

# MORA VALLEY & VALLEY OF THE COUNTY OF MORA

*A Heritage & Visitor Guide to Enchanting Northern New Mexico*

## WELCOME TO THE MORA VALLEY

Nestled high in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico, the historic Mora Valley offers an enchanting escape into traditional southwestern heritage, rural agricultural beauty, and untouched alpine landscapes. Situated elegantly between Las Vegas and Taos, Mora stands as a living testament to regional resilience, historic land grants, and profound community spirit.

## 1. HISTORY & CULTURAL ROOTS

Established as an independent community deeply rooted in early Spanish land grants, the Mora Valley has preserved its agricultural architecture, historical plazas, and centuries-old traditions. Long before modern tourism, the valley flourished via traditional acequia systems, wool production, and historic gristmills that sustained generations of northern New Mexican families.

### St. Gertrude the Great Church

An enduring spiritual landmark in the heart of Mora. Dedicated to centuries of active faith, the parish remains a cornerstone of communal life, hosting sacred liturgies, historical parish celebrations, and welcoming visitors to admire its pristine northern New Mexican architectural charm.

### The Gristmills & Ranching Legacy

The valley's unique microclimate made it a primary agricultural center in the 19th century. Historic ruins and beautifully preserved structures of old gristmills stand along the riverways, telling stories of a bustling wool, cattle, and alfalfa trade.

## 2. THE 2026 MORA COUNTY FIESTAS

**Official Event Dates: July 24 – 26, 2026 | Location: Main Street, Mora, NM**

The highly anticipated annual Mora County Fiestas return to Main Street this summer, capturing the vibrant heart of local culture. Bringing families and travelers together, the weekend itinerary includes:

- **Authentic Rodeo Performances:** Spectacular displays of traditional New Mexican horsemanship, roping, and bull riding tracking back to the historic cowboys' reunion legacy.
- **Mora Fiesta Car Show:** A stunning showcase of beautifully maintained classic cars, lowriders, and custom trucks lined down Main Street.
- **Junior Livestock Show & Horse Exhibits:** Highlighting the incredible agricultural achievements of local youth and farming families.
- **Live Music & Entertainment:** Headlined by renowned regional acts including *Wild Country*, bringing high-energy dancing and celebration to the main stage.
- **Artisanal Crafts & Food Vendors:** Indulge in authentic northern New Mexican cuisine—including fresh green chile dishes—while shopping for handmade crafts.

### 3. OUTDOOR ADVENTURE & REGIONAL EXCURSIONS

Mora County acts as a majestic gateway to pristine natural resources, sub-alpine forests, and premium outdoor recreational opportunities for seasonal travelers:

#### Fishing & Wildlife Safaris

The rivers, hidden streams, and nearby high-mountain lakes are legendary among fly-fishermen for native trout. Nearby state parks and wildlife refuges provide premier migratory bird watching and pristine hiking trails.

#### Scenic Northern New Mexico Loop

Mora provides a perfect base for scenic driving tours. Travel through the historic valleys connecting towards the Cleveland Roller Mill Museum, Coyote Creek State Park, or cross the high roads into Taos and Angel Fire.

### 4. VISITOR PLANNING & PRACTICAL DIRECTORY

Plan your stay smoothly with curated travel data gathered from the latest regional resources, lodging metrics, and local support services.

#### Accommodations & Stays

From historic mountain cabins and local bed & breakfasts to trusted regional hotels starting around **\$129 per night**, the valley offers a warm, cozy retreat for individuals and families alike. Early reservations are highly recommended during peak festival weekends like the July Fiestas.

| RESOURCE / DESTINATION            | FOCUS / UTILITY                 | LOCATION & SUPPORT INFORMATION     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mora County Fiestas Committee     | Event Registration & Schedules  | Main Street Festival Coordination  |
| St. Gertrude Catholic Church      | Mass Times & Historic Visits    | Mora Central Plaza Area            |
| New Mexico Tourism Dept.          | Statewide Guides & Maps         | Santa Fe / Regional Satellite Info |
| San Miguel & Mora County Services | Permits, Rules & Safety Notices | County Administration & Forms      |
| Coyote Creek State Park           |                                 | Northeast of Mora via NM 434       |

| RESOURCE / DESTINATION       | FOCUS / UTILITY              | LOCATION & SUPPORT INFORMATION    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                              | Camping, Hiking & Fishing    |                                   |
| <b>Cleveland Roller Mill</b> | Historic Museum & Mill Tours | Cleveland, NM (Just West of Mora) |

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*Discover the magic, hospitality, and untamed beauty of Northern New Mexico.  
**¡Bienvenidos a la Valle de Mora!***