

Turquoise Trail

Believed to be an ancient path, Turquoise Trail travels between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The natural geological formations found here are like nowhere else on Earth. See nature up-close in the Cibola National Forest and Sandia Mountain Wilderness Area. Appreciate the distinctive, artistic communities of Madrid and Los Cerrillos.



Length: 62 miles / 99.2 km

Time Take two hours, including
to backtracking, to drive the
Allow: byway.

Local Information

New Mexico Department of Tourism

800-545-2070

575-827-7400

Send E-mail

Turquoise Trail Association

888-263-0003

Send E-mail

Tinkertown Museum

575-281-5233

Send E-mail

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees for driving the byway.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



There is an interpretive trail at the Tijeras Pueblo near Tijeras. Also, keep an eye out for the Balsam Glade Picnic Ground where unimproved Route 165 leads to a one-mile trail to Sandia Cave.

Camping



Camping facilities may be found at Turquoise Trail Campground and RV Park. Links to recreation.gov to make reservations at nearby National Forest campgrounds: * [Cochiti Area](http://www.recreation.gov/camping/Cochiti_Area_Nm/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=73127&topTabIndex=CampingSpot) * [Deadman Campground](http://www.recreation.gov/camping/Deadman_Campground_Nm/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=70067&topTabIndex=CampingSpot)

* [Tetilla Peak](http://www.recreation.gov/camping/Tetilla_Peak_Nm/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=73440&topTabIndex=CampingSpot)

Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

Information



The Cibola National Forest Ranger Station and the Tinkertown Museum are two examples of places where visitors will be able to find information.

Lodging



There is overnight lodging along this byway.

Retail



There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

If venturing into the mountains, please take a coat or jacket. Also, snow may cause a chain rule and/or four-wheel drive requirements to be in effect between October and March.

Restrictions

Snow may cause a chain rule and/or four-wheel drive requirements to be in effect between October and March.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The byway is great to drive year-round.

High Season

Fall and spring are the busiest seasons on the byway.

Map and Directions



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

- At the junction of NM-337 and Forest Rd 423 near Tijeras, take NM-337 north to NM-333.


- Travel northeast on NM-333 to NM-14.
- Take NM-14 north until junction with NM-306/NM-536.
- *Sandia Crest spur*:
 - Turn left onto NM-536 heading west.
 - Continue on NM-536 and follow it past the junction with NM-165 until you reach Sandia Crest, where the road ends.
 - Return to the junction with NM-536 and NM-14.
- Travel north on NM-14 through Madrid.
- Byway ends at junction of NM-14 and I-25 southwest of Santa Fe.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities

Albuquerque, NM (14 miles / 22.53 km, 13 minutes)

Start:  I-40 in Albuquerque, NM
[N 35.107° W 106.615°](#) [?]

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Directions: ul>

- Take I-40 east to NM-14 in Tijeras where the byway begins.

Junction with byway: * I-40 exit to Highway 337, Tijeras, NM
[N 35.080° W 106.388°](#) [?]



Santa Fe, NM (On the byway)

Start:  NM-14 S/Cerrillos Rd/El Camino Real
[N 35.605° W 106.035°](#) [?]

Directions: The byway begins on Cerrillos Rd.

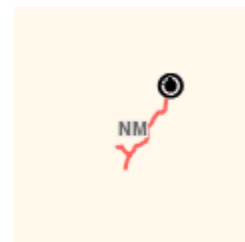


Santa Fe, NM (On the byway)

Start:  Cerrillos Rd.
[N 35.605° W 106.035°](#) [?]

Directions:

- In Santa Fe, the byway runs southwest at Cerrillos Rd.



Road Trip: Must See Tour of the Turquoise Trail

Departure: The Museum of Archaeology and Material Culture, New Mexico

Destination: Shona Sol Sculpture Garden, New Mexico

Time to allow: 1 day

Travel the Turquoise Trail for an up-close view of New Mexico's diverse landscapes and Southwestern cultures. On your way, stop at the following places, which best showcase the heart of the Turquoise Trail.

Day 1

- **Start: The Museum of Archaeology and Material Culture**

Begin your journey at this fascinating museum, which explores archaeology and a 12,000-year timeline.



