

The National Park Service in New Mexico



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 388 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.

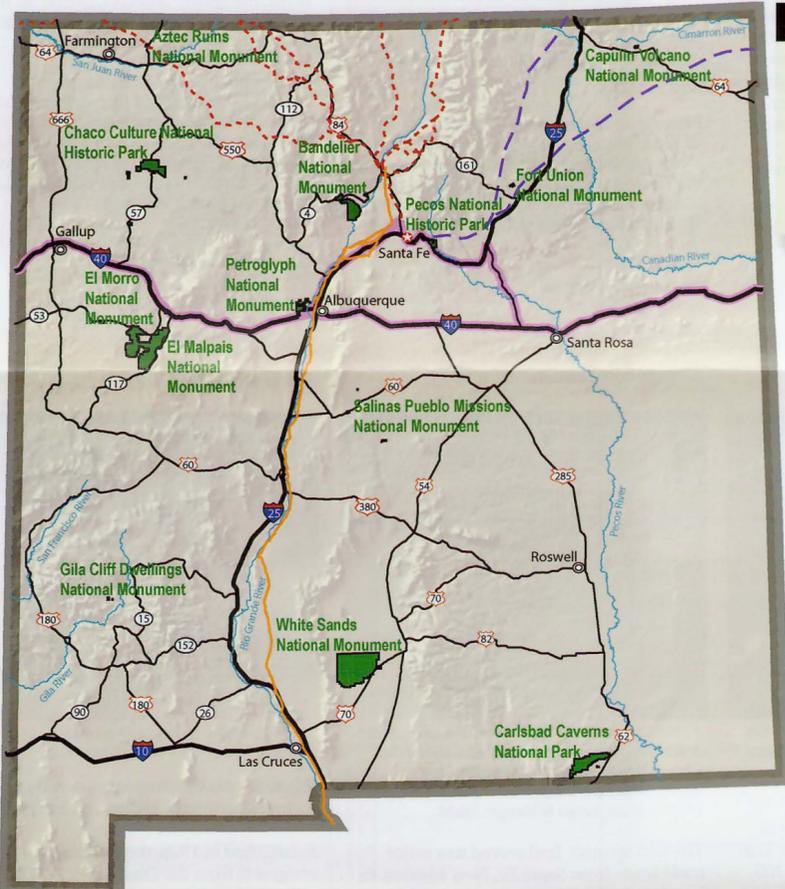
New Mexico's national park units differ dramatically from one another in terms of topography, resources, and impact. For instance, Carlsbad Caverns National Park features 110 known caves, including Lechuguilla Cave—at 1,567 feet (478m) deep, America's deepest limestone cave, and also its fourth longest. 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 National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Legend

- - - Old Spanish National Historic Trail
- - - Santa Fe National Historic Trail
- - - El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail
- - - Route 66 Corridor
- ★ State Capitol

THE ANTIQUITIES ACT, 1906 - 2006

Commemorating a Century of Preserving America's Cultural and Natural Heritage

The Antiquities Act was enacted in June 1906. This Act came about as a result of increasing concern over damage done to American Indian ancestral sites by pot hunters and vandals on public lands; mainly in the Southwestern United States, including New Mexico.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, professional archeological organizations and government officials had begun to seek a means to halt this destructive activity. However, they had no specific statutory authority by which to bring looters of archeological sites to justice.

Beginning in 1900, legislation to protect the sites and sensitive objects was introduced several times in Congress before its successful passage in 1906. Archeologist Edgar L. Hewett, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was one of the leading proponents of the Act, preparing its final wording, and energetically lobbying for its passage.

The Antiquities Act included a criminal provision outlawing pot hunting and other destructive activities of ancestral sites on the public lands, with penalties

prescribed for offenders. It provided for a federal permitting process by which all archeological research proposed on public lands would first be subject to professional review and approval by the government. The law also authorized the President of the United States to create "national monuments" on public lands deemed of special historical or scientific significance that needed permanent protection and preservation.

