



# I-20

## Travel Issue

CENTER FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND AMERICAN CULTURE –ADVANCED WRITING

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## How Breaking Bad Changed Albuquerque

by Chris Sieczkowski, Germany

The TV show "Breaking Bad" is a dramatic series which was filmed in and around Albuquerque for a total length of five seasons.

This series is based on a story where a chemistry teacher, named Walter White, is diagnosed with cancer, and has only two more years to live. He decides that he has nothing to lose. He lives with his family in New Mexico and wants to ensure that his family will have a secure future. He starts to produce crystal meth in small quantities. Slowly he dives deeper into the drug scene until he finally ascends to a powerful drug lord.

The series shows how the diagnosis of a major deadly disease and bad decisions change him from a moral teacher, husband, and father into the life of an immoral, killing drug lord.

By the time they finished filming the last season, Albuquerque became a very popular city in the U.S. Many

tourists came to see the locations where the main characters Walter White and Jessie Pinkman were filmed. This means that many places that were previously unknown saw a large inflow of tourists. The home of Walter White, or Jessie Pinkman's house, as well as the famous car wash are only a few examples.

The Albuquerque Convention and Visitor Bureau said that "Breaking Bad" brought positive benefits to the city. They created a website of the most popular places in town for the tourists so they would be able to find these locations quite easily. A "Breaking Bad" tour exists as well, which starts in Downtown. For more information please visit <http://www.itsatrip.org>

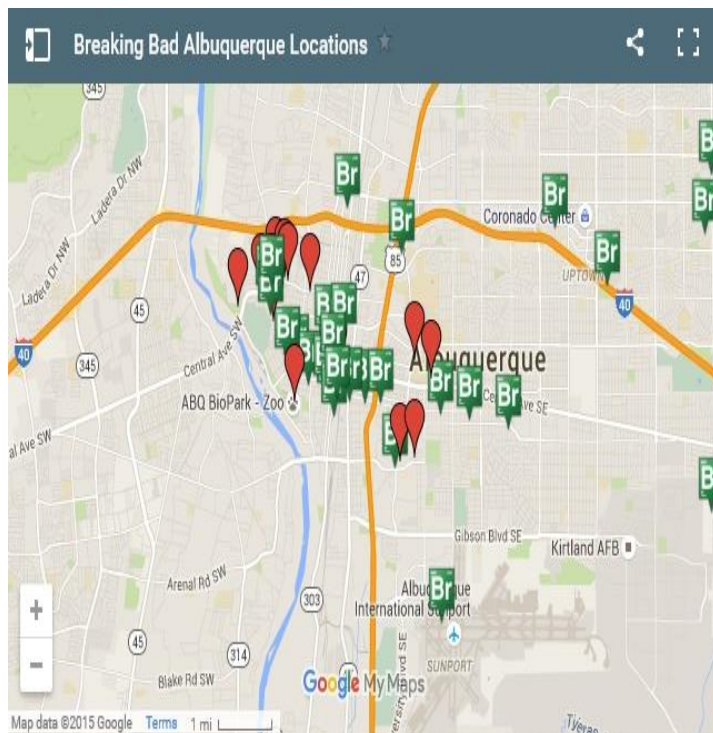
Business owners quickly realized how they could earn money from the "Breaking Bad" boom. A candy shop, named The Candy Lady store, sells candy which looks like crystal meth; especially, blue meth which is the kind produced by the main characters in the series. A donut shop called Rebel Donut, on the other hand, sells

blue meth donuts. The donut is decorated with little blue crystals which look like meth.

But the city and the business owners know they are on dangerous territory, because they do not want the bad side of the series (drugs, prostitution, violence) that comes in conjunction with the good. But the money that can be earned with "Breaking Bad" throws some doubt overboard easily.

After "Breaking Bad" ended in the year 2012, a spin off was released in 2015 called "Better call Saul." This spin off tells the story of Saul Goodman who was the lawyer of Walter White in "Breaking Bad." The series takes place six years before Saul meets Walter White in "Breaking Bad".

We can say that "Breaking Bad" has given the city a positive attraction; more tourist have explored Albuquerque as a tourist destination. But the coin always has two sides, and the city needs to be careful that the bad things from the series are not also transmitted to the city.



