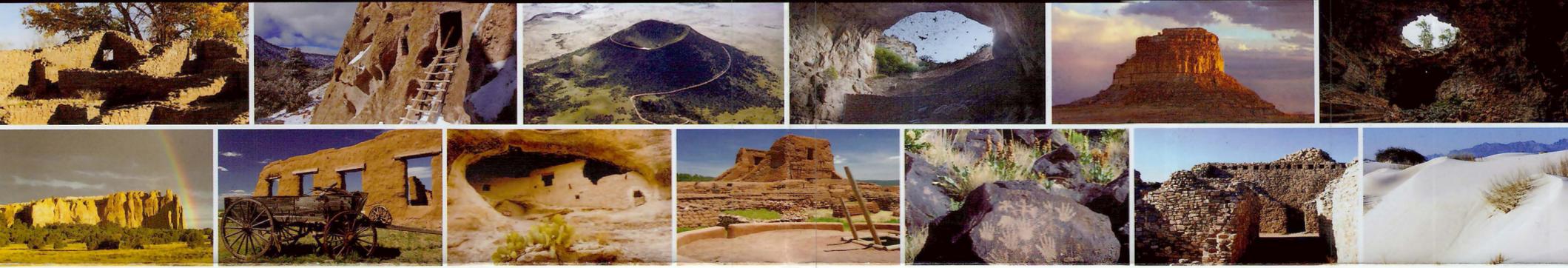


Experience New Mexico's National Parks

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Experience New Mexico's National Parks

New Mexico's 13 national park areas, three national historic trails, and a nationally recognized corridor, are part of a system of more than 400 national park units administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the American people. The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

New Mexico's national parks differ dramatically from one another in terms of topography, resources, and impact. For instance, Carlsbad Caverns National Park features 119 known caves, including Lechuguilla Cave—at 1,604 feet (489m) deep, America's deepest limestone cave, and also its third longest. World-Heritage-class Chaco Culture National Historical Park preserves a major center of prehistoric Ancestral Puebloan culture that flourished in Chaco Canyon and its vicinity between A.D. 850 and 1250. For more than 250 years, the soaring cliffs of El Morro, rising 200 feet above the ancient Zuni Trail, beckoned travelers seeking rest and shelter. Through the centuries, Spanish and American passers-by carved their names and a record of their deeds into the soft sandstone walls. The result is more than 2,000 inscriptions—a remarkable history book in stone! Today, this site is known as El Morro National Monument.

