



RPI ROAD TRIPPIN' - SOUTHWEST

Life on the road is exciting. With proper planning, a good night's sleep and some exciting sites, we can wake up invigorated each day. We'll stop at high contrast areas from glamorous malls to alien abduction sites to artsy ghost towns! So pack up your rig, we're going road trippin'!

We'll start in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Albuquerque is a city against beautiful red rocks with historic Spanish architecture. We can stay at [Hidden Valley Resort](#) which is one of RPI's Preferred Parks for \$10 per night. Hidden Valley, although technically outside of Albuquerque, is situated right off Highway 40. It's the perfect spot. If you make it around April or even October/November, you're pretty much guaranteed a spot.



The Turquoise Trail starts in Tijeras, New Mexico and ends in Santa Fe. Highway 14 winds across gorgeous red rock formations. It eventually leads to the artsy town of Madrid. Filled with unique stores and great cafes, this day trip will satisfy every artists' need for inspiration.

TRAVEL TIP: TRAVELING IN THE SHOULDER SEASON IS A GREAT TIME TO TRAVEL. BECAUSE IT MEANS FEWER CROWDS, AND OFTEN, LOWER PRICES. SO, AVOID THE MASSES AND GO RIGHT BEFORE, OR AFTER, PEAK SEASON.

Let's not forget about Albuquerque. Old Town Albuquerque is pretty awesome. It's incredibly historic, featuring well-preserved Spanish architecture, restaurants, cool art stores and even a ghost tour. It's beautiful and it has tons to offer. Make sure to try [The Breaking Bad tour](#), where they take you to pivotal film locations from the show. Check out this and other tours on Travel Resources page on our website. People who stay at Hidden Valley make Old Town Albuquerque a priority.



With many sites to see like [The Duran Central Pharmacy](#) (a vintage pharmacy serving New Mexican food) or the [Sandia Peak Tramway](#) (the world's third longest single span aerial tramway), we're going to stop right there. Let's not burn out right away. The next stop is out of this world: Roswell, New Mexico, which is three hours southeast.



Roswell, New Mexico is a special place in the heart of many Americans. It's the place where aliens made first contact. To many, Roswell is UFO paradise. People come here to investigate the one and only alien saucer crash. Roswell is home to the [International UFO Museum and Research Center](#) and many other photo-ops with aliens living like humans. It's a great interactive museum with sets of alien planets. It's an Instagrammers dream come true!

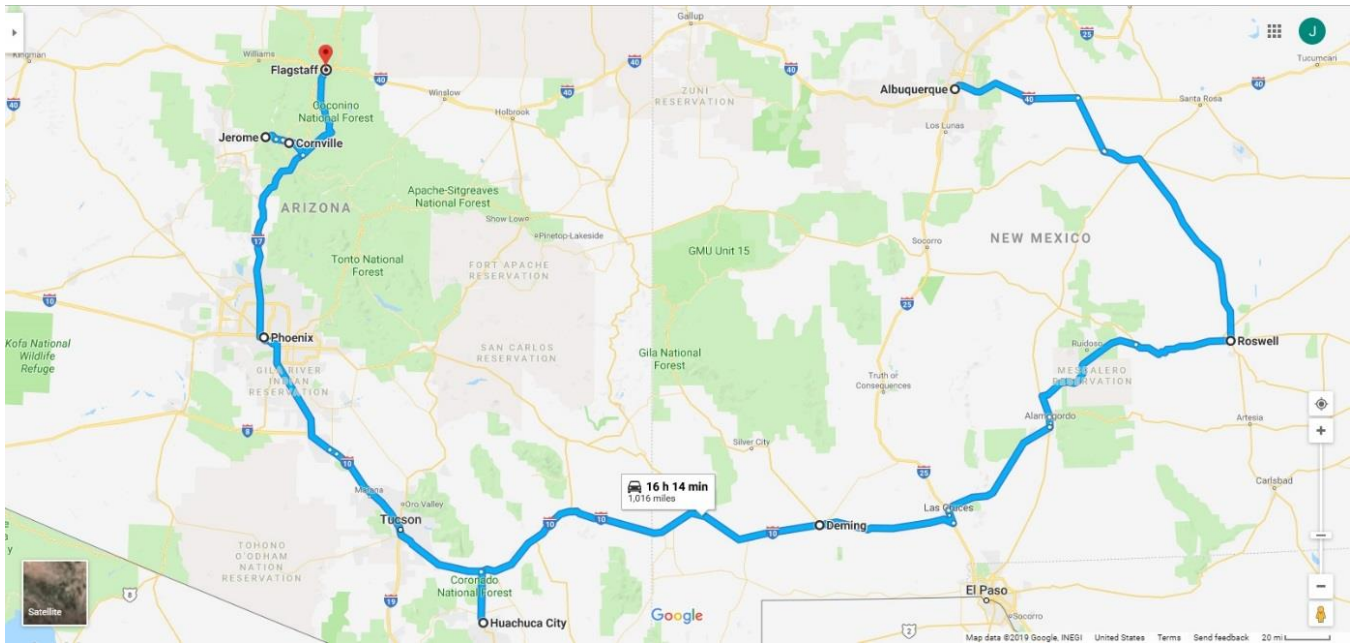
If you're hungry, head over to Farley's Food, Fun & Pub, located at 1315 N. Main Street, for typical diner food with out-of-this-world decor. It's just too bad they don't serve alien meat for lunch!