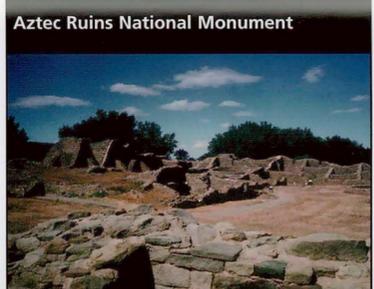
Most national monuments in America have been established by presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906, but Congress also has the authority to establish them. National monuments that have been established in New Mexico include the following (those established by Congress are marked with an asterisk): Aztec Ruins; Bandelier; Capulin Mountain (now Capulin Volcano); Carlsbad Cave (now Carlsbad Caverns National Park); Chaco Canyon (now Chaco Culture National Historical Park); El Morro; El Malpais*; Fort Union*; Gila Cliff Dwellings; Gran Quivira (now Salinas Pueblo Missions); Pecos (now Pecos National Historical Park)*; Petroglyph*; and White Sands.

THE ORGANIC ACT

The Evolution of the U.S. National Park System

Between 1906 and 1916, the number of national monuments across America was dramatically increasing—Congress needed an agency to manage them and the growing number of national park units that were being designated by individual congressional legislation. On August 25, 1916, they created an agency—the National Park Service, under the Department of the Interior, and mandated in its Organic Act that it was to "promote and regulate the use of the federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations," and was also to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the 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" (Organic Act, 16 U.S.C. 1).

Today, the National Park Service preserves 388 highly significant and unique places, and provides all Americans with countless diverse opportunities to experience, learn from, and enjoy our country's unique natural and human history—which is precisely what Congress had in mind when it established the Organic Act in 1916.



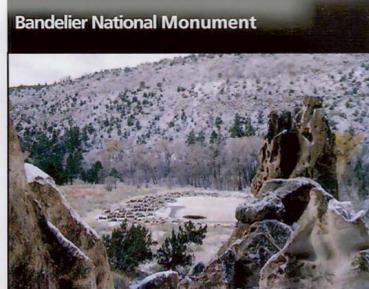
Aztec Ruins National Monument
NPS Photo

Aztec Ruins, built and occupied by Ancestral Puebloan people over a 200-year period, preserves an extended and planned community containing a variety of structures. Included are several large, multi-story public buildings ("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 these 12th and 13th-century inhabitants.

Aztec Ruins National Monument connects people of the past with people and traditions of today. Many Southwestern American Indians today maintain deep spiritual ties with this ancestral site through oral tradition, prayer, and ceremony. The site offers visitors opportunities to learn about these remarkable people and their descendants, and to forge connections with the monument's timeless landscape and stories.

Visitor information:
Phone: 505-334-6174
www.nps.gov/azru

Mailing address:
84 County Rd 2900
Aztec, NM 87410



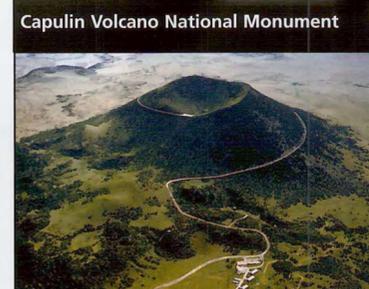
Bandelier National Monument
NPS Photo

Thirteenth-century Ancestral Puebloan dwellings dot the rugged, canyon-slashed slopes of the Pajarito Plateau. The Bandelier National Monument terrain is challenging, the scenery spectacular, with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 feet, and lush, narrow canyons that alternate with sweeping mesa-top vistas. Cliff-side dwellings reflect the will and determination of the prehistoric people who populated the area.

Bandelier also includes over 23,000 acres of designated wilderness. The best-known archeological sites, located in Frijoles Canyon near the park's visitor center, were inhabited from the A.D. 1100s into the mid-1500s, and earlier groups had already used the area for thousands of years. The park was named for Adolph Bandelier, a 19th-century anthropologist.