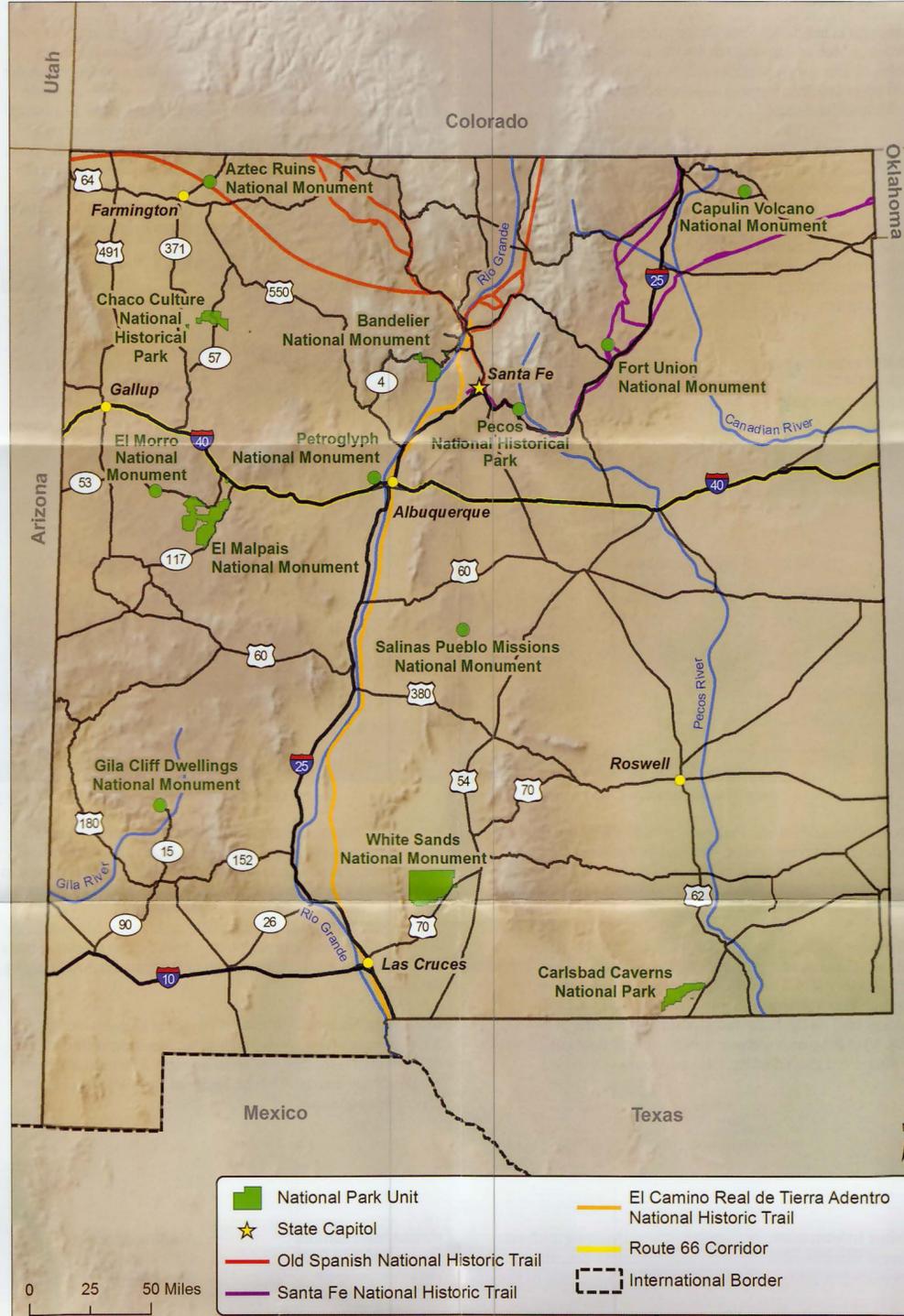
Rich in natural and human history, New Mexico's diverse national parks await exploration today, and we invite you to take time to discover their enchantment, enjoy their spectacular scenery, and take advantage of their countless opportunities for enjoyment, education and recreation.

The Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1) The Evolution Of The U.S. National Park System

The National Park Service was created in the Organic Act of 1916, and directs the National Park Service:

"[T]o conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

Celebrating 100 Years Of Service

The National Park Service celebrates its 100th anniversary in August 2016! This is a tremendous opportunity to re-introduce our visitors to national parks and programs and the work that the National Park Service supports every day to help communities throughout our nation.

In our second century, the National Park Service will increase our outreach to visitors in a variety of ways to communicate new opportunities for stewardship and for individuals to build connections with national parks and all the National Park Service does.

As part of the Centennial Campaign, the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation, and other partners invite every visitor to join us in celebrating our second century of stewardship. National parks belong to all of us and we hope to provide every visitor with new and exciting opportunities to volunteer and support national parks.

