



The Trail Yesterday

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is the earliest Euro-American trade route in the United States. Tying Spain's colonial capital at Mexico City to its northern frontier in distant New Mexico, the route spans three centuries, two countries, and 1,600 miles. El Camino Real was blazed atop a network of footpaths that connected Mexico's ancient cultures with the equally ancient cultures of the interior West.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro began in Mexico City. As the "Royal Road of the Interior Lands," the frontier wagon road brought Spanish colonists into today's New Mexico.

Once travelers crossed the arid lands above Ciudad Chihuahua, they followed the wide Rio Grande Valley north into New Mexico. Many of the historic *parajes* (campsites) and early settlements created by the Spanish colonists became today's modern cities in the Rio Grande Valley. In the United States, the trail stretched from the El Paso area in Texas, through Las Cruces, Socorro, Belen, Albuquerque, and Santa Fe to Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo), the first Spanish capital in New Mexico. In Mexico, the historic road runs through Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosi, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, and Querétaro to Mexico City.

The Trail Today

The trail corridor nurtures a lively exchange of ideas, customs, and language between Mexico and the American Southwest. Recognition as an international historic trail commemorates a shared cultural and geographic heritage. It helps eliminate cultural barriers and enriches the lives of people living along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.

Added to the National Trails System in October 2000 by the U.S. Congress, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail extends 404 miles from El Paso, Texas, to Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, New Mexico. Visit some of the places featured here to experience the trail today.



The historic route of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

Tomé Hill
This distinctive conical hill has served as a natural landmark for travelers from prehistoric times into the present. Petroglyphs carved into its flanks and crosses at the top attest to its significance for Indian peoples and Catholic pilgrims alike.



Mesilla Plaza
Mesilla, New Mexico, began its life as a part of Mexico, a new community established for Mexican citizens who found themselves on the U.S. side of the border following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1846. Those same settlers found themselves back in the U.S. again after the Gadsden Purchase of 1853. The new town became a commercial crossroads for the Mesilla Valley. The Butterfield Overland Stage stop was one block from the Plaza, and travelers on El Camino Real could stop in Mesilla on their way to Chihuahua and Santa Fe.

Fort Craig National Historic Site
Fort Craig is the largest of eight U.S. forts built along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro during New Mexico's Territorial Period. Between 1854 and 1884, Fort Craig was home to Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry and 38th and 125th Infantry, the predominantly Hispanic New Mexico Volunteers and New Mexico Militia, and historical figures including Kit Carson, Rafael Chacón and Captain Jack Crawford.



Fort Selden State Monument
Fort Selden was established in 1865 to protect settlers and travelers in the Mesilla Valley. Built on the banks of the Rio Grande just north of the traditional *parajes* of Doña Ana and Robledo, this adobe fort housed units of the U.S. Army's infantry and cavalry. The fort remained active until 1891, five years after Geronimo's capture and six years after the railroad had taken over El Camino Real's role in commercial freight and transport.



4,000 BP
Archaic pit house village is established at edge of the Rio Grande, now in Keystone Park. Prehistoric occupation of Rio Grande Valley dates back to at least 12,000 years ago.

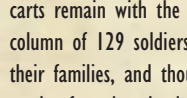
The rough trail jolted the nails loose from wagons and carriages. Hundreds of cobbler's nails, farmer's nails, and upholstery nails tell the story of El Camino Real.

Keystone Heritage Park
Keystone Heritage Park, El Paso, Texas, preserves a remnant of the rich riverine environment of the Rio Grande. The Archaic pit house settlement, where small bands foraged for wild plants and animals in the rich marshlands adjacent to the Rio Grande, is 4,000 years old.