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

Mailing address:
15 Entrance Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544-9508



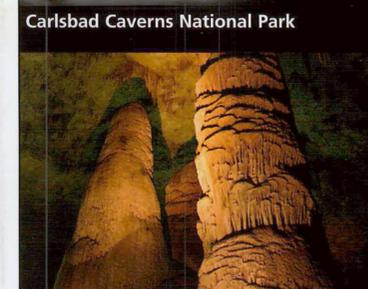
Capulin Volcano National Monument
NPS Photo

Mammoths, giant bison, and short-faced bears witnessed the first tremblings of the earth and firework-like explosions of molten rock thousands of feet into the air. Approximately 60,000 years ago, a rain of cooling cinders and four lava flows formed Capulin Volcano, a nearly perfectly shaped cinder cone rising more than 1,200 feet above the surrounding landscape. Although long extinct, Capulin Volcano is dramatic evidence of the volcanic processes that shaped northeastern New Mexico.

Today, the pine-forested volcano provides habitat for mule deer, wild turkey, and black bear. A 2-mile road spiraling to the top of the volcano and paved trails into the crater and around its rim provide opportunities to explore the volcano and enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding volcanic landscape.

Visitor information:
Phone: 505-278-2201
www.nps.gov/cavo

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 40
Capulin, NM 88414



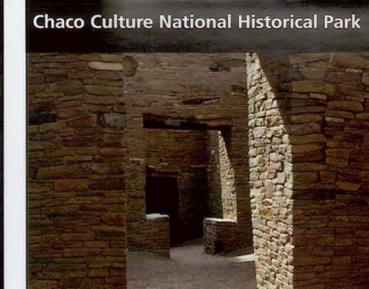
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Photo Credit: Jeff Shearear

Established to preserve Carlsbad Cavern and numerous other caves within a Permian-age fossil reef, Carlsbad Caverns National Park contains 110 known caves, including Lechuguilla Cave—the nation's deepest limestone cave, at 1,567 feet (478m) and its fourth longest. The Big Room of Carlsbad Cavern is one of the world's largest and most accessible underground chambers.

Carlsbad Cavern is a sanctuary for approximately 300,000 Mexican 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. 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:
505-785-2232
www.nps.gov/cave

Mailing address:
3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220



Chaco Culture National Historical Park
NPS Photo

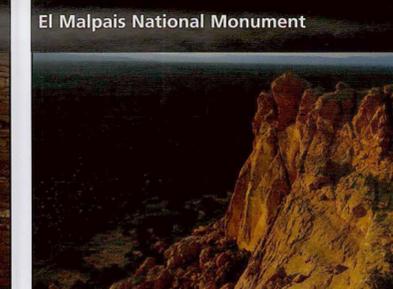
Chaco Culture National Historical Park preserves one of America's most significant and fascinating cultural and historic areas. Chaco Canyon was a major center of Ancestral Puebloan culture between A.D. 850 and 1250. It was a hub of ceremony, trade, and administration for the entire prehistoric Four 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 urban center of spectacular public architecture—one that continues to amaze and inspire us a thousand years later.

Chaco Culture National Historical Park is a very special place. Remote and isolated, it 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
Photo Credit: Jeff Shearear

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



NPS Photo

Inscription Rock in El Morro National Monument, northwestern New Mexico, bears silent witness to more than 700 years of history. Drawn here by its secluded water hole, Anasazi, Spanish, and Anglo peoples marked their passing by carving 2,000 petroglyphs and inscriptions into the sandstone bluff. Inscription Rock is a soft sandstone monolith, rising 200 feet above the valley floor.

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

Mailing address:
Route 2, Box 43
Ramah, NM 87321

Fort Union National Monument



Photo Credit: Jeff Shearear

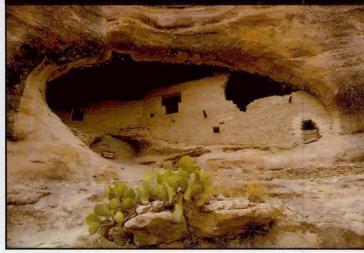
Fort Union was established in 1851 by Lieutenant Colonel Edwin V. Sumner as a guardian and protector of the Santa Fe Trail. During its 40-year history, three different forts were constructed close together. The third and final Fort Union was the largest in the American Southwest, and functioned as a military garrison, territorial arsenal, and military supply depot for the southwest.

Today, visitors to Fort Union National Monument use a self-guiding tour to visit the second Fort Union and the large, impressive ruins of the third. The largest visible network of Santa Fe Trail ruts can be seen here.

