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, Yunque, which they renamed "San Gabriel." In 10 years the capital was relocated once again to Santa Fé.

RIO ABAJO, RIO ARRIBA, AND LA BAJADA

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

THE RIO GRANDE

The Rio Grande is New Mexico's major river. Its valley stretches the full length of the state and holds the best agricultural land, the most extensive wetlands and wildlife, and is the state's major travel corridor. Known to Tewa Pueblo peoples as P'Osoge, or the big river, the Spanish called it the Río Bravo, or wild river, as well as El Río Grande del Norte, or the big river of the north. The Río Grande forms the border between New Mexico and Texas near El Paso, and the international border between Mexico and the United States from El Paso and Ciudad Juárez.

THE CIVIL WAR IN NEW MEXICO

Confederate troops marched into New Mexico Territory in June 1861. They battled Union forces and New Mexico militia 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 90 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 Contadero, Valverde, and Fray Cristobal—were settled permanently.

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, Dona Ana, La Joya, and Socorro.

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.

El Camino Real Original Route

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

El Camino Real Auto Tour Route

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

Historic Sites

Palace of the Governors
105 West Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, NM
(505) 476-5100
www.palaceof thegovernors.org/

El Rancho de las Golondrinas
334 Los Pinos Road, La Cienega, NM
(505) 471-2261
www.golondrinas/org

Coronado State Monument/Kuaua Pueblo
Both Kuaua 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 placuela, 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
The Gutierrez-Hubbell House is a 5,800 square foot adobe hacienda that dates to the 1840's. 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.bernco.gov/live/standalone.asp?dept_id=39466&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-i-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/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/socorro/fort_craig.html

Jornada del Muerto Trailheads
County Roads A013, J070, Sierra and Doña Ana Counties
For more information, contact Las Cruces District Office, Bureau of Land Management.
1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, NM
(575) 525-4300
www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/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) 476-1150
www.nmmonuments.org/nst.php?inst=10

Mesilla Plaza
Bounded 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) 524-3262, ext. 117
www.oldmesilla.org/

Keystone Heritage Park
4200 Dyngshan Drive, El Paso, TX
(915) 584-0563
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 Tiguex 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.caminorealheritage.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 Convention 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 next 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/cham

Trail Administrators

For more information, contact:

Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115
(505) 954-2000
www.blm.gov/nm

National Park Service
National Trails Intermountain Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728
(505) 988-6098
www.nps.gov/nlca

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