- **Stop 1: Tinkertown Museum**



From previous stop: 6 minutes / 2.5 mi (4.0 km)

Directions: Leaving the Museum of Archaeology and Material Culture, go southeast on Calvary Road toward Snowline Road, then take a slight left onto Snowline Road. Drive 0.1 miles, then turn left onto NM-14 N. Drive 1.8 miles, then turn left onto NM-536 W. Drive 0.5 miles until you reach Tinkertown Museum, located at 121 Sandia Crest Road.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

This quirky museum is a must-see stop along your way. Created by one man, the museum features walls made of bottles, hand-carved dioramas, fortune-telling machines, and more.

- **Stop 2: Sandia Peak Tramway**



From previous stop: 36 minutes / 23 mi (36.8 km)

Directions: Leaving Tinkertown Museum, go east for 0.5 miles on NM-536 E toward Crest Road. Stay straight to go onto NM-14 and go 5.7 miles. Merge onto I-40 W toward Albuquerque and go 6.7 miles. Take the Central Ave Exit (Exit 167) toward Tramway Blvd and go 0.5 miles. Keep right at the fork to go on Central Ave NE/ NM-333 W and go 0.1 miles. Turn right onto Tramway Blvd NE/ NM-556 N and go 8.4 miles. Turn right onto Tramway Road NE and go 0.7 miles. Tramway Road NE becomes Tramway Loop NE, and after less than 0.1 miles, end at the Sandia Peak Tramway, located at 10 Tramway Loop NE in Albuquerque.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 45 minutes

Take the Sandia Peak Tramway up the mountain for a view of New Mexico's desert floor to its mountain forest. At 2.7 miles, Sandia Peak Tramway is the longest in the world.

- **Stop 3: Cerrillos**



From previous stop: 1 hour 25 minutes / 49 mi (78.4 km)

Directions: Leaving the Tramway, go northwest on Tramway Loop NE toward Sandia Heights Road NE. Tramway Loop NE becomes Tramway Road NE; go 0.7 miles. Turn left onto Tramway Blvd NE (NM-556 S) and go 8.5 miles. Turn left onto Central Ave SE (NM-333 E) and go 0.1 miles. Merge onto I-40 E via the ramp on the left and go 6.2 miles. Take the NM-337 Exit (Exit 175) toward NM-14/Tijeras/Cedar Crest and go 0.2 miles. Turn slight left to take the ramp toward NM-14 N/Cedar Crest and go 0.4 miles. Turn slight right onto NM-333 N and go 0.2 miles. Turn slight left onto NM-14 N and go 31.6 miles. Turn left onto Waldo Street and go 0.3 miles. Turn right onto CR-59/1st Street. Continue to follow CR-59 and go 0.1 miles until you end at Cerrillos.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 30 minutes

Spend some time in Cerrillos, a city with dirt streets and Southwestern charm. Grab a bite to eat at one of the local eateries, and mingle with the locals.

- **Stop 4: Cerrillos Turquoise Mining Museum**



From previous stop: 1 minute / 0.3 mi (0.5 km)

Directions: Go southwest on CR-59 toward Rail Street for 0.1 miles, then turn right onto Waldo Street. Go 0.1 miles until you reach the Cerrillos Turquoise Mining Museum located at 17 Waldo Street.

Suggested time at this stop: 45 minutes

Visit the Turquoise Mining Museum to see a private collection and display of tools, equipment, objects and artifacts used in daily life during the mining era of Los Cerrillos. If Todd Brown, who runs the museum, is there when you visit, ask him about the 28-room house he and his wife built.

- **End: Shona Sol Sculpture Garden**

From previous stop: 30 minutes / 15 mi (24.0 km)

Directions: Leaving the museum, go southeast on Waldo Street toward 3rd Street for 0.5 miles. Turn left onto NM-14 N and go 14.5 miles until you reach the Shona Sol Sculpture Garden located at 3358 NM-14.

End your day at the Shona Sol Sculpture Garden, which displays the work of several artists from Zimbabwe. Made from hand-crafted stone, this African art collection is beautiful and impressive.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 89.8 miles / 143.7 km

Total Travel Time: 2 hours 38 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 5 hours