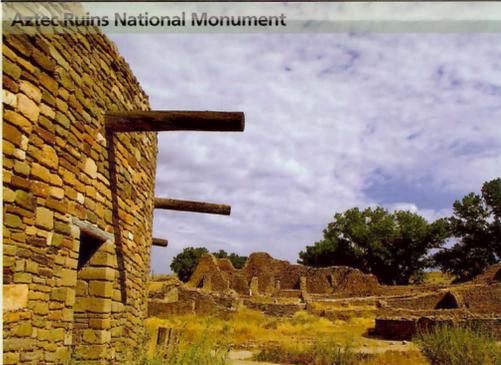
Our second century goals include:

- Improving all visitors' awareness and understanding of the many ways the National Park Service serves communities
- Increasing and deepening visitor connections with national parks while highlighting the importance of preserving America's natural, cultural, recreational resources, and history
- Offering expanded opportunities for volunteerism, and support for national parks

Through the Centennial Campaign, the National Park Service will strengthen its connections to communities and inspire the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates. America's national parks offer more than a once-in-a-lifetime amazing vacation opportunities. From unparalleled learning opportunities for children, to close-to-home hiking and biking through our Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program, to revitalized downtown areas made possible by the historic tax credit program, Americans will see how the work of the National Park Service adds value to their lives every day.

National Park Service
www.nps.gov

National Park Foundation
www.nationalparks.org



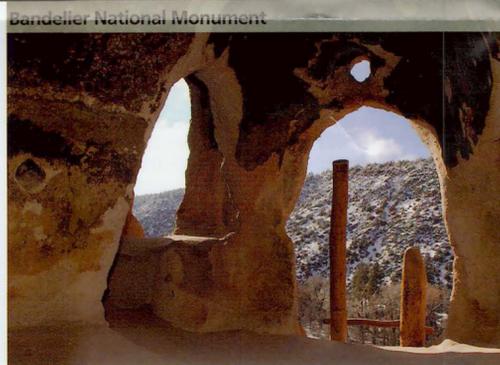
Aztec Ruins National Monument – NPS photo

Aztec Ruins, built and occupied by ancestral Pueblo people over a 200-year period, preserves an extensive, planned community. Included are several large, multi-story public "Great Houses," many smaller residential structures, ceremonial kivas, remnants of linear "roadways," and earthen berms. Thousands of well-preserved artifacts, original wood beams, and a reconstructed Great Kiva hint at the lives of the remarkable 12th and 13th-century inhabitants.

Today, Aztec Ruins National Monument connects people of the past with people and traditions of today. Many Southwestern Native American tribes maintain deep spiritual ties with the ancestral site through oral history, prayer, and ceremony. The archeological site offers visitors opportunities to learn about the community at Aztec Ruins by walking in the footsteps of its architects.

Visitor information:
Phone: 505-334-6174
www.nps.gov/azu
www.facebook.com/AztecRuinsNM

Mailing address:
84 Road 2900
Aztec, NM 87410



Bandelier National Monument – NPS photo by Sally King

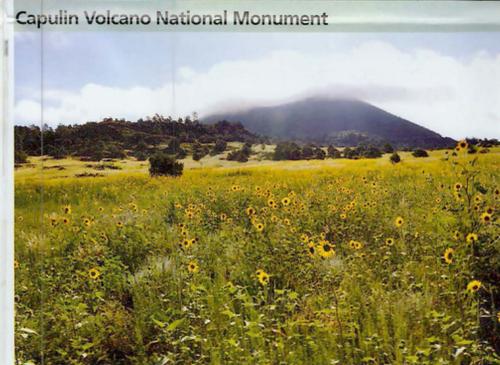
More than a million years ago, the Jemez Volcano covered hundreds of square miles with ashflows, creating a wide plateau. Erosion quickly cut sheer-walled canyons into the plateau, resulting in Bandelier's spectacular canyon-and-mesa landscape. With elevations ranging from 5,000 feet at the Rio Grande to 10,000 feet at the volcano's rim, the park is home to a great variety of plants and animals.

For thousands of years hunter-gatherer groups lived here, and from the mid-1100s to the mid-1500s it was home to Ancestral Pueblo people. After many generations they moved on, settling along the Rio Grande. Present-day Pueblo people hold a close connection to this area.

Bandelier National Monument includes more than 23,000 acres of designated wilderness, with 70 miles of trails. It was named for Adolph Bandelier, a pioneering anthropologist who first studied the area in 1880.

