

# El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail



New Mexico, Texas

## *Travel the Royal Road*



The Royal Road at the Jornada del Muerto in New Mexico.

Blazed atop a network of footpaths that tied Mexico's ancient cultures with the equally ancient cultures of the interior West, Don Juan de Oñate took the first Spanish colonists in 1598 along what became "The Royal Road of the Interior Lands." El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro began in Mexico City and continued to Ohkay Owinge Pueblo, north of present-day Santa Fe, New Mexico. As a royal road, it brought priests, soldiers, traders, settlers, and officials to Spain's northern frontier—today's New Mexico.

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.

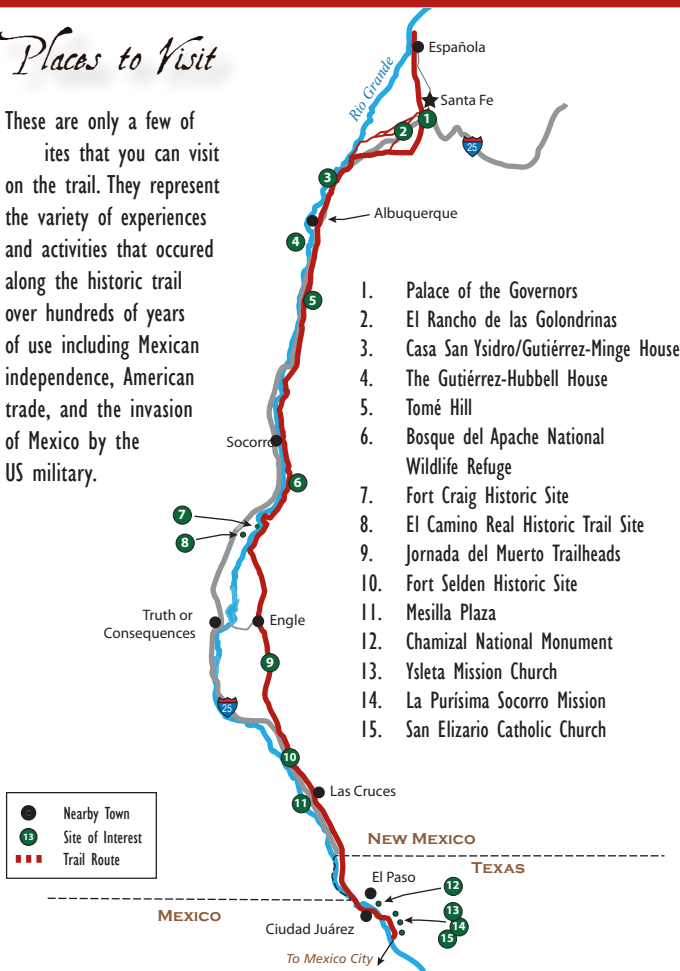
You can follow in their footsteps...

El Rancho de las Golondrinas, New Mexico



# Places to Visit

These are only a few of the sites that you can visit on the trail. They represent the variety of experiences and activities that occurred along the historic trail over hundreds of years of use including Mexican independence, American trade, and the invasion of Mexico by the US military.



El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail runs through the heart of the Rio Grande Valley. Established by Congress in 2001, it is co-administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, who work with partners to foster trail preservation and public use. Trail sites are in private, municipal, tribal, federal or state ownership.

Bureau of Land Management  
[www.blm.gov/nm](http://www.blm.gov/nm)

National Park Service  
National Trails Intermountain Region  
[www.nps.gov/elca](http://www.nps.gov/elca)

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro  
Trail Association  
[www.caminorealcarta.org](http://www.caminorealcarta.org)



Look for signs like these to retrace the Royal Road.



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