As we start to wind down for the day, we head west about 4 hours. This is also the longest drive on our trip. We're heading over to Deming, New Mexico for one of our Additional Savings campgrounds for the night. [El Rancho Lobo RV Park](#) gives you 50 percent off year-round, for being a member with us. This means your member rate starts at \$11, plus a small electricity fee. This park is a great place to relax or sleep for the night. Although, I should mention the GPS will take you through an unpaved gravel road. You'll still get to the park, but if you're looking for an alternative, make sure to take 549 to 377 which is paved. From here, get onto Lewis Flat Road and you'll see the park.

Deming is a tiny town, but it's not without its quirky attractions. For starters, this town has the largest winery in New Mexico, offering daily wine tastings at [St. Clair Winery and Tasting Room](#). If you're looking for food, The Adobe Deli, located at 3970 Lewis Flats Rd, is a popular spot for lunch!

Look for the Great Horned Owls while you're at the park. This pair of owls nest here every year. They're about two feet tall with a wingspan of 5 feet! These gigantic birds of prey are astonishing!





If you want to keep it weird after Roswell, you can check out [The Triangles](#) about 20 minutes south. Supposedly, these triangles explain an impact crater and other weird metaphysical phenomenon in the area which theoretically comes from a parallel universe. In case you're curious, the coordinates are 32.0786 -107.4995. You can find it on Google Maps or ask for more information at the park!

A three hour drive west takes us to Huachuca City and Benson, Arizona. This is where we'll park for the night. You have a few choices for RV parks here. In Benson, Arizona, an RPI affiliate park called [Valley Vista RV Resort](#). It's \$10 per night. Other options include [Butterfield RV & Observatory](#) and [Pato Blanco Lakes RV Resort](#), part of our Additional Savings program.



In Huachuca City, Arizona there's [Quail Ridge RV Resort](#), an RPI affiliate park. It's \$10 per night plus a daily electricity fee. Quail Ridge RV is located at 4500 feet above sea level which means they're a lot cooler than Tucson or Phoenix.

Go spelunking at nearby [Kartchner Caverns](#). These caves, voted the best Arizona attraction by USA today, are home to thousands of cave bats. If you get hungry, the city of Sierra Vista is 10 miles away. Here you'll find every type of cuisine you're looking for.

Quail Ridge RV Resort is central to many historic attractions. You have Bisbee which offers mine tours of the creepy, yet historically significant underground tunnels that helped Arizona prosper in the copper industry. There's the wild and very famous town of Tombstone, known for gun-slinging cowboys. This town, frozen in time, offers shows and tours of the wild, wild west. It's like being in the middle of a movie set! Quail Ridge can give you more information on what tours they offer.