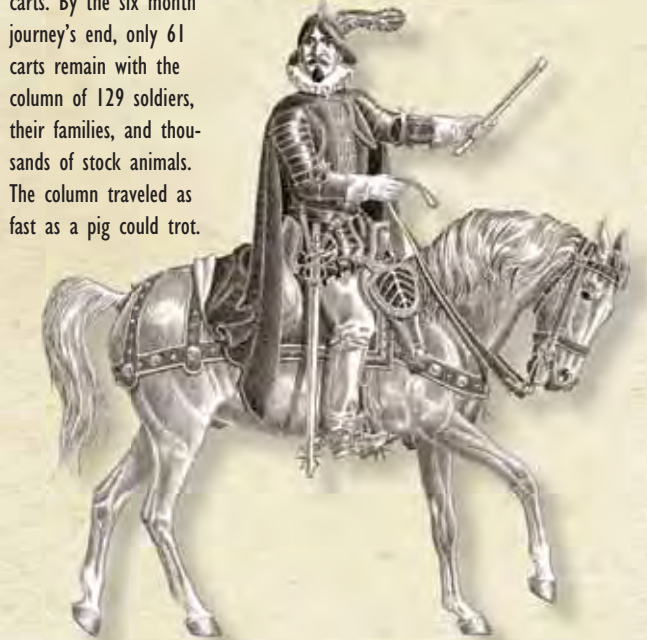
Coronado State Monument/ Kuaua Pueblo
When Francisco Vázquez de Coronado arrived at Kuaua Pueblo in 1540, he was leading an expeditionary force of 300 soldiers and 800 Indian allies on a march to locate the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola. Instead of the golden city they expected, the Spanish found a thriving multistory adobe pueblo with more than a thousand villagers.

1521
Aztec ruler Moctezuma II surrenders Tenochtitlán to Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés. Mexico City is established on the site of the Aztec capital.

1540
Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and his army of 1,100 camp near the Tiwa pueblo of Kuaua.



1598
Juan de Oñate leads first Spanish colonists up the Rio Grande along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. The caravan starts with 83 laden carts. By the six month journey's end, only 61 carts remain with the column of 129 soldiers, their families, and thousands of stock animals. The column traveled as fast as a pig could trot.



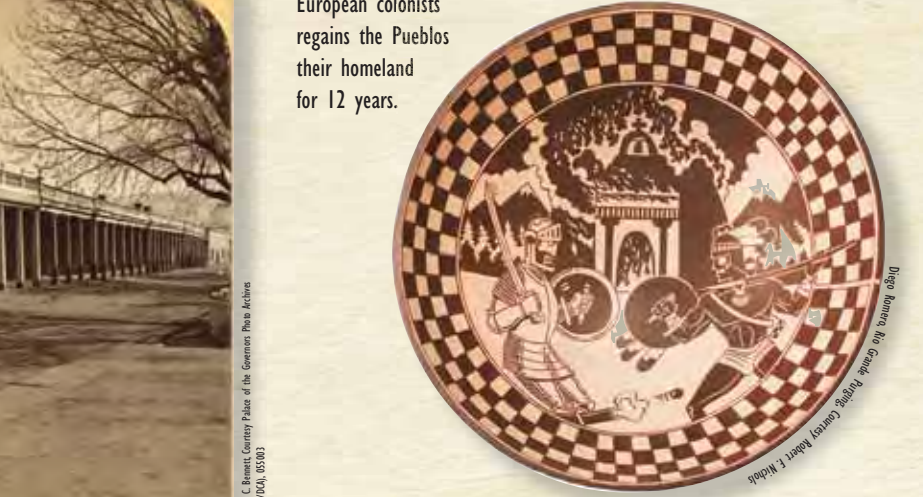
1608-1610
Villa de Santa Fe is established, relocating the Spanish capital from San Juan de los Caballeros, on Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo lands.

Palace of the Governors
This modest, single-story adobe is the oldest continuously occupied governmental building in the U.S. Construction began in 1610. Over the years the Palace has been converted to an Indian Pueblo, housed Spanish and Mexican governors, and served as a Territorial Capitol. Since 1909 the Palace has been the heart of New Mexico's State Museum system. The Palace sits on the north side of the Santa Fe Plaza.



1643-1662
Spanish ranches and villages are established along El Camino Real north of Isleta Pueblo, including Pajarito and Atrisco, independent communities now within the greater Albuquerque area.

