

Welcome to the EL PASO MISSION TRAIL



This visitor guide is intended to showcase historical and cultural places of interest along the El Paso Mission Trail.

The Mission Trail is a nine-mile segment of the *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* (The Royal Road of the Interior) which stretches more than 1,500 miles from Mexico City to Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, just north of Santa Fe. Following indigenous trails, it is the earliest European-American trade route in North America. Congress designated it a National Historic Trail in 2000. This same nine-mile section is also part of the Butterfield Overland Trail, the 3,292-mile stagecoach mail and passenger route which crossed seven states between St. Louis, Missouri and San Francisco, California. The trail was designated a National Historic Trail by Congress in 2023.

More information on specific sites can be found in the El Paso Mission Trail Historic Guide, the Walking Tour of the Socorro Mission, and the Self-Guided Walking Tour of the San Elizario Historic District. These and other guides can be found at the Visit El Paso website, www.https://visitelpaso.com/places/historic-mission-trail. Printed copies can be obtained at the Mission Valley Visitor Center in Ysleta, Socorro Mission, Los Portales Museum & Visitor Center, and the Old County Jail in San Elizario, and at the Visit El Paso Visitor Center. Also, please click on the QR code for more information.



Parking **P**
No Entry Fee **F**
Facebook **f**
Shop **S**



Historical Places to Visit...

Mission Valley Visitor Center

(Nestor A. Valencia Sun Metro Station) **P F S f**
9065 Alameda Ave at Zaragoza Rd.
El Paso, TX 79907 (915) 292-8516
Open Tues-Thurs: 10 am - 1 pm, Fri: 12 - 3 pm
www.elpasomissions.org

The Visitor Center is located in the 1873 Lowenstein building, named after owners Moritz and Juana Lowenstein, a prominent family of Ysleta. Visitors will learn more about the nine-mile trail corridor and also the borderland region including the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and Butterfield Overland National Historic Trails.

Ysleta Mission (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish)

Dedicated Parking is available, please use the entrance located on South Zaragoza Rd., just past Alameda Ave. intersection.
131 S Zaragoza Rd. • El Paso, TX 79907
(915) 859-9848 **P F S f**
Gift Shop: Open daily 10 am-4 pm (915) 777-6884
www.ysletamission.org

Visit the oldest continuously active parish in the State of Texas, established in 1680 following the Pueblo Indian Revolt. The current church building was rebuilt following a fire in 1907. See the statues of St. Anthony and Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680) the first North American Indian canonized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church.

Speaking Rock Entertainment Center

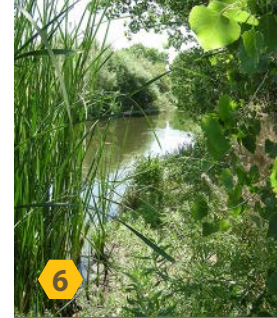
122 S Old Pueblo Rd. • El Paso, TX 79907
(915) 860-7777 **P F S f**
www.ysletadelsurpueblo.org
A 24/7 Live music venue featuring tribute shows, rock, mariachis, and pop music. Full-service restaurant and cafe. A portion of Speaking Rock includes the historic Alderete-Candelaria house.

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Cultural Center

305 Yaya Ln at Socorro Rd. • El Paso, TX 79907
(915) 859-7700 **P F S f**
www.ysletadelsurpueblo.org
Learn about centuries of Tigua Tribal culture and the history of the oldest federally recognized tribe in Texas. The tribe's heritage is featured and celebrated with a museum, programs such as bread baking (every other Saturday), and other activities. Please call ahead for the schedule.

Socorro Mission (La Purísima)

328 S Nevarez • Socorro, TX 79927
(915) 859-7718 **P F S f**
Open Mon - Sat 10 am-4 pm, Sun 10 am to 3 pm
www.nps.gov/places/socorro-mission
Visit this iconic adobe mission, originally founded in 1680 by Spain to serve displaced Piro, Tano, and Jemez Indians displaced by the 1680 Pueblo Indian Revolt. The current church building dates to 1843 and includes the hand-hewn cottonwood vigas salvaged from the earlier church located nearby. The mission reflects many Piro Indian design elements including the facade. The site of the earlier Socorro Mission was located nearby at 10551 Nichols Road and is designated as the Old Socorro Mission, a State Historic Site. (The old mission site does not offer public services or facilities at this time) The site includes an Official Texas Historical Marker.



Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

(915) 747-5766 **P F**
Map and directions available at www.riobosque.org.
Take in this 372-acre site that showcases the rich habitats of the Rio Grande. A diverse partnership is working to bring back meaningful examples of the unique and valuable ecosystems once found in the El Paso river valley. More than 260 species of birds and a wonderful mosaic of animals have returned to the area since its restoration, and the landscape continues to evolve.

