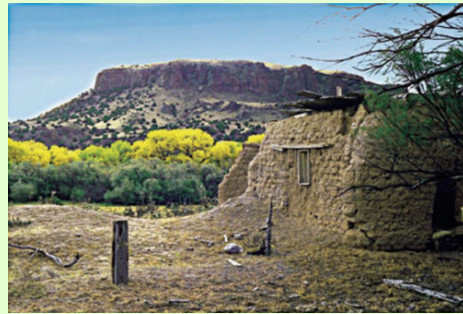


# El Camino Real

Cultures along El Camino Real De Tierra Adentro (The Royal Road of the Interior Land), are as diverse as its history and scenery. Pueblos reveal artisans crafting wares using centuries-old methods. The route, first traveled by Don Juan de Onate in 1598, provided news, supplies, and travel to the first capital of the New World.



Length: 299 miles / 478.4 km

Time to Allow: 9 hours to drive or a couple days to enjoy the byway

## Local Information

### El Camino Real International Heritage Center

575-854-3600

[Send E-mail](#)

### Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce

1-575-764-3700

[Send E-mail](#)

### New Mexico Department of Tourism

800-545-2070

575-827-7400

[Send E-mail](#)

## Visitor Services

### Fees



Special attraction and area use fees exist along the byway, but there are no fees for driving the byway itself.

### Accessibility



Visitor services in Pojoaque, and Española; all have disabled travelers accommodations to include, parking ramps and accessible restrooms. In addition, all commercial buildings are built to comply with the Uniform Building Code (UBC) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) requirements for handicap accessibility.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



El Camino Real parallels Interstate 25. This allows access for pedestrians and bicycles in most places on the frontage roads, which is the actual byway.



### **Camping**

Camping is also available along the byway. Most towns offer RV parks and tent sites, as do state parks.



### **Food**

There are places to buy food along this byway.



### **Gasoline**

Gasoline is available.



### **Information**

Each major city (Bernalillo, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Truth or Consequences, or Española) provides travelers with information about their respective areas. The Española Valley Chamber of Commerce is a valuable resource for information regarding El Camino Real and the many points of interest along and near El Camino Real. The museums on the Plaza de Española are another excellent resource for travelers. In Pojoaque Pueblo, the Po-eh Cultural Center also provides information about El Camino Real from the Native American perspective.



### **Lodging**

There is overnight lodging along this byway.



### **Phone**

Public phones are available along this byway.



### **Restrooms**

There are toilet facilities along this byway.



### **Retail**

There are places to shop along this byway.

## **Special Considerations**

As of June 1, 2009, all travelers entering the United States (including U.S. citizens) are required to present a passport or other accepted form of documentation. For more information, visit the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol website.

The weather in the Santa Fe area is warm in the summer but cold in the winter due to higher elevations. During the winter, there are frequent snowstorms. An especially dangerous area during a snowstorm is *La Bajada*, located south of Santa Fe en route to Albuquerque.

Potential winter travelers should check the weather forecast for the state prior to making final plans. Snowstorms usually occur from November through February, and mild winters are very infrequent. As you travel further south and the elevation decreases, the temperature increases on a year-round trend. With the exception of possible bad weather conditions, the roads are open and in good condition all year.