1670
German trader Bernardo Gruber dies on the Jornada del Muerto, fleeing jail at Sandia Pueblo and the Spanish Inquisition.



1680
On the night of August 10, 1680, nearly two dozen Pueblos revolt over the Spanish practices of extracting tribute, forcing conversion to Catholicism, and brutally suppressing Native religion. This act of resistance against European colonists regains the Pueblos their homeland for 12 years.

1692
Spanish return to New Mexico, rebuild missions and settlements.

1706
Villa of Albuquerque is established, with today's "Old Town" and Plaza as its historic center.

1739
The Tomé grant is settled after the Rio Grande shifts west, creating an inner valley branch of El Camino Real through the Tomé Plaza.

1760
Still a rough camp in 1760, the *paraje* of Doña Ana is settled as a town in the 1840s.

1789
San Elizario is established as a military presidio to protect citizens of El Paso del Norte from Apache attacks.

1807
U.S. Lieutenant Zebulon Pike illegally enters Spanish territory while exploring the West. Pike is captured and taken down El Camino Real to Mexico City.

1821
Mexico is freed from Spain. Santa Fe Trail opens with the arrival of William Becknell's trading party from Missouri. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro becomes known as the "Chihuahua Trail" for traders moving goods through Santa Fe from the eastern U.S.

1846
Missouri volunteers under Colonel Alexander W. Doniphan defeat a Mexican unit at the Battle of Bracitos, go on to take El Paso del Norte and march into Chihuahua.

1848
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo establishes American control over about half of Mexico's lands, including the lands traversed by El Camino Real north of El Paso del Norte.

1850
New Mexico becomes an incorporated, organized territory of the U.S. on September 9, 1850.

1853
American-Mexican border is redefined through the Gadsden Purchase, which brought a strip of land from Texas to California into American hands, 29,142,400 acres for \$10 million.

1862
Battle of Valverde, first major battle of the Civil War in the Southwest, takes place north of Fort Craig, February 1862.

1865
Fort Selden is established to control the Mesilla Valley.

1878
The region's first operational railroad, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, enters New Mexico Territory by way of Raton Pass; the rails reach El Paso, Texas, in 1881.

1909
New Mexico Territorial Highway Commission appropriates funds to re-engineer La Bajada section of El Camino Real for automobile traffic.

1912
New Mexico achieves statehood; State Highway 1 incorporates many sections of El Camino Real.

1926
U.S. Route 66 is built over parts of El Camino Real, including the steep descent known as La Bajada.

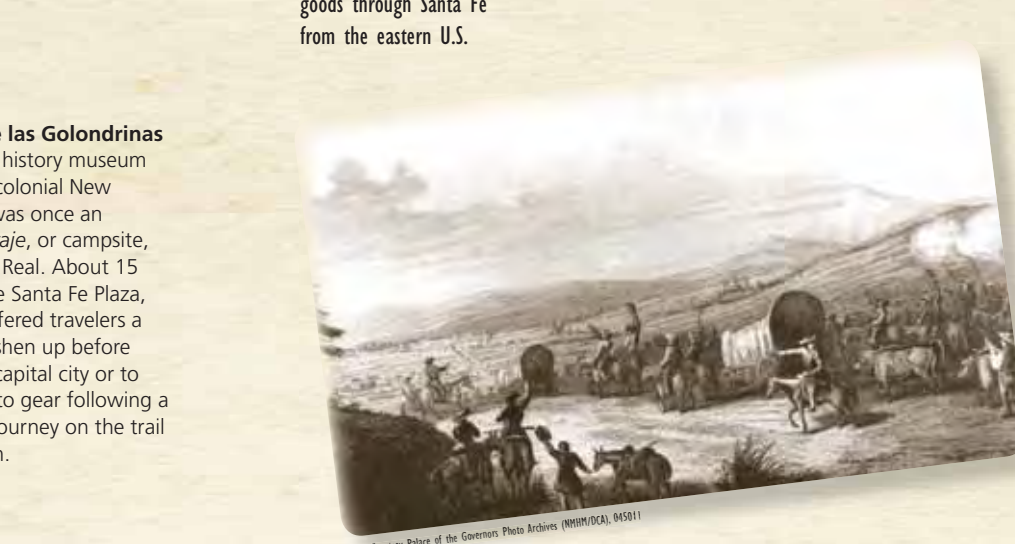
1935
New Mexico's roadside historic markers begin to tell the trail's history. In 1992 many of the 82 El Camino Real markers are installed as part of the Columbus Quincentenary Commemorations.

