

Turquoise Trail Corridor Management Plan
Version 2.0



Winter watching in the Sandias
(National Scenic Quality)



Winter driving in the Sandias
(National Scenic Quality)

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Just another sunset in paradise

(National Scenic Quality)

Western ski view from New Mexico Highway 14



And another to savor the next day

(National Scenic and Natural Qualities)

West view to Cabezon Peak from a few miles north of Golden. We hope you enjoyed your brief tour of the nationally significant qualities found on the Turquoise Trail. Moreover, we believe you appreciate how important it is to preserve and protect our national assets for current and future generations to enjoy. Please keep that in mind when you visit the Turquoise Trail or any of the wonderful byways located across the USA.

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Tijeras Pueblo: A Canyon Community (Regional Archaeological Quality)

(Text courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service) Hands caked with adobe began to shape, smooth and pat the walls of Tijeras Pueblo about A.D. 1313. A thick slurry of mud, sand and clay was layered horizontally, dried, then layered again. Did the first builders realize that these "puddled adobe walls" would eventually house as many as 400 people?

The village grew rapidly as families in tiny settlements up and down the canyon chose to leave their homes and join together at Tijeras. Long-term drought throughout the region was forcing movement, change and relocation. People from the Rio Grande valley may also have been attracted to this new upland community. Abundant local rainfall favored the village as it grew.

Tijeras Pueblo rested in a canyon crossroads that connected it to other villages near and far. Springs and running water, plentiful game and wild plants had supported small groups of canyon dwellers for thousands of years. The people of Tijeras Pueblo depended on these natural resources too. They also planted bright green fields of corn among the native stands of pinion and juniper. The canyon and surrounding mountains were called upon to sustain a large population concentrated in a small area.

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By the mid 1300s the largest structure at Tijeras consisted of about 200 rooms. A dozen smaller buildings, each with 5 to 25 rooms, stood nearby. Centrally located in the village was the Great Kiva, a large circular room 45 feet in diameter. This partly underground, stone masonry structure probably served as a ceremonial center for the people of Tijeras.

Archaeological evidence indicates that Tijeras Pueblo was partially abandoned after A.D. 1368. Many families left the community and for about 20 years the pueblo lay relatively silent. Then a second phase of construction and growth began in 1390. New activity was concentrated in the largest structure at Tijeras. It was remodeled, forming a U-shape, which surrounded an east-facing plaza. This final occupation lasted about 35 years. By A.D. 1425 the people of Tijeras had moved on.

Rediscovering Tijeras Pueblo

Tijeras Pueblo first captured the attention of archaeologists in 1930, when H.P. Mera collected ceramics for study and made the first map of the ruins. A year later, W.S. Stallings began collecting tree ring samples from the main mound. These samples helped date the site to the 1300s.

In 1948, the University of New Mexico investigated the main mound. Twenty six student notebooks document the work carried out under the direction of Stanley Stubbs and Fred Wendorf.

Other pieces of the Tijeras Pueblo "puzzle" were solved during excavations conducted over the years by the State of New Mexico and the Albuquerque Archaeological Society.

The University of New Mexico Archaeological Field School returned to Tijeras Pueblo to conduct extensive excavations from 1971 to 1976. Led by James Judge and Linda Cordell, the focus of research went far beyond finding out what was beneath the mounds of rubble. An archaeological survey of Tijeras Canyon was conducted. Using new research techniques, archaeologists were able to describe the climate and other environmental conditions of the 14th century.

Tijeras Pueblo Today

Today a large, grass-covered mound is the only visible evidence of the 200-room pueblo that once dominated the landscape. After excavation the ruins were reburied, or back-filled to protect the site from destruction from wind, rain and other forces. Illustrated trail signs, scale models, and your imagination bring the-pueblo to life. The Education Center features hands-on activities and programs related to pueblo culture.

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Protecting Our Heritage

The U.S. Forest Service manages renewable resources and protects wilderness areas and historic sites on National Forest lands. Sites like Tijeras Pueblo are fragile and irreplaceable. If we all do our part to protect and care for them, our lives will continue to be enriched as we learn about our cultural heritage.

Respect Tijeras Pueblo

Please stay on the trail during your visit to Tijeras Pueblo. Do not remove potsherds and other artifacts from the site. Remember that every artifact contains important clues from the past. Without such clues, archaeologists would not be able to piece together the story of the people who lived here.

Visiting Tijeras Pueblo

You are invited to look through a "window on the past" and imagine what life was like at a time when people had a close relationship with the land. The Tijeras Pueblo Archaeological Site is located at the Sandia Ranger Station, 11776 Hwy 337, 1/2 mile south of 1-40 in Tijeras, New Mexico.

