

In the vast agony of a nation at war with itself, the Confederate invasion of