The Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe  
Guadalupe Pueblo of Las Cruces, New Mexico

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Schedule  
(All festivities at St. Genevieve’s Catholic Church)  
100 E. Espina, Las Cruces, New Mexico

December 10  
Dansantes dancing in front of church  
Velorio (Rosary) parish hall; Open to public;  
Free menudo, coffee, hot chocolate at midnight

December 11  
Optional: climb up Ensaye Real (last dance practice with out-of-town tribal members)

December 12  
El Caminante (in front of church)  
Attend Mass  
Dancing in front of church until noon  
Lunch at Parish hall; Everyone is welcome (free but donations welcome)  
Continue dancing  
Attend Mass

www.thepiromansotiwaTribe.com
The Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe of Guadalupe Pueblo of Las Cruces, New Mexico originates from the Pueblo Indians of the Guadalupe Mission of Paso del Norte (present day Cd. Juarez). Descendants of the Guadalupe Mission Indians were among the first settlers who came to Las Cruces in 1849. During the subsequent decades, they were joined by other Pueblo Indian families from Paso del Norte. By the late 1880's, the tribal government had been moved from Paso del Norte to Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The history of the ancestors of the present Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe begins with the indigenous inhabitants of the Mesilla Valley, the Manso Indians. These were the people that the first Spanish explorers found living in the Las Cruces area. Their principal village, Rancheria Grande, was situated near present day Las Cruces. The Pueblo Indians of Las Cruces continued to hold dances in front of St. Genevieve's Catholic Church to celebrate their saint's day until 1910. In 1971, the Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe formed a formal organization and began seeking federal recognition. The Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe was recognized by the Las Cruces City Council on Monday, April 26, 2010.

www.thepiromansotiawatribecom
Explore history where it happened

IL CAMINO REAL HISTORIC TRAIL SITE

KEEP LEARNING
Visit Nearby and Related Sites

Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge
About 20 miles north of El Camino Real Historic Site, this 48,000-acre refuge features a wild stretch of the Rio Grande and attracts millions of birds and wildlife. Each November, the Festival of the Cranes draws birding enthusiasts from across the nation to witness the migration of the sandhill cranes. Hours: Daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For info: (505) 854-3600 

El Camino Real National Scenic Byway
While the old El Camino Real is 2,400 miles long, the scenic byway bearing its name is a mere 200. It parallels the ancient road across the entire state of New Mexico. Drive this historic route and see for yourself the places mentioned in the museum's exhibits.

Further Reading


BISNAGA MEXICO HISTORIC SITES
SIGNIFICANCE

Why Visit El Camino Real Historic Trail Site?

For 300 years, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the Royal Road to the Interior) was the main north-south artery for commerce with Mexico and was used until the railroad arrived in 1858. It has been described as the longest and most extensive archaeological site complex in New Mexico and is the earliest Euro-American trade route in the United States. Established by Don Juan de Oñate in 1598, El Camino Real utilized numerous earlier trade routes used by Mesamericans and North American tribes. The northern tribes traded salt, hides, skins, pottery, minerals, pigments, and turquoise. The southern tribes came north with exotic feathers, live macaws, copper bells, and shells. The road stretched 850 miles from Venzouco to Obispo Oñate, passing through Mexican City, north to Chihuahua, through El Paso, to Socorro, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and on to the pueblo of Oñate Oñate. Historically, this road led to the exchange of culture, trade, ideas, languages, materials, and beliefs.

Today, El Camino Real is easily identifiable thanks to the fact that its course is parallel to the US-Mexico border.

VISIT

El Camino Real Historic Trail Site is not only a historic site, but also a reminder of the diverse cultures that once lived in the region. After exploring the site, visitors can enjoy the surrounding area, which includes the Guadalupe Mountains National Park and the Guadalupe Peak Unit. This park is home to the iconic Guadalupe Peak, which at 17,762 feet is the highest peak in Texas and the fourth highest peak in the United States. Visitors can hike, camp, and engage in other outdoor activities.

TIME & PLACE

Imagine Traveling along the Camino Real

Most traveled on foot or horseback, carrying their goods in casks and wagons drawn by oxen or mules, and could average 8–10 miles per day. At that rate, it would take at least five months to make it from Venzouco to Obispo Oñate, and that's assuming there were no delays due to illness, weather, equipment, roads, or other challenges. People, or campeones, dotted the trail every 10–15 miles, and generally offered a place to rest, food for animals, and a place to build a campfire. However, some stretches of the road were less hospitable. A journey was an arduous trial between two pueblos that had to be traversed weekly because of lack of water. The most famous was the Jornada del Muerto (Journey of the Dead Man), a waterless desert 90-mile bypass, prone to Apache attacks. “Scenes of perplexity, along the road,” wrote Robert Heye in The White Man's Work, and the people along the trail with lectures, artwork, demonstrations, dance, and food.

The Piro-Mamso-Tiwa Tribe

Guadalupe Pueblo of Las Cruces, New Mexico

Henry O. Torres
Governor

PO Box 16141
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011
Phone 575-681-6618

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Conversation Starters

- Imagine you are about to embark on a 1000-mile journey along the Camino Real. What would you bring with you?
- Your journey will be long and dangerous. What is a good reason to undertake it?
- What would it take to make you turn back?

HANDS-ON FUN

Come Back For Events

May

Pecha Kucha, Third Saturday in May

Discover the rich fiber arts heritage of New Mexico. Join us as artists from across the state demonstrate time-honored techniques passed down from generations as well as contemporary methods of creating textiles and baskets.

September

Native New Mexico, Third Saturday in September

A celebration of the Native People along the Camino Real Trail. Long before Don Juan de Oñate made his famous trek in 1598, Native Americans traveled El Camino Real exchaging items with the people living along the Rio Grande and further south. Celebrate the rich history and culture of New Mexico Native people along the trail with lectures, artwork, demonstrations, dance, and food.

November

Pequeno Trail, Saturday before Thanksgiving

Experience the beauty of more than 150 years of history. Experience the food, music, dance, and art performances of the culturally diverse people who traveled the trail and defined New Mexico.
envelope shipping

Exemption 6

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