

Old Spanish National Historic Trail



New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona,
Utah, Nevada, California

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



Palace of the Governors Photo Archives, 155329

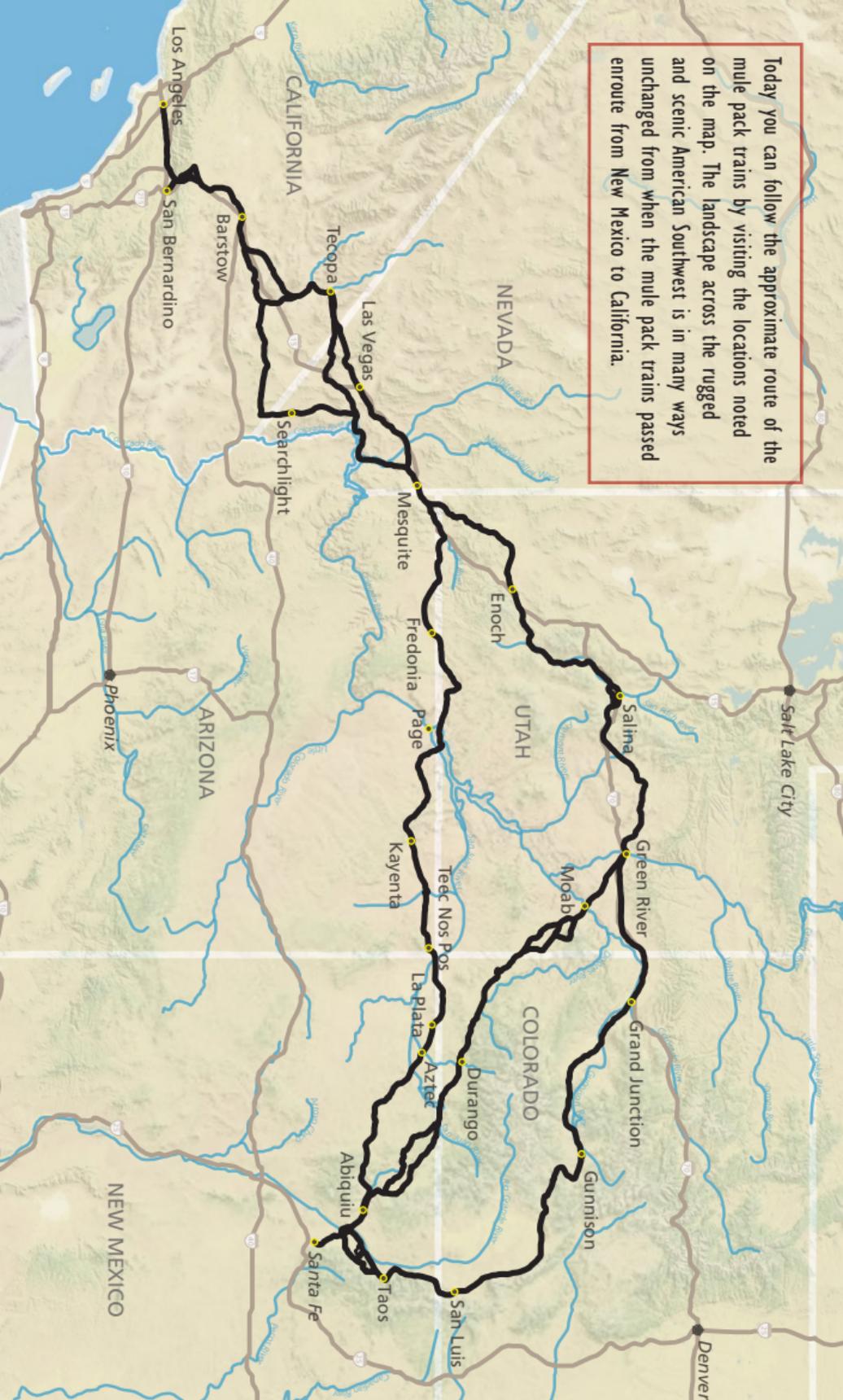
Profit could be made transporting New Mexico serapes and other woolen goods to Los Angeles, and wrangling California-bred horses and mules back to Santa Fe. But a viable overland route across the remote deserts and mountains of Mexico's far northern frontier had to be found.

It took the vision and courage of Mexican trader Antonio Armijo to lead the first successful commercial caravan in 1829. Following a combination of indigenous footpaths, and early trade and exploration routes, he forged a trail network that collectively became known as the Old Spanish Trail.



Walking Gunsight Pass, Utah

Today you can follow the approximate route of the mule pack trains by visiting the locations noted on the map. The landscape across the rugged and scenic American Southwest is in many ways unchanged from when the mule pack trains passed enroute from New Mexico to California.



Explore Today

Some of the Old Spanish Trail has been reclaimed by nature or modified by later use. However, most of the landmarks that guided trail travelers can still be seen today.

For more information, including historic site locations and trip planning tools, please visit the official trail websites.

Bureau of Land Management
(801) 539-4075, www.blm.gov/ut/olsp

National Park Service
National Trails Intermountain Region
(505) 988-6098, www.nps.gov/olsp

Old Spanish Trail Association
(505) 425-6039, www.oldspsanstrail.org



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