2000
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is added to the National Trails System on October 13, 2000.

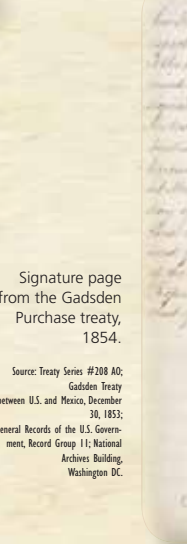
2003
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association is formed.



El Rancho de las Golondrinas
Today a living history museum dedicated to colonial New Mexico, this was once an important *paraje*, or campsite, on El Camino Real. About 15 miles from the Santa Fe Plaza, the rancho offered travelers a chance to freshen up before reaching the capital city or to make repairs to gear following a shake-down journey on the trail heading south.



Signature page from the Gadsden Purchase treaty, 1854.



El Camino Real

Official Map and Guide

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail



New Mexico, Texas
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

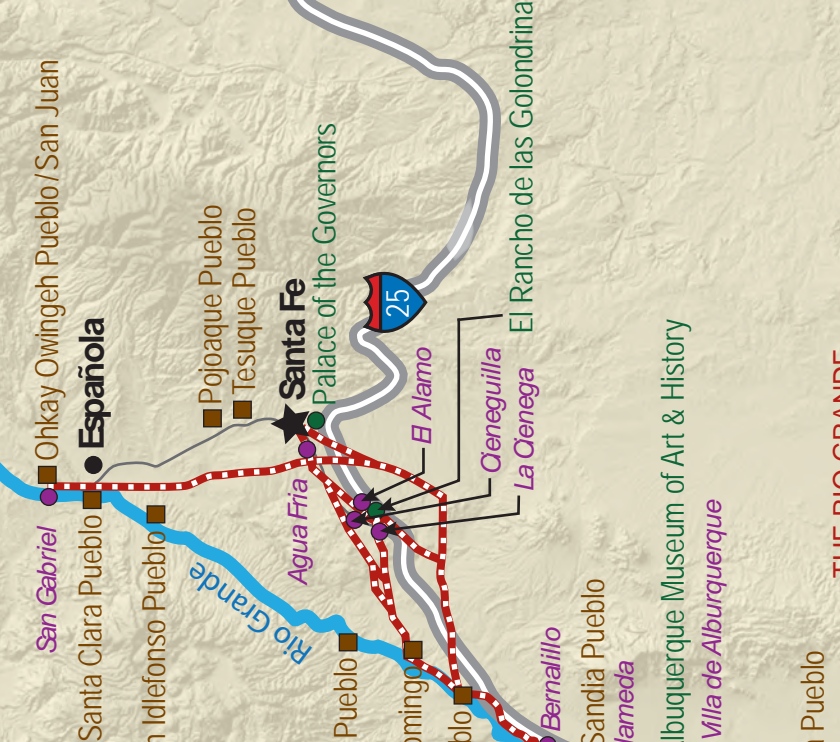


THE FIRST CAPITAL

In 1598, Juan de Oñate's original colonizing party was welcomed at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, christened "San Juan de Los Caballeros" by the Spaniards. By the winter of 1599, the colony had moved to an outlying pueblo, Yungue, which they renamed "San Gabriel." In 10 years the capital was relocated once again to Santa Fe.

