

FOR ROAD CONDITIONS CHECK OUT THE NMDOT WEATHER APP

COWBOYS & CONFLICT

A robust history full of drama, excitement, and thrill sprinkles the North East region of captivating adults and children alike! Be ready to spark your imagination and lose yourself in the mystic of the true Wild Wild West as you explore historic courthouses, gravesites, and haunted museums.

Day 1: Arrive in Clayton, NM early enough for a candlelit ghost tour at the Herzstein Museum to learn about Billy the Kid and Black Jack Ketchum before settling in for dinner at the historic Eklund Hotel. Ask your tour guide for a quick trip to the Union County Jailhouse to see where the only hanging in the county took place.

Day 2: After a home cooked breakfast at the Eklund, head north to the Folsom Museum to learn more about the long history of train and railroad robberies committed by some of New Mexico's most infamous wild west outlaws. La Cocina in Raton will fill you up on some of the best New Mexican food in the state before you make your way to Cimarron to discover details about the violent, 1875-1885 Colfax County War that ended March 15, 1885 at the steps of the Springer Colfax County Courthouse where three young Cowboys were killed and buried in Raton. After a full day of excitement, retire to the beautiful historic St. James Dining Room and Hotel with bullet holes in the saloon ceiling, a delish meal, and comfortable room.

Day 3: Your final day will bring you to the original Las Vegas. Hear fascinating tales of outlaw shootouts where Billy the Kid was jailed, interviewed and escaped on a steam locomotive. Railroad Avenue Historic District and La Castañeda, a jewel of the Harvey House chain is where Southwest Detours will host you. Enjoy lunch at Pecos Restaurant, "Frankie's at the Casanova" near Pecos National Monument. The Pecos Wilderness frames the Pueblo and Spanish cathedral ruins, and a 2.3 mile Civil War hiking trail loop that tells the story of the Battle of Glorieta Pass. Sheriff Pat Garrett was married in Anton Chico and Billy the Kid spent time in Abercrombies Store est.1874. The Kid spent his last Christmas in Puerta De Luna. Visit Billy the Kid's grave and check in to Billy the Kid Inn in Fort Sumner.

TRADE & EXPLORATION

A young America grew through the development of numerous historic trading trails and travel routes that connected our young nation from the industrialized east to the mountains of the west. North East New Mexico holds some of America's richest trade and exploration history through routes such as the Santa Fe Trail and the Goodnight-Loving Trail. Experience western expansion for yourself by visiting some of the Nation's most poignant ruins and landmarks.

Day 1: Begin your journey through the historic trade trails that influenced the making of an industrialized nation at the Herzstein Museum in Clayton. Visitors will be amazed at the trailblazing history of North East New Mexico from the Santa Fe Trail, to the Goodnight Loving Trail, to the Great Migration. Enjoy Elida's Café before exploring the Santa Fe Trail Museum. Next up is a stop in Wagon Mound to view the major landmark for pioneers traveling along the Cimarron Cutoff of the Old Santa Fe Trail, the route connecting St. Louis Missouri and Santa Fe, New Mexico, before heading to Mosquero for a local brew and homemade pizza at Callahan West Brewing next to the Headquarters. Crawl into your comfy digs at the "The Rectory" Bed and Breakfast.

Day 2: After a home cooked breakfast and cup of coffee at The Rectory, head to the Goodnight-Loving Trail historic marker located in downtown Mosquero. Your drive along 419 will put you pretty darn close to the route Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving traveled on horseback driving large herds of Texas Longhorns to the forts. Joseph's in Santa Rosa will keep you full of authentic New Mexican food and culture as you make your way to Fort Union National Monument. After an incredible afternoon full of adventure stories and tours of the fort's ruins, end your day at the Hummingbird Ranch in the crisp mountain air of Mora. Conclude your journey by recalling your memories made just the way Goodnight and Loving did, over a warm log fire and under dark skies illuminated with a thousand stars.

