Sister Cities was born in 1956 when President Eisenhower envisioned a way to prevent war. He and 100 prominent Americans created the People to People initiative. They believed that if the individual would cross international borders and befriend people in other countries, we'd understand each other better and this understanding would promote world peace. We would embrace the beauty inherent in other cultures and help each other solve the problems that confront all our cities. This initiative soon led to the forming of Sister Cities.

For Albuquerque, interest began when Admiral MacPherson, Commander of the American Naval Base in Sasebo, Japan, played golf with Ichizo Tsuji, then Mayor of Sasebo. These men wanted to cement the friendships between their cities, and Admiral MacPherson in turn inspired his brother in Albuquerque. With the help of Ruth Hashimoto, formal agreements between Sasebo and Albuquerque were signed in 1966. We now have nine sister cities on three continents and 501(c)3 non-profit status.

Our members come from every walk of life with a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, and education. We are all volunteers and welcome anyone who is passionate about people and promoting peace. Members participate in wonderful cultural and educational events and have opportunities to travel to our sister cities and host international visitors in our homes. For the entrepreneur there are opportunities for international business.

Well into the 21st century, we are no longer merely citizens of our own nation, but also of the world. Sister cities cooperate with each other, and people from every station of life can participate to achieve a better world for all.

www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org
Alburquerque | Spain | 2003
Alburquerque is in the Extremadura region of Spain. It is an agricultural village of about 6000 people nestled at the foot of a 13th century castle. A Moorish stone wall surrounds the castle and village. Olive and Cork trees dominate the landscape, making Alburquerque a prime supplier of Cork to all of Spain. An annual Medieval Festival is held in August. Our city of Albuquerque, NM, was named to honor the duke.

Ashgabat | Turkmenistan | 1990
Located along Central Asia’s historic Silk Road, Ashgabat is the capital of Turkmenistan, a cosmopolitan city of nearly 1 million people. Industries featuring cotton textiles, oil, and natural gas make this city the center of Turkmenistan’s commercial activities. The Turkmen people are known internationally for their hospitality and generosity, as well as for their fine horses and hand-woven wool carpets.

Chihuahua | Mexico | 1970
Chihuahua is the capital city of the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, with over 800,000 people. The Spanish and Native influence provide a rich cultural heritage. Today, the city is busy with industry and manufacturing products such as cars, greeting cards and electronics. The weather is warm in winter and moderate in summer.
Guadalajara | Mexico | 1986

Guadalajara, Mexico’s second largest city of about 1.6 million, is the capital of the state of Jalisco. Majestic colonial buildings stand beside soaring structures of glass and steel, seamlessly blending the historic and modern. Guadalajara is a major center of culture and education, electronic and information technology, and manufacturing.

Helmstedt | Germany | 1983

Friendship with Helmstedt began with a simple gesture. A resident of Albuquerque presented an American flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol to the Helmstedt City Fathers. Helmstedt’s 28,000 residents are part of a larger population of 100,000 when including the surrounding county. The primary industries are auto manufacturing, coal mining, and farming.

Hualien City | Taiwan | 1983

Hualien City is known as the City of Marble. The two regal marble lions which can be admired at our botanical garden were presented to Albuquerque as a gesture of esteemed friendship. Itself a garden city, Hualien has a population of 110,000. Its beauty makes it a prominent tourist destination in Taiwan, boasting magnificent scenery from the dazzling Chishing Tan coast to breathtaking national parks.

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Lanzhou | China | 1996
Once the “Golden City” along the Silk Road, Lanzhou is now crucial in China for nuclear development, science, technology and education. Lanzhou is an industrial city rich in hydropower from the Yellow River as well as natural resources from the ground. The city has over 3 million people, and the climate is delightfully dry and sunny.

Rehovot | Israel | 2008
Located 14 miles SE of Tel Aviv, Rehovot has a population of about 114,000. The city is home to the Weizmann Institute (left), making Rehovot one of the top world research centers in applied mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry and biology. The city is also known for its citrus industry and is home to the Hebrew University’s Department of Agriculture.

Sasebo | Japan | 1966
A scenic seaport village as different from Tokyo as Albuquerque is from New York, Sasebo is known world-wide for beautiful pottery. Some kilns and factories have been operated by the same families for over 17 generations. Visitors can walk across the Obon-Albuquerque Bridge (right), dedicated to the special friendship between the two cities. Sasebo’s population is about 251,000 with many employed in fishing, farming, small industries and ship-building.

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