RIO ABAJO, RIO ARRIBA, AND LA BAJADA

In the Spanish colonial period, New Mexico was divided into two administrative units. These were the Rio Abajo, or lower river, and the Rio Arriba, or upper river. The dividing line was the escarpment known as "La Bajada," north of Cochiti Pueblo.



San Gabriel

Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo / San Juan

San Gabriel Pueblo

San Felipe Pueblo

Kewa Pueblo / Santo Domingo

San Ana Pueblo

Coronado State Monument / Kauna Pueblo

Casa San Ysidro / Gutierrez-Minge House

Albuquerque

The Gutierrez-Hubbell House

Fajardo

Los Padillas

Arisco

Bosque de Pinos

Los Lunas

Tomé Hill

Belén

Jarales

Sabinal

Sevilleta

Lemita

Sobino

Socorro

Luis Lopez

Valverde

El Conchado

Fray Cristobal

Ojo del Muerto

Engle

Laguna del Muerto

Paraje del Aleman

Jornada del Muerto Trailheads

Las Peñuelas

Paraje del Perrillo

Paraje San Diego

Fort Selden

Doña Ana

Mesilla Plaza

Las Cruces

La Panchartera

Bracto

Ciudad Juárez

Keystone Heritage Park

El Paso

El Paso Museum of History

Chamizal National Memorial

Mission Socorro

San Elizario

PRESIDIOS AND FORTS

The Spanish established a handful of presidios, or forts, along the trail. El Paso del Norte and San Elizario controlled and protected the settlements near present-day Juárez, and the Presidio de Santa Fe protected the capital and northern New Mexico. After 1848 the Americans developed their own military system of smaller posts along the trail on the Jornada del Muerto, and at Santa Fe, El Paso, Valverde, Doña Ana, La Joya, and Socorro.

Truth or Consequences

See inset map for detail of this area.

THE CIVIL WAR IN NEW MEXICO
Confederate troops marched into New Mexico territory in June 1861. They battled Union forces and New Mexico reserves at Valverde, and took both Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The Confederates were turned back at Glorieta Pass, east of Santa Fe, before they could reach the gold and silver fields of Colorado.

THE JORNADA DEL MUERTO
The "Dead Man's Journey" is the longest of the waterless stretches of El Camino Real that the Spanish called *jornadas* . The "dead man" of this 60-mile, two-day trek, was Bernardo Gruber, who died on the Jornada while fleeing the Holy Office of the Inquisition in 1670.

PARAJES
The caravans made camp every 20 miles or so on the journey from northern Mexico to northern New Mexico. These simple campsites, or *parajes* , served travelers for centuries. Until the 19th century, none of the *parajes* on the Jornada del Muerto—Paraje San Diego, Paraje del Perrillo, Paraje del Aleman, Las Peñuelas, Laguna del Muerto, El Conchado, Valverde, and Fray Cristobal—were settled permanently.

