

the Interior Lands," the road was the economic, social, and political lifeline between Mexico City and its northern provinces, and ultimately the wagon road brought Spanish colonists into today's New Mexico.

day's modern cities in the Rio Grande Valley. In the United States, the trail stretches from the El Paso area in Texas, through Las Cruces, Socorro, Belen, Albuquerque,

As travelers crossed the arid plains of northern Chihuahua, they followed the 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

From 1598, when the first Spanish colonizing expedition made its way up the Rio Grande, through the mid-1880s, the wagon road was the main thoroughfare between Mexico and New Mexico. The trail corridor is still very

Added to the National Trails System in October 2001 by the US Congress, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is a 1,200-mile trail that

A map of Mexico showing major cities and geographical features. The Pacific Ocean is to the west, and the Gulf of Mexico is to the east. Major cities marked include Tijuana, Ensenada, San Luis Potosí, Monterrey, Saltillo, Coahuila, Durango, Guadalajara, Mexico City, Puebla, and Oaxaca. The map also shows the Gulf of California and the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

pilgrims alike.



part of the US after the Gadsden Purchase of 1853, which made Mesilla part of the US. The new town became a commercial crossroads in the Mesilla region. The Butterfield Overland Stage stop was adjacent to the place, and today is on FL-66.

capture and seven years after the railroad had taken over El Camino Real's role in commercial freight and transport.

El Real de Tierra Nueva, Mexico, Texas
Park Service
of Land Management
Department of the Interior

1598 160

1670	1680	1692
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60	1789	1807
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1850 1853 1862

1912 1926 1935



Juan do Onate leads first Spanish colonists up the Rio Grande, blazing what would become known as El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Onate settles on Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo lands, and the first Spanish capital is

trader o Gruber dies ornada del after fleeing andia Pueblo cruelties of the Inquisition.	On August 10th, nearly two dozen pueblos and their allies revolt over the Spanish practices of extracting payments, forcing conversion to Catholicism, and brutally suppressing native religion. The	The Spanish return to New Mexico and begin rebuildi missions and settlements.
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camp in paraje of is settled in the	San Elizario is established as a military presidio to protect citizens of El Paso del Norte from Apache attacks.	US Lieutenant Zebulon Pike illegally enters Spanish territory while exploring the West. Pike is captured and taken down El Camino Real to Mexico City.	Me ind Spa Tra arr bec pan Cal Ad kne
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New Mexico becomes an incorporated, organized territory of the US on September 9.	American-Mexican border is redefined through the Gadsden Purchase, which for 10 million dollars brought nearly 19 million acres of land between Texas and California into American hands.	Battle of Valverde the first major battle of the Civil War in the Southwest, takes place north of Fort Craig in February
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ay	New Mexico achieves statehood; State Highway 1 incorporates many sections of El Camino Real.	US Route 66 is built over parts of El Camino Real in central New Mexico, including the steep descent known as La Bajada.	New Mexico's roadside historic markers begin to trail's history. In 1992 many of the 82 El Camino Real markers are installed as part of the Columbus Quincentenary
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the pueblos regained their homeland for 12 years.

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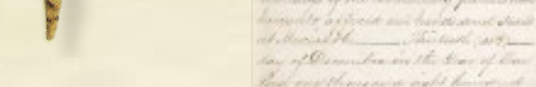
his body shall be rephise and the
question interrogations shall be answered
the king of the kingdom in this blood
of the ^{king} ^{of the} ^{kingdom} ⁱⁿ ^{this} ^{blood}



Palace of the Governors, Hyderabad, India



El Rancho de las Golondrinas
Today a living history museum dedicated to telling New Mexico Hispanic lifeways, 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



Signature page
from the Gadsden
Purchase treaty,
1853.

Source: Treaty Series #208



George C. Bennett
(NMHM/DCA), 0



December 30, 1853;
General Records of the U.S.
Government, Record Group
11; National Archives,
Washington DC.



El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

IMPORTANT TRIP PLANNING INFORMATION

The red and white dashed line on the map shows a historic route, rather than an actual visible trail that can be followed as a hiking trail. The map highlights historic sites and communities that can be visited, along with trailheads that provide access to segments of the original route that can be followed.

THE FIRST CAPITAL

In 1598 Juan de Oñate's original colonizing party arrived at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, named San Juan de Los Caballeros by the Spaniards. By the winter of 1599, the colony had moved to an outlying pueblo, Yunge, which they renamed San Gabriel. About 10 years later, 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 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 Río Grande is New Mexico's major river. Its valley stretches the full length of the state and provides the best agricultural land, the most extensive wetlands and wildlife, and is the state's major travel corridor. Known to Tewa Pueblo people 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 international border between Mexico and the United States from El Paso downriver to the Gulf of Mexico.

THE CIVIL WAR IN NEW MEXICO

Confederate troops marched into New Mexico Territory along the Camino Real 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 stretches on El Camino Real that the Spanish called *jornadas*. The dead man of this 80-mile, two-day trek, was Bernardo Gruber, who died on the *jornada* while fleeing the Holy Office of the Inquisition in 1670. Today the Point of Rocks trail leads to a viewpoint overlooking the historic route and the Yost Escarpment trail connects with one of the most isolated stretches of the original route.

PARAJES

The caravans made camps, known as *parajes*, every 20 miles or so on the journey from northern Mexico to northern New Mexico. These simple campsites served travelers for centuries. Some became the cities of today such as Albuquerque and Socorro.

PRESIDIOS AND FORTS

The Spaniards 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 Ciudad Juárez, and the Presidio de Santa Fe protected the capital and northern New Mexico. After 1846 the Americans developed their own military system of posts along the trail.

NEW MEXICO

TEXAS

MEXICO



The historic route of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, showing three-quarters of the route located in Mexico. The Act establishing the national historic trail directs the U.S. to coordinate with counterparts in Mexico to establish an international trail with complementary preservation and education programs in each nation.

Trailheads

Parajes, Presidios, and Historic Communities

Pueblos

Sites of Interest

State Capital

Modern Cities and Towns

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

Interstate

Paved Roads

Rio Grande

North



0 15 30 Miles

0 15 30 Km

Visiting the Trail Today

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail runs through the heart of the Río 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 nonprofit heritage conservation groups, the Indian tribes and pueblos—whose ancestors met the first Spanish colonists—as well as state, county, and municipal governmental agencies, private landowners, 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.



For More Information

Trail Administrators

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www.blm.gov/nm

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