



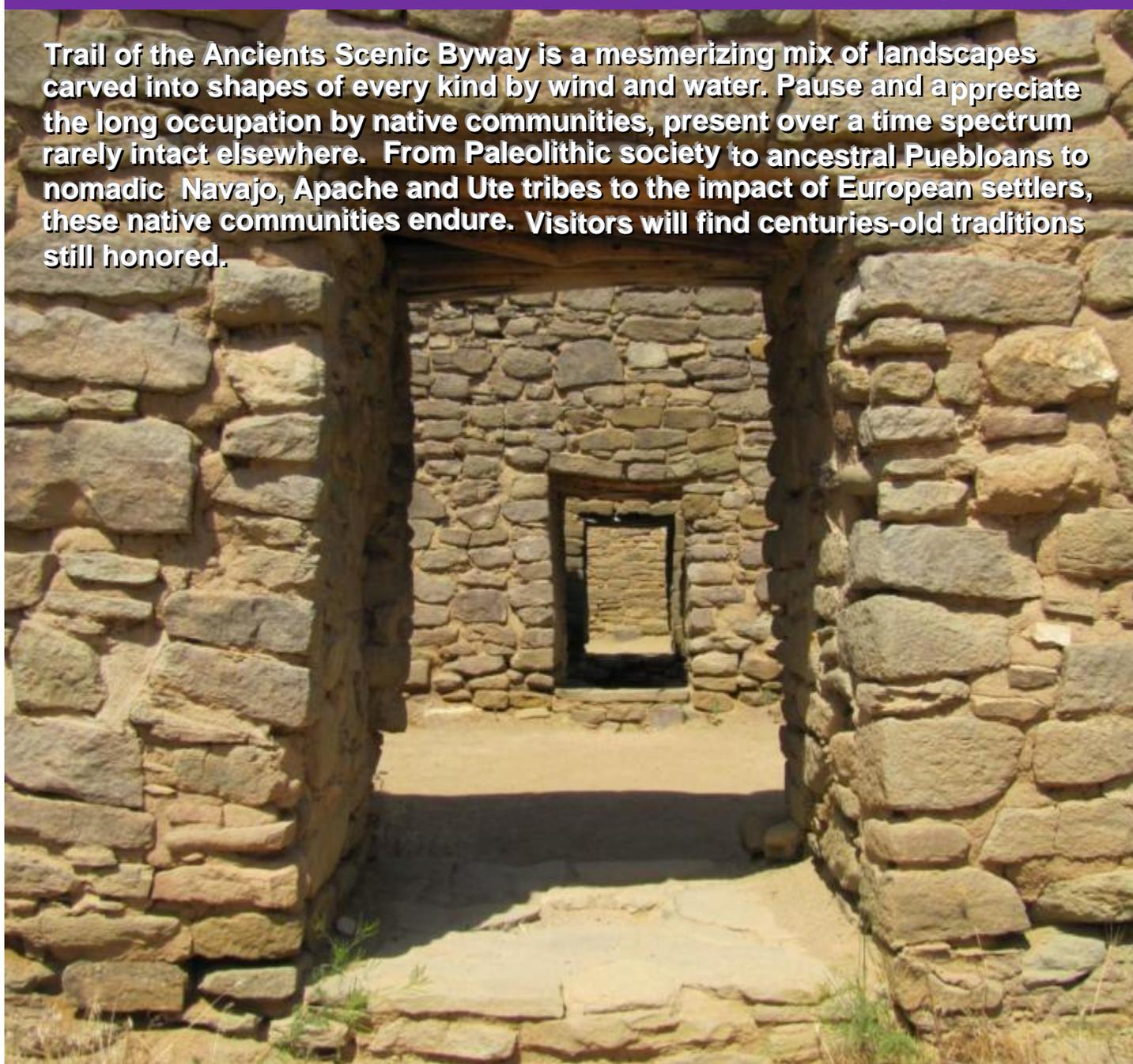
www.aztecnm.com

New Mexico, USA

  @CityofAztec

Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway

Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway is a mesmerizing mix of landscapes carved into shapes of every kind by wind and water. Pause and appreciate the long occupation by native communities, present over a time spectrum rarely intact elsewhere. From Paleolithic society to ancestral Puebloans to nomadic Navajo, Apache and Ute tribes to the impact of European settlers, these native communities endure. Visitors will find centuries-old traditions still honored.



Great Road Trips Series

110 N. Ash Ave ~ Aztec, NM 87410 ~ (505) 334-9551

Aztec

1. Aztec Ruins National Monument

This ancestral Puebloan community was active in the 12th and 13th centuries. This UNESCO World Heritage site offers 400+ rooms and North America's only reconstructed Great Kiva. The visitor center also houses a small but exceptional museum where visitors can view artifacts recovered from past excavations of the ruins, learn about the architecture and native American groups that interact with the Aztec Ruins.



www.nps.gov/azru

Aztec Museum & Pioneer Village

The Aztec Museum complex houses one of the finest collections of authentic western Americana. History comes alive at the Pioneer Village, where young and old are bedazzled by the resolve and fortitude of our forefathers. Tour firsthand the doctor's and sheriff's offices, blacksmith and foundry, an 1880 pioneer cabin, general store and post office, and the Cedar Hill Church—all painstakingly reconstructed from the original buildings.



www.aztecmuseum.org

Bloomfield

2. Salmon Ruins

Enjoy 11th century Puebloan ruins and a Chacoan great house, plus replicas of a sweatlodge, hogan, tipi and pithouse. View artifacts and browse the gift shop for Native American art. Traveler tip: Ask about the extraordinary, off-site "pueblito" and rock-art tours hidden within Largo Canyon.



www.salmonruins.com

Chaco Canyon

3. Chaco Culture National Historical Park

Formerly a major ceremonial and trade center, this UNESCO World Heritage site was active from 850-1250 A.D. Regarded as central to the ancestral Puebloan culture, it is located in a canyon that contains the largest excavated ruins in the Southwest. The area features hundreds of small sites and 13 major ruins, most of which are accessible by car or on foot. The Park preserves the monumental architecture and complex community life of a major center of ancestral Puebloan culture that took root and flourished for a thousand years.



