FOR ROAD CONDITIONS CHECK OUT THE NMDOT WEATHER APP

COWBOYS & CONFLICT
A robust history full of drama, excitement, and thrill sparks the North East’s history of captivating adults and children alike! Be ready to spark your imagination and lose yourself in the true Wild West as you explore historic courthouses, gravestones, and haunted museums.

Day 1: Arrive in Clayton. NM early enough for a delicious short tour at the Heritage Museum to learn about Billy the Kid and Black Jack Ketchum before setting off for dinner at one of the historic saloons. Ask for 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 Elkund, head north to the Folsom Museum to learn more about the long history of race and racism committed by some of New Mexico’s most infamous wild west outlaws. La Cina in Raton will fill you up on some of the best New Mexican food in the state before you make your way for Cottonwood to discover details about the violent, 1873-1886 Colfax County War that ended March 15, 1885 at the steps of a spring in Colfax County Courthouse where three young Cowboys were killed and buried in Raton. After a day full of excitement, retire to the beautiful historic St. James Restaurant & Room and hotel with butler 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 Avenue of 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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.

TRADE & EXPLORATION
A young America grew through the development of numerous historic trading trails and travel routes that connected this young nation from the industrialized east to the mountains of the west. North East New Mexico holds some of America’s oldest 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. Visit will be amazed at the bricklaying history of North East New Mexico from the Santa Fe Trail. To the Goodnight Loving Trail to the Great Migration. Enjoy a delish meal before exploring the Santa Fe Trail Museum. Next up is a stop in Wagon Mound to view the historic marker 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 Mosquera for a local brew and homemade pizza at Calahan West Brewing next to the Headquarters. Check into your cozy 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 Mosquera. Your drive along 419 will put you pretty close to the road where 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 Miramonti Ranch in the deep mountain air of Mori. Conclude your journey by reciting your promises made just the way Goodnight and Loving did ever a warm hug and under dark skies illuminated with a thousand stars.

Day 3: Begin with a home- cooked breakfast and cup of coffee at the Rectory and make your way north to Clayton Lake State Park where you’ll learn about New Mexico’s archeological history and literally walk along the different stories of the people you find perfectly preserved in concentrated clay, dinosaur tracks. Your day ends by setting up camp within the park and then heading over to the park’s East-Texere International Dark Sky observatory. The night skies feature very light pollution, and stargazing events are held every month of the year during the weeks of the new moon for the general public. Try not to stay up too late getting lost in the wonderment!

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 fossil Man, who is currently celebrating his 9,000th birthday! Head north to the Folsum Museum to explore a Gold-Tier International Dark Sky observatory, and meet fossil 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 all of America. 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 La Tina’s in Roswell as you make your way north to Clayton Lake State Park where you’ll learn about New Mexico’s archeological history and literally walk along the different stories of the people you find perfectly preserved in concentrated clay, dinosaur tracks. Your day ends by setting up camp within the park and then heading over to the park’s East-Texere International Dark Sky observatory. The night skies feature very light pollution, and stargazing events are held every month of the year during the weeks of the new moon for the general public. Try not to stay up too late getting lost in the wonderment!

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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.

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!

The 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 partners 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.