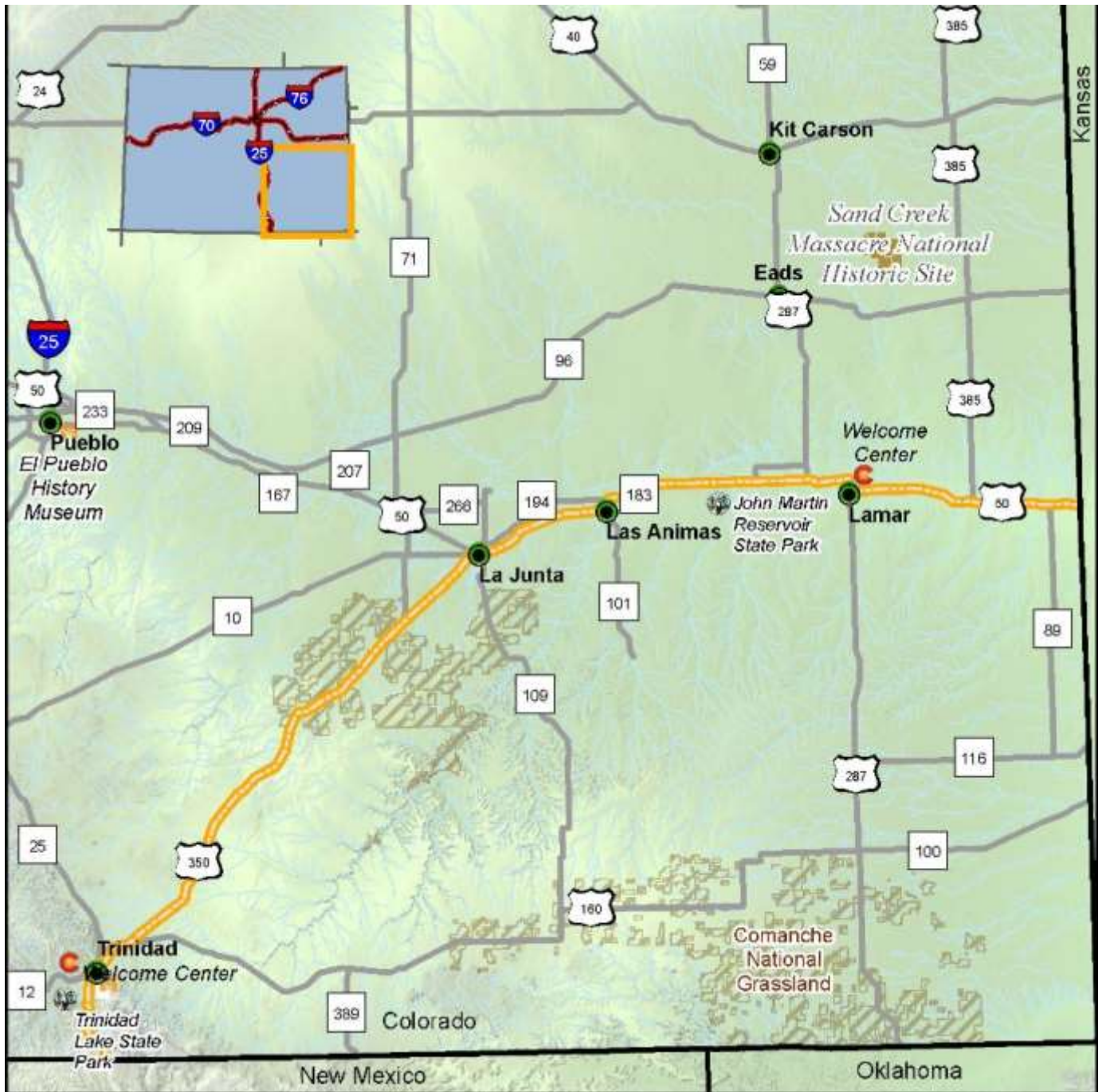




Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway

Founded by the Spanish in the same year as the English landed at Jamestown, thoughts of Santa Fe brought forward visions of gold and riches for Easterners who had no idea what southwestern America was really looked like. It took until 1739 for brothers Pierre and Paul Mallet arrived on La Plaza in Santa Fe and until 1821 for William Becknell to start from Franklin, MO with five other men, taking 2 ½ long, cold, worrisome months to reach New Mexico. Just south of Las Vegas, Captain Gallego in New Mexico to conquer Native Americans, saw six men heading his way. It was William Becknell and his five companions. Gallego immediately sent them to Santa Fe to meet with the Spanish Governor. Legend has it when William Becknell rode back into Franklin in 1822, a rawhide bag of silver coins was slashed open and spilled on the cobblestone street. The whole Midwest caught fire over the riches and over the next 24 years, countless frontier men headed to Santa Fe. Thousand more began to pour in seeking a better life in the desert Southwest. Profits were good, but by 1824, New Mexico was saturated with goods, so traders continued to Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, Durango, San Juan de los Lagos, Guanajuato, Aguascalientes, Zacatecas, and Mexico City. The route they all took from Missouri is now the Santa Fe Trail National Scenic Byway.



Follow the Way West Experience



Driving the Byway

Even though it is not an official part of the Byway, your journey begins in Santa Fe, to see the prize trail explorers sought. As you begin exploring this intriguing Spanish outpost, which a second day lets you explore more in depth. On Day Three, you'll be traveling the original Santa Fe route to Trinidad. Plan to rise early on Day Four to drive the rest of the route exploring La Junta, Las Animas and Lamar, all steeped in southwestern culture. Bent's Old Fort and Boggsville will introduce you to locations that were on the route when frontiersmen made their way to Santa Fe. At the end of a very full Day Four, stay in Lamar before moving on. The locations included in this experience are those that would have existed on the Santa Fe Trail during its heyday.

Day One



Santa Fe

Santa Fe is the most southwestern of American cities. Inhabited by Pueblo Indians for centuries before the Spanish arrived, its architecture is adobe, its pace slow and civilized, and its air crisp, clean and dry. Long before the English landed on Plymouth Rock, the city was located on the other end of the El Camino Real (the Royal Road) from Mexico City. Having thrived under the Spanish, Native Americans, Mexicans, a Territorial Government, American Confederates (one wonders how the struggle for independence in the South got so far afield) and ultimately the Union. Now the oldest state capital in the US, Santa Fe has come a long way from Father Lamy being sent to tame the Wild West. The Plaza, once filled with traders and wagon trains is now filled with art galleries, sophisticated restaurants and unique shops. People stroll the promenade, proud to live in such a cosmopolitan place. It's an opportunity to travel to a different time and place, to experience the authenticity, a slower pace, the art, music, festivals and a multi-cultural approach to life.