Visitor information:
Phone: 505-672-3861 ext. 517
www.nps.gov/band

Mailing address:
15 Entrance Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544



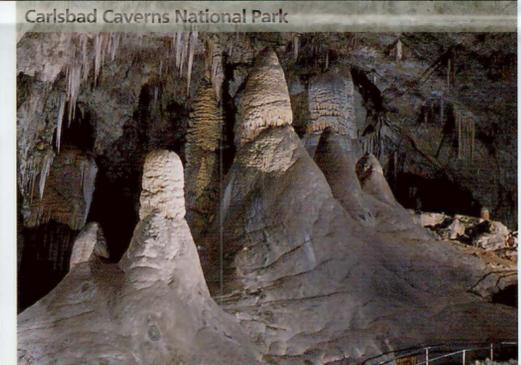
Capulin Volcano National Monument – NPS photo

Born of fire and forces continually reshaping the earth's surface, Capulin Volcano National Monument provides access to some of nature's most awe-inspiring work. Situated in the heart of the 8,000 square mile Raton-Clayton Volcanic Field, Capulin Volcano rises more than 1,200 feet above the shortgrass prairie. A two-mile paved road winds to the crater's rim, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding lava flows and distant landscape covering four states.

Although Capulin is primarily known for its volcanic geology, the park boasts a rich diversity of plant and animal life. The grasslands of the Great Plains and the forests of the Rocky Mountains meet at Capulin Volcano to form a unique ecotone which provides habitat for a variety of birds, in addition to numerous other animals. Mule deer can be found in abundance both at the base of the volcano and on its slopes, while elk, black bears, foxes, and mountain lions occasionally make appearances within park boundaries.

Visitor information:
Phone: 575-278-2201
www.nps.gov/cavo
www.facebook.com/CapulinVolcanoNM

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 40
Des Moines, NM 88418



Carlsbad Caverns National Park – NPS photo

Established to preserve Carlsbad Cavern and numerous other caves within a Permian-age fossil reef, Carlsbad Caverns National Park contains 119 known caves, including Lechuguilla Cave—the nation's deepest limestone cave, at 1,604 feet (489m) and its third longest. The Big Room of Carlsbad Cavern is one of the world's largest and most accessible underground chambers.

Carlsbad Cavern is also a sanctuary for several hundred-thousand Mexican (Brazilian) free-tailed bats. During the day, they crowd together on the ceiling of Bat Cave, where they can be seen by only a few scientific researchers. At nightfall, however, the bats leave the cave in gigantic swarms from May through October. Silhouetted against the night sky like a dark, swift-moving cloud, the bats make their most dramatic display. These free-tailed bats are extraordinary creatures, and are only one of 16 bat species that have been found in the park.

Visitor information:
575-785-2232
www.nps.gov/cave

Mailing address:
3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220



Chaco Culture National Historical Park



Chaco Culture National Historical Park – Photo credit: Jacob W. Frank / JWFrank.com

Chaco Culture National Historical Park preserves one of America's most significant and fascinating cultural and historic areas. Chaco Canyon was a major center of Ancestral Puebloan culture between A.D. 850 and 1250. It was a hub of ceremony, trade, and administration for the entire prehistoric Four Corners area—unlike anything before or since.

Chaco is remarkable for its monumental public and ceremonial buildings, and its distinctive architecture. The Chacoan people ingeniously combined pre-planned architectural designs, astronomical alignments, geometry, landscaping, and engineering to create an ancient center of spectacular public architecture—one that continues to amaze and inspire us a thousand years later. Remote and isolated, Chaco offers few amenities, so come prepared. You will find that the rewards are unlimited.

