



This summer, we bring you

 the best weekend road trips

 around the state—no matter

 what you're looking for.

This month, take in the scene

 in Albuquerque, head to the

 mountains of the Enchanted

 Circle, chow down in

 Santa Fe, and celebrate

 family fun in Farmington.

TOP WEEKEND GETAWAYS

HIPSTER HANGOUT

Destination: Albuquerque

What to bring: old-school sneakers, thick-rimmed glasses, sketchbook

HIPSTERS. They listen to bands you've never heard of, have hairstyles (and relationships) that can be described only as complicated—and are impossibly cool. If you aspire to join this set, or if you already belong, Albuquerque's offbeat and trendy hotspots are a modern beatnik's delight.

No self-respecting hipster would be caught without his or her music collection.



So head to **Charley's 33s & CDs**, where locals have sated their cravings for out-of-print records and vintage rock'n'roll T-shirts since 1988. (The store has since added to its inventory cassette tapes, CDs, DVDs, and vintage clothing.)

With your Jimi Hendrix LP and Iron Maiden T-shirt in hand, embrace vintage style from another era at the **Model Pharmacy**. Neighborhood residents come to this Albuquerque institution to pick up their prescriptions and dine at the homey lunch counter, where specials like blackberry cobbler are chalked on a board. The soda fountain offers old-school favorites: root-beer floats, milkshakes, and the requisite ice-cream sodas.

For modern whatnots from classic to

kitsch, venture to **Beeps**. In this Nob Hill shop you'll find buttons with irreverent sayings ("IS YOUR HAIR JUST KIDDING?"), toys for any age, and chic jewelry with plenty of flower power. While in Nob Hill, head to the **Guild Cinema**, where you'll embrace the hipster credo of challenging convention at a screening of one of the independent or foreign films usually playing in this intimate art house.

If you're ready for cultured conversation, **Slate Street Café's** swanky wine loft is just the place. With an extensive wine list and contemporary menu offerings—New York strip sliders, build-your-own bruschetti, decadent cupcakes—there's plenty here to please the palate.

ALBUQUERQUE *continued on page 41*



COURTESY ANGEL FIRE RESORT. PHOTOS: JACK AFFLECK

Red River and Angel Fire, along northern New Mexico's Enchanted Circle, offer fresh air delights like hiking and mountain biking. In Angel Fire, hitch your bike to the back of the Chile Express chairlift (top right) to experience world-class downhill and cross-country trails. Angel Fire Resort also offers canoeing at their Monte Verde Lake.

FRESH AIR ESCAPE

Destination: The Enchanted Circle
What to bring: bike-tire pump, Keen hiking sandals, organic gel for dreadlocks

INHALE. EXHALE. INHALE.

In New Mexico's Enchanted Circle, you'll feel you can truly breathe more deeply—even if many of the towns along this route are perched at an altitude of nearly 8,000 feet. The sparsely populated and scenically stunning Enchanted Circle winds from Taos up N.M. 522 to Questa, around to Red River along N.M. 38, through Eagle Nest, to Angel Fire along U.S. 64. The route encircles the Taos Mountains, whose apex is snowcapped 13,161-foot Wheeler Peak—New Mexico's tallest. Even driving this route is a delight—the road clings to each canyon curve and steals through the Moreno Valley, with its sweeping views of grassy meadows and mountain passes. But



BETTE BRODSKY

with these wide-open spaces calling, you won't want to stay in the car for long.

Begin in **Red River**, a mountain town with a proud frontier temperament. With your CamelBak pack full, you can hit a number of trails in the area perfect for day hikes or multiday excursions. If the whole family is in tow, try Goose Lake Trail, along which wildflower-filled meadows regularly turn up, providing the perfect setting for a picnic lunch. If your agenda includes bagging a summit, take an epic hike up Wheeler Peak. Following the East Fork Trail, you'll have a slow, steady climb that gains 3,961 feet. It's possible to complete the eight-mile round trip in a day, but if you prefer a more leisurely pace, camp overnight on the shores of Horseshoe Lake.

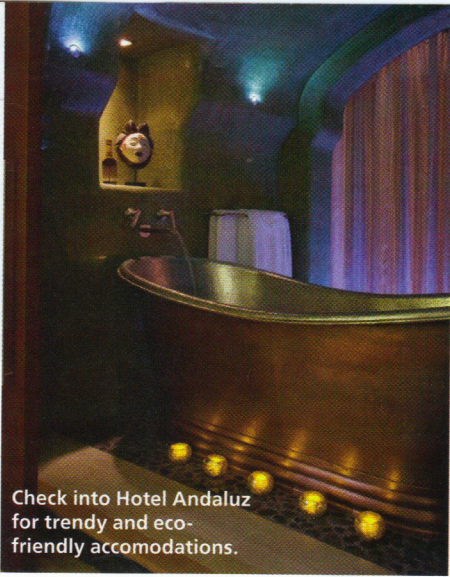
You can also pitch a tent in the **Wild Rivers Recreation Area**, outside Taos. Choose from developed campsites along the Río Grande Gorge, or primitive river campsites in the canyon. Here, as you sip your cup of Joe in morning's gentle light, you'll be able to stand at the confluence of two nationally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Red River and the Río Grande.

Next, head to Angel Fire, an outdoor-sports mecca and a small town known for its sophistication, to mountain-bike

some gonzo (i.e., awesomely treacherous) terrain. **Angel Fire Resort's** trails gained recognition when it hosted the 2005 UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, and since then the resort has only continued its reign—thanks to the Chile Challenge Mountain Bike Festival, which hit the dirt there in June. When you visit, the Chile Express chairlift will cart you *and* your bike up the plus-2,000-foot hill, from the top of which you can careen down drops, jumps, and obstacles along one of their seven downhill trails—just be careful not to involuntarily dismount. For a tamer descent, try the Combi trail—or, for an extreme ride, try the World Cup Downhill trail. And, for the more endurance-minded, the Resort maintains four cross-country trails.

There are opportunities for fishing, horseback riding, and jeep excursions in each community, as well as in others in the area. No matter where you are in the Enchanted Circle, there's truth in its advertising—it truly is an enchanting place. So go ahead—breathe in.

If You Go: Red River, www.reddriver.org; Wild Rivers Recreation Area, off N.M. 378, www.blm.gov; Angel Fire Resort, off N.M. 434, www.angelfireresort.com—*Ashley M. Biggers*



Check into Hotel Andaluz for trendy and eco-friendly accommodations.

ALBUQUERQUE *continued from page 38*

Trendsetters should book modern, well-appointed guest rooms at Albuquerque's newest and most environmentally friendly lodgings: **Hotel Andaluz**. The hotel is at the center of the Duke City's downtown nightlife, but most weekend nights its bustling lounge also offers live music, from jazz to zydeco. Reserve a private enclave to keep your party exclusive.

Sunday, Albuquerque's avant-garde art scene awaits. **516 Arts** offers a smorgasbord of creative expression with visual art exhibitions, poetry readings, and open-mike performances. Here you might discover MRI films cut in the shapes of flowers, leaves, and birds to form graceful wall hangings, or the installation "body bags," human-sized, and — shaped bags stuffed with plastic grocery sacks. **Harwood Art Center** also offers ongoing gallery shows, along with workshops in mixed media, painting, drawing, and journaling. Famished? Top off the weekend with a pizza bianco at **Farina Pizzeria**, where the city's culturati scarf brick-oven-fired pies in a sleek atmosphere. 

If you go: Charley's 33s & CDs, 7602 Menaul Blvd. NE, (505) 296-3685; Model Pharmacy, 3636 Monte Vista Blvd. NE, (505) 255-8686; Beeps, 3500 Central Ave. SE, (505) 262-1900; Guild Cinema, 3405 Central Ave. NE, (505) 255-1848, www.guildcinema.com; Slate Street Café, 515 Slate Ave. NW, (505) 243-2210, www.slatestreetcafe.com; Hotel Andaluz, 125 Second St. NW, (505) 243-9090, www.hotelandaluz.com; 516 Arts, 516 Central Ave. SW, (505) 242-1445, www.516arts.org; Harwood Art Center, 1114 Seventh St. NW, (505) 242-6367, <http://harwoodartcenter.org>; Farina Pizzeria, 510 Central Ave. SE, (505) 243-0130, www.farinapizzeria.com—A.M.B.

Did you go? Post trip photos and tips on *New Mexico Magazine's* Facebook page. 