Where to get your "Breaking Bad" fix



Soondoo-bu-jigae, a hot and spicy Korean speciality

## An Insider's Guide to Korea Town, L.A.

by Danny Choi, South Korea

LA is the third largest city in the world and second largest in the U.S. The population is over four million. Here you can see Disneyland, movie star homes, beaches, Hollywood etc. Los Angeles is especially famous for being a city with a Korea Town.

When Korean Air started flying to L.A. in 1972, a lot of Koreans began coming to L.A, forming Korea Town at Olympic Street. L.A.'s Korea Town is one way of introducing yourself to history, Korean culture and food.

First, Korea Town is called a little Korea inside the U.S. In the 1960s, Korean started immigration to the U.S. Most Koreans would open small business like restaurants and Korean food markets.

In the 1970s, the population in Korea Town increased to 80,000 people. In that time, Koreans had various jobs including restaurant owners, grocers, bar owners, doctors, lawyers, and trade related occupations. Korea Town in L.A. is by far the

biggest Korean neighborhood in the United States. Nowadays, L.A.'s Korea Town is expanding continuously and over 800,000 people live there.

Second, Korea Town shows Korean culture. Korea has a long history of almost 5,000 years and Korea encompasses a lot of different cultures. Especially L.A.'s Korea Town is one way of introducing Korean culture to the U.S. with its Korean parade, celebrating the national holiday of Korea and the day Korean culture came to

America. During the event, Korean traditional games are played, festivals, such as Han-bok (the most representative of Korean clothes) fashion shows are held.

Third, Korea also has food items as diverse as its culture. It has so many different tastes and styles. In addition, the Korean cuisine is largely vegetarian, which does not require deep frying. Unlike most western food, Korean food is good for your health.

During a stay in L.A., choose a variety of foods throughout the day. I especially recommend kimchi

and soondoobu-jjigae (Korean soft tofu stew) which is typical of spicy and hot food in Korea.

As mentioned above, you can experience different Korean culture, foods and lifestyle there, including special events. A lot of Koreans live in another cities in the U.S. but there is not as long an immigration history as L.A. There will be a good chance to let you know about Korean style. When you meet a Korean, say "annyeong haseyo!" (hello) and the people will be very friendly and hospitable.

## My Most Memorable Airport Experience

by Salim Al Tubi, Oman

I have traveled to the U.S. many times. I hadn't faced any problems in the airport or airplane, but in my last trip to the U.S., I had a bad experience in the airport. I got stuck in the airport.

My flight was from Oman to Los Angeles, and then to my nest, Albuquerque. When I arrived to Los Angeles Airport after a long trip, I went to customs to check my documents. I gave them all my documents. They found out my I-20 (the document for international students in the U.S.) was not in the system. They guided me to a room to put it in the system.

I went to that room. It was full of people. Most of them were Chinese students. I stayed there for more than four hours. I was afraid

of missing my next flight. A lot of thoughts came to my mind like what will happen if I missed my flight? How long would I wait for the next one? After a long time waiting, they called my name.

I thought they put the I-20 in the system and I was good to go, but I found out they were calling all of the students who had problems with their I-20. We went to another room. One or two hours later, they finally put it in the system. I took my I-20 and went to pick up my luggage.

I went to the bag claim. I didn't find my luggage. I asked the staff there and they had no idea what happened to them. I thought my bags were lost. I got angry and depressed.

After about one and a half hours, I found the agent of the airline and asked her about my bags. She went to check on them. Then, she

came back and told me my luggage hadn't arrived yet. I waited for them for another hour and a half. I missed my flight to Albuquerque while I was waiting for the luggage. Finally, my bags arrived.

So I went to United Airways to re-book a new ticket. I talked to a lady there and she was very helpful. She checked for the next flight to Albuquerque and found there were two tickets. One would leave in three hours with one stop in Denver. The second one would leave after 20 hours to ABQ with no stops. I chose the first one because it was the closest, instead of waiting for 20 hours.

I arrived to Denver at about 11 p.m. I was starving. I expected to find an open restaurant there and eat. But unfortunately everything was closed. I had to wait for 10 hours until my next flight. I slept till 6 a.m. When I woke up, I



found Starbucks open. I ordered a large latte and croissant to appease my hunger. Then, I caught my flight to Albuquerque.

Finally, I arrived in Albuquerque at 10 a.m. after a very long trip. The trip was a total of 48 hours. I was very exhausted and went to

sleep. That was my bad experience in the airport. I recommend that international students make enough time between flights when they come to the U.S

## It's Jordan, Y'all

by Zaid Maaytah, Jordan



What do you know about Jordan as a country, its population and tourism?

