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SHOPPING AND TRANSPORTATION IN ALBUQUERQUE

Shopping conventions are different in every country and city. Below is some basic information for those who are new to Albuquerque.

SHOPPING

- ❑ **Hours** – Check the website or call before you go.
- ❑ **Sales Tax** – Most states and cities in the US charge an extra amount for certain items you purchase. The amount varies by state and city as well as the items subject to tax. Currently, in Albuquerque, a 7.88% tax is charged for all items purchased except food and prescription drugs.
 - **August 7th – August 9th** is New Mexico Sales Tax Holiday! Some retailers will participate by not offering tax on certain items for the Annual Back to School Holiday. Check with retailers before purchasing.
- ❑ **Returning Goods You Don't Want** – Items can almost always be returned with a receipt, sometimes even when used or damaged. You will usually be asked why you are returning the item. If you do not have a receipt, you may still be able to return the item for in-store credit. Make sure to check with the store on their return policy if you are unsure.
- ❑ **Paying for Your Purchases** – Debit cards, credit cards, and cash are most commonly used for purchases. Bargaining is customary at garage sales, yard sales, and flea markets, when buying from a private individual, and for very expensive items such as cars. Otherwise, prices are fixed.
 - Cash: Accepted for most transactions; never send cash through the mail.
 - Checks: Checks are rarely used in stores and in most cases you have to open a store account to use a check.
 - EFT: This means using your ATM card to pay for purchases and it is allowed in supermarkets and some other businesses. You will need to enter your 4-digit PIN. Do not let anyone see your PIN and do not keep your PIN written down anywhere near your card.
 - Debit Card: You must have money in your account for the purchase. The money will usually be withdrawn within one or two days.
 - Credit Card: Charges will be on your next monthly bill.
- ❑ **Getting the Most from Your Money** – Most students live on a very tight budget. Below are some tips for saving money:
 - Buy at discount stores, second-hand stores or garage/yard sales: Discount stores like Kmart, Target and Walmart sell goods cheaply and can be found all over Albuquerque. Second-hand/thrift stores sell used goods for charity and often have items that are in good condition. Garage/yard sales are sales of clothing, furniture, books, toys, etc. by private citizens on their property. They take place most weekends and are advertised in local newspapers or by signs on the street corner; quality of items varies. Albuquerque also hosts a flea market (open-air market with used items) every Saturday and Sunday on the State Fairgrounds on Central Ave, between San Pedro and Louisiana.
 - Buy during sales and use coupons: Sales are advertised and coupons are provided in newspapers or are delivered to your mailbox. Many sales occur around holidays.
 - Buy off-season: Think ahead and buy your clothes for next year at the end of the previous season. In other words, winter clothes are cheapest during holiday sales at the beginning of March. Summer clothes are cheapest at the end of July or early August.
 - Buy generic brands: Most stores offer a brand name item and a cheaper “generic” or store-brand equivalent (e.g., Tylenol vs generic acetaminophen). The generic items are often the same as the brand-name item for much less.

- Don't buy at convenience stores: Convenience stores whether on or off-campus sell mostly junk food and basic necessity items at inflated prices. If you want to save money, try to avoid convenience stores.
- Check listserves and internet options: International students and scholars who are leaving Albuquerque often post items for sale on the GEO listserve. You may also want to check Craigslist or other internet sites for larger items such as cars.

BOOKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- **UNM Bookstore** – More expensive than most other bookstores, but also extremely reliable. They do carry used textbooks, which are less expensive and sell out extremely quickly at the beginning of the semester.
- **Online** – Websites usually have really cheap deals on books for school, but you should use caution to make sure you are ordering the right book, especially with textbooks. Some sites include: www.amazon.com, www.cheapesttextbooks.com.

UNM PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (PATS):

- **The PATS office** is Located southwest of the UNM Bookstore and are open Monday-Friday, 7:30am – 5:00pm. They provide information on:
 - One-On-One Trip Planning Guidance
 - ABQ Ride (including the Free Bus Pass Program)
 - Bus Routes and Times
 - Enterprise CarShare (an hourly/daily car rental program)
 - Railrunner information
 - Bicycling information
 - Other types of alternative transportation
 - UNM PATS Shuttles and Campus Police Security Escort Service
 - UNM Shuttle Service offers free shuttles between UNM parking lots and UNM buildings including Lobo Village and Lobo Rainforest. Visit the PATS website for up to date information on bus routes and schedules.
 - The UNM Police Department offers escort services to anyone needing to escort from an on-campus location to another on-campus location 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For an on-campus escort call (505)277-2241.
- **Parking at UNM Campus**
 - Parking can be difficult around campus. On-campus parking permits are expensive, far from the center of campus, and there is usually a wait list for students.
 - For more information, visit the PATS website at <http://pats.unm.edu/> or call (505)277-1938

