

Old Spanish Trail

Official Map and Guide



Old Spanish National Historic Trail
New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado,
Utah, Nevada, California

Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service

*...the longest,
crookedest, most
arduous pack mule
route in the
history of America...*

It is 1829, eight years after Mexico gained independence from Spain. New Mexican traders travel overland to establish new commercial relations with frontier settlements in California. They carry locally produced merchandise to exchange for mules and horses. Items include serapes, blankets, ponchos, and socks; a variety of hides – gamuzas (chamois), buffalo robes, bear and beaver skins; as well as hats, shawls, and quilts.

By this time Santa Fe is witnessing increased economic activity brought on by successful American and Mexican trade. Large quantities of manufactured products arrive in New Mexico from the eastern United States along the Santa Fe Trail. Many goods are also traveling along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro to and from the interior of Mexico.



Red Pass, California