Day One

Historic Walking Tour of Santa Fe



The Plaza in front of La Fonda Hotel has been the center of Santa Fe since it was founded. Historic buildings radiate out from there. Start your visit with the historic walking tour of downtown historic Santa Fe (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) which begins at the New Mexico State Capitol and introduces you to the historic core of the city.

Tour begins at 490 Old Santa Fe Trail Allow 1 hour

Palace of the Governors



The Palace of the Governors, dating from 1610, is the nation's oldest operating government building. Now part of New Mexico's state history museum, exhibits chronicle the region's history from the arrival of Coronado's expedition in 1540 to statehood in 1912 and today. The structure has four-foot thick walls, long galleries, small rooms and courtyard mirrors all needed to increase security on the remote frontier.

105 West Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-476-5093 Daily 10AM-5PM, Allow 1 hour, \$12 per person

Art Galleries of Santa Fe



Santa Fe is the art lover's city! There are nearly 30 art galleries downtown and another 75 on Canyon Road. Relax, savor and explore! Regular retail hours generally Monday-Saturday 10AM-5PM

Santa Fe Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: La Fonda on the Plaza **100 East San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, NM 505-982-5511**

Standing on America's oldest hotel corner, La Fonda stands on the site of the original Inn constructed in 1607. The building guests enjoy today dates from 1922. It features hand carved beams, stained glass skylights, a 25-foot cathedral ceiling, terracotta tile and hammered tin chandeliers. In 1925, La Fonda became a Harvey House, a hotel chain noted for its high standards, fine dining and the signature "Harvey Girls," a staff of exceptionally well-trained waitresses.



Sazon 221 Shelby Street Santa Fe, NM 87501 505-983-8604

Considered the finest restaurant in Santa Fe.

Day Two

New Mexico History Museum



The newest museum of the New Mexico History campus includes collections that span the early history of Native Americans in the area, Spanish colonization, the Mexican period and commerce along the Santa Fe Trail. A spectacular assemblage of more than 750,000 images from the early 1850s until today, was assembled to include New Mexico history, anthropology, archaeology, ethnology, mining, railroads, and agriculture, to increase the appreciation of New Mexico's diverse cultures.