Visitor information:
Phone: 505-786-7014 ext. 221
www.nps.gov/chcu

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 220
Nageezi, NM 87037

El Malpais National Monument



El Malpais National Monument – Photo credit: Jacob W. Frank / JWFrank.com

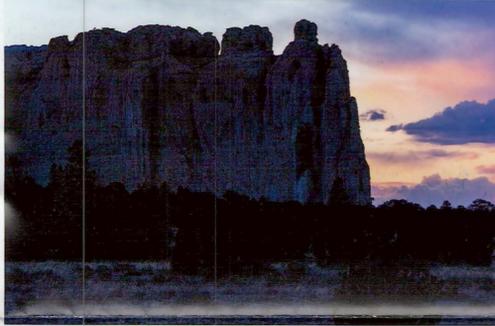
Although el malpais is Spanish for “badlands,” El Malpais National Monument holds many wonderful surprises. Lava flows, cinder cones, pressure ridges, complex lava tube systems, and other volcanic features dominate the mysterious and rugged El Malpais landscape.

For more than 10,000 years, people have interacted with the El Malpais landscape. Historic and archeological sites provide reminders of the past. More than mere artifacts, these cultural resources are kept alive by the spiritual and physical presence of contemporary Indian groups, including the Puebloan peoples of Acoma, Laguna and Zuni, and also the Ramah Navajo. These tribes continue their ancestral uses of El Malpais, including gathering herbs and medicines, paying respect, and renewing ties.

Visitor information:
505-783-4774
www.nps.gov/elma

Mailing address:
123 E. Roosevelt
Grants, NM 87020

El Morro National Monument



El Morro National Monument – Photo credit: Jacob W. Frank / JWFrank.com

El Morro National Monument is a fascinating mixture of both human and natural history. Rising 200 feet above the valley floor, this massive sandstone bluff was a welcome landmark for weary travelers. A reliable waterhole hidden at its base made El Morro (or Inscription Rock) a popular campsite. Beginning in the late 1500s, Spanish, and later, Americans passed by El Morro. While they rested in its shade and drank from the pool, many carved their signatures, dates, and messages. Before the Spanish, petroglyphs were inscribed by Ancestral Puebloans living on top of the bluff more than 700 years ago. The softness of the sandstone made it easy to carve pictures, names, dates and messages.

Today, El Morro National Monument protects more than 2,000 inscriptions and petroglyphs, as well as Ancestral Puebloan ruins.

Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-783-4226
www.nps.gov/elmo

Mailing address:
HC61, Box 43
Ramah, NM 87321

Fort Union National Monument



Fort Union National Monument – Photo credit: Jeff Shearer

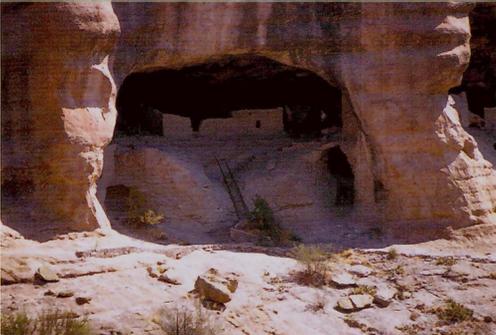
Fort Union was established in 1851 as a guardian and protector of the Santa Fe Trail. During its 40-year history, three different forts were constructed in close proximity. The third and final Fort Union was the largest in the American Southwest and functioned as a military garrison, territorial arsenal, and military supply depot. Constant military conflict and continuous cultural exchange made the region legendary in American folklore. As a military post established to protect travel and settlement, Fort Union witnessed many fascinating events in the course of western American history.

Today, the remnants of Fort Union stand in testimony to the American frontier experience. Visitors to Fort Union National Monument use a self-guiding tour to explore the second Fort Union and the large, impressive remnants of the third Fort Union.

Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-425-8025
www.nps.gov/foun
www.facebook.com/FortUnionNM

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 127
Watrous, NM 87753

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument



Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument – NPS photo

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument offers a glimpse into the homes and lives of the people of the Mogollon culture who lived in the Gila Wilderness from the 1280s through the early 1300s. Today, the monument surroundings probably look very much like they did when the cliff dwellings were inhabited.

The monument is surrounded by the Gila National Forest, and lies in the middle of the Gila Wilderness, the nation's first designated wilderness area. This designation means that the wilderness character of the area will not be altered by the intrusion of roads or other evidence of human presence.

