

With an exodus of over 5,000 people in over twenty years when its mining industry closed, Raton experienced what any other small American town faced: an economic devastation. But alas! What can a small town do to reinvent itself? Welcome entrepreneurs for one thing! So that is what Raton, New Mexico is doing.

Over the last two years, and despite the pandemic struggle, over a dozen new small businesses have opened. From a prosperous Italian leather shop to custom tents and homemade donuts, entrepreneurs from within the town's mountainous boundaries or across state lines, have migrated or returned to the cozy, little town bringing their visions and talents. While vacant, commercial buildings may seem an eye sore to some, those entrepreneurs with a sparkle in their eye see only opportunities.... and they are taking advantage!

Residential property projects are plentiful, too. Local realtors can hardly keep up with the uptick in residential sales. And why not? Raton's awesome outdoor recreation is just minutes from anyone's front door by car, bike or foot. Not much concern about finding something to do here when one is not hiking, fishing, or celebrating.

Whatever project that does not become a business likely morphs into a social or civic project accomplished by the joining of community hands. A dog park looks for a welcomed upgrade and new businesses are announced with pride during crowded ribbon-cuttings from the Raton Ambassadors, a five-yearold nonprofit organization.

Event and local promotions are handled professionally by the expertise of the local nonprofits like Center for Community Innovation and Explore Raton.

Further, local businesses are pampered with exclusive bi-annual networking events hosted by Colfax County's certified economic development organization, GrowRaton. Fun-fabulous annual events such as Raton's Balloon Rally and Fourth of July celebration are designed with fun for all by Raton Mainstreet. Raton's youth enjoy fun and creativity in safe places at Zia Youth and Craftsman Ministries Teen Center. Let it be known that the town supports its strong high school booster club! This is only the tip of the iceberg of family-friendly and youth-enjoyed activities available.

With Raton boasting low property taxes, a business friendly environment, and oodles of opportunities, things have certainly been making a turning around. Having a blank slate to work from in a town that can use, well, everything, the exodus is now from the cities to the quaint, slower lifestyles of yesteryear.

If a visit to Raton isn't on your schedule, you may be missing out on a grand opportunity!

DINING DIRECTORY

AMERICAN

Bruno's Pizza & Wings 133 E. Cook Ave. 575.445.9512

Denny's

430 Clayton Rd. 575.445.1386

BBQ

The Historic Icehouse 945 S. 2nd St. 575.445.0003

COFFEE & FOOD

111 Park Espresso Bar 111 Park Ave. 575.445.2219

The Gathering Place 917 S. 2nd St. 505.485.5782

Sage Coffee 1185 S. 2nd St. 575.245.7243

CHINESE & ASIAN

Asian Buffet 1281 S. 2nd St. 575.445.9518

DINER

Oasis Restaurant 1445 S. 2nd St. 575.445.2221

DRINKS & FOOD

Blu Dragonfly Brewing 33808 US HW 64 575.376.1110

Cold Beer NM 32230 US HW 64 575.376.2229

Colfax Ale Cellar 215 S. 2nd St. 575.445.1111

Gate City Craft Bar 244 S. 1st St. 505.363.4858

Mulligan's 473 Clayton Rd. 575.445.8540

FAST FOOD

Arby's 415 Clayton Rd. 575.445.8078

Domino's Pizza 129 Clayton Rd. 575,245,3030

McDonald's 542 Clayton Rd. 575,245,5569

Sonic 327 Clavton Rd. 575,445,9601

Subway

800 Clayton Rd. 575.445.9290

NEW MEXICAN

La Cosina Cafe 745 S. 3rd St. 575.445.9675

Frito Bandito 1012 S. 2nd St. 575.707.8888

JR's Burrito Grill 1221 S. 2nd St. 575.445.3567

Pappa's Sweet Shop 1201 S. 2nd St. 575.445.9811

MEXICAN

Alfonso's 412 Clayton Rd. 575.445.8022

Casa Lemus 350 Clayton Rd. 575.445.4024

Los Chanquis 144 N. 1st St. 575,445,4644

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TASTE RATON

You can't truly enjoy the sights and sounds of Raton without diving into a dish or two at one of our locally-owned restaurants. With high recommendation, let us tell you where to go, when, and what to order!



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111 Park Espresso Bar *111 Park Ave.* (†) *111 Park*

Named after its address, this espresso bar is more than just coffee beans and creamer. 111 Park is the spot to grab a filling and healthy lunch with the family or a quick conversation over a cinnamon roll.

Our favorites: ANY of Paula's daily baked goods. A bacon breakfast burrito for breakfast, and a Cranberry Turkey Wrap for lunch. With plenty of drink options, never be afraid to order what you love!

The Historic Icehouse 945 S. 2nd St. () TheHistoricIcehouse

Honestly, every option on the menu goes great with any one of the Icehouse's Homemade BBQ sauces. Check out their Facebook page for daily specials or for scheduled musical acts and bands.