ALBUQUERQUE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- **Albuquerque (ABQ) Ride** The City of Albuquerque is responsible for the city bus system, information about ART, and offer a number of resources for budgeting and purchasing tickets/passes as well as finding bus routes/schedules.
 - Schedules, maps, bus stops, information on bus passes, and more can also be found at <http://www.cabq.gov/transit/>.
 - UNM students and some scholars may take advantage of the Free Bus Pass Program to ride the city buses for FREE. The pass is in the form of a sticker to be placed on your Lobo ID card showing current UNM enrollment. Bus pass stickers can be picked up at the Transportation Information Center located inside the Student Union Building (SUB) in front of UNM LOBO Card Office.
 - Bus rides without a free pass are \$1 per ride to be paid directly on the bus. Exact change is required. Weekly or monthly bus passes can be purchased at various locations. Transfers can be used when changing buses or for return trips only during designated hour blocks (usually there is a morning

- block and then an evening block); ask the bus driver for a transfer when you get on the bus and ask when it expires.
- Rapid Ride ABQ Ride Lines have a larger capacity (twice the length of buses of other lines), faster service, fewer stops, and wireless internet on the bus, and cover most areas of interest in the city. See <https://www.cabq.gov/transit> for more information.
 - The “Plan Your Ride” online service allows you route your trip ahead of time at <http://planyourride.cabq.gov/>
 - To get a free download of the ABQ RIDE App for your iPhone, iPad, or Android phone, go to your phone application downloads and search for “ABQ Ride”.
- **New Mexico Rail Runner Express** – Rio Metro offers a train that travels between Santa Fe (north of Albuquerque) and Belen (south of Albuquerque) several times daily. The train is a great option for visiting places around Albuquerque with several stops as well as connections with local buses. For more information go to <https://www.riometro.org/>
- **Bicycles** – Biking is a great way to get around campus and to and from campus if you live in the area. There are various streets with bike lanes or speed limits designed to optimize bike circulation. UNM Johnson Center has a Bike Shop with accessible prices for all UNM students. Contact them for more information at (505) 277-8182 or visit their [website](#).
- ALWAYS lock your bike when you are not riding; a properly attached U-Lock is the only lock that works. A U-shaped lock is the only lock that can help to prevent bike theft.
 - If possible, lock bike frame and tires together, and always take your bike seat with you if it is detachable.
 - Always wear a helmet when riding a bike, and use lights on your bike and body at night.
 - Register your bike with the UNM Campus Police for possible return in case of theft.
 - Never lock your bike to a handrail for a ramp or door entrance as UNM Police will confiscate your bike.
 - Bikes can be carried on all Albuquerque public buses. When the bus stops, place your bike on the front bike rack and then board the bus. Be sure to watch your bike while on the bus so someone else does not take it when getting off the bus. Bike maps and more information about biking in Albuquerque are available at <http://www.cabq.gov/bike/>
- **Automobile and Cars** – You might decide that buying a car is a great option for you. It is important to do a lot of research about the type of car, price, and other factors such as car insurance or car maintenance.
- For advice and information on owning a car in New Mexico come to the GEO Car Buying Workshop offered at the beginning of each semester.
 - For advice and information on buying a specific new or used car, visit www.kbb.com.
 - Parking and traffic tickets are issued frequently by the City of Albuquerque parking enforcement or police department. If you get a ticket, you must pay it promptly in order to avoid increased fines, vehicle confiscations and even jail time. The city will find you, so PAY YOUR TICKETS!
 - Car insurance is mandatory in New Mexico. While only liability insurance is required, it is a good idea to consider buying additional insurance coverage for cars of greater value. There are many choices for car insurance, so you should shop around for the best price. Do your research online or call the agents for a free price quote for your car. The amount you are willing to spend will affect your car coverage and deductible.
 - It is illegal to talk on cell phones while driving in New Mexico, unless you have your phone connected to a hands free device.
 - If you have a car, keep your car doors locked when you are both in and out of it. When walking to your car, especially at night, have your car door key in your hand ready to unlock the door. Get in quickly and lock the door. Never park in dark or isolated areas.

□ Other Transportation and Getting Around:

- **Uber & Lyft:** are inexpensive ways to get around town by riding with a private car owner. Using the mobile app, riders can be connected with drivers who will pick them up and take them to their destination on demand. Both reservations and payment are done through the cell phone app. For more information download the Uber or Lyft app.
- **Car Rental:** For longer term car rental (such as to take a trip), there are several car rental companies to choose from that can be found online. To shop prices and availability for the dates you wish to rent a car, visit: <http://www.rentalcars.com/>.

