

GREAT AMERICAN ROAD TRIP



Thirty+ Years of Scenic Vistas & History One Mile at a Time

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Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic & Historic Byway

Begin the Journey of Understanding: 129 Mile Drive Back in Time. Explore stops from Alamosa to the New Mexico border (129 miles). **SCAN QR CODE**

#4
OF
26
CO TRIP



Explore These Byway Stops

Alamosa

Spanish for "cottonwood grove," referring to the abundance of cottonwood trees found along the Rio Grande River.

Colorado Welcome Center

610 State Ave, Alamosa, CO 81101.

Inside the Alamosa Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot (D&RG) (1909).

Engine No. 169 (1883)

Cole Park, First St & Colorado Ave, Alamosa, CO 81101.

One of the fastest narrow engines built.

Photo by HeidiTown



Explore These Byway Stops

San Luis Valley Museum

401 Hunt Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101.

A great starting point for understanding the vastness of the region's history.

Luther Bean Museum

Adams State University, Richardson Hall (1925),
208 Edgemont Blvd #256, Alamosa, CO 81101.

San Luis Valley's history, art, and culture.

Ryan Geology Museum

Adams State University, Porter Hall, 210
Edgemont Blvd, Alamosa, CO 81101.

One of the most diverse collections in Colorado.
Call ahead (719) 587-7357.

Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge

7824 El Rancho Lane, Alamosa, CO 81101.

A birders' paradise on the banks of the Rio Grande River.

Blanca Wetlands

13 St & Rd 2s, Alamosa, CO 81101.

Premier birding, closed Feb 15-Jul 15 during
nesting season.

San Luis State Wildlife Area

16399 Lane 6 N, Mosca, CO 81146.

With views of Great Sand Dune National Park
as the backdrop to San Luis Lake.

Great Sand Dune National Park & Preserve

Visitor Center, 11999 State Highway 150,
Mosca, CO 81146.

Highest dunes in North America
& International Dark Sky Park.

Photo by HeidiTown



Photo by CDOT



Photo by HeidiTown



Photo by HeidiTown



Explore These Byway Stops

Medano and Zapata Ranches

Operating since the 1860s, much of the Medano Ranch, now within the boundaries of Great Sand Dunes National Park, helps conserve and protect the entire geological and hydrological system of the dunes.

Zapata Falls

CO 150 & Zapata Falls Rd, Mosca, CO 81146.

A loved feature of the San Luis Valley, the falls have a 30-foot drop, and visitors must climb to see it.

Blanca Trailhead

Off of CO 150, approximately 3 miles north of US 160.

Features a stop throughout this area and is part of the Colorado Birding Trail.

Sierra Blanca Interpretive Sign & On Sacred Ground Historical Marker

CO 150 0.2 miles north of US 160.

An excellent place to stop, stretch, gain insight, and take photos.

Blanca

A railroad town, once booming, now with a population of 300. Railroad Park Southern San Luis Valley RRD500 and a historical marker for the SLSR.

Blanca Peak

Soars to 14,345 feet, the 4th highest in Colorado, part of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range.

Fort Garland

Founded in 1858 as a US military fort, and built to facilitate American Westward Expansion.



Photo by CDOT



Photo by Visit Alamosa

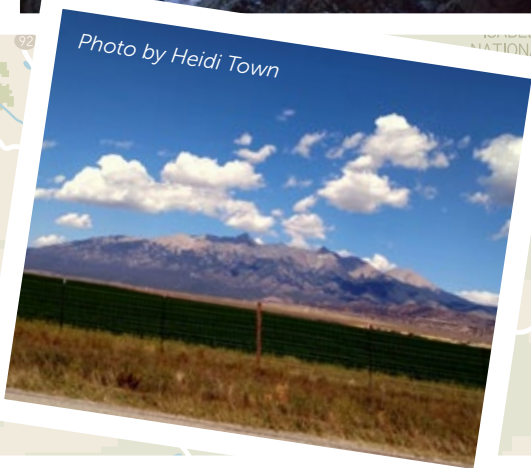


Photo by Heidi Town



Photo by CDOT

Explore These Byway Stops

Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center

29477 CO 159, Fort Garland, CO 81133.

Explores the history of shifting borders and convergence of cultures.

San Luis

Founded in 1851, 25 years before the State of Colorado, San Luis is the oldest continuously inhabited town in the state.

Shrine of the Stations of the Cross

Sangre de Cristo Parish & Missions, 511 Church Place, San Luis, CO 81152.

14 bronze sculptures depicting the last hours of Christ's life.

San Acicio

Home to the Southern Luis Southern Railroad Depot, now a private residence.