Our favorites: The smorgasbord of 3 meats (your choice) called the Combo for 1 or 2! The ribs, brisket, and hot links is our go-to sided with fries and a hot roll.

Bruno's Pizza & Wings

133 Cook Ave. 🚯 BrunosPizzaWings

Popular with tourists and locals, Bruno's is always at the top of the list! Practically Buzzfeed famous for its wings, try a variety of flavors from buffalo to spicy asian.

Our favorites: The New Mexican pizza, a Cranberry Salad with Lemon Poppy Seed Dressing, and Lemon Pepper Wings!

La Cosina Cafe

745 S. 3rd St. 😯 LaCosinaCafe

Hidden just off of Second Street is our very own #NewMexicoTrue restaurant. Everyone is feening for green chile smothered dishes and a homemade feeling in their belly. Open a few days a week, be sure to get your seat before rush!

Our favorites: The Mixed Stuffed Sopapilla Plate or the La Cosina Special Plate. Regardless of what you order, ask for a side sopapilla with honey for dessert.

Colfax Ale Cellar 215 S. 2nd St. († Colfax Ale Cellar

Brewed in-house craft beers, grubs, and Rudy the brewdog to keep you company.

Our favorites: The Goat Hill Beer paired with Elote Bites, and Smoked Brisket Sandwich.



HOTEL DIRECTORY



AIR BNB

45 Seventy Prop. B&B 744 S. 2nd St. Book on Airbnb.com

Hearts Desire B&B 301 S. 3rd St. 575.445.1000

High Plains Hideout 244 S. 1st St. Book on Airbnb.com

HOTELS

Best Western Plus 473 Clayton Rd. 575.445.8501

Holiday Inn Express 101 Card Ave. 575.445.1500

Microtel Inn & Suites

1640 Cedar St. 575.303.4479

Quality Inn

533 Clayton Rd. 575.445.4200

MOTELS

Budget Host 136 Canyon Dr. 575.445.3655

Casa Lemus Inn 350 Clavton Rd. 575.445.2737

Oasis Boutique Motel 1445 S. 2nd St. 575.445.2221

Raton Pass Motor Inn 308 Canyon Dr. 575.445.3641

Raton Peak Inn 200 Clayton Rd. 575,245,7325

Robin Hood Motel 1354 S. 2nd St. 575,445,5577

Super 8 1610 Cedar St. 575.445.2355

MOTELS (CONT.)

Travelodge 1600 Cedar St. 505.738.4180

Travel Motel 400 Clayton Rd. 575.445.5503

RV PARKS

JAG's Red Carpet RV Park 1012 S. 2nd St. 505.927.5654

Raton KOA Journey 1330 S. 2nd St. 575.445.3488

RV PARKS (CONT.)

Raton Pass Camp 46020 1-25 575.445.8500

Summerlan Parks 1900 S. Cedar St. 575.445.9536

Willow Springs RV Park 1025 Frontage Rd. 575.445.1200

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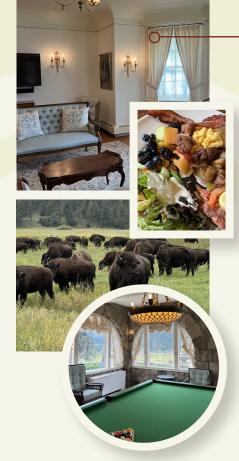


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Vermejo - Ted Turner Reserve Ted Turner Reserves.com/Vermejo

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High Plains Hideout Air BNB Book on AirBNB.com

The High Plains Hideout is situated above the Gate City Craft Bar in the Downtown Historic District. Decorated with western themes in mind, this Air BNB is Instagramworthy and cozy.

Owned and operated by hospitable hosts and invested entrepreneurs, the High Plains Hideout is well taken care of and curated with vintage decor.

Perks: A short walk from galleries, theaters, parks, museum, and restaurants. Gorgeous views of Johnson Mesa. Full kitchen for use. Near Amtrak Train Station and Greyhound bus stop.

Raton Pass Motor Inn

RatonPassMotorInn.com

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As their sign states, this is the home of vintage cool! Rooms are midcentury themed, eclectic, and clean. One of our favorites is Room 13. Any guesses on why?

Book a room to find out why so many have fallen in love with Raton and stay at this motel over and over.

Perks: Pet friendly. Near downtown. Call in advance for the best deals!



SHOPPING DIRECTORY

ACCESSORIES & CLOTHING

Anthony's Jewelers 100 S. 2nd St. 575.445.2212

Dawghouse Clothing 140 N. 1st St.

Londyn Rae Boutique 139 S. 2nd St. 575.707.0729

Rose's Honeysuckle Station 119 Cook Ave. 575.445.9080

Tina's Goodies 211 Park Ave.

