

Getting to the Navajo Nation from Albuquerque

From Albuquerque – Driving on Historic Route 66 (Interstate 40), you will begin your journey to the Navajo Nation. Located west of Albuquerque are several pueblo villages, the closest neighbors to the Navajo people.



Grants, NM – West of Acoma, is Grants, NM. According to historical records, Grants began as a railroad camp in the 1880s, when three Canadian brothers were awarded a contract to build a section of the new Atlantic and Pacific Railroad through the region. The Grant brothers' camp was first called Grants Camp, then Grants Station, and finally Grants. Perhaps the most memorable boom in the town's history occurred when Paddy Martinez, a Navajo shepherd, discovered uranium ore near Haystack Mesa, sparking a mining boom that lasted until the 1980s. The collapse of mining pulled the town into a depression, but the town has enjoyed a resurgence based on interest in tourism and the scenic beauty of the region. **For more information - www.grants.org**

Gallup, NM – West of Grants is Gallup, NM. Gallup was founded in 1881 as a railhead for the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. The City was named after David Gallup, a paymaster for the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. It is the most populous city between Albuquerque, New Mexico and Flagstaff, Arizona. Gallup is sometimes called the "Indian Capital of the World", for its location in the heart of Native American lands, and the presence of Navajo, Zuni, and Hopi tribes. For more information - <http://www.gallupnm.org/visitors/index.cfm>



Just east of Gallup is the Navajo Nation's first casino. It is called **Fire Rock Casino** and is quite visible from Interstate 40, exit 26. For more information - www.firerocknavajocasino.com

From Gallup, NM – to Window Rock, Arizona, the capital of the Navajo Nation.

At the intersection of Highways 264 and 491, a turn to Window Rock, Arizona will lead you twenty miles west to the Navajo Nation Capital community, the center of Navajo Nation government.



Window Rock, Ariz. – is the seat of the Navajo Nation leadership – much like Washington, D.C. Historically, the immediate area served as the military base for fifty years at Fort Defiance, about 10 miles north of Window Rock. It was a US cavalry outpost. That was until in the 1930s when Window Rock was established as a new Navajo Nation government capital. The tribal government capital is named for the natural stone arch on its north-eastern side. At the base of the natural stone arch is a Veteran's Memorial. For more Navajo nation travel information - <http://www.discovernavajo.com>. While at Window Rock, you can learn a lot about Navajo history at the tribal museum. The building is beautiful and is also the home for the Navajo Nation Library. It also has an excellent gift shop with one of the best selections of books on Native American and Navajo history. The museum is open to the general public and is free.