NEW MEXICO

TEXAS

MEXICO

▲ Jornada del Muerto Trailheads

● *Parajes* , *Presidios* and *Historic Communities*

■ Pueblos

● Sites of Interest

● Modern Cities and Towns

--- El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

== Interstate 25

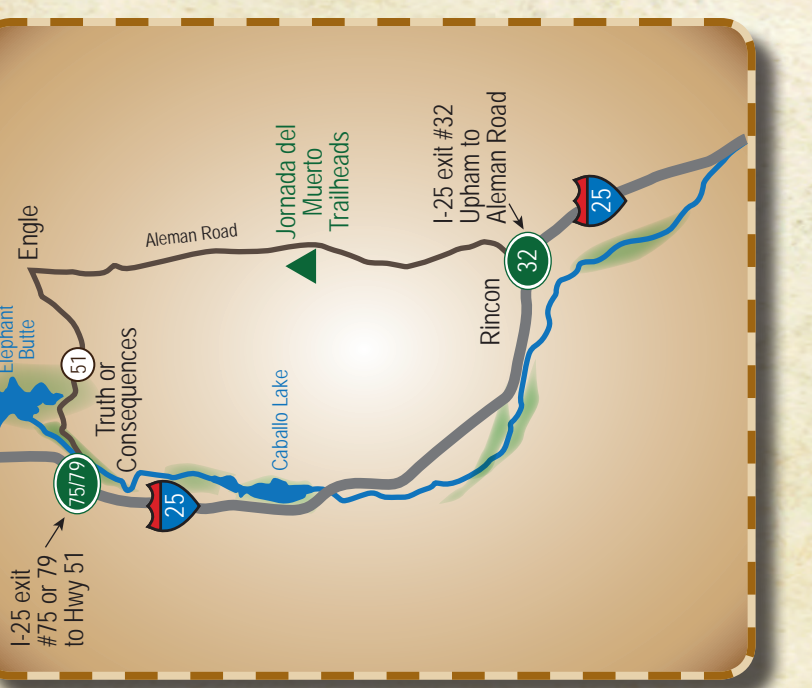
== Rio Grande

North



Miles

0 25 50



Visiting the Trail Today

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail runs through the heart of the Rio Grande Valley. The Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service administer the Trail together to foster trail preservation and public use. These agencies work in close partnership with El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, the Indian tribes and Pueblos—whose ancestors greeted the first Spanish colonists—as well as state, county, and municipal governmental agencies, private landowners, nonprofit heritage conservation groups, and many others. Trail sites are in private, municipal, tribal, federal or state ownership. Please ask for permission before visiting any trail sites on private lands and check with public sites for visiting hours and regulations. Follow trail signs to retrace El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro along highways, streets, and backcountry roads.



Historic Sites

Palace of the Governors

105 West Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, NM

(505) 476-5100

www.palaceofthegovernors.org/

El Rancho de las Golondrinas

334 Los Pinos Road, La Cienega, NM

(505) 471-2261

www.golondrinas.org

Coronado State Monument/Kuauva Pueblo

Both Kuauva Pueblo and the nearby Coronado campsite have been studied by archaeologists and their history is on display at the New Mexico State Monument near Bernalillo.

State Highway 550/44, 1.27 miles west of Interstate 25, Exit 242

(505) 867-5351, (800) 419-3738

www.nmmonuments.org/

Casa San Ysidro: The Gutierrez-Minge House

The Gutierrez-Minge House is in the village of Corrales, just north of Albuquerque. The original home, built by the Gutierrez family, dates to the 1870s. Today Casa San Ysidro includes a recreated 19th century rancho, a small family chapel, central plaza area, and an enclosed corral area.

973 Old Church Road, Corrales, NM

(505) 898-3915

www.cabq.gov/museum/history/casatour.html

The Gutierrez-Hubbell House

Both the Gutierrez-Hubbell House is a 5,800 square foot adobe hacienda that dates to the 1840s. It has been used as a private residence, mercantile, stagecoach stop, post office, and Pajarito village gathering place along El Camino Real.

6029 Isleta Boulevard S.W., Albuquerque, NM

(505) 244-0507

www.bernc.gov/live/standalone.asp?dept_id=394&link_id=191954

Tomé Hill

Access at Tomé Hill Park, intersection of Tomé Hill Road (Rio del Oro Loop North) and La Entrada Road, Tomé, NM

(505) 864-6654

www.v-a.org/tomehill.htm

Fort Craig National Historic Site

South of Socorro on County Road 273, off New Mexico Highway 1, use Interstate 25 Exit 115 northbound, or Exit 124 southbound.

(575) 835-0412

www.blm.gov/nmi/st/en/prog/recreation/socorro/fort_craig.html

Jornada del Muerto Trailheads

Coronado Roads A013, E070, Sierra and Doña Ana Counties

For more information, contact Las Cruces District Office, Bureau of Land Management.

1800 Marquez Street, Las Cruces, NM

(575) 525-4300

www.blm.gov/nmi/st/en/foi/Las_Cruces_District_Office.html

Fort Selden State Monument

North of Las Cruces off Interstate 25, Exit 19, on New Mexico State Road 157, Fort Selden Road.

