

Sandia Peak



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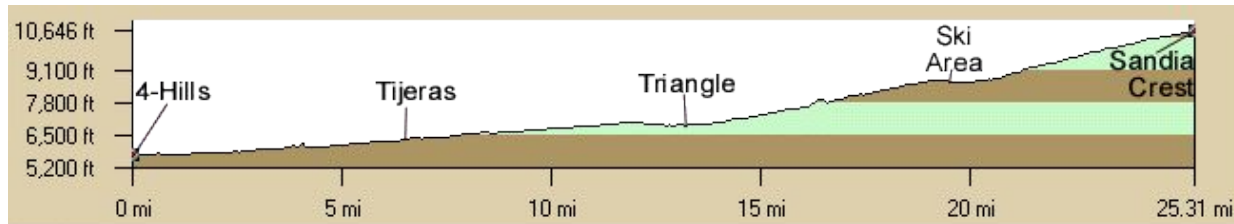
Historical context

1. The name Sandia is Spanish for watermelon, given to the mountains because of the pinkish color of the granite peaks, although it is said that the native people of the valley were given that name for their abundant crops of squash.
2. A cave located in the mountains has yielded artifacts of the so-called "sandia man" a prehistoric Indian group that is thought to date back to 23,000 BCE
3. Pueblo Indians saw the mountains as sacred.



Geographical Significance

- The Sandia Peak Tramway in Eastern Albuquerque overlooks a beautifully mesmerizing landscape in the Cibola National Forest.
- The tram is a 2.7 mile journey through mountains, valleys, and rivers.
- Desert sunsets are also a beautiful sight to see. A full range of colors scatter through the mountain range.
- At a stomach churning height of 10,378 ft. in the observation deck atop Sandia Peak viewers can see up to 11,000 square miles of the surrounding Rio Grande Valley landscape.
- The observation deck sits on Pennsylvanian Limestone.
- A long network of trails are scattered throughout the mountain range.
- The large rock formations are made of sandstone and limestone.



Science: Composition of the Sandia Mountain Range

- The range's core consists of Sandia granite, which is approximately 1.5 billion years old
 - Sandia granite is composed of a variety of elements such as Chromium, Barium, Rubidium, Lutetium, and other elements
 - Sandia granite is embedded with K-Spar (Potassium-Feldspar) crystals
 - Potassium-Feldspar contains a specific kind of feldspar classified as Orthoclase
 - Orthoclase forms at cool temperatures
- The Sandia Crest Climb, a part of the range, goes through several vegetation zones such as ponderosa, aspen, and spruce forests.



Mathematics

- The tram travels 3,819 ft in 15 minutes
- Using dimensional analysis you can figure out that the tram travels at an average speed of 12 miles per hour.
- At the observation deck which is on top of the 10,378 foot peak you can see 11,000 mile panoramic view,
- The higher elevation can cause the temperature to be 30 degrees cooler at the peak.
- The tram is uniquely designed so that every time a tram reaches the bottom another start from the top.



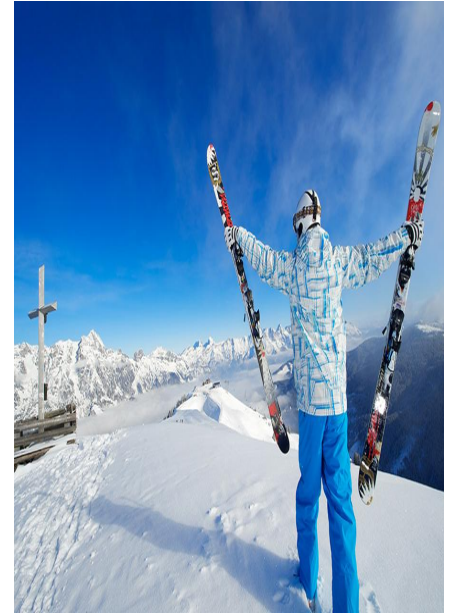
Language



- Tewa, an Uzo-Aztecan Language, is the Language of the Pueblo people
- Native Pueblos recognized the Sandia Mountain Range as a boundary of spoken language.
- Tiwa-speaking tribes lived South of the Mountains, whereas the Pueblos lived North
- Historically, the Mountain Range would have informed natives of their location and which language to speak
- Today, many elders speak the language fluently, whereas most of the younger Pueblo people know hardly some, if any, of the Language

Sandia peak activities

- During the winter the mountain is a popular skiing spot
- During the summer the mountain is used for backpacking and hiking and mountain biking
- There is also a fantastic restaurant at the top
- Get an insider's look at the mountain from taking a tour lead by a highly trained tour guides
- People love the rush of going up the in the tramway.
- The guides on the tram are very funny and full of stories



STORY TIME

The tram took two years to move from idea to construction. Installing the tram posed considerable problems because of the steep, rocky terrain. The engineers admitted that it was the hardest project they had ever attempted, stringing all the cables up the mountain, about 2.7 miles, alone took 5 months. The tramway just recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and installed new carts in response to it.

This was told to us by the tramway guide Jim.

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