

Bicycle Boulevard In Brief

The full version of this tour is quite lengthy. To help you decide what you want to read about, this version offers very brief summaries and includes the color coding to help you find areas of interest.

As always, we start the tour with information about how to get to each end of the tour by bicycle, by bus, and by car, including parking information.

0.0/7.5
Miles **Paseo del Bosque**

Here we present some historic, cultural and physical aspects of the Rio Grande and discuss some of the efforts to preserve it. We then look at the history of the settling of the valley, first by the Pueblos and then by the Spanish.

Quick stops between the tour's start and Panmunjon Road provide glimpses of an older neighborhood, its school and some of the valley's irrigation and drainage facilities.

0.9/6.6
Miles **Panmunjon Road.**

We come to the first of many possible side trips, this one to the Botanic Garden, the Aquarium, and the Shoe Tree House, with its home grown art.

1.2/6.3
Miles **Rio Grande Boulevard and Mountain Road**

A statue of Albuquerque's founder presents an opportunity to look at our city's origin and early development. We also discuss the arrival of the Anglos and the annexation of New Mexico by the United States. Conflict between Native Americans and the Hispanic and Anglo settlers was very much a part of our city's early history, so we look at that issue as well.

Old Town and its historic plaza was the center of life in early Albuquerque and we discuss several ways to explore it.

1.4/6.1
Miles **Nineteenth Street.**

Three of the city's museums and one of its many parks are located nearby as is the Sawmill Land Trust, a recently developed residential area.

1.7/5.8
Miles **Sawmill Road.**

Several blocks long, Sawmill Road follows an historic right of way and makes for a quick side trip.

1.8/5.7
Miles **Fourteenth Street.**

Turning south on to Fourteenth Street, we enter the historic Downtown Neighborhood with its rich history, many fine homes, and a well organized neighborhood association that turned their community around. There are several opportunities for side trips to historic buildings and an art center. And don't miss the certified wildlife habitat.

2.3/5.2
Miles **Central Avenue.**

Our first encounter with Central Avenue, formerly Railroad Avenue, provides an opportunity to reflect on New Town's early development. We also look at the westward expansion of the wagon train road which would become Route 66. A brief Civil War battle was fought near here and we reflect on that skirmish.

At Central Avenue we also begin our exploration of the Reynolds Addition Neighborhood, its history and current activities. An optional trip explores the neighborhood's creative side.

2.4/5.1
Miles **Corner of Fourteenth Street and Los Alamos Avenue.**

Conservationist and visionary Aldo Leopold lived nearby.

3.1/4.4
Miles **Corner of Seventh Street and Silver Avenue**

Entering the downtown core, we continue our story of New Town's development, and examine the history of some of Albuquerque's modern institutions.

3.4/4.1
Miles **Corner of Second Street and Silver Avenue.**

Starting from this point an optional side trip offers a sample of downtown's historic buildings as well as two of its arts organizations.

As you pedal south on Second Street, be sure to look at Gertrude Zachary's 'castle' on the east side of the street.

3.6/3.9
Miles **Corner of Coal Avenue and Second Street.**

Turn east on Coal Avenue and go to the top of the overpass. The old rail yard provides a backdrop for stories of how the railroad chose Albuquerque for its repair facilities and how the railroad impacted the immediate area. We look at the rail yard's future and discuss the New Mexico Rail Runner, our latest encounter with trains.

3.8/3.7
Miles **Broadway Boulevard.**

At this intersection, we start with a glimpse of nearby culturally significant institutions and then look more closely at the history and current status of the Huning Highland neighborhood. An optional side trip starts here and meanders through the neighborhood, providing a sample of its historic architecture. Those pedaling straight up the hill on Coal Avenue can read about the slope's geologic origin, view additional historic buildings, and take in the Witch Hat House.

4.5/3.0
Miles **Cedar Street.**

The route returns to Silver Avenue here but before we leave Coal Avenue, we look at Roosevelt Park, one of the area's early public spaces.

4.6/2.9
Miles **Silver Avenue.**

Our route passes through three university neighborhoods: Sycamore, Silver Hill and University Heights. We begin to look at their early development and shared history.

4.7/2.8
Miles **Sycamore Street.**

As we ride along the handsome Silver Hill median, we look at Clyde Tingley, his lovely house, and his much-maligned elm trees. We also visit with the Silver Hill Neighborhood Association and sample the area's architecture.

5.0/2.5
Miles **University Boulevard.**

The University of New Mexico, (UNM), traces its history back to the territorial legislature and to some prominent citizens of Albuquerque. We look at a few of the details here.

5.2/2.3
Miles **Buena Vista Drive.**

Less than half a mile south of here is the historic Heights Community Center.

5.3/2.2
Miles **Yale Boulevard.**

We pause here to discuss several nearby buildings of historic and cultural significance. Then we look at the rich history and culture of this university neighborhood along with current activities of the University Heights Neighborhood Association.

5.8/1.7
Miles **Girard Boulevard.**

Nearby is the former house of World War II journalist Ernie Pyle; it's now a branch of the city library. Girard Boulevard forms the western boundary of the Nob Hill neighborhood and we look at that area's historic development and at current neighborhood issues. This stretch of Bicycle Boulevard includes a one-mile side trip as well as several shorter ones, all of them to look at buildings of architectural and historic interest.

6.3/1.2
Miles **Carlisle Boulevard.**

We pass the historic Nob Hill Shopping Center here and as we ascend part of Nob Hill, we discuss its geologic origins.

6.4/1.1
Miles **Hermosa Drive.**

Take this quick side trip to see a streamline moderne house and a nearby garden.

6.6/0.9
Miles **Morningside Drive.**

The Nob Hill farmer's market is a block south of here.

7.0/0.5
Miles **Washington Street.**

The Highland Neighborhood is the last one on our tour. After discussing area history and current issues, we look at a variety of buildings, including an historic motel, a recycled drive-up bank, the city's second high school, and the historic Hiland Theater.

7.5/0.0
Miles **San Mateo Boulevard.**

At our final stop we look at the architecture and history of the office tower at the corner of Central Avenue and San Mateo Boulevard.