(505) 476-1130

www.nmmonuments.org/inst.php?inst=10

Mesilla Plaza

Bound by Calle de San Albino, Calle de Guadalupe, Calle de Santiago and Calle de Parian, Mesilla, NM

From Interstate 25, take Interstate 10 west to Mesilla Exit 140, turn south one mile on Highway 28 to Calle de Santiago.

(575) 524-2262, ext. 117

www.oldmesilla.org/

Keystone Heritage Park

4200 Doniphan Drive, El Paso, TX

(915) 584-0563

www.keystoneheritagepark.org/

Visit these sites to learn more about the trail. Sites that are open to the public are shown in green on the map.

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Jornada del Muerto Trailheads
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(575) 525-4300
www.blm.gov/nmi/st/en/foi/Las_Cruces_District_Office.html

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www.oldmesilla.org/

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www.keystoneheritagepark.org/

Visitor Centers and Museums

Albuquerque Museum of Art & History
The city's museum preserves and displays artistic and historic items from early Spanish settlement to the present. Exhibit highlights include El Camino Real, Hispanic life, the Civil War, and New Mexico statehood. The museum is near Albuquerque's Old Town, across from Tigue Park.

2000 Mountain Road, Albuquerque, NM
(505) 243-7255
www.cabq.gov/museum/

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

Bosque del Apache, or woods of the Apache, was the Spanish name for the extensive wetlands and forest along the Rio Grande below Socorro, New Mexico. Today, this region is one of the Southwest's premier wildlife refuges. Birders from around the world come during fall and winter to see sandhill cranes, snow geese, and ducks.

State Highway 1, 8 miles south of Interstate 25, Exit 139.
(575) 835-1828
www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/bosque/index.html

El Camino Real International Heritage Center

Thirty miles south of Socorro, NM on County Road 1598, Center visitors step back in time and explore the history and heritage of El Camino Real from Zacatecas, Mexico, to the plaza in Santa Fe. One of New Mexico's State Monuments, the Center overlooks the Jornada del Muerto, the lower Rio Grande and the historic trail.

County Road 1598, Interstate-25, Exit 115
(575) 854-3600
www.elcaminoheritage.org/

El Paso Museum of History

The museum promotes the understanding and significance of the rich multicultural and multinational history of the border region known as "The Pass of the North."

510 N. Santa Fe Street, El Paso, TX
(915) 351-3588
www.elpasotexas.gov/history/

Chamizal National Memorial

The Chamizal boundary of 1963 resulted in the peaceful settlement of a century-long boundary dispute between the U.S. and Mexico. Visitors traveling east or west on I-10, exit at Hwy 54 and follow the brown Chamizal National Memorial directional signs. If traveling south on Hwy 54, take exit marked Juárez, Mexico. DO NOT proceed onto the International Bridge of the Americas, but turn right onto Paisano Street, and continue to follow signs toward Chamizal.

800 S. San Marcial, El Paso, TX
(915) 351-3588
www.nps.gov/diam

Trail Administrators

For more information, contact:

Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 271115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115
(505) 954-2000
www.blm.gov/nim

National Park Service
National Trails Internmountain Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728
(505) 968-6098
www.nps.gov/ela

Trail Association
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA)
P.O. Box 15162
Las Cruces, NM 88004
www.elcaminoart.org/

San Gabriel

Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo / San Juan

San Gabriel Pueblo

San Felipe Pueblo

Kewa Pueblo / Santo Domingo

San Ana Pueblo

Coronado State Monument / Kauna Pueblo

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Fajardo

Los Padillas

Arisco

Bosque de Pinos

Los Lunas

Tomé Hill

Belén

Jarales

Sabinal

Sevilleta

Lemita

Sobino

Socorro

Luis Lopez

Valverde

El Conchado

Fray Cristobal

Ojo del Muerto

Engle

Laguna del Muerto

Paraje del Aleman

Jornada del Muerto Trailheads

Las Peñuelas

Paraje del Perrillo

Paraje San Diego

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Las Cruces

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