### **Seasons**

#### Best Time to Drive

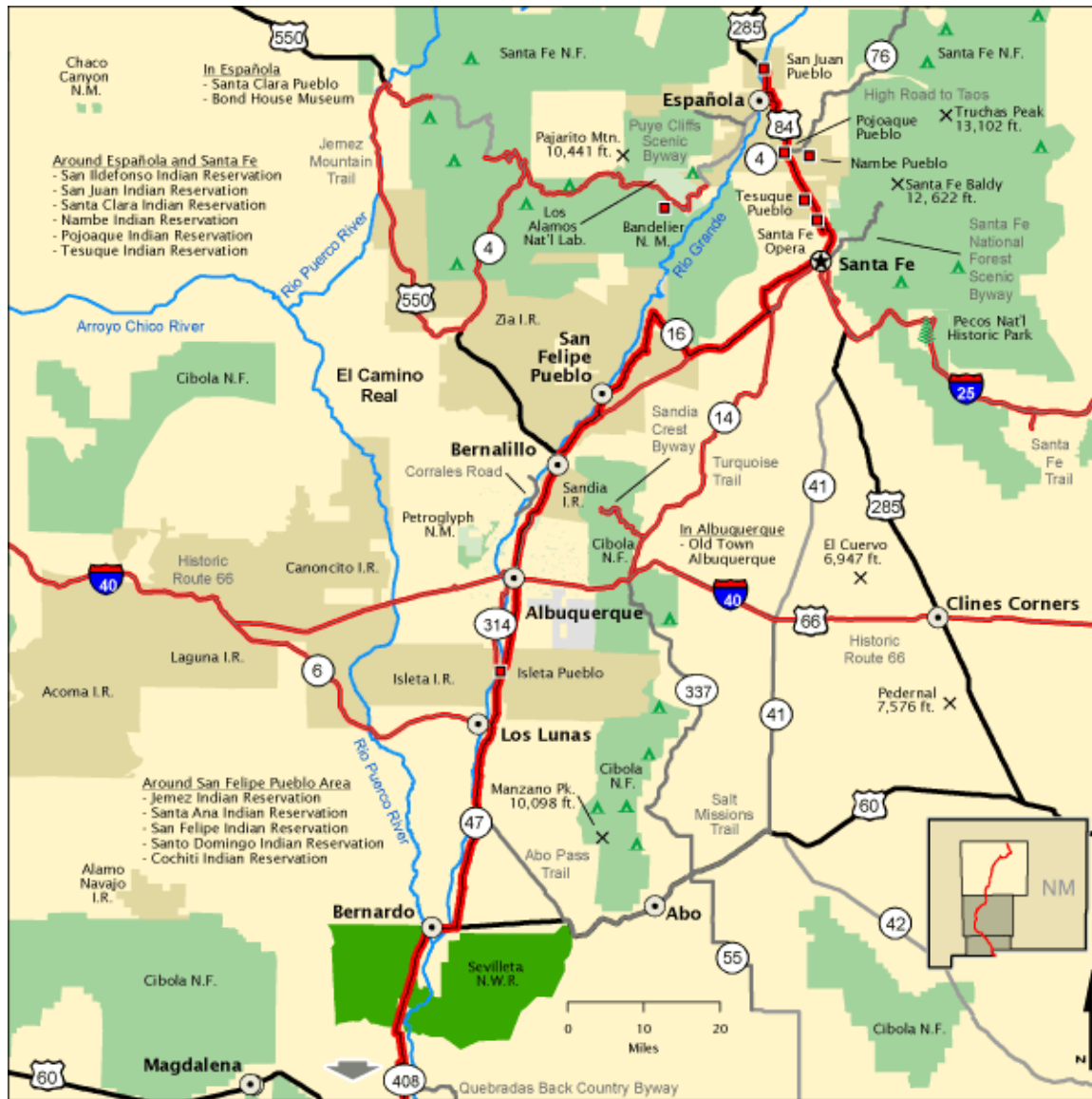
During the Christmas season, villages and pueblos along El Camino come alive with traditional ceremonies and decorations found nowhere else in the U.S.

