



## Albuquerque Biological Park

Whether they are baby elephants, sea turtles or butterflies, almost everyone loves to look at living creatures. Albuquerque provides some of the best opportunities in the West for viewing natural life. The Albuquerque Biological Park, or BioPark, consists of four separate facilities: the Albuquerque Aquarium, the Rio Grande Botanic Garden, the Rio Grande Zoo and Tingley Beach. The aquarium exhibits freshwater species from the Rio Grande and saltwater creatures from the Gulf of Mexico. Habitats include estuaries, coral reefs and the deep ocean. The highlight of the aquarium is a 285,000-gallon ocean tank where sandtiger, blacktip and nurse sharks swim alongside brilliantly colored reef fish, eels, sea turtles and open ocean species. Every day, divers enter the tank for feeding and other chores. The Rio Grande Botanic Garden, on 20 developed acres, offers a 10,000-square foot glass conservatory with plants from desert and Mediterranean climates. From May through September, the Butterfly Pavilion gives visitors a close-up look at hundreds of colorful butterflies. Tingley Beach on the Rio Grande sports picnic areas and a series of trout-stocked fishing lakes, including one just for children. The BioPark operates a narrow-gauge railroad that connects all its facilities, plus a sightseeing line that runs within the botanic garden. Parking is ample and free, and all sites have restaurants and gift stores. Young and old will delight in a trip to the Albuquerque Biological Park.

**1601 Central Avenue NW, Albuquerque NM (aquarium and botanic garden)**  
**1800 Tingley Drive SW, Albuquerque NM (Tingley Beach)**  
 (505) 764-6200  
[www.cabq.gov/biopark](http://www.cabq.gov/biopark)



## The Rio Grande Zoo

Founded in 1927, the Rio Grande Zoo is the oldest and most popular attraction at the Albuquerque Biological Park, or BioPark. The zoo hosts more than 200 species of exotic and native animals. The zoo's 64 acres are laced with two and a half miles of paths. Trees, grass, waterworks and rocks provide naturalistic habitats. The many state-of-the-art exhibits feature polar bears, lions, giraffes and Mexican wolves, among others. Adventure Africa showcases antelope, red river hogs, chimpanzees and other exotics. The Tropical America exhibit features an array of plants and animals from the American tropics. The zoo's breeding program has experienced success with cheetahs and gorillas. Boopie the baby hippo is the most recent newborn addition. Birds appear in fascinating variety, from storks and eagles to roadrunners running free. A bird show at the Nature Theater near the Cottonwood Café features parrots, raptors and other amazing avians. You can even take a camel ride, except in the winter. A narrow-gauge railroad connects the zoo with the other BioPark facilities, the Albuquerque Aquarium, the Rio Grande Botanic Garden and Tingley Beach. In addition, the Thunderbird Express Zoo Train loops through the zoo. Like the other BioPark units, the zoo hosts many special events, including the Zoo Music Summer Concert Series from June through August. Come to the Rio Grande Zoo, because you never outgrow your need for cute.

**903 10th Street SW, Albuquerque NM**  
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