Culture and History

The Chacoan culture began to flourish in the canyon in the mid-800s with continual habitation and building lasting for another 300 years. The ancient Puebloan people constructed massive stone buildings, called great houses. These great houses were multiple stories in height and much larger than what had previously been built. Construction on some of these buildings spanned decades and even centuries. These structures were often aligned with solar, lunar, and cardinal directions and placed within a landscape surrounded by sacred mountains, mesas, and shrines. The buildings in the canyon are believed to be "public architecture" that were used periodically by the people for times of ceremony and commerce.



www.nps.gov/chcu

Navajo Nation

4. Crownpoint

Famous for its area weaver auctions of Navajo rugs, auctions are usually held the second Friday of each month. Artisans also sell jewelry and pottery.



Grants

Formerly a railroad coal station, Grants boomed when uranium was discovered in 1950. Visitors enjoy mined gems and a re-created uranium mine at the New Mexico Mining Museum. Grants is a favorite stop along Route 66. www.grants.org

5. El Malpais National Monument

El Malpais' jagged, molten lava landscape of lava tubes, cinder cones, pressure ridges and caves formed more than a million years ago.

www.nps.gov/elma



6. Bandera Volcano and Ice Cave

Ice Cave One of the country's finest examples of volcanic eruption, visitors also enjoy an ice cave where temperatures never rise above 31 degrees F.

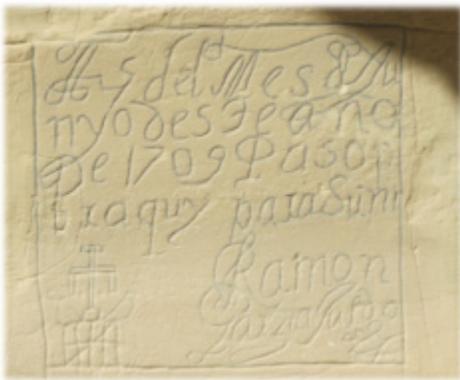
www.icecaves.com



7. El Morro National Monument

A vital waterhole at its base made El Morro a popular stop for ancestral Puebloans, Spanish explorers and early American travelers. Some 2,000 names, dates, messages and petroglyphs are etched into its sandstone bluff.

www.nps.gov/elmo



Zuni

8. Zuni Pueblo

The six original Zuni pueblos were the legendary "Cities of Gold" sought by Vasquez de Coronado. Settled in 1699, Zuni is the largest of New Mexico's 19 pueblos and is celebrated for producing silver jewelry, stone fetishes and pottery.

www.zunitourism.com

Gallup

Gallup was a westward railroad stop, then later a Route 66 pass-through. Trading companies and pawn shops line Gallup's main streets, offering a wealth of Native American art and crafts. The annual Inter-Tribal Ceremonial in mid-August is a premier event with parades, dances, marketplace, contest powwow, rodeo and Native foods.

www.gallupnm.gov

Navajo Nation

9. Two Grey Hills Trading Post at Tohatchi

Two Grey Hills Trading Post is an historic post on the Navajo Reservation. Constructed of original stone and adobe, it remains the primary source of authentic, "Two Grey Hills" style regional rugs, known around the world as the finest in Navajo weaving.

www.twogreyhills.com

10. Toadlena Trading Post at Newcomb

Toadlena supplies cash, services, and goods for approximately 1,500 Navajos that trade their hand-woven Native American rugs.

www.toadlenatradingpost.com

11. Shiprock Pinnacle

This prominent landmark rises 1,800 feet above the desert plain on the Navajo Nation. A remnant of volcanic activity millions of years ago, Shiprock plays a significant role in Navajo religion, mythology, and tradition. It is a point of interest for photographers and several film productions and novels, including the movie "The Lone Ranger." The rock formation is near the community of Shiprock, home to the Northern Navajo Fair, the oldest and most traditional of the Nation's fairs, held every October.

Hiking or climbing on or to Shiprock Pinnacle is illegal without a Navajo Nation permit: <https://navajonationparks.org/permits>



Farmington

Farmington is surrounded by world-class cultural treasures, magnificent landscapes, and thrilling river sports. Local museums highlight everything from fish and game to developments in electrical history to children's activities. Farmington Museum and Visitors' Center at Gateway Park exhibits the city's history, oil and gas industry, a trading post reproduction and rotating exhibitions.

<https://farmingtonnm.org>



12. Bisti De-Na-Zin Wilderness

A federal wilderness area, the Bisti De-Na-Zin Wilderness is a desolate area of eroded badlands that offer some of the most unusual scenery in the Four Corners region. Time and nature have etched a world of fantastic rock formations that have become a favored wilderness experience. The Bisti is world renowned for the discovery of the “Bisti Beast” a Tyrannosaurus Bistahieversor sealeyi discovered in 1998 and now on exhibit at the New Mexico Natural History Museum. In addition, the remains of an adolescent Pentaceratops was recovered in 2015 and is now the New Mexico Natural History Museum. www.aztecnm.com/recreation/bisti/visit.html