113 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, NM, 87501 505-476-5200
Wednesday-Sunday 10AM-4PM, Allow 2 hours \$12 per person

Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian



The 1937 Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian was founded by a wealthy Bostonian who had traveled widely and an esteemed Navajo singer, or "medicine man." By 1921, Klah, who has been held as a prisoner and witnessed decades of efforts by the United States to assimilate the Navajo people into American society he assisted in establishing the museum to preserve that culture. Today, the Wheelwright features unique contemporary and historic Native American art and the Jim and Lauris Phillips Center for the Study of Southwestern Jewelry, the most comprehensive collection of Navajo and Pueblo jewelry in the world. The Case Trading Post is one of Santa Fe's oldest continuously operating galleries of Native American art.

704 Camino Lego, Santa Fe, NM, 87505 505-982-4636
Tuesday-Sunday 10AM-4PM Allow 1 hour, \$8 per person

Day Two

Georgia O'Keefe Museum



Even though she hailed from Wisconsin, Georgia O'Keefe considered Santa Fe her home. After studying art in New York and Chicago her abstract drawings made their way to famed photographer Alfred Stieglitz, who would ultimately become her husband. O'Keefe who had become one of America's most successful artists in the 1920s, started visiting New Mexico in 1929. After spending summers here for 20 years, she moved permanently in 1949. She was so committed to creativity that at age 90, she still had several assistants who helped her paint, saying "the thing that makes you want to create is still there," continuing to work until age 98.

217 Johnson Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501 505-946-1000
Thursday-Monday 10AM-4PM, Allow 1 hour, \$20 per person

San Miguel Chapel



William Becknell and his party would have passed San Miguel Chapel when they arrived in Santa Fe, since it dates from 1710. Early documentation shows a Chapel constructed in 1628, oral history has it dating from 1610, while other materials note 1598 believed it was constructed by Tiaxcalan Indians who came from Mexico as a part of a Spanish contingent of soldiers. It was reconstructed after a fire in the 1680s, with the beautiful altar screen installed in 1798 and the bell in 1856.

401 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM, 87501
505-983-3974 Monday—Saturday 10AM-4PM, Allow 1 hour, Donations Accepted

Day Three



Trinidad

The culture of Trinidad that included adventurers, frontiersmen, revolutionaries, Native Americans, and Spanish is one of the most blended in southwestern Colorado. It was in Trinidad that coal miners fought in a deadly conflict for fair treatment, where a counter-culture was born of the youth of Drop City, and for over half a century that welcomed thousands of individuals seeking to become who they were born to be. Santa Fe to Trinidad– 189 miles

Day Three

Santa Fe Trail and Trinidad Historic Museum Complex



Filling an entire city block, the Trinidad History Museum includes the Santa Fe Trail Museum, an 1870s adobe Baca House, 1882 Victorian style Bloom Mansion and the Borderlands of Southern Colorado exhibit. Together, the locations along with the Baca-Bloom Heritage Gardens, recount the history of the city from the mid-1850s to the early 1930s. Displays of historic photographs, commercial goods, and family heirlooms from Trail will be of interest to travelers on the Trail. A fringed buckskin coat that Kit Carson gave to a pioneer mayor is a local treasure.

312 East Main Street, Trinidad, CO 81082 719-846-7217
7 Days 10AM-4PM. Allow 2-3 Hours, Free

A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art



Located in the historic 1906 Jamieson's Department Store with pressed tin ceilings and a horseshoe shaped mezzanine, the museum features the work of Arthur Roy Mitchell, King of the Pulp Western Cover Artists. His iconic western scenes of cowboys, horses and cattle have captured the hearts and minds of pulp western readers from the 1920s to today.

150 East Main Street, Trinidad, CO 81082 719-846-4224
7 Days 10AM-4PM, Allow 1 hour, Free

Trinidad Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Tarabino Inn **310 East Second Street, Trinidad, CO 81082 719-846-2115**

Six Tarabino brothers who arrived from Italy in the 1800s, first settled in a mining camp south of Trinidad, later moving to Trinidad to open the Famous Department Store in 1899, which eventually became the largest in town. Brothers John and Barney decided to build a house they could share as their families grew, near Peter and Luigi who had homes nearby. The now Tabarino Inn was constructed in 1907 on the foundation of one of the earlier homes.



The Café 135 East Main Street Trinidad, CO 81082 719-846-2696

The Café offers a unique selection of sandwiches, salads, and soup as well as a daily variety of fresh baked goods. Enjoy your meal street side while people watching or using the free Wi-Fi.