Visitor Information:
Phone: 575-536-9461
www.nps.gov/gicl

Mailing address:
HC68, Box 100
Silver City, NM 88061

Pecos National Historical Park



Pecos National Historical Park – Photo credit: Jeff Shearer

Pecos National Historic Park preserves 12,000 years of history, including the ancient Pecos Pueblo, two Spanish Colonial Missions, Santa Fe Trail sites, the 20th century ranch history of the Forked Lightning Ranch, pre-1937 Route 66 corridor, and the site of the Civil War Battle of Glorieta Pass.

The Pecos National Historical Park visitor center contains exhibits (English and Spanish), park store sales, and a 10-minute introductory film. The park has a 1.25 mile self-guiding trail through Pecos pueblo and mission ruins, and a 2.25 mile self-guiding trail on the hallowed ground of the Battle of Glorieta Pass. Visit the park's website (nps.gov/peco) for a complete list of ranger-led guided walks, talks and tours.

Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-757-7241
www.nps.gov/peco

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 418
Pecos, NM 87552

Petroglyph National Monument



Petroglyph National Monument – Photo credit: Jeff Shearer

Petroglyph National Monument protects a variety of cultural and natural resources, including five volcanic cones, hundreds of archeological sites, and an estimated 20,000 images carved in rock by native peoples and early Spanish settlers. These images, and associated archeological sites provide glimpses into a 12,000-year-long story of human life in this area. Many images are recognizable as animals, people, brands, and crosses; others are more complex, their meanings possibly understood only by the carver.

Petroglyph National Monument stretches 17 miles along Albuquerque's West Mesa—a volcanic basalt escarpment that dominates the city's western horizon. The monument is cooperatively managed by the National Park Service and the City of Albuquerque.

Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-899-0205
www.nps.gov/petr

Mailing address:
6001 Unser Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument



Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument – NPS photo

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument preserves and interprets some of the best examples of Spanish Franciscan mission churches and conventos of the 1600s remaining in the United States.

Centuries ago, thriving trade communities of Tiwa and Tompiro speaking Puebloans inhabited this remote frontier area of central New Mexico. Early in the 17th-century Spanish Franciscans found the area suitable for their missionary efforts. However, by the late 1670s the entire Salinas District, as the Spanish had named it, was depopulated of both Puebloans and Spaniards.

What remains today are austere yet beautiful reminders of this earliest contact between Pueblo Indians and Spanish Colonials: the ruins of three mission churches, at Quarai, Abó, and Gran Quivira and the partially excavated pueblo of Las Humanas or, as it is known today, the Gran Quivira pueblo.

Visitor Information:
505-847-2585
www.nps.gov/sapu

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 517
Mountainair, NM 87036

White Sands National Monument



White Sands National Monument – Photo credit: Jacob W. Frank / JWFrank.com

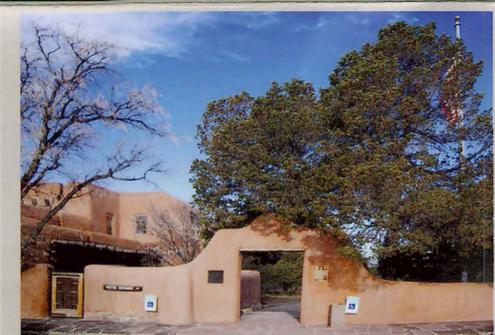
At the northern end of the Chihuahuan Desert lies a mountain-ringed valley called the Tularosa Basin. Rising from the heart of this basin is one of the world's great natural wonders—the glistening sands of New Mexico's White Sands National Monument.

Here, great wave-like dunes of gypsum sand have engulfed 275 square miles of desert creating the world's largest gypsum dunefield. The brilliant white dunes are ever changing—growing, cresting, slumping and always advancing. Slowly and relentlessly, the sand, driven by strong southwest winds, covers everything in its path. Within the extremely harsh environment of the dunefield tenacious plants and animals have adapted to this relentless land. A few species of plants grow rapidly enough to survive burial by moving dunes; others grow tall to rise above the advancing dunes. Several small animals, including lizards and rodents, have evolved a white coloration that camouflages them in the snow white gypsum sand.