Resource List

Grocery Stores			
La Montañita Co-op	3500 Central Ave SE (505) 265-4631 Website	8:00am – 8:00pm	Grocery Store
Smith’s Food & Drug (near UNM)	320 Yale Blvd (505) 266-0201 Website	8:00am - 10:00pm	Grocery Store Limited School Supplies
Smith’s Food & Drug (near Nob Hill)	3701 Constitution (505) 256-9423 Website	8:00am - 12:00 am	Grocery Store Pharmacy Limited School Supplies
Sprouts Farmers Market	5112 Lomas Blvd NE (505) 268-5127 Website	7:00am – 8:00pm	Grocery Store
Whole Foods Market	2103 Carlisle Blvd NE (505) 260-1366 Website	8:00am – 8:00pm Sunday 9:00am – 6:00pm	Grocery Store
International/Ethnic Grocery Stores			
999 Seafood Supermarket	5315 Gibson Blvd (505) 268-2422 Website	8:00am – 8:00pm	Asian specialty food and produce store.
Ariana Halal Market & Caffè	1401 San Mateo Blvd NE (505) 255-1325	10:00am – 7:00pm Sunday 11:00am – 5:00pm	Middle Eastern, Bakery/Sweets, Specialty Food Store
Café Istanbul	1415 Wyoming NE (505) 294-9900 Website	9:30am – 8:00pm Sunday 11:00am – 6:00pm	Mediterranean Groceries and Deli
Talin Market World Food Fare	88 Louisiana Blvd SE (505) 268-0206 Website	9:00am – 6:00pm	New Mexico's largest international foods market
Pharmacy & Healthcare			
UNM Student Health and Counseling Center	Located on Main Campus (505) 277-3136 Website	Monday – Thursday 8:00am – 5:30pm Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm	On-campus Pharmacy
Walgreens (near UNM)	2950 Central Ave SE (505) 262-1745 Website	9:00 am – 9:00pm	Pharmacy School Supplies
Walgreens (near Nob Hill)	3501 Lomas Blvd NE (505) 255-8908 Website	9:00am – 9:00pm	Pharmacy School Supplies

Superstores			
Target	2120 Louisiana Blvd NE (505) 200-3234 Website	Monday – Saturday 8:00am – 9:00pm	Grocery Pharmacy Clothing Household Items Furniture School Supplies
Walmart Supercenter	301 San Mateo Blvd SE (505) 268-6611 Website	7:00am – 8:30pm	Grocery Pharmacy Clothing Household Items Furniture School Supplies
Discount Stores			
Big Lots	5555 Zuni Rd SE (505) 266-9486 Website	9:00am – 8:00pm	Grocery Household Items Healthcare School Supplies
Family Dollar	1400 Gibson Blvd SE (505) 539-1203 Website	9:00am – 9:00pm	Grocery Household Items Healthcare School Supplies
Dollar Tree	5555 Zuni Rd SE #21 (505) 415-7894 Website	9:00am – 9:00pm	Everything is \$1 Grocery Household Items Healthcare School Supplies
Secondhand Stores			
The Salvation Army Family Store & Donation Center	4501 Silver Ave SE (505) 254-1778 Website	Monday – Saturday 9:00am – 5:00pm	Household Items Furniture Clothing
Savers	2620 Carlisle Blvd NE (505)888-0116 Website	Monday – Sunday 9:00am – 9:00pm	Household Items Furniture Clothing
Thrift Town	3900 Menaul Blvd NE (505) 872-0647 Website	Monday – Saturday 9:00am – 9:00pm Sunday 10:00am – 7:00pm	Household Items Furniture Clothing
Department Stores			
ABQ Uptown	2200 Louisiana Blvd NE (505) 792-1929 Website	Hours vary by store	Multiple stores and places to eat in one location
Coronado Center Shopping Mall	6600 Menaul Blvd NE (505) 881-2700 Website	Hours vary by store	Multiple stores and places to eat in one location
Ross Dress for Less	4201 Central Ave NW (505) 831-0334 Website	9:00am – 9:00pm	Household Items Furniture Clothing
Ross Dress for Less	5001 Montgomery Blvd NE (505) 831-0334 Website	9:00am – 9:00pm	Household Items Furniture Clothing

T.J. Maxx	2100 Louisiana Blvd NE (505) 830-9499 Website	9:00am – 9:00pm	Household Items Furniture Clothing
Winrock Town Center	2100 Louisiana Blvd NE #51 (505) 883-6132 Website	Hours vary by store	Multiple stores and places to eat in one location
Furniture Stores			
American Furniture Outlet and Clearance Center	801 Comanche Rd NE (505) 761-3200 Website	12:00pm – 7:00pm	New discounted furniture
Mor Furniture for Less	4920 Menaul Blvd NE (505) 883-4944 Website	10:00am – 9:00pm	Furniture for every part of your home
School Supplies and Bookstores			
Staples	6001 Menaul Blvd NE (505) 830-3322 Website	9:00 am – 9:00pm	Office Supplies
Office Max	5001 Cutler Ave NE (505) 881-3145 Website	9:00am – 6:00pm	Office Supplies
UNM Bookstore	UNM Main Campus (505) 277-5451 Website	Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm	Not the cheapest option but reliable
Online Bookstores			
Chegg	Campus Books	Amazon	Barnes and Nobel