Rio Grande Crossing

Rio Grande Natural Area, CO 142, 11.5 miles east of Manassa, MM14.

Trails and traces of the Spanish are evident in this area.

Manassa

Home to the Jack Dempsey Museum, the town's most famous son.

Villages of the Culebra River

Little settlements include Mesita, San Acacio, San Francisco, Jaroso, Garcia, Los Fuertes, San Pedro, and Chama, to name a few.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (1927/1949)

6633 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129.

Oldest active church in Colorado. Architecture representative of Spanish Colonial Revival.

Photo by Fort Garland



Photo by Cathy Edwards



Photo by HeidiTown



Photo by HeidiTown



Photo by Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area



Explore These Byway Stops

Antonito

This dusty 1880 train town is home to famous train trips in America, as well as little surprises like murals on old walls.

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad (1880)

5234 B US 285, Antonito, CO 81120.

It is the nation's longest and highest narrow gauge railroad.

SPMDTU building, La Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (1925)

603 Main St, Antonito, CO 81120.

A long-standing institution of Colorado's civil rights history.

Southern Conejos County Interpretive Center,

5250 US 285, Antonito, CO 81120.

Get to know 20 smaller settlements located around the area. Appointment only.

San Isidro Church

Las Mesitas, CO 17, 6 miles southwest of Antonito.

Built in 1878, destroyed in a fire; visitors can see the ruins.

La Manga Pass

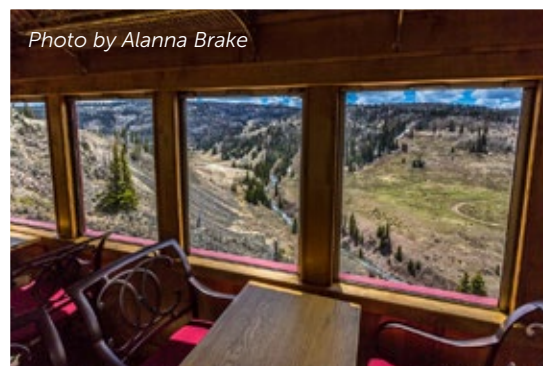
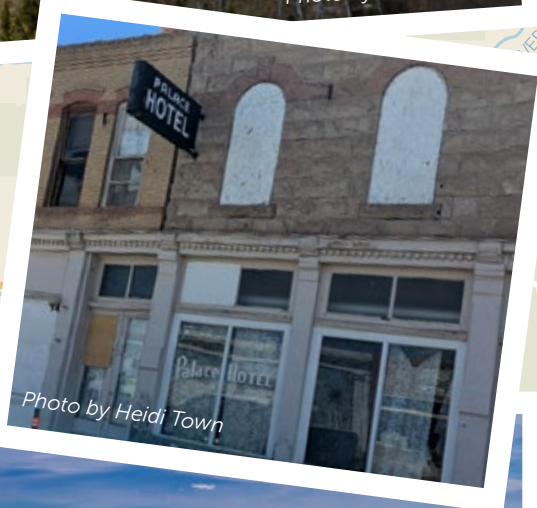
CO 17, MM 10 to 11, 10,230 feet elevation.

Offers gorgeous scenery, RV parks, fishing, hunting, and camping.

Trujillo Meadows Reservoir State Wildlife Area

CO 17 & Forest Service Road 118, 3 miles.

A favorite destination, especially for birders and wildflowers.



Explore These Byway Stops

Colorado Divide National Scenic Trail (1978)

Trailhead 813, known as the CDNST-Cumbres Pass North Trailhead.

Cumbres & Toltec Water Tank

Meadow, CO 17.

MM 8 has breathtaking views; MM 4 is the railroad section house.

Cumbres Peak

10,022 feet above sea level, well marked.

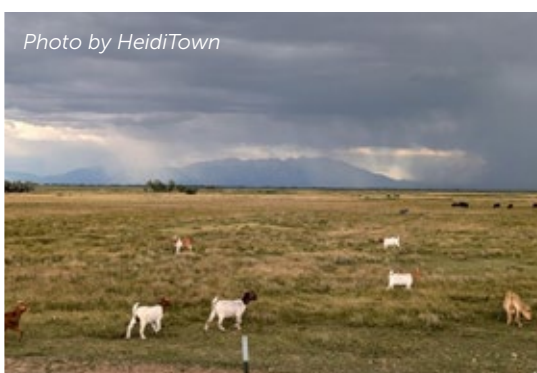
Welcome to New Mexico sign

CO 17 & NM 17, byway ends at the state line.