Visitor information:
Phone: 575-479-6124
www.nps.gov/whsa

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 1086
Holloman AFB, NM 88330

Also in New Mexico: Old Santa Fe Trail Building, National Historic Trails and Route 66 Preservation Corridor Program



Old Santa Fe Trail Building – NPS photo

Old Santa Fe Trail Building National Historic Landmark

A masterpiece of Spanish-Pueblo-Revival architecture, and, at 24,000 square-feet, possibly the largest known adobe office building in the United States, the Old Santa Fe Trail Building is a result of the inspiration and labors of countless dedicated people. In 1987, it was named a National Historic Landmark, the nation's highest historical designation.

The Old Santa Fe Trail Building was constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps workers in the late 1930s, specifically to house National Park Service (NPS) offices. Along with its unique style of architecture and outstanding collections of art, furnishings, and fixtures, this building stands as a monument to, and a source of civic pride for, Civilian Conservation Corps alumni. It is a keystone in the administrative history of the National Park Service, and has been the site of many important decisions in NPS history. Today, approximately 75 NPS employees occupy this magnificent structure and continue to direct their energies toward various facets of park management within the Intermountain Region.

Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-988-6888

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87504

The National Trails System is a network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968.

Staff with the National Trails Intermountain Region in Santa Fe, administers the Santa Fe, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, and the Old Spanish National Historic Trails that traverse New Mexico. The trails are administered in partnership with American Indian tribes, federal, state and local agencies, non-governmental organizations and private landowners.

Santa Fe National Historic Trail



From 1821 to 1846, the Santa Fe Trail was an international highway used by American and Mexican traders. When the Mexican-American War ended and New Mexico Territory was added to the United States, the trail became a national road for commercial and military freight, stagecoach travel, emigration, mail service and thousands of gold seekers heading to California and Colorado gold fields. It was replaced over time by the westward expanding railroad, which reached Santa Fe in 1880. Congress designated the route a national historic trail in 1987.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail



El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (Royal Road of the Interior) National Historic Trail recognizes the primary route used for 300 years by travelers between Mexico City and provincial capitals in New Mexico. It is a timeless route of trade, cultural exchange, and interaction that still affects settlement and development in the greater American Southwest. This national historic trail extends 404 miles from El Paso, Texas, to San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. This trail was added to the National Trails System in 2000.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail



The Old Spanish Trail served as a major trade route from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Los Angeles, California, between 1829 and 1848. The trail began in northern New Mexico and ran some 2,700 miles, across mountains and deserts in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada, before it ended at Mission San Gabriel, on the outskirts of Los Angeles, California. American Indians, immigrants, sheep ranchers, weavers, military groups, explorers and trappers used the Old Spanish Trail during the development of the west. This trail was added to the National Trails System in 2002.

Gabriel, on the outskirts of Los Angeles, California. American Indians, immigrants, sheep ranchers, weavers, military groups, explorers and trappers used the Old Spanish Trail during the development of the west. This trail was added to the National Trails System in 2002.



Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program

Route 66 was the shortest all-weather highway between Chicago and Los Angeles. Established in 1926, the road carried emigrants from the Dust Bowl, WWII military convoys, vacationers, and others moving west to find a better life. A booming economy developed in many New Mexico towns, including gas stations, motor courts, cafes, and trading posts. The road was officially decommissioned in 1985.

In 1999, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act was passed to create a program that provides financial and technical assistance to help research and preserve the most representative and significant resources of this historic national highway.

In 1999, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act was passed to create a program that provides financial and technical assistance to help research and preserve the most representative and significant resources of this historic national highway.

Contact Information:
National Trails Intermountain Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87504

505-988-6098 (National Historic Trails)
505-988-6701 (Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program)