

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 Rio Abajo, or lower river, and the Rio Arriba, or upper river. The dividing line was the escarpment known as *La Bajada*, north of Cochiti Pueblo.

THE RIO GRANDE

The Rio 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 Grande del Norte, or the big river of the north. The Rio 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

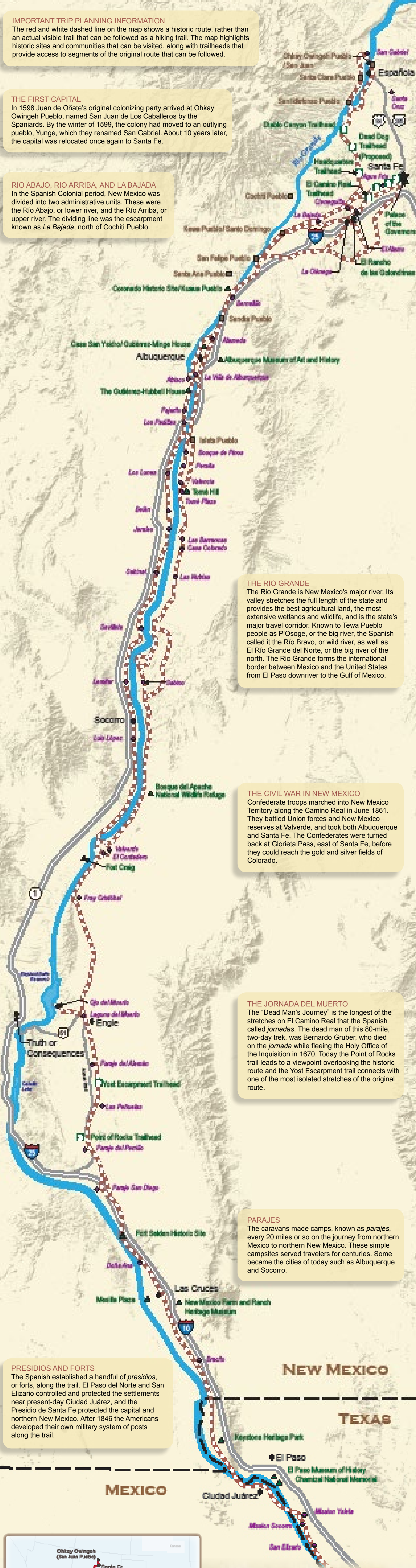
The "Dead Man's Journey" is the longest of the stretches on El Camino Real that the Spanish called *jornadas*. The dead man of this 80-mile, two-day *jornada* was Bernardo Gruber, who died on the *jornada* while fleeing the Holy Office of the Inquisition in 1670. Today the Point of Rocks trail leads 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 Spanish 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.



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.

F 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

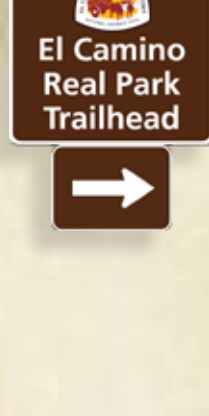
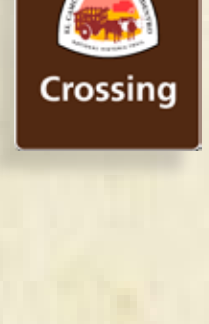
North

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 Rio 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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