

Dive into New Mexico history with these terrific tomes!



New Mexico Non-Fiction Books

Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province

William Dunmire and Gail Tierney

“An endlessly useful book on wild plant foods and their uses in the Southwest. Brilliantly researched and fun to read, this book tracks plant use in pre-history through modern times. Great illustrations and interesting descriptions; this is a reference book you’ll like reading!”

New Mexican Furniture, 1600-1940

Lonn Taylor and Dessa Bokides

“Beautiful photographs of New Mexican furniture through the centuries, along with descriptions and explanations of design and function. This book is informative and will make you wish you owned every piece in it.”

A Land So Remote

Larry Frank

“Actually a three-part series with photographs and descriptions of rarely, if ever, seen art of New Mexico’s past. This is the most comprehensive book on New Mexican art spanning the ages, and the photographs alone are worth the read.”

New Mexican Tinwork, 1840-1940

Lane Coulter and Maurice Dixon Jr.

“A great reference book for all things New Mexico tin, this book is fun to look at and to read! A must-have for anyone interested in one of New Mexico’s most unique art forms. You’ll not only get to feast your eyes on all the beautiful tin work but learn a ton in the process.”

Death Comes for the Archbishop

Willa Cather

“A fictionalized portrait of Archbishop Lamy gives us drama on so many levels. Interpersonal, religious, and racial, all against the backdrop of mid-1800’s New Mexico. It is a literal page-turner and a must for any New Mexico history buff!”

The Milagro Bean Field War

John Nicols

“The small town of Milagro, New Mexico suddenly finds itself without water for its fields of precious beans due to large corporate interest in land and water. But the town of Milagro isn’t going to take it lying down, and so begins the Milagro Bean Field War. This book is as funny as it is poignant. Also, it’s part of a larger trilogy that includes *The Magic Journey* and *Nirvana Blues*, so if one isn’t enough you have two more to look forward too!”

Red Sky at Morning

Richard Bradford

“A classic coming-of-age tale set to the backdrop of small town New Mexico in the midst of World War II. A teenager moves from Alabama and finds himself what feels like a million miles from home. The quirkiness of New Mexico and the pains of adolescents combine in the is novel to create a tale both sweet and laugh-out-loud funny!”

Bless Me, Ultima

Rudolfo Anaya

"Antonio, a teenage boy in small town New Mexico during World War II finds himself trapped by opposing forces of old ways new: his mother and father’s vision for his future, steeped religion and spirituality, all the while facing his

journey into manhood. He is guided on this journey by Ultima, a curandera that helps him come to peace within himself. Probably the most iconic novel of New Mexican life and cultural struggle, this classic of Chicano literature is a must-read for anyone who has ever been a teenager.”

We Fed Them Cactus

Fabiola Cabeza de Baca

“Prior to statehood, the Llano Estacado, the great plains of northeastern New Mexico and northwestern Texas, were colonized by Hispanic ranchers. Cabeza de Baca's beloved memoir of the era has been reissued as part of the Pasó Por Aquí Series on Nuevomexicano Literature. A member of an old Hispanic family, Cabeza de Baca celebrates her Spanish heritage rather than the Mestizo culture embraced by later writers. She portrays the erosion of Hispanic folkways under American influence, but by recording a combination of oral narrative, autobiography, family history, recipes, and poetry, she has helped to preserve these unique expressions of Hispanic culture.”

New Mexico Fiction Books

But Time and Chance: The Story of Padre Martinez of Taos, 1793-1867

Fray Angelico Chavez

“A vivid portrait of a fascinating man, this exhaustively researched portrait of Padre Martinez is a must read for any New Mexican history lover. The man that emerges is brilliant, tough, a fighter for the underdog, and complicated. Fray Chavez writes the story of this man's life in a way that you almost feel as if you've met him. All of this is set in New Mexico in the 1800's and the picture of the politics and personalities of the time are rich and full. A highly recommended read about an incredible life.”

Bone Horses

Leslie Poling Kempes

“A modern western that revolves around a woman who comes to New Mexico and finds salvation and romance among the spiritual land she finds herself in. Winner of the *Tony Hillerman award for Fiction*, Poling Kempes describes the land and people of New Mexico through the eyes of a woman that is in search of herself, family secrets, and a sense of place. I don't know a soul that has read this book and didn't love it. A New Mexico must read!”



A Living History Museum

Any work by Tony Hillerman
(There are over 30!)

“Beautifully written cultural details of the Southwest and New Mexico in particular. Highlighting Native ritual amongst the Pueblos, particularly the Navajo, Hillerman writes New Mexico vividly. And to top it off, each work is a nail-biting mystery!”