Jordan as a country has its special historical events that happened in the ancient past such as in 840 B.C. when, Meshe, the king of Moabites, revolted against the "House of David."

Moab was a Jordanian tribe that lived east of the Dead Sea and about 70 kilometers south of Amman. There were many battles that been recorded in the Bible in 2 Kings, Chapter 3.

Well, now few of us know that Jordan's population is increasing year by year because of the wars that are happening around Jordan. The Jordanian sense of humanity and generosity leads us to bring in refugees

from all over the world. It would be considered shameful if we did not.

Statics shows that Jordan population in 2000 was 4.797 million. As we noticed from the previous info about hosting refugees, the population is increasing year after year, so that it reached 6,839,160 in 2015.

Jordan is a country that is unique, because of its low resources, low wages, and its quality of living despite these conditions. Jordanians are living a happy, safe, and joyful life with no problems whatsoever, because of Jordanian's patriotism and loyalty to their country and king. So if you ever think about going there, you'll be well hosted and taste the real generosity of its people. You'll feel that you are a real citizen and in your home.

As for tourism in Jordan, there's many historical places such as Al Karak Castle, the Dead Sea, Petra, Jesus's Baptismal Site and many places that have witnessed historical events. Jordan also has many luxurious places to let you experience a great nightlife under Jordan's beautiful sky and its comfortable atmosphere.

You can also ask about Jordan's traditional food called mansaf, which is a tasty food that includes rice and a special kind of yogurt called jameed, and the best kind of sheep's meat.

In conclusion, Jordan is the place that the luxury of the present meets the nobility of the past, so your trip there will be full of adventures, suspense and elegance, and you'll be welcomed anytime you go there by its people's generosity and kindness.



# Route 66: The Mother Road

by Monica Tovar Coll, Spain

## Background

Many people around the world come to the United States to do Route 66. This route is attractive for many tourists who come to find enjoyment, to see America, and to know a little about America's history.

Tourists recommend that the best season to do Route 66 is September, because in July and August the weather is very hot. In addition, they recommend renting a big motorbike to do the mother road, but I think that a comfortable car is better because the route has a lot of miles in the whole trip.

Money is very important for all trips. This experience won't be very expensive, but it depends on the restaurants that you go to, or the hotels where you sleep. Some tourists say that the trip could cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000 with all included. If you want to do the whole Route 66, it will be between 18 -20 days, based on the testimony of some experiences. After these tips that show how to drive this road, it is important to know why Americans built Route 66.

## History

Route 66, known as "The mother road," began in the early 20th century, in 1926. The reason was that the west and the east costs were terribly isolated by big mountains, deserts, and connected through bad roads. Due to the fact that it was very difficult to cross America, some business men from Oklahoma and Illinois thought that the US needed a highway connecting the East and the West. It took 12 years to build the new road, ending in 1938.

Route 66 starts in Chicago and ends in Los Angeles, after 2,448 miles (almost 4,000 kilometers) of distance crossing eight states. Residents near the new road realized that it was a great opportunity to open restaurants, hotels, gas stations, in short, every thing that the drivers needed.

The route was very important in the '30s during the big economic depression, serving as the way to California where there were more work opportunities. On the other hand, new routes were built in the 50s that were straighter and faster. Nowadays, only a few stages from the original route 66 remain.

## New Mexico State

The eight states across which Route 66 spans are Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and finally California. Tourists divide Route 66 in 12 stages from Chicago to Los Angeles.

One of the most interesting stages goes through New Mexico. The charm of New Mexico is its cultural and ethnic diversity. Many people speak Spanish due to its Mexican influence.

The cities to visit in the state of New Mexico are Santa Rosa, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Gallup. In Santa Rosa the tourists can see old restaurants, cafes, and hotels, like the Joseph's Bar & Grill that is still functioning since 1956. In the same city, you can enjoy the Route 66 Auto Museum, which has the best collection of classic cars.

The next city to visit is the capital of New Mexico, Santa Fe. It is very famous due to its many art galleries and beautiful churches. The different houses and culture will be very interesting for visitors

When you finish visiting Santa Fe then you can go to Albuquerque. Albuquerque is the biggest city in New Mexico and very touristy as well. The road spans along Central Avenue which has many building from the Route 66 epoch.

Near to Albuquerque you can see the pueblo "Sky City" a good

place where you can know the Pueblo Indian Acoma culture.