Day Four



La Junta

The William Becknell party would have passed through La Junta (Spanish for junction) on their way to Santa Fe, although no one would have imagined that it would witness such important American history. In 1833, it was the last outpost in the US on the Santa Fe Trail before crossing the Arkansas River into Mexico. It became the Southwest's most important outpost on the Trail. As the railroad pushed further west in 1875 along the Old Santa Fe Trail, a small settlement was established along the south bank of the Arkansas River, that would become La Junta. Starting as a collection of tents and clapboard houses, it was more of a railroad camp than a town that was finally incorporated in 1881. Trinidad to La Junta— 80 miles

Day Four

Ortero Museum



The Otero Museum is dedicated to preserving La Junta's storied yesteryears through an extensive collection, gleaned from the Otero County Historical Society and local residents.

706 West Third Street, La Junta, CO 81050 719-385-7500
Monday-Friday 10AM-5PM, Allow 1 hour, \$5 per person

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site



For much of its 16-year history, Bent's Old Fort was the only permanent settlement on the Santa Fe Trail between Missouri and the Spanish. The fort a place to get supplies, repairs, livestock, food, water and company. During the Mexican War, the fort served as a staging area for Colonel Kearny's "Army of the West." The influence of the fort soon reached out to Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming and Missouri. Archeological excavations and original sketches, paintings, and diaries were used to replicate the 1840s adobe fort.

36110 Staten Highway 194 East, La Junta, CO 81050
719-383-5010 7 Days 9AM-4PM Allow 2 hours, \$3 per person

Day Four



Las Animas

Originally known as Fort Lyon, which flooded, Las Animas was founded on higher ground. The town grew quickly to 30 buildings and 150 residents, a post office, a billiard hall, saloons and dance halls, serving as the Bent County's first county seat. La Junta to Las Animas-18 miles

Day Four

John W Rawlings Heritage Center



When you walk into the John W Rawlings Heritage Center, you're greeted by the remains of the First National Bank of Las Animas where Rawlings was president from 1941 to 1959. Today, the center interprets the history of Bent County and its influence on the growth of the state. In addition to the bank, exhibits include the storefronts of the post office, barber shop, jewelry store, and a candy shop, plus material about Kit Carson and many more.

560 Bent Avenue, Las Animas, CO 81054 719-456-6066
Wednesday-Friday 1PM-4PM, Saturday Noon-4PM, \$5 per person

Boggsville Historic Site



Even though it was officially established in 1866, Boggsville entered the history of Colorado when Zebulon Pike camped on the banks of the Purgatoire in 1806 followed by Major Long in 1820 and Jacob Fowler in 1821. Thomas Boggs came to the region in 1840 to work as Bent's Old Fort, learning the language of 11 Indians tribes, plus Spanish. In 1858 he acquired a Mexican land grant through his wife. John Prowers also found employment with William Bent, moving to Boggsville in 1867. Boggs good friend, Kit Carson secured his own land grant south of Boggsville also moving in 1867. By 1873, Boggsville had over 30 buildings housing farmers, cowboys, store clerks, a teacher, and more. The Boggs and the Prowers houses have been restored to appear as they would have in 1867.



28128 Colorado 101, Las Animas, CO 81054
719-456-6066 Wednesday-Friday 1PM-4PM, Saturday
Noon-4PM, \$5 per person

La Café

1542 West Ambassador Thompson Boulevard
Las Animas, CO 81054
719-456-0434

Home cooked meals served by a very friendly staff.

Day Four



Lamar

Consistently named “the safest city in Colorado” Lamar is a rural, agricultural based community with a relaxed lifestyle. The Colorado Welcome Center, located in the restored 1907 depot features a historic train engine, a 100-year-old windmill, and a vintage water tank. Lamar is also considered one of best birding cities in Colorado, with spots to watch more than 400 feathered friends. If there’s time, visit the Big Timbers Museum, which illustrates life on the frontier, the historic Dust Bowl, and the town’s famous crime, the Fleagle Gang Robbery. Las Animas to Lamar– 36 miles

Lamar Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Third Street Nest Bed and Breakfast 304 South Third Street, Lamar, CO 81052 719-336-5217

Spend the night in a unique turn of the century bed and breakfast built in 1906 and in operation since 2004. A full breakfast is served each morning.



Hickory House 1115 North Main Street Lamar, CO 81052 719-336-5018

A small town diner where lunch will hit the spot.
