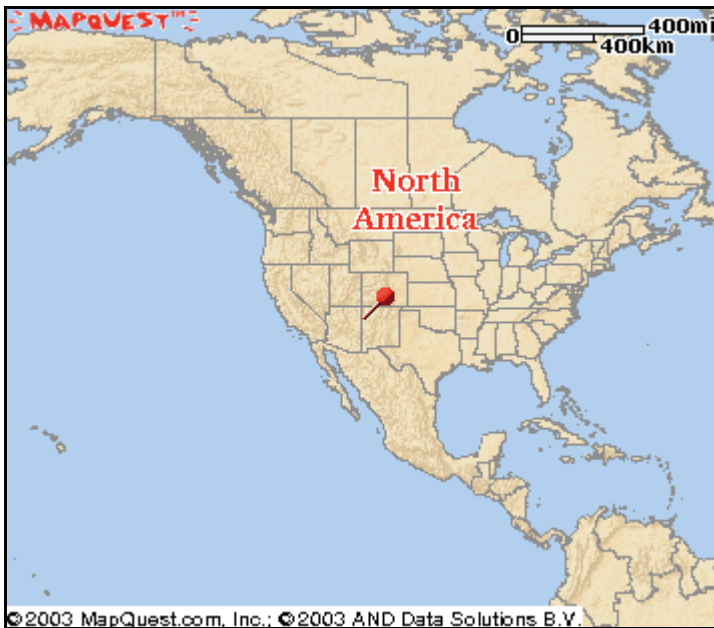


Climate & Location

The Location

Gallup is located on Interstate 40. It is 140 miles west of Interstate 25 and Albuquerque. Gallup is 15 minutes east of the Arizona and New Mexico border.

McKinley County is situated in the southwest portion of the Colorado Plateau region and shares a common border with San Juan County to the north and Cibola County to the south. The County's land base is over 60 percent Indian Reservation, and the population is over 70 percent Native American. The only municipality is Gallup, which serves as County Seat and contains nearly one-third percent of the County population. The County is home to portions of the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni. Prominent geographic features include the southeastern range of the Chuska Mountains, extensive cliff formations known as the "Red Rocks" and the Zuni Mountains. Gallup's Location in the Nation.



GALLUP'S LOCATION IN THE STATE / REGION



Distances to Major Cities

Farmington, NM	119
Albuquerque, NM	138
Durango, CO	170
Flagstaff, AZ	185
Santa Fe, NM	188
Telluride, CO	210
Moab, UT	245
Phoenix, AZ	320
Tucson, AZ	330
El Paso, TX	400
Las Vegas, NV	430
Colorado Springs, CO	505
Los Angeles, CA	640



[HTTP://WW1.EDD.STATE.NM.US/](http://ww1.edd.state.nm.us/)

[McKinley County Map of Land Status](#)

The Climate, Weather, Geography and Topography

The city of Gallup and a portion of McKinley County are located on the Colorado Plateau, an area of high desert, country. The elevation at Gallup is approximately 6,515 feet above sea level. Precipitation averages about seven inches per year with roughly 40% falling in July, August and September, and 34% during December to March. Snowfall seldom stays on the ground more than two or three days.



Gallup winters are cold, but with low humidity and lots of sunshine, they are pleasant and seldom onerous. Summer temperatures are moderated by low humidity and high elevation. Evenings are cool and daytime temperatures are comfortable. The average minimum and maximum temperature range is 31.7°F to 64.6°F. The maximum high temperature recorded was 99°F and the maximum

low was -57°F. It is sunny about 280 days a year.



Gallup's landscape is unlike any in the world. The scenic and awe-inspiring atmosphere is created by unique formations, such as, red rock spires and mesas, hogback jagged rocks, deep wooded forests, and high desert plateaus. Besides the people, Gallup-McKinley's greatest asset is its topography, climate, and elevation.



Average Temperatures and Precipitation				
Month	Mean Average	Average Maximum	Average Minimum	Average Precipitation
January	27.8	42.1	13.4	.72
February	32.2	46.2	17.3	1.64
March	38.1	52.1	22.3	.69
April	45.6	63.3	30.2	.74
May	52.9	72.4	37.0	.53
June	63.9	82.9	44.9	.43
July	69.8	86.9	53.0	1.65
August	68.0	84.5	51.8	1.80
September	61.2	79.3	44.4	1.25
October	49.9	66.7	33.6	1.31
November	36.5	53.4	19.8	.58
December	28.6	45.8	13.4	.63

A. CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA, 2001						
COUNTY & STATION	ELEVATION (FT.)	HISTORICAL AVERAGE DAILY TEMPERATURE (°C)				Ave. Annual RAINFALL (INCHES)
		JAN.	APR.	JUL.	OCT.	
MCKINLEY COUNTY						
Gallup Airport FAA AP	6,464	28.8	46.0	70.3	49.1	11.48
McGaffey 5 SE	7,998	24.5	40.3	63.5	45.5	18.85
Zuni	6,308	31.5	48.1	71.4	52.4	12.21

SOURCE: <http://www.wrcc.sage.dri.edu/summary/climsmnm.html>.

SURFACE WATER BASINS						
BASIN	STATION NUMBER	LOCATION	MEAN DISCHARGE		50% (CFS)	90% (CFS)
			AFY	CFS		
Puerco River	0939550	Puerco River at Gallup (discontinued)	6,806	9.4	2.8	**0
Zuni River	09386900	Rio Nutria near Ramah	4,900	6.9	.2	**1
Zuni River	09386950	Zuni River above Blackrock	8,570	11.4	.8	**1
Rio Puerco	08340500	Arroyo Chico (discontinued)	15,200	21	0	0
Rio San Juan	08341365	Cottonwood Creek near Thoreau	*4,957	6.79	0.0	0.0

*Calculated at CFS X 2 X 365 days.

**75% (CFS)

SOURCE: Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, Region 6 Water Plan, 1998.