The last city that you should visit in New Mexico is Gallup. Gallup is known as the world's capital of the Indian, because there are many descendants of the native tribes like Navajo, Zuni, and Hopi. In Gallup you find the Hotel el Rancho, a beautiful old building

where many famous people have slept.

Finally, this article is only a glimpse of Route 66. When you finish reading, maybe you can answer this question: Do you dare to do Route 66?

## How to Travel in China

by Jiayi Liang, China



China is a wonderful country that many people want to visit. I have some travel tips that can help you to travel in China, and make your trip easier and more fun.

My first tip is how to translate your language. I suggest you download an app or dictionary to assist your travel. I think the Chinese dictionary named YouDao is especially helpful. Actually, you don't have to know many Chinese because many people know some English when you go somewhere. By the way, if you lose your way, you can find a high school student to ask. They are friendly and kind and more importantly, they can talking with you more easily.

Then, for your travel planning and schedule, you need to record information in a notebook such as bus number, destination name, how to go to somewhere, etc. First, you might record all of bus numbers you will take and if you need to transfer to another bus. And then, I suggest that record your schedule as a reminder. I'm sure if you do all this, it will save you time.



I also want to tell you about safety in China. Because we have many people, the government values public safety. At night, many policemen will be out everywhere to keep safe. You can go shopping and to movies or restaurants. But also do not be careless; you need to watch your stuff and valuables at all times.

Also, I have some local culture tips from which you can benefit. When you go shopping in certain stores, if you think the clothes are expensive, just ask them “Can you decrease the price a little bit?” I am sure they will sell to you.

And don’t go to the normal shopping malls because they are more expensive than in your country. On the other hand, some Chinese designers have stores that sell clothing that is more amazing. Also, do not be worried that you speak too loudly. Actually Chinese speak more loudly than you.

You will have lots of fun when you travel to China, I hope this information can help you have a great trip. If you have never been to China, I hope you can make it happen!

## Three Must-See Places in New Mexico

Josselin Chun, Guatemala



My name is Josselin Chun. I am from Guatemala. I’ve been living in Albuquerque for a year and nine months, studying English at CELAC.

I have really enjoyed my time in New Mexico. I’ve seen many places here that are very different from my hometown. For example, in my country there are many Mayan monuments, a lot of touristy places like Amatitlán and Atitlán.

For the weather we have the rainy season but it doesn’t rain every day, usually only in the afternoon or evening. Also in the dry season it doesn’t get really hot.

I wanted to share about some great places to explore in New Mexico. Here is some good information to check out.

First of all, White Sands is a national monument located in New Mexico between La Cruces and Alamogordo. There are a lot of things to do there, for example you can hike in the dunes and picnic. Also if you have kids you can take them with you. Moreover, camping there is good.

My friend Gloria from China said that she went there with her friends and they sledged in the sand, took a lot of pictures, and watched the sunset. She said it was amazing; the weather was super cool and sunny, and that, “the sand feels soft and clean. It’s an enjoyable place.”

Tent Rocks is a beautiful place located 40 miles southwest of Santa Fe. It is very easy to get there and the parking lot is near the path that takes people to hike

and see the rocks. Remmy Stokhof de Jong, an instructor at CELAC, said that Tent Rocks has “winding trails through sand (that go) uphill past pinion trees. When you get to the top, you look down onto ice-cream-cone –looking towers and have a great view of the valley.”

Always bring enough water and sunscreen because it could be hot depending on the season you visit.

Santa Fe is the capital of the state of New Mexico. There are many places to explore there, for example, the Santa Fe Opera House where you can watch different shows from artists with good costumes.

I have a friend from Spain, who lives in Santa Fe. She said that “Tomasitas is a good restaurant to try New Mexican food, and good margaritas. Also, on Fridays you can find good breakfast and lunch at Pantres.

They really have good food.” She also said it’s better to go there early if you do not want to wait in a big line. They get a lot of people.

My Spanish friend also told me that you can buy fresh vegetables, good food, chicken and organic eggs, and much more at the farmer’s market every Sunday at the Rail Yard.

At the plaza, by the main door of the government palace, you can buy beautiful jewelry made by the Native Americans. In the summer there are different singers every afternoon.

I really encourage you to go on a trip to visit these places. In my opinion, traveling is a good thing to do, because every place that we visit has a unique appearance that makes it special. It is also a very good experience to enjoy the nature of different place.

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LOOK FOR OUR FOOD  
ISSUE LATER THIS FALL!

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