Dusty Roadrunner Visits New Mexico’s National Monuments
Dusty Roadrunner Visits New Mexico Monuments

Every state has a unique history with special places to visit. Dusty Roadrunner, the official New Mexico cleanup mascot, took a road trip to visit our state’s amazing national monuments and parks. Here is a collection of postcards he wrote from each site he visited. Dusty was amazed at how unique New Mexico is and these three things impressed him the most:

- New Mexico is called the “Volcano State” because we have so many different kinds of volcanoes including calderas, lava flows, and cinder cones.

- New Mexico has incredible natural places to visit, such as ice caves in Grants, an artesian well in Santa Rosa where you can scuba dive, and hot springs in the Jemez mountains.

- New Mexico is considered a multi-cultural state with strong influences from Native American, Hispanic, and Anglo ethnicities.

Where is your favorite place in New Mexico? Write it down here: ________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Use the map of regions on the next page to answer Dusty’s questions throughout this booklet.
Regions of New Mexico

Legend

- Interstate
- State highway
- River

Scale

0  60  120  Miles
Aztec ruins was our first stop. It's a beautiful national monument in northern New Mexico near the Animas river. Archeologists think Chaco people lived here first, and after they left, they were followed by the Mesa Verde People. There is a distinct difference in their wall building styles. Next stop is Chaco Canyon. Wish you were here.

Your friend,

DRR

To My great friend who Keeps New Mexico Beautiful
NM 88888
**Chaco Culture National Park**

<table>
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<th>Chaco Culture National Park is also known as Chaco Canyon. It is a remarkable site along an ancient trading network that stretched as far as modern day California and Mexico. The roads along this trade route were planned and engineered in a sophisticated way. Other evidence of the culture are in the construction of kivas and “great houses” with rooms larger than any that had previously been built.</th>
<th>Pueblo Indian descendants say that Chaco was a center for sharing traditions, knowledge, and ceremonies among clans and people. By the 1300’s Chaco’s importance had shifted and people had migrated out. Dusty Roadrunner</th>
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<tr>
<td>To my favorite student NM, 88888</td>
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Bandelier is a sight to see! It’s in the mountains near Los Alamos, where there are pinon-pine and juniper forest. The Anasazi Indians that used to live in the canyon were so skilled they built dwellings in the cliffs! We had to climb ladders to reach their homes and kivas. They were excellent masons, potters, weavers, and farmers. They were great conversationalists and never wasted anything.

To My great friend who never litters

NM, 88888

Your friend, DRR
We’re at Ft. Union, part of the Santa Fe Trail. The US Army built it to protect European settlers from Apache and Navajo Indian raids. This fort was built before NM was a state and it’s a part of our history. Back then people had very different views.

Today we encourage peace and harmony between groups. This site stands as a reminder of New Mexico’s past. We’re visiting Pecos next.

Your buddy-
DRR

To My great friend
who is litter-free
NM, 88888
Capulin Volcano is in the upper northeast corner of New Mexico, close to Raton. It is a wonder of geology, as its cone is the remains of an extinct volcano. The crater was created by hot magma from below the earth’s crust bubbling up to the surface. There are other areas in the State that were created as a direct result of volcanic activity.

It’s explosive-
Your pal DRR

To My great friend
who recycles
NM, 88888
Pecos National Monument is a pueblo that was built near the Pecos River. At one time 1,500-2,000 people lived in the area.

Later on a church was built at the same site. There was a clash of cultures and religious practices between the Spanish and Native Americans. The Pecos site was also important to the Santa Fe Trail and it was the location where there was a civil war battle at Glorieta Pass.

This historical site has 12,000 years of important history behind it.

-Dusty

To My great friend who respects nature
NM, 88888
We’re in Albuquerque, the largest city in NM, at their own national monument, the Petroglyphs. Petroglyphs are rock carvings whose meaning is still a mystery. What we do know is that these volcanic rocks are an important cultural and archeological resource. This monument has several trails where you can hike to the top of a lava escarpment and view the entire city.

-Your great pal

Dusty Roadrunner

To My great friend who cares for the environment

NM, 88888
El Morro is a Spanish word for “the peak.” This national monument has carvings from both Native Americans and Spanish conquistadores; because of this modern visitors call this site “Inscription Rock.”