Bodega Loya

10257 Socorro Rd. • Socorro, TX 79927
(915) 269-6277
Open Friday: 12 pm to 5pm
Open Saturday: 10 am to 5pm **P F S f**
Open Sunday: 12 pm to 5pm
<https://gwsfarm.com>

This family-owned farmer's market offers produce and fruits grown on-site or from other local farmers. It represents the centuries-old agricultural legacy of the Mission Valley wherein families grew and sold their own crops. The market includes an art gallery, local crafts and a cafe.

Rio Vista Farm Historic District

901 Rio Vista Rd. • Socorro, TX 79927
(915) 860- 8615 **P F**
<https://costx.us/historic-preservation>
Established in 1915 as a 14-acre farm to shelter El Paso's indigent orphans and the elderly Rio Vista Farm has evolved over time to serve the local community and region. During the Great Depression, additional buildings were constructed to shelter families. In 1951, Rio Vista Farm became a processing center for thousands of Mexican farm workers known as Braceros. Today, the historic site which includes all but two of its original buildings, serves as a community center for the City of Socorro. The buildings are being reonovated and plans include a museum dedicated to the Bracero legacy. The Rio Vista Farm Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in 2023 the U.S. Secretary of the Interior designated the Rio Vista Bracero Reception Center as a National Historic Landmark.

Licon Dairy

11951 Glorietta Rd. • San Elizario, TX 79849
(915) 851-2705 **P F S f**
Open Mon-Sun, 6 am - 5 pm
www.licondairy.com
Licon Dairy in San Elizario, is a family-owned dairy farm that has been in business since the 1950s. The farm produces a wide selection of fresh, high-quality dairy products including asadero cheese, chile con queso, whey, and requeson. The dairy also offers an Ice Cream Shop, Restaurant and a free petting zoo.

Los Portales Museum and Information Center

1521 San Elizario Rd. • San Elizario, TX 79849
www.losportalesmuseum.org **P F S f**
(915) 851-1682
Open Mon - Sun: 11 am - 5 pm, Closed Wed
<https://www.sanelizariogenealogy.org/>
Los Portales, (the portals) was originally the family home of Don Gregorio Garcia, a Texas Ranger, state legislator and El Paso County Judge. It became the first public school in El Paso County. Constructed of adobe, the roof is supported by cottonwood rafters (vigas), which support the latilla ceiling, made of peeled branches. Exhibits tell the rich and colorful history of San Elizario and the Mission Valley.



Presidio Chapel San Elizario

1556 San Elizario Rd. • San Elizario, TX 79849
(915) 851-2333 **P F f**
Open Mon -Sat: 8:30 am - 5 pm,
Sun: 7:30 am - 2 pm

www.nps.gov/places/presidio-chapel-of-san-elizario.htm
The chapel was established as a part of the 1789 presidio (fort) established by Spain to protect Spanish settlements in the area. The current church building was completed in 1882 and is a unique blend of Southwestern and European architectural styles, adobe, and stained-glass windows. The chapel includes the names of local soldiers who served in WW II.

San Elizario Cultural District

1445 to 1501 Main St. • San Elizario, TX 79849
(915) 851-1682 **P F S f**
Open Wed-Sun: 11 am - 5 pm
www.sanelizariohistoricdistrict.com
Visit local artists who are often creating their works of art on-site. San Elizario is recognized by the Texas Commission of the Arts as a State Cultural District.

Eduardo M. Pedregon Veterans Museum and Memorial Walk

1501 Main St. • San Elizario, TX 79849
(915) 851-1682 **P F S f**
[email:rborregosaneli@gmail.com](mailto:rborregosaneli@gmail.com)
www.sanelizariogenealogy.org/
The only Veterans Museum in the Valley, this treasure showcases memorabilia and artifacts that honor the brave men and women from San Elizario who have served our nation's armed forces, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Old County Jail Museum

1551 Main St. • San Elizario, TX 79849
Open Mon - Sun: 11 am - 5 pm, Closed Wed
Constructed in 1850 when San Elizario was designated the first county seat of El Paso, the jail was a part of the original adobe County Courthouse which was located across the street on the site of today's Adobe Horseshoe Theatre & Event Center. Notable as a place where Billy the Kid freed a jailed friend, the building serves as a Jail Museum.

For more information:

• **Butterfield Trail Link**
<https://www.nps.gov/buov/index.htm>

• **Camino Real Link**
<https://www.nps.gov/places/el-camino-real-de-tierra-adentro-national-historic-trail.htm>