

The Royal Road to the Interior Lands

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro follows the course of the Rio Grande, which was the traditional settlement place for many pre-European pueblos from Taos south to the Piro territory. After the first Spanish colonies, and especially after the reconquista of the 1690s, colonial administration in Mexico was eager to settle larger areas under the control of former militia. This resulted in the early Spanish land grants such as Atrisco (1692), Alameda (1710), Elena Gallegos (1716), and Pajarito (1746). This overlay and continuity from pueblo to land grants creates the long-term relationship between traditional communities and the land that makes New Mexico unique today. ✨



More about El Camino Real: atlas.nmhum.org



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EL CAMINO REAL de Tierra Adentro

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS 1400-1930

Aztec Migration ~

The Aztec people claimed to have migrated to present day Mexico City from the north and maintained **trade relationships with northern tribes**, including those along the Rio Grande and up into the Four Corners. **Cerrillos Hills turquoise** was a particularly valued export. The Spanish built on some of these ancient trade routes, particularly through the difficult terrain of New Mexico. Some place names, such as Atrisco (from Nahuatl word atlixco, meaning "water or ground") are **directly derived from this native connection to the south.** *



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Ancient 1400 - 1540

Spanish 1549 - 1821

Catholic Faith ~

The tiny New Mexican colony, and the camino that led to it, became important through the Spanish monarch's determination to **convert the Pueblo people to Catholicism.** After 1631, the **King funded supplies** for each mission in New Mexico, including everything from medicine and food to elaborate church decorations and instruments. Each friar who served in New



Mexico also received basic supplies for the long journey, and annual shipments of necessary goods, such as clothes and paper, as well as luxury goods like spices and chocolate. **Missions also exported the products created by the Puebloans** under their supervision, including woven goods, livestock, and piñon nuts. This regular trade formed an important part of New Mexico's early economy. Spanish support of the missions enabled the Catholic church to

have a **significant and lasting effect on New Mexican culture**, both among indigenous people and later, among American Protestant immigrants who were required to convert in order to gain citizenship. *

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Mestizaje ~

Cultural intermixing of peoples along El Camino Real started happening long before the Spanish entrada, but the Spanish casta system, developed to distinguish the many new racial mixtures appearing in the New World, put names on each combination, such as mestizo (a child of European and indigenous parents) or cholo or coyote (a child of mestizo and indigenous parents). The Spanish and some tribes **traded in Native captives**, particularly from the Plains, the Ute and the Navajo, and those acquired as servants soon became acculturated to Spanish language and customs. These individuals were called genizaros, and established their own communities in places like Abiquiu and Belen. Today many New Mexicans can claim **both Native and Spanish heritage**, and mestizaje, once a derogatory label, is now considered a point of pride. *

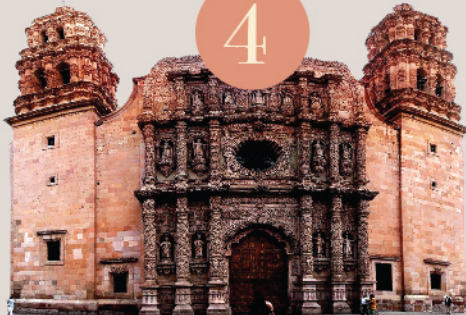


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Gold & Silver Mining ~

In 1546, a **silver strike near Zacatecas** encouraged a boom that expanded to encompass areas around San Luis de Potosí and San Jose de Parral. These mines produced **gold and silver** to be shipped back to the King in Spain, but the miners needed **food and clothes, as well as salt** for separating the pure metals from the ore. Many of these supplies, particularly the salt, were shipped from New Mexico. *



The Gutiérrez-Hubbell House ~

The Gutiérrez-Hubbell House is a 5,700 square foot adobe structure that dates back to the 1860's and symbolizes the mixing of Spanish, Anglo and Native American traditions & cultures during the Territorial Period, 1848-1912. Listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties, this historic house sits on 10 acres of Open Space Land, which was purchased by Bernalillo County in November 2000.

The Gutiérrez-Hubbell House is a symbol of the joining of colonial Spanish grace, Native culture, and Mexican traditions with Anglo-American entrepreneurship: it was the home of Juliana Gutiérrez, descendant of some of the wealthiest and most



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powerful families in Pajarito and New Mexico. With her marriage to James Lawrence "Santiago" Hubbell, a Connecticut Yankee who came west to seek his fortune the two produced at least 12 children, all of whom were born in the Hubbell House. Juan "Lorenzo" Hubbell was the second

son and third born of James and Juliana. Like his father, Lorenzo became a merchant and trader with the "Indians" and established the Hubbell Trading Post in Ganado, Arizona, which today is a historic site managed by the National Park Service. The final inhabitant of the Gutiérrez-Hubbell House was Louisa Hubbell, who died in 1996.

Situated along El Camino Real, the oldest continuously used European roadway in North America, the Gutiérrez-Hubbell House was once a private residence, mercantile, trading post, stagecoach stop and post office. Today, the Gutiérrez-Hubbell House History and Cultural Center is a center developed to document, research and preserve history, maintain open spaces, protect wildlife habitat and teach agricultural heritage. The property is a venue for retreats, workshops, meetings, weddings, festivals and farming workshops.

Prominent in the local and regional history, the Hubbell Property serves as the centerpiece of the Pajarito community and is a natural focal point for community building and area pride. *

More about the Gutiérrez-Hubbell House: gutierrezhubbellhouse.org



Along the Santa Fe Trail ~

When Mexico broke from Spain in 1821, **trade with the United States** opened, and the success of the first caravan of trade goods from Missouri inspired a frenzy of commerce, although most caravans continued through impoverished New Mexico to the **bigger markets of Chihuahua.** *



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Modern 1821 - 1930

Military Presence Along El Camino Real ~

The Spanish maintained numerous presidios, or forts, south of El Paso, but it wasn't until the Americans claimed New Mexico that **forts were established along the Rio Grande.** At first they **protected trade** along what Americans called the Chihuahua Trail. Later they saw troop movement during the Civil War as **Texan Confederates moved north** from Fort Bliss. *



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