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

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

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 park surroundings probably look very much like they did when the cliff dwellings were inhabited.

The park 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: 505-536-9461
www.nps.gov/gjcl

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

Pecos National Historical Park

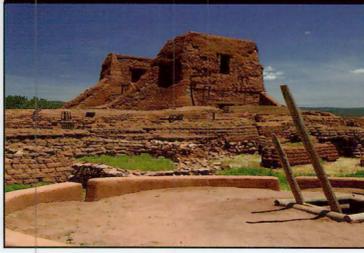


Photo Credit: Jeff Shearear

Pecos preserves 12,000 years of history, including the ancient pueblo of Pecos, two Spanish Colonial Missions, Santa Fe Trail sites, the 20th-century ranch history of Forked Lightning Ranch, and the site of the Civil War Battle of Glorieta Pass.

The Pecos National Historical Park visitor center contains exhibits (text in English and Spanish), book sales, and 10-minute introductory film available in English. The park has a 1.25 mile self-guiding trail through the Pecos pueblo and mission ruins. Guided tours are available to groups with advance reservations. Tours of the Glorieta Battlefield are also available with advance reservations.

Visitor Information:
505-757-6414
www.nps.gov/peco

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

Petroglyph National Monument



NPS Photo

This park 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



NPS Photo

Once, thriving American Indian trade communities of Tiwa and Tompiro-speaking Pueblos inhabited this remote frontier area of central New Mexico.

Early in the 17th century, Spanish Franciscans found the area ripe for their missionary efforts. However, by the late 1670s, the entire "Salinas District," as the Spaniards had named it, was depopulated of both Indians and Spaniards.

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

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

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

White Sands National Monument



NPS Photo

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 white sands of New Mexico's White Sands National Monument.

Here, great wave-like dunes of gypsum sand have engulfed 275 square miles of desert, and have created the world's largest gypsum dune field. The brilliant white dunes are ever changing: growing, cresting, then slumping -- but always advancing. Slowly but relentlessly, the sand, driven by strong southwest winds, covers everything in its path. Within the extremely harsh environment of the dune field, even plants and animals adapted to desert conditions struggle to survive. Only a few species of plants grow rapidly enough to survive burial by moving dunes, but several types of small animals have evolved a white coloration that camouflages them in the gypsum sand.

Visitor information:
Phone: 505-679-2599
www.nps.gov/whsa

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

Old Santa Fe Trail Building National Historic Landmark



NPS Photo

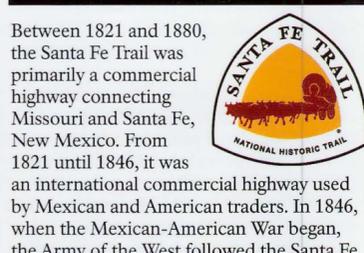
A masterpiece of Spanish-Pueblo-Revival architecture, and, at 24,000 square feet, possibly the largest known adobe office building in the United States, the Old Santa Fe Trail Building is a result of the inspiration and labors of countless dedicated people.

This National Historic Landmark 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, as from the beginning, its occupants continue to direct their energies toward various facets of park management within the region.

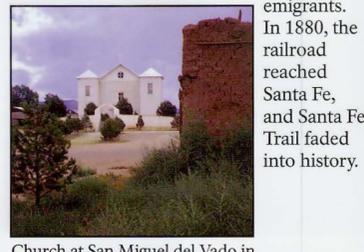
Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-988-6888

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

Santa Fe National Historic Trail



Between 1821 and 1880, the Santa Fe Trail was primarily a commercial highway connecting Missouri and Santa Fe, New Mexico. From 1821 until 1846, it was an international commercial highway used by Mexican and American traders. In 1846, when the Mexican-American War began, the Army of the West followed the Santa Fe Trail to invade New Mexico. When the Treaty of Guadalupe ended the war in 1848, the Santa Fe Trail became a national road connecting the United States to the new southwest territories. Commercial freighting along the trail continued, including considerable military freight hauling to supply southwestern forts. The trail was also used by stagecoach lines, thousands of gold seekers heading to the California and Colorado gold fields, adventurers, fur trappers, and emigrants. In 1880, the railroad reached Santa Fe, and Santa Fe Trail faded into history.