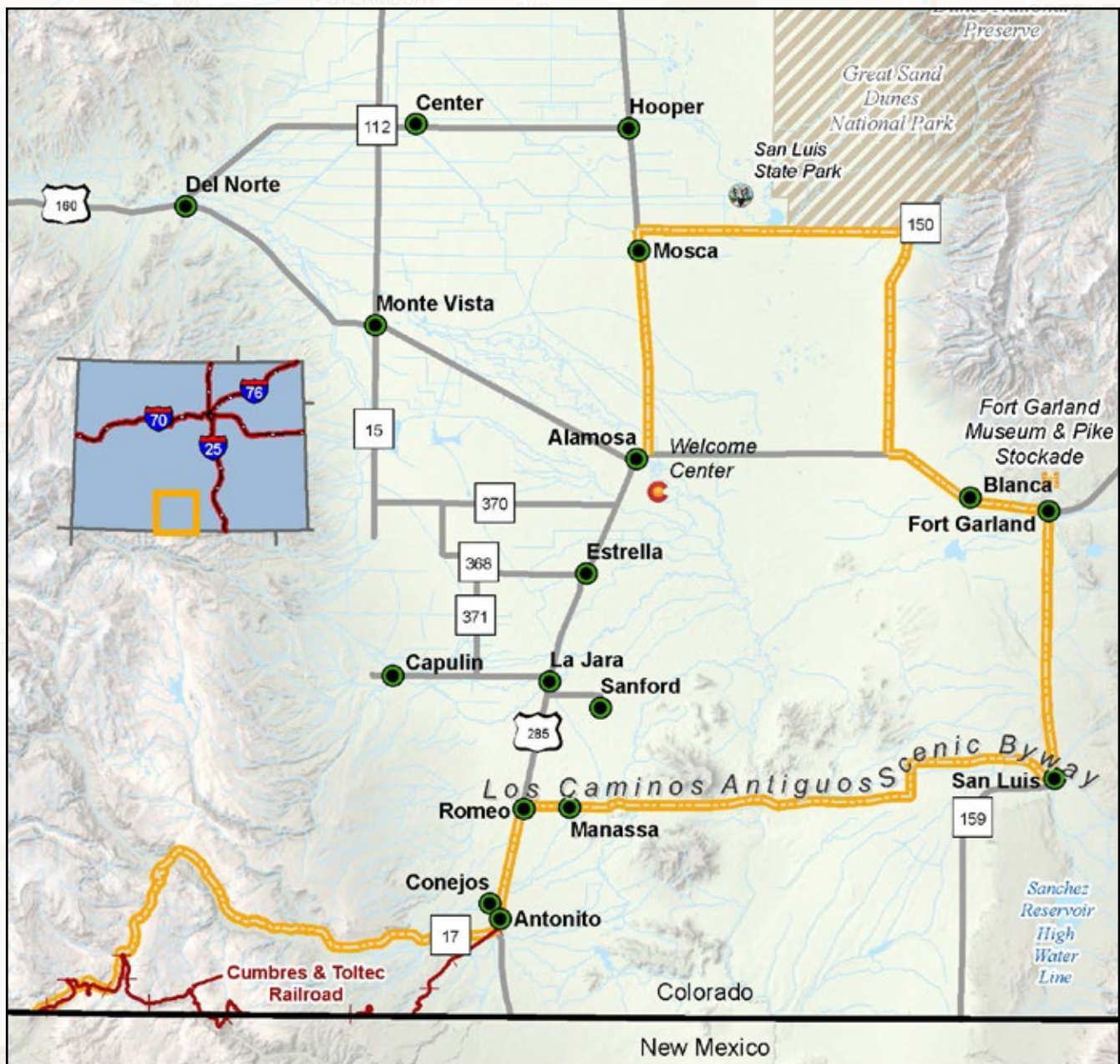
Chama, New Mexico, is only 8 miles away.

Los Caminos Antiguos: Making Connections

The Los Caminos Antiguos may end at the New Mexico border; however, just 8 miles south, Tracks Across Borders Scenic & Historic Byway continues from Chama, NM to Durango, CO. Heading west on US 160, in 47 miles, at South Fork, CO, to the Silver Thread Scenic & Historic Byway (America's Byways®), or heading east on US 160, in 59 miles, to the Highway of Legends Scenic & Historic Byway (America's Byways®). On CO 17 to US 285, from Alamosa to Poncha Springs (77 miles), to the Collegiate Peaks Scenic & Historic Byway.



LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS MAP



Colorado's Great American Road Trip is a campaign created to showcase the 26 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways during the America 250 – Colorado 150 anniversary in 2026. It is funded through the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program, Colorado Department of Transportation. Services provided by Heidi Kerr-Schlaefel, HeidiTown Consulting. "Check out HeidiTown.com to learn about more fun things to do in Colorado!"

