

# LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAY

Take a road trip through history on Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic & Historic Byway. The majestic 129-mile route is located in south-central Colorado's beautiful San Luis Valley.

Translated as "the way of the ancients", this byway follows trails created by the first hunter-gatherers, Native American tribes, and then Spanish explorers looking for land to raise families and build communities.

Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway will take you through the heart of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, where the old west spirit of honesty, adventure, and small town hospitality is still very much alive.



# WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

National Heritage Areas are places where natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources combine to create a cohesive and distinctive landscape. Congressional designation enables NHAs to receive federal funding that is leveraged by local entities to conserve, interpret and promote heritage resources.

## SANGRE DE CRISTO NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA:

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA), designated in 2009, includes more than 3,000 square miles in south-central Colorado. The SdCNHA tells the story of the peoples, culture, and environment of the lower San Luis Valley and its adjacent mountains. Stories of the SdCNHA build public awareness of the Valley's significant legacies, support the local economy through heritage tourism, and strengthen communities by facilitating local initiatives.



### Contact Us:

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National Heritage Area  
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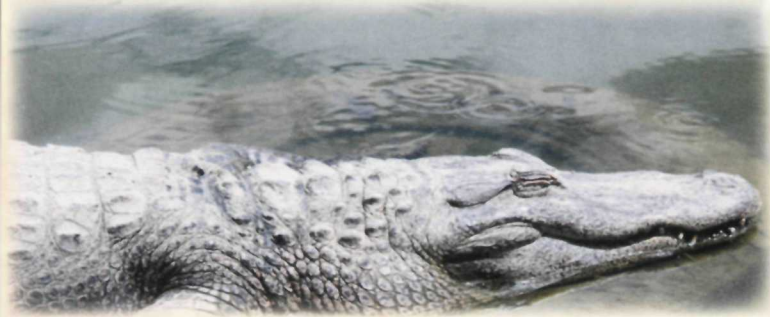
SANGRE DE CRISTO  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA  
sangreheritage.org



# SANGRE DE CRISTO NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

PROMOTE PRESERVE PROTECT





## ALAMOSA COUNTY

In 1878, Alamosa County (“alamos” Spanish word for cottonwood) was founded., two years after Colroado became a state. A narrow-gauge train loaded with expectant settlers and their belongings stopped at a protected bend in the Rio Grande shaded by a grove of cottonwoods.

### Attractions

- Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge
- Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
- Luther Bean Museum
- Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge
- San Luis Valley Museum
- Zapata Falls
- Zapata Ranch Headquarters



## CONEJOS COUNTY

Conejos County (“conejo” Spanish word for rabbit) was one of the orginial 17 counites created by the Colorado Legislature on November 1, 1861. Although it wa first called Guadalupe County it was renamed Conejos, one week later.

### Attractions

- Chili Line- historical railroad line
- Conejos County Murals
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
- Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
- Jack Dempsey Museum
- Pike’s Stockade
- Rio Grande National Forest
- Sanford Museum
- Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos(SPMDTU)



## COSTILLA COUNTY

Costilla County was settled by the ancestors of today’s families well before Colorado became a state. The first Hispano settlers brought with them a langage and culture that still exists today, four hundred years after the Spanish first arrived in the Americas.

### Attractions

- Fort Garland Museum
- Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center
- San Luis Bridge
- San Luis Cultural Murals
- San Luis de la Culebra Historic District
- Stations of the Cross Shrine and Capilla de Todos Santos
- The People’s Ditch and La Vega Commons
- Trinchera Ranch

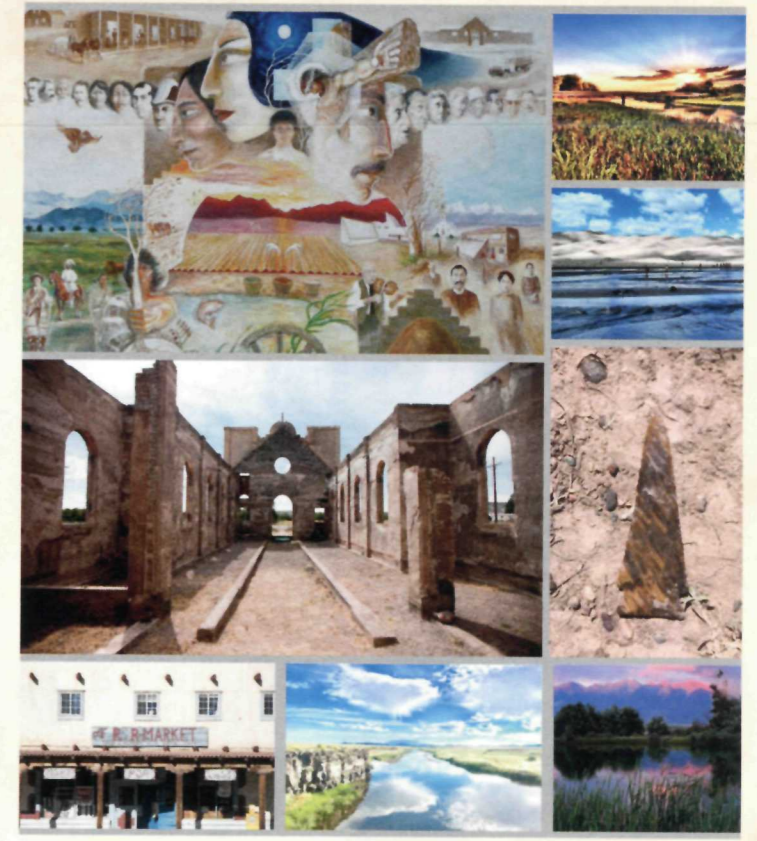


Los Caminos Antiguos  
Scenic & Historic Byway

A traveler's best route through the  
Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area



If you're interested in learning the history of the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway, download the TravelStories application to dive deeper into each location on the map.



**Itineraries**

- 4 Days to Explore the Historic San Luis Valley  
<https://www.colorado.com/byways/los-caminos-antiguos>
  - Colorado Itinerary: 3 Scenic Byways: Short Walks, Long View  
<https://grandcircle.org/itineraries/1566-colorado-itinerary-3-scenic-byways-short-walks-long-view>
  - 3 Scenic Byways: Leaf Peeping in Southern Colorado  
[https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways/assets/scenic-byways\\_leafpeepinginsouthernco.pdf](https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways/assets/scenic-byways_leafpeepinginsouthernco.pdf)
- Find more Itineraires on our website: [sangreheritage.org](http://sangreheritage.org)