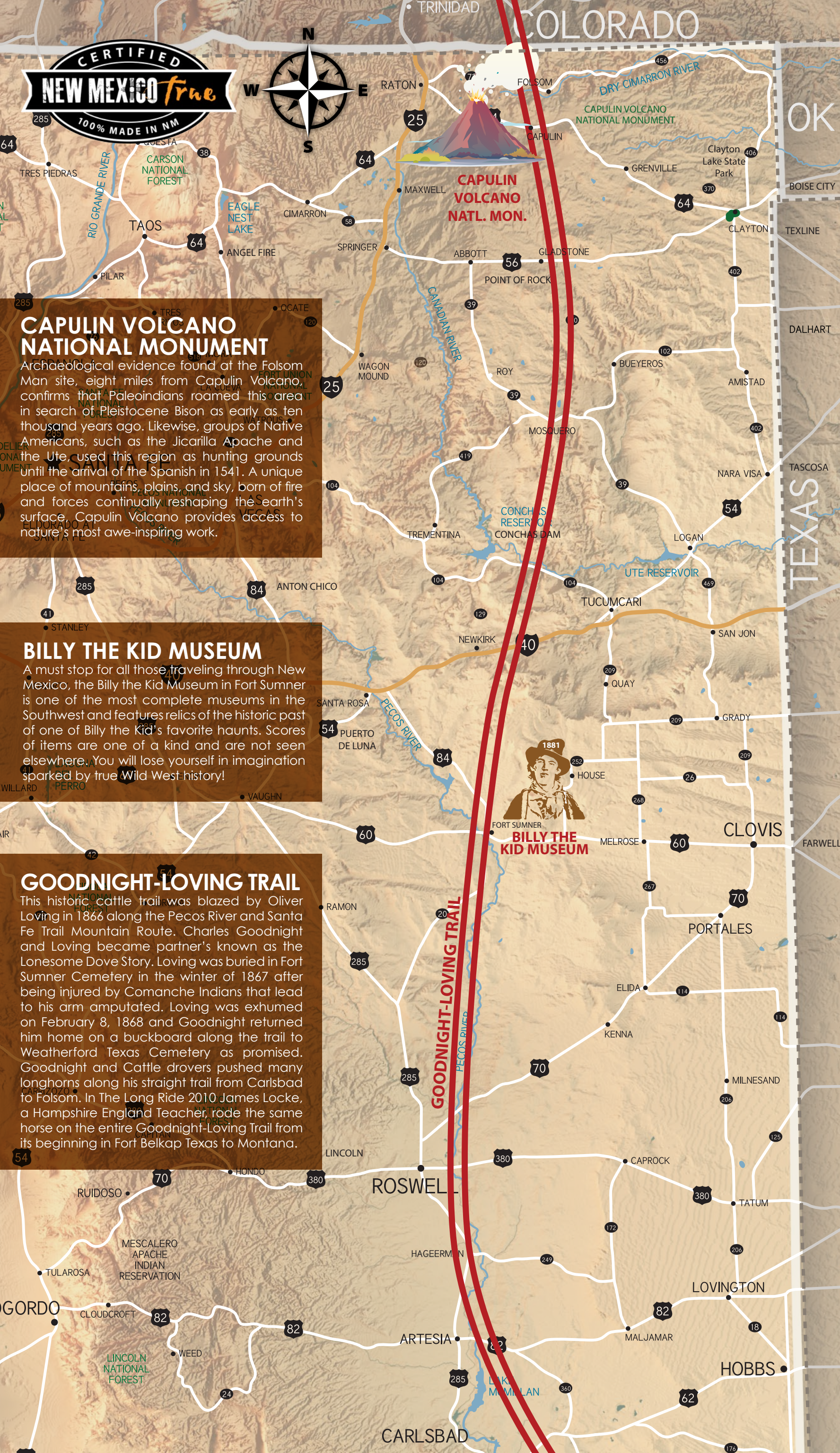
DINO & DIGS

Heading through New Mexico you may not know just north of your caravan are some of the most important archeological sites in the world. See for yourself as you discover real dino track ways perfectly preserved in concentrated clay, lose yourself in the mysteries of the universe as you explore a Gold-Tier International Dark Sky observatory, and meet Folsom Man, who is currently celebrating his 9,000th birthday!

Day 1: Heading into New Mexico on I40 from Texas, you may not be aware that just north of you are some of the most important archeological sites in the world. Begin your journey back in time to over 300 million years ago at the Mesalands Dinosaur Museum and Natural Sciences Laboratory in Tucumcari. Del's Restaurant Salad Bar is the best on Route 66 near the Historic Blue Swallow Motel where a garage is included next to your room. The short drive to Conchas Dam will provide overnight accommodations at the spectacular Adobe Belle

Day 2: Grab an early lunch at Lonita's in Roy as your make your way north to Clayton Lake State Park where you'll learn about New Mexico's archeological history and literally walk along the dinosaurs as you follow perfectly preserved dinosaur tracks. Your day ends by setting up camp within the park and then heading over to the park's Gold-Tier International Dark Sky observatory. The night skies feature very little light pollution, and stargazing events are hosted every month of the year during the week of the new moon for the general public. Try not to stay up too late getting lost in the wonderment!

Day 3: Begin with a homemade breakfast and hot cup of coffee at the Eklund in downtown Clayton before making your way to Capulin Volcano. Over one million years old, Capulin continues to influence human history. Folsom Man was found only 8 miles from the volcano confirming Paleo-Indians roamed this area only then thousand years ago. The National Monument's dedicated staff provides robust year round programming and tour opportunities, as well as hiking trails and auto touring. Your prehistoric journey continues in Folsom at the Folsom Museum. This little town of 80 people hosts some of the most intriguing human history ever discovered Finally, conclude your day at Spahn and Friends Bison Ranch in Raton. Don't forget to grab some bison meat in the morning on your way out.



CAPULIN VOLCANO NATIONAL MONUMENT

Archaeological evidence found at the Folsom Man site, eight miles from Capulin Volcano, confirms that Paleoindians roamed this area in search of Pleistocene Bison as early as ten thousand years ago. Likewise, groups of Native Americans, such as the Jicarilla Apache and the Ute, used this region as hunting grounds until the arrival of the Spanish in 1541. A unique place of mountains, plains, and sky, born of fire and forces continually reshaping the Earth's surface, Capulin Volcano provides access to nature's most awe-inspiring work.

BILLY THE KID MUSEUM

A must stop for all those traveling through New Mexico, the Billy the Kid Museum in Fort Sumner is one of the most complete museums in the Southwest and features relics of the historic past of one of Billy the Kid's favorite haunts. Scores of items are one of a kind and are not seen elsewhere. You will lose yourself in imagination sparked by true Wild West history!

GOODNIGHT-LOVING TRAIL

This historic cattle trail was blazed by Oliver Loving in 1866 along the Pecos River and Santa Fe Trail Mountain Route. Charles Goodnight and Loving became partner's known as the Lonesome Dove Story. Loving was buried in Fort Sumner Cemetery in the winter of 1867 after being injured by Comanche Indians that lead to his arm amputated. Loving was exhumed on February 8, 1868 and Goodnight returned him home on a buckboard along the trail to Weatherford Texas Cemetery as promised. Goodnight and Cattle drovers pushed many longhorns along his straight trail from Carlsbad to Folsom. In The Long Ride 2010 James Locke, a Hampshire England Teacher, rode the same horse on the entire Goodnight-Loving Trail from its beginning in Fort Belkap Texas to Montana.



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GOODNIGHT-LOVING TRAIL