#### High Season

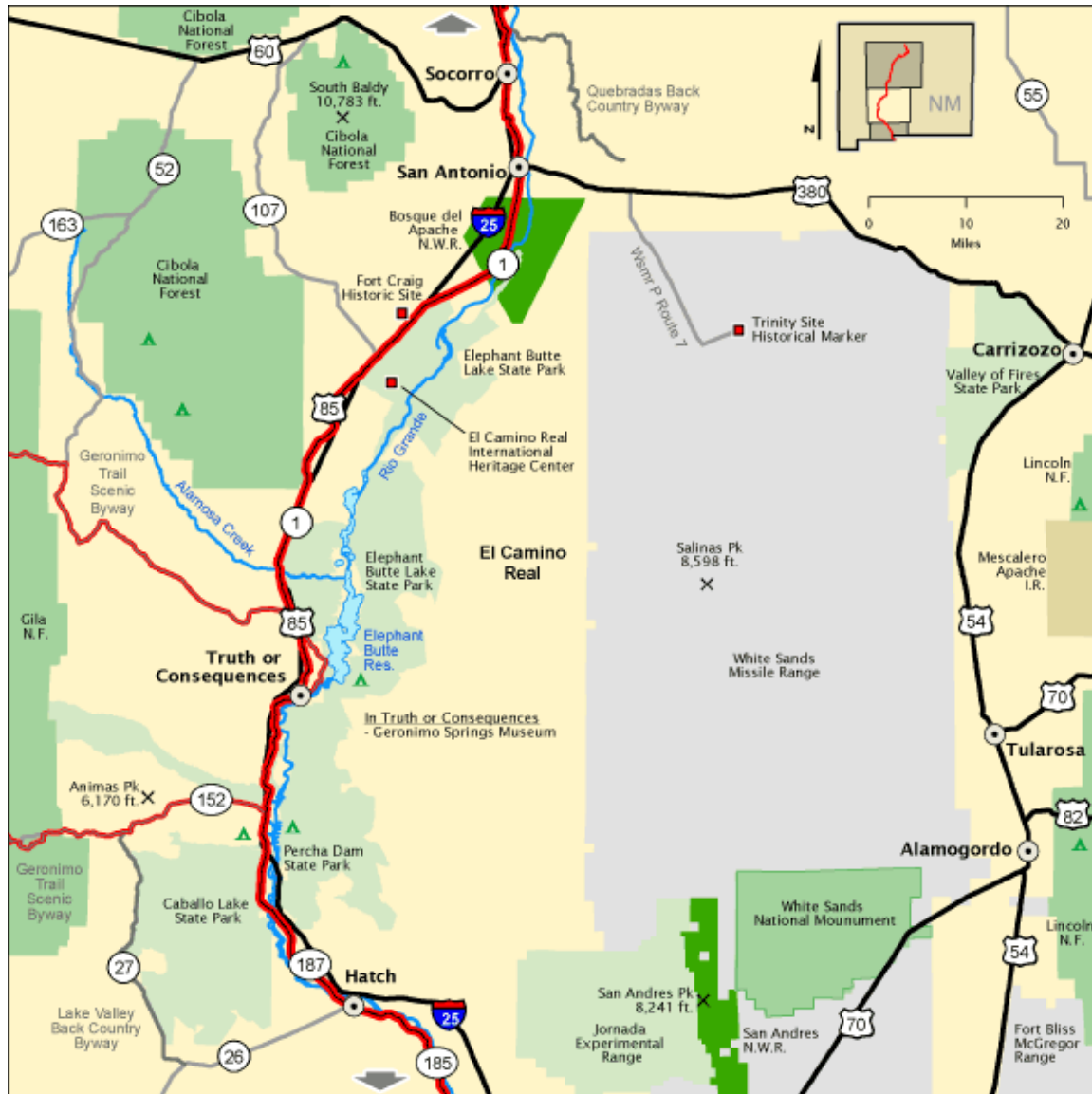
Travelers may encounter heavy traffic during June and July which is the time of several Pueblo feast days, Española Fiesta and 8 Northern Pueblos Art Show.

# Map and Directions

## Standard Map - Northern Section



### Standard Map - Middle Section



## Standard Map - Southern Section



### Legend:

■ Point of Interest	▲ Campground	▬ Featured Byway	🌊 Water	🇺🇸 State Border
🌲 Park	⛺ Picnic/Rest Area	▬ America's Byways	🌿 Wildlife Refuge	🏙 Urban Area
ⓧ Mountain	🛣️ Interstate	▬ Other Byway	🌲 Wilderness Area	🏠 Tribal Nation
🏙 City	🛣️ U.S. Highway	▬ Other Road	🌲 Other Federal Lands	🏢 Military Base
★ Capital	🛣️ State Highway	⋯ Trail	🌲 Other State Lands	

### Driving Directions

The byway can be easily accessed from I-25 near Santa Fe to Anthony, New Mexico.

- Beginning at the San Juan Pueblo (north of Santa Fe), take NM-291/NM-74 to NM-68. Travel south on NM-68.
- Turn east onto Fairview Lane and drive for approximately 1 mile.
- At the intersection of McCurdy Road (NM-583) and Fairview Lane, go south for approximately 1.5 miles.

