

## Journal Travel Section

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### Red River

By Matt Andazola

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Rebecca Latham lived in Albuquerque for about three years before moving to Red River in 2006.

"When I came from Albuquerque, my first impression was that this was the cutest town in America," she says. "I just think that this is an incredibly relaxing weekend getaway."

And if you want your relaxing with a side of classic cars, art, wine or blues music, you should head to Red River in June, when the town hosts several weekend events. Also beginning next month, you can see the touring Smithsonian Institute exhibit on the history of music.

It's easy to pass by Red River, 165 miles northeast of Albuquerque, because the town stretches along a single mile of road in the mountains. But you'll be missing out on a lot of fun and beautiful scenery if you do, Latham says.

#### Check out the Wheels

Beginning at the Classic Car Show on June 4, be prepared for an eyeful of cars. That night features live music and food at 7 p.m. in the iconic Bull O' the Woods Saloon.

On June 5 the show really kicks off from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with live music and nearly 145 classic cars in Brandenburg Park. The Corvette Club of New Mexico will be there in force, showing off models from the mid- to late-'50s. Organizer Rebecca Sanchez says her favorite is a silver '70s Corvette — "It has that Coke-bottle body. It's awesome."

"If you're a car lover, you're just going to have the time of your life," Sanchez says.

There will also be a live band and carnival, with family-friendly games, rides and food in the municipal parking lot, which will run from the afternoon of June 3 to the evening of June 6.

In addition to the events at the city's center, you'll find plenty of shopping along Main Street, where residents and local businesses will hold a townwide yard sale of discounted clothing, furniture and other items.

Visit [redrivernewmex.com](http://redrivernewmex.com) or call 877-754-1708.

#### Blue in the Mountains

If you're hoping to escape your troubles, maybe the last thing you want to do is listen to someone sing the blues. But then again, you probably haven't been to the "River and Brews" festival in Red River.

This year the headlining band of the June 11-12 festival at the base of Red River Ski Area will be Los Albuquerque Blues Connection. Steve Whitman, the band's bassist, says Albuquerque residents can look forward to a great time in Red River.

"It's great fun," he says. "They set up a nice stage at the base of the ski run. It's an incredibly gorgeous location."

Other bands come from around the state and Colorado, with food from Red River restaurants and beer from the Santa Fe Brewing Company, says organizer Diane Maloney Smith.

A wristband ticket to the event costs \$10, which will work for admission to the base of the ski area, a discount at some lodges and hotels, and no-cover entry to bars on June 12, when several bands will continue playing.

Visit [redriverbluesfest.com](http://redriverbluesfest.com) or call 877-754-1708.

#### Fine Art and Wine

If you have a taste for the refined, you might enjoy the Fine Art & Wine Festival on June 19-20 at Brandenburg Park.

"It's such a charming event," says Chamber of Commerce president Paula Richey, who organizes the festival. The art available will be "nothing but first class," she says, and, with only about six wineries, there will be a more subdued atmosphere than the larger wine festivals in the state.

Richey says the event is free, but commemorative wine glasses cost \$10. There will also be jazz music playing throughout. Visit [redrivernewmex.com](http://redrivernewmex.com) or call 877-754-1708.

#### Tunes of the Past

A treasured part of Red River's history is its 71-year-old Community House, says Eddie Dry, a retired University of New Mexico professor and Red River resident.

Dry says the house will play host this year from June 19 to July 31 to the traveling Smithsonian exhibit "New Harmonies," about the history of the 24 types of music invented in America.

There will be 38 live shows during the exhibit's stay, he says.

Admission to the exhibit and shows is free, Dry says. The exhibit will have already traveled from Truth or Consequences and Ruidoso Downs, and after Red River will head to Folsom, Santa Rosa and Los Lunas.

Visit [museumonmainstreet.org/newharmonies](http://museumonmainstreet.org/newharmonies).