SECOND HAND ANTIQUES

First Street Thrift Store 224 S. 1st St. 575.445.5778

Society of St. Vincent de Paul 401 S. 4th St. 575.447.9844

MCMC Auxillary Thrift Store 1180 S. 2nd St.

Flat Mountain Trading Co. 136 N. 2nd St. 575.303.7275

SCORE 1189 S. 2nd St.

Willow Springs Trail Traders 1222 S. 2nd St. 505.400.6603

SOUVENIRS & GIFTS

All Seasons Gift Shop 1616 Cedar St. 575.445.2950

Altalune Metaphysical 117 N. 2nd St. 575.445.2950

Dancing Eagle Gifts 473 Clayton Rd. 575.445.8501

KOA Gift Shop 1330 S. 2nd St. 575.445.3488

Made in Raton Consignment Shop 216 N. 2nd St. 505.604.0571

MCMC Auxill. Gift Shop 203 Hospital Dr.

Buffalo Chip

112 S. 2nd St. 575.445.7659

The Pack Rat 134 S. 1st St. 575.445.3242

Patchwork Phoenix Specialty Shop 228 S. 1st St. 575.445.8000

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Whittington Center Pro Shop 34025 US-64

Tractor Supply 101 York Canyon Rd. 575.445.2018

Zia Guns 1466 Brilliant St. 575.707.0789

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Dulces Encantados 138 S. 1st St. 575.383.0014

The Gathering Place Cookie Bakey 917 S. 2nd St. 505.485.5782

High Country Meats 340 Colfax Ave. 575.445.2449

Zen Doughnuts 246 Clark Ave.

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Solano's Boot & Western Wear 101 S. 2nd St. 575.445.2632



oto by **Ros**e's Honeysuc

YOUR PASS TO shopping!

SHOP LOCAL

Our entrepreneurs are open and ready for your support. From clothing and accessories, to homemade goods and grubs. Shop till you drop at any of the highlighted shops below. Take home something you can't find in the city!



Rose's Honeysuckle Station

119 Cook Ave. 🚯 RosesHoneysuckle

Can we just say, this family-owned boutique is cute, cute, and cute! Select a purchase from their modern and colorful collection of women's attire or shop gifts for loved ones! You won't leave without something utterly cute and calling your name!

Carrie's Honey & More Store

613 S. 2nd St. 🚯 Carrie's Honey & More Store

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Carrie sells raw and unfiltered honey, and honey products like beeswax and candles. You can always bring your own jar to fill or purchase prefilled jars from Carrie herself!







Support local crafters and artisans at the Made In Raton Consignment Shop! There's a variety of goods and gifts to peruse and browse through. Owner Sandra Rodman is very particular of who she does business with so you can trust all items are "Made In Raton!"

Solano's Boot & Western Wear

101 S. 2nd St. 🚯 SolanosWesternWear

Trusted and in business for over 66 years, Solano's is your one stop shop for western wear and in-store leather boot shop with its very own Cobbler Andy Solano. Shop the best hats, boots, shirts, and leather work in Raton!





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DESIGN, PUBLISHER, & DISTRIBUTOR

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PRINTING

Midway Press, LTD.

Author



PATRICIA DURAN

Native to Raton, Patricia Duran is the Executive Director at the Center for Community Innovation working to grow the workforce and tourism of Northeastern New Mexico. With a love and passion for design, Patricia received her bachelor's and masters in communication from Eastern New Mexico University. Her career has led her to be an economic developer, PR Coordinator for Miss America's New Mexico pageant circuit, a featured journalist and freelance graphic designer across New Mexico, and much more. She has been involved in ministry and evangelical work as a worship musician. Currently, she is the co-pastor of Mesa Church in Raton.

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PO Box 1712 Raton, NM 87740

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Explore Raton is powered by the Northeastern New Mexico Educational Foundation, dba The Center for Community Innovation—Where Community and Innovation Meet.





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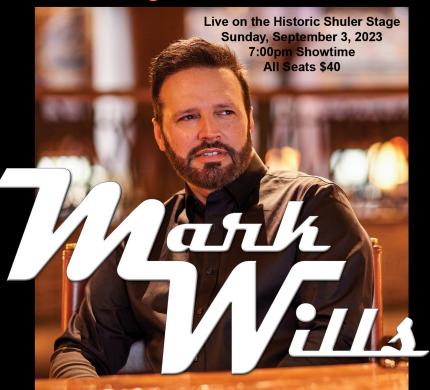
(575) 445-2457 or (575) 445-2052 www.exploreraton.com www.ratonmainstreet.org Balloons fly all 3 days starting at 6:30am (weather permitting)

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Elks Lodge #865 Pancake Breakfast every morning starting at 6:00am

Join Us Labor Day Weekend for the 8th Annual Gate City Music Festival Featuring





Tickets and more info available at www.gatecitymusicfestival.com or the Old Pass Gallery 145 S. 1st Street, Raton, NM (575) 445-2052

Brought to you by Raton MainStreet and www.exploreraton.com