We treasure this site for its history, which is very different than the impact inscribing has on our towns today. Writing your name on or defacing property is graffiti, something that hurts the community.

-Your buddy DRR

To My great friend
Who never vandalizes
NM, 88888
El Malpais National Monument is called the “badlands” of New Mexico. The area is very dry and the soil is volcanic and rocky. There are many interesting land formations that resulted from volcanic activity here. Lava tubes and lava flows are some of those formations. Even though it is rugged terrain, there are signs of past human habitation, such as prehistoric ruins and homestead sites. This place is uniquely beautiful and worth protecting.

-DRR

To My great friend
Who picks up litter
NM, 88888
The Salinas Pueblo Missions preserves three Pueblo Indian ruins and four Spanish missions. The site is located in the foothills of the Manzano mountains in an area known as the Estancia Basin. The basin was once a lake, which later dried up, and the rich soil that remained was used by Pueblo Indians to cultivate crops like corn, beans, and squash. Similar to Pecos National Monument, Salinas is a place where Pueblo Indians and colonial Spanish were in contact. By 1677 the Salinas Pueblo Missions were abandoned.

-Dusty

To My great friend
Who never vandalizes
NM, 88888
Help Dusty Roadrunner Clean Up Our State!

Follow Dusty Roadrunner on his trip to New Mexico’s National Monuments and other cultural sites. Fill in the blanks below by using the coordinates on the map (Hint: use a ruler).

1. (A,2) ______________________ has the largest restored kiva in the world. It is in the northwest corner of the state.

2. (A,11) ______________________ is an extinct volcano.

3. (C,4) ______________________ was the center of a trading system for the Anasazi people.

4. (F,1) ________________________ is a huge rock that has been carved on by conquistadors and ancient Indians.

5. (F,2) ________________________ means “the badlands” in Spanish. It is located 75 miles west of Albuquerque.

6. (C,9) ______________________ preserves a 14th century pueblo as well as an 18th century church.

7. (B,9) ________________________ is located northeast of Santa Fe, and it was once part of the old Santa Fe Trail.

8. (J,7) ________________________ has dunes of gypsum that lie near the site of the space shuttle landing.

9. (I,2) ________________________ are a group of Indian dwellings that were built inside caves.

10. (G,7) ______________________ saves Pueblo Indian ruins and Franciscan churches built over 300 years ago.
Legend

- National Park
- National Monument
- City
- State Capital
- National Historic Park
We're in southern New Mexico, amongst some of the most amazing forests in the state. The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument is outside of Silver City in a series of caves that were home to the Mogollons. These people were farmers who grew crops on nearby mesas. The Mogollon people left the area before Columbus ever sailed to America.

We also went hiking in the forest, brought our lunches and packed all of our trash out.

- DRR

To My great friend
Who protects nature
NM, 88888
White Sands is a national monument near Alamogordo. It is a vast area of gypsum sand dunes, the result of a huge lake that evaporated.

Plants and animals like the earless lizard and Apache pocket mouse have adapted to the dry, white environment in order to survive.

This place is a completely unique ecosystem, it is found nowhere else in the world!

We're off to our last stop, Carlsbad Caverns.

Best wishes-

DRR

To My great friend and environmental protector

NM, 88888
Carlsbad Caverns has been a national park since 1930. It is world renowned for its huge caves with limestone formations, stalactites and stalagmites. Large colonies of Mexican free-tailed bats live in the caves, which are dark and remain a constant temperature, providing a perfect place for them to roost. At night when they emerge, mosquitoes and bugs beware! They can eat hundreds of insects in one night, a great help to all farmers who dislike insects eating their crops.

To My great friend, a cave-explorer and protector
NM, 88888
Now it's your turn! Below are two postcards that you can send to someone like a family member or a friend. Here are some ideas to help you get started: you can write about what you like best about your town, write about a place you want to visit someday in New Mexico, or you can write about something interesting you learned from this booklet.

Visit the New Mexico Clean and Beautiful website to learn more:
www.nmcleanandbeautiful.org

Other web resources: Keep New Mexico Beautiful, Inc. www.knmb.org
New Mexico Tourism Department www.newmexico.org
Keep America Beautiful, Clean Sweep www.kab.org/