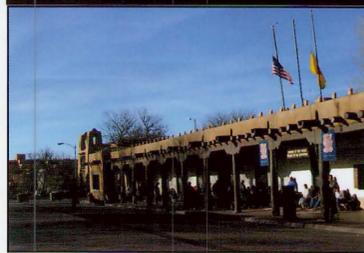


Church at San Miguel del Vado in New Mexico on the Santa Fe Trail.
NPS Photo

Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-988-6888
www.nps.gov/safe

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

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail



The Palace of the Governors, established in the early 17th century on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
Photo Credit: Sarah Schlanger, BLM

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.

Part of the National Trails System, this national historic trail extends 404 miles from El Paso, Texas, to San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. The Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service are charged with joint management of the trail.

Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-988-6888
www.nps.gov/elca
www.elcaminoareal.org

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



Old Spanish National Historic Trail



As the Old Spanish Trail leaves its starting point at Abiquiu, New Mexico, it climbs out of the Chama River Valley and begins its long stretch west to southern California.
Photo Credit: Sarah Schlanger, BLM

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.

The Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service will administer the trail after they complete a Comprehensive Management Plan with the assistance of the Old Spanish Trail Association and a variety of federal, state, tribal, and local partners.

Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-988-6888
www.nps.gov/olsp

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

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program



US Highway 66 (Central Avenue), Albuquerque, NM - NPS Photo

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.

Visitor Information:
Phone: 505-988-6888
www.cr.nps.gov/rt66

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



ENTRANCE PASS PROGRAMS

NATIONAL PARKS PASS

The National Parks Pass is an annual pass that provides admission to any national park charging an entrance fee. The pass costs \$50 and is valid for one full year from first use in a park.

The National Parks Pass can be purchased three ways: 1) in any national park where an entrance fee is charged, and at participating park book stores operated by cooperating associations; 2) by calling 1-888-GO-PARKS; 3) online at www.nationalparks.org

Questions about your National Parks Pass order? Email: parkspass@nationalparks.org, or call toll free 1-888-GOPARKS.

GOLDEN EAGLE

For an additional \$15, a Golden Eagle sticker may be purchased and affixed to a National Parks Pass to cover entrance fees at not only national parks, but also at sites managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. Golden Eagle stickers are available at National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management fee stations. The Golden Eagle hologram is valid until the expiration of the National Parks Pass to which it is affixed.

GOLDEN AGE PASSPORT

The Golden Age Passport is a lifetime admission and discount pass for citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are age 62 or older. A Golden Age Passport must be obtained in person at a federal area (National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service sites) where an entrance fee is charged. The cost of the Golden Age Passport is \$10. One must show proof of age and residency, such as a state driver's license, birth certificate, or similar document.

The Golden Age Passport provides a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for

facilities and services such as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where use fees are charged, only the pass owner will be given the 50% price reduction.

The Golden Age Passport is valid at National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service sites with admission fees.

GOLDEN ACCESS PASSPORT

The Golden Access Passport is a free, lifetime admission pass issued to U.S. citizens or persons who permanently reside (are domiciled) in the United States, regardless

of age, and who have a medical determination and documentation of blindness or permanent disability. The pass also entitles other persons accompanying the owner, such as a care assistant.

A Golden Access Passport can only be obtained in person at a federal area (National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service sites), upon proof of eligibility.

The Golden Access Passport is valid at National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service sites with admission fees.

All four passes admit the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle (any noncommercial vehicle that is being used for private recreational purposes), if a park has a per vehicle entrance fee. Where a per person entrance fee is charged, the passes admit the pass owner, spouse, children and parents.

These passes are nontransferable. The National Parks Pass, Golden Eagle and Golden Access Passports **DO NOT** cover or reduce use fees such as charges for camping, parking, tours, and concessions.

Please note: If your National Parks Pass, Golden Eagle, Golden Age, or Golden Access passport is lost or stolen there is no mechanism for replacement. A new pass must be obtained.