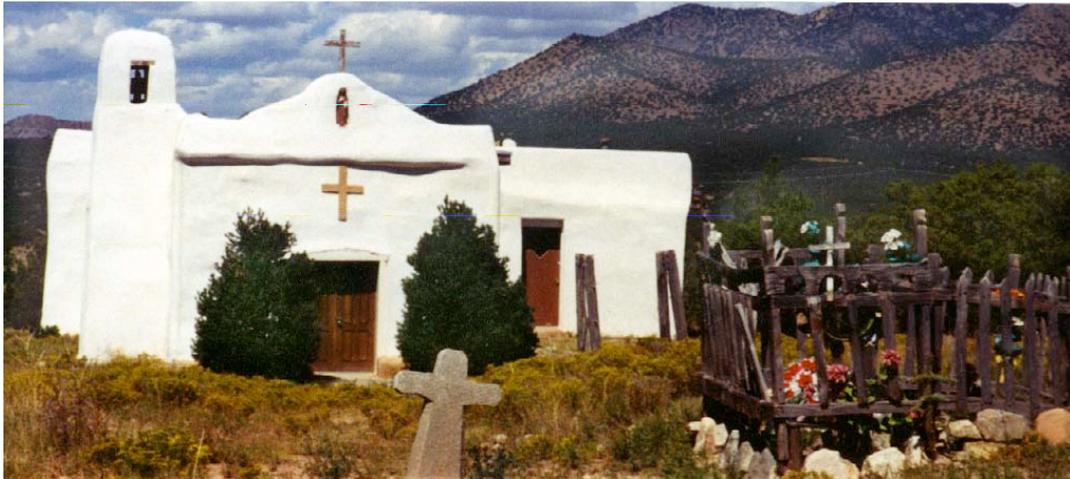
The self-guided trail is open to the public from 8 am to 5 pm on weekdays and from 8:30 am to 5 pm on weekends. Begin your visit at the Ranger Station, where the lobby exhibit introduces you to Tijeras Pueblo. You will also find information, books and maps there. The trail is approximately 1/3 mile long and begins behind the Ranger Station. It is an easy trail, which is moderately accessible to wheelchairs. Before you visit in winter, call the Ranger Station since the trail may be closed during inclement weather.

For information on special tours and programs call the Sandia Ranger District at (505) 281-3304. Those using a Text Telephone (TDD) can reach the office at the same number.

San Marcos Pueblo (Regional Archaeological Quality)

This important site was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites in 1982. Its reference number is 82003326. The location is restricted at this time. The San Marcos Pueblo potentially has national or regional significance; but public access is extremely limited and is usually available to students and professionals in the field; however, there have been guided public tours of the site in the past. This asset is so rich in potential that preservation must supersede promotion. For that reason, we do not mark it on our maps. It is listed here as an asset that must be preserved. Development of this asset will likely be in the form of off-site interpretation. For more information on the pueblo, contact the Archaeological Conservancy at 505-266-1540 or visit their website at www.americanarchaeology.com.

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Culture that can be seen

(Regional Cultural Quality)

View of the San Francisco de Assisi church in Golden with the San Pedro Mountains in the background. The church was built in the 1820s. Except for Catholic services a few times each year, the building is not open to visitors. Nevertheless, it is easily accessible for photos a minutes walk from NM 14, near Milepost 17.4.



And heard

(Regional Cultural Quality)

Madrid Music Festivals are held each summer at Madrid's historic ballpark.

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San Antonito Church & Cemetery

(Regional Cultural Quality)

San Antonito was listed on the National Historic Register on January 16, 1997 as one of a number of Religious Properties of New Mexico. Its reference number is 96001607. The church is located on the west side of NM 14 at Milepost 6. San Antonito is also a Registered Cultural Property designated by the State of New Mexico. A quote from the plaque on the building:

“Built circa 1886. An archetypical Spanish Colonial village church with pitched roof adaptation and adjoining cemetery. Site No. 1644”

Cerrillos Hills Historic Park

(Regional Archaeological, Cultural, Historical, and Natural Qualities)

Although Cerrillos Hills Historic Park is placed under cultural, the parks regional, and potentially national, intrinsic qualities extend to archaeological, historic, and natural. The park is placed under cultural because of its unique mining story and its profound impact on three distinct cultures that exist to this day. The Cerrillos Mining District is listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties and also is included in the US Department of Interior's National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. Fayette Jones, Director of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines, said of the Cerrillos Mining District in 1905, "From a historical standpoint, no section in the United States is possessed of so much interest". The Park, owned and operated by Santa Fe County, opened to the public on May 24, 2003.

Geology (text courtesy of the CHPC): The hills or uplands of the Cerrillos rise 1000-1500 feet above the surface of the Santa Fe and Galisteo basins. Three peaks reach about 7000 feet. Cerro Bonanza [7088 ft.] is quite massive and dominates the northern end of the hills. The other two are more isolated and occur in the east-central portion; Cerro de la Cosena [6923 ft.] and Grand Central Mountain [6976 ft.].

Several major arroyos occur in the area. Skirting the southern edge of the hills is San Marcos arroyo, whose basin extends into the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains and which is the major surface outlet for a large portion of the Galisteo basin. The San Marcos joins Galisteo Creek at the town of Cerrillos. The San Marcos arroyo also receives drainage from the Gallinas arroyo which borders the Park on the east. The Mina del Tiro Arroyo drains south and west of the park parcels and joins the San Marcos just above the town of Cerrillos.

Abundant geologic data are available concerning the Cerrillos area. The local geologic story begins in the early Mesozoic Era, perhaps 180 to 200 million years ago. The extensive history of mining in the Cerrillos area, dating from the earliest prehistoric Indian turquoise and lead mining prior to 1000 A.D., to Spanish mines of the 17th century, such as the Mino del Tiro, and to American mining of the 19th century, make this one of the oldest mining districts in North America. There is evidence of pre-Columbian vein workings and smelter sites which are of immense historical and archaeological value and indicate sources of metallic substances used by past cultures. Except for turquoise, mining in the area has been marginal and aimed at recovering low-grade sulfides, zinc, and lead along with some silver, gold and copper.

The nature of the mining to date has been benign with respect to toxic substances. All abandoned mines have been surveyed for fencing or other closures and appropriate grating was placed at known bat habitats before the Park opened to the public. The Cerrillos Mining District was placed on the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties in 1973.

Ecology (text courtesy of the CHPC): The Cerrillos Hills is representative of the piñon-juniper ecosystem, roughly from 4500' to 6500' in elevation. The widely spaced, mixed