- At the junction with NM-76, go west until the junction with NM-106 (approximately 0.5 miles), then continue south.
- After about 7 miles, past Pojoaque Pueblo, take US 84/285 south for 25 miles into Santa Fe.
- From US 84/285, exit to Guadalupe Street.
- From Guadalupe Street, turn left on to W San Francisco St, right onto Don Gaspar Ave, right on W Alameda St, and then left on Agua Fria St/NM-22/NM-588.
- Continue southwest until the junction with NM-284.
- Take NM-284 until turning right onto E I-25 Frontage Rd.
- From E I-25 Frontage Rd., take on ramp to I-25/US Hwy 85.
- Exit on to NM-16.
- Follow NM-16 and exit on to NM-22 going south.
- From NM-22, exit on to Indn Service Route 88 going west.
- Exit on to Indn Service Route 84 and follow road to NM-313.
- Take NM-313 through Bernalillo.
- Follow NM-313 as it turns into 4th St NW/NM 47 near Albuquerque.
- Take 4th St NW south.
- Follow road and make a right on Marquette Ave NW, a left on 5th St NW, a left on to Central Ave SW, and a right back on to NM-313/4th St SW.
- Continue on route and exit on to NM-314 going west.
- Continue south on route as it turns into Isleta Blvd.
- Follow road and exit onto NM-147.
- Follow NM-147 until you get on to NM-47 near Isleta Village Proper.
- Continue on NM-47 until the NM-304 exit near Belen.
- Stay on NM-304 until US 60, and then take US 60 west to Bernardo.
- In Bernardo, get on I-25 and head towards Alamillo and San Acacia.
- Exit on to Alamillo Rd and turn right on to I-25 Frontage Rd.
- Follow I-25 Frontage Rd and then exit to NM-408.
- Follow NM-408 and take on ramp to I-25 going south at Escondida.
- Drive to California St/US Hwy 60 and follow road to State Hwy 1.
- Follow State Hwy 1 to on ramp for I-25.
- Follow I-25 south to off ramp to NM-181.
- Follow NM-181 to Truth or Consequences where you will get on Date Street.
- Follow this street to Main Street, and then go to Broadway.
- Follow Broadway to Williamsburg.
- Take NM-187 from Williamsburg to Hatch, and then take NM-185 from Hatch to Las Cruces.
- Next, take NM-188 (Valley Drive) to Avenida de Mesilla, and follow this street to Mesilla.
- Take NM-28 from Mesilla to Canutillo, and then take NM-273 from Canutillo to New Mexico/Texas border.

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## Getting to the Byway

### Santa Fe, NM to El Camino Real

- In Santa Fe the byway runs along St. Francis Dr. and south along I-25.

## Road Trip: The Española Experience

**Departure:** Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico

**Destination:** Bond House Museum, New Mexico

**Time to allow:** 1 day

The Española Experience tells the story of this segment of El Camino Real. You will learn of the Anasazi (ancient ones), the first settlers of the Española Valley. Next, you will learn the story of Don Juan de Oñate and how he led a group of intrepid colonists who settled New Mexico in 1598. You will also learn of the Anglo influence and how it changed the entire Española Valley.

### Day 1

- **Start: Santa Clara Pueblo**

Visit Santa Clara Pueblo and Puye Cliffs and learn the story of the Anasazi people who populated the region as early as 1,000 years ago. The Anasazi built an architecturally sophisticated series of condominium-type dwelling in the Puye Cliffs. Today their ancestors live in Santa Clara Pueblo, near the site of these amazing ruins.

- **Stop 1: Mission Museum y Convento**

**From previous stop:** 5 minutes / 1 mi (1.6 km)

**Directions:** From Santa Clara Pueblo, take NM 30 north one mile to the Plaza de Española and the Mision Museum y Convento.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 45 minutes

The Mission Museum tells the story of the Española Valley through various works of art. The Mission Museum itself is a replica of the first chapel built by the Spanish settlers in 1598. Set in an altar screen format, paintings depict the area's history from colonization to the Manhattan Project. You will also find a fine collection of santos (carved wooden saint images) created by local artists. Several of these artists have works at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC.

- **End: Bond House Museum**

**From previous stop:** 2 minutes

**Directions:** The Bond House Museum is on the Plaza de Española.

Here you will learn about the Mercantile era of El Camino Real. The Bond House was built by Frank Bond. Frank (Franklin) Bond was a merchant and wool grower who emigrated from Canada in 1882. He established a mercantile company in Española with his brother George, who was already living in New Mexico. In addition to running the retail business, Frank Bond acquired extensive tracts of land, including the Valle Grande (Baca Location) in the Jemez Mountains. Using this land to raise sheep, he quickly took advantage of the lucrative wool market. Frank Bond was instrumental in bringing the railroad to the Española Valley which ushered in a cash economy to the area.

**Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 1 miles / 1.6 km

**Total Travel Time:** 7 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 45 minutes