I don't want to blow your mind, but I'm *gonna* do it! This region also holds the sky islands of Arizona and New Mexico. These "Sky Islands" stood here when the oceans covered this land back when the dinosaurs were around. You can see the rings around the bodies of land which indicate the water receding over time. They're also some of the most biodiverse areas in the world. They hold incredible amounts of wildlife and vegetation. The sky islands offer hiking trails, tours, incredible views and even snow when areas below are in the 100's.



Enough about this great area, let's head north. If you're leaving Huachuca City, Phoenix is about three hours north. If you haven't been to Phoenix in the last few years, I have some awesome news for you. Phoenix is now one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. With a new metro rail system and a booming downtown, Phoenix Arizona is making a name for itself on many fronts.

Make sure to visit [FEZ](#), a Moroccan/American fusion restaurant. Prices are cheap and you get a whole lot of food! If you're not into Moroccan food, my next favorite restaurant is [The Clever Koi](#). This Asian/American fusion restaurant is cute, hip and delicious. Make sure to try their steamed pork buns which are actually shaped like tacos! They're incredible.

One of the great things about Phoenix, is the [Arizona Mills Mall](#), co-owned by Simon Outlet Shopping Mall. This outlet is great for savings. As an RPI member, you get additional discounts. We offer a free [Boarding Pass](#) with savings for participating stores within the mall. This outlet has stores like H&M, Claim Jumper, Disney Outlet and more. Make sure you present our Boarding Pass voucher to Simons Guest Services or Information Center for a complete list of participating stores. You can stop here and shop 'til your heart's content.



After spending the day in a great urban environment like Phoenix, we're heading north about an hour and a half. Let's check into [Page Springs](#) in Cornville Arizona another RPI affiliate park. This park is very cute. Situated inside a woodsy area with Oak Creek running through it. Many people love the hiking trails or sitting by the creek to fish.

Page Springs Resort is a great choice for sightseeing. For starters, there's a restaurant walking distance from the campground. It's called Up The Creek. Page Springs Resort also has three wineries nearby with the closest one about a mile from the park. It's also 10 miles from Sedona and 2 hours from the Grand Canyon!

Twenty minutes west of Page Springs is the ghost town of Jerome, Arizona. This town, resurrected by artists, is now a thriving art community. With restored historic buildings and hotels, Jerome has managed to keep that Wild West feel in a modern day setting.



I highly recommend taking one of the many [ghost tours of Jerome](#). This historic mining town has a few residents who just don't want to leave. And, if you capture any disembodied entities I want to know about it!

Our trip ends in Flagstaff Arizona. This

university town has a great but quaint downtown, with amazing restaurants for everyone. You can find ramen, sushi and good ol' American classics like Hamburgers. They have an amazing ski lift at The Snow Bowl and lots of natural wildlife roaming around, like Elk.

From here, head back to Page Springs Resort. Make sure to relax for a couple of days. Take in some nature or drive the four and a half hours back to where we started: Albuquerque, New Mexico.



I hope you've enjoyed this journey and made some amazing memories. I'll leave you with a partial quote from

an awesome and adventurous movie "Your mission, should you choose to accept it..." is an itinerary as unique as the life of a traveler. If you decide to use this itinerary make sure to make some great memories, revel in the freedom of travel and send us some great pictures!

Happy traveling!

James

RPI Travel Advisor & Fellow Traveler

Road Trip Playlist:

Artist | Song Title

Chuck Berry | Route 66

Willie Nelson | On the Road Again

Grateful Dead | Truckin'

Ella Fitzgerald | Two Little Men in a Flying Saucer

B52's | Planet Claire

The Specials | Ghost Town

Neil Young | Albuquerque

Journey | Dont Stop Believing

The Beatles | Dont Let Me Down

Zombies | Time of the Season

Arlo Guthrie | City of New Orleans

Janet Jackson | Runaway

Ray Charles | Hit the Road Jack

Janis Joplin | Bye Bye Baby