

THE WESTERN

A HIGH DESERT MOTEL AND RV HIDEAWAY

Story and photos by Damaris Perez-Jents, Owner, Western Motel and RV Park



A visit to the garden, complete with gazebo and hot tub, is central to healthy living for body, mind and spirit, and essential for relaxing after a full day of exploring the sights around Magdalena, N.M.

New Mexico—the Land of Enchantment. That’s a statement not made lightly. Visitors and residents planning a trip around the state are informed that spending time in New Mexico will put you into a “state of enchantment.” That a visit to our rural communities will fill you with wonder and maybe answer your long-held questions about the Wild West, Native American culture, space and technology, mining, ranching, cattle driving, and the explorations by Spanish explorers.

Or maybe the dark, starry-night skies and deep, colorful sunsets call you here. Whatever the draw, the village of Magdalena offers an enchanting hideaway that will allow you to explore the area’s wonders and then relax in the comfort of your own RV in a historic setting.

The Western Motel and RV Park presents an inviting sight to those who have just traveled several hours through the remote, high desert of rural New Mexico. The park is located in Magdalena, a small community situated at the foothills of the Magdalena Mountain range. It’s just 27 miles west of the city of Socorro (exit 150 of Interstate 25) on U.S. Highway 60. With year-round sunshine, mild winters and cooler summers, the Western is a destination lodging place for new and return customers.

In the late 1920s, the original adobe house of the Western was bought by a nurse who turned it into a maternity hospital for ranchers’ wives in the area. Nurse Marie Butterfield, known as Grandma Butter, charged the women \$25 for delivering their babies. She eventually added more room: first living quarters for a sick aunt, then a doctor’s office.

In the 1950s, a wing of



RV sites with pretty views and modern amenities, await RVers at the Western Motel and RV Park year-round. The park is located in the center of town and within walking distance to many attractions such as eateries, post office, bank, automotive shop, market, gift shops and art galleries.

quaint, knotty pine rooms were added, then more restoration in the 1990s by then-residents, Mayor and First Lady, James and Linda Burson.

Current owners, James and Damaris Jents, continue the tradition of hospitality at the motel while caring for 17 RV sites.

The RV sites at the Western can accommodate any size RV, have 20-50 amp service, shower, bathroom and a hot-tub in a relaxing gazebo in the garden. Limited tent camps are available.

High-speed wireless Internet access is also available for savvy travelers who require Internet access to check e-mails and research their trip itinerary. Visitors can access the Internet directly from the comfort of their RV or they can utilize our computer workstation. Our computers are fast, using no phone lines, and are easy to use.

Pets and children are welcome and discounts are available to seniors, veterans, AAA members, and Passport American and Escapee members.

And for those whose sense of wonder reaches from the historic Old West to the galaxies above, Magdalena offers something for everyone.

It is said that the village was named Magdalena when a Spanish soldier believed he saw the face of Mary Magdalene in formations of rocks and bushes on Magdalena Peak. The “face” was facing the town and it soon became a place of refuge.

Magdalena is still a place of refuge—a place to come to get out of the desert heat and into the feeling of history that surrounds the village.

The Western Motel and RV

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Park is located in the center of town and within walking distance to many conveniences, eateries, art galleries and museums. A walking tour of historic buildings could start your visit.

Get acquainted with the Boxcar Museum, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Village Hall and library, which is a former Santa Fe Depot. The museum features treasures of local history.

The Magdalena Area Arts Council has more than 40 members whose works can be seen in the many local galleries. Gift shops offer choice selections and rare finds that feature Southwestern designs and unique Native American crafts.

Nearby Kelly Mine and Riley ghost town offer a glimpse into the mining business that originally populated this area.

If you're lucky enough to be around when the London Frontier Theatre is performing then you can attend an original production that will make you laugh, boo, clap and yell. You can't help but have fun.

If you are into desert hiking, bird watching, hunting, rock climbing or space technology there is something for you here. The Cibola National Forest has more than 1.9 million acres of wilderness where you can satisfy your need for outdoor activities. The Magdalena Ranger Station is right in town with the information you may need.

Avid rock climbers applaud Box Canyon, located just 20 miles east of Magdalena. Folks wondering what's going on in the cosmos can visit the Very Large Array, or VLA, a field of 27 giant radio telescope dishes that span 22 miles across the San Agustin Plains. Stop by the visitor center or take a self-guided tour to explore the antennas up close.

Magdalena was also the end



The Western Motel and RV Park presents an inviting sight to travelers who need a place to rest or to those adventurers who want to spend time surrounded by history, technology and the great outdoors around Magdalena.

of the trail for thousands of cattle driven along the Magdalena Stock Driveway, a historic 125-mile stretch from eastern Arizona to western New Mexico. The shipping pens are still intact and a self-guided auto tour is available.

Action-packed fun can be found each year on the weekend following the 4th of July. Visitors will enjoy Wild West activities, street dancing, music, theatre, arts and crafts, rodeo, bull riding and good eating at the annual Magdalena Old Timers Reunion. Every spring and fall, the Arts and Crafts Festival and Studio Tour features a great variety of unique creations.

There is not enough room in this issue of *Trails & Treasures* to list all the things to do and places to see in the area surrounding Magdalena or in the county of Socorro. Please visit www.magdalena-nm.com or www.socorro-nm.com for more informa-

tion. So, pack up the RV (or just your suitcase) and head toward this great high desert hideaway, the Western Motel and RV Park. **T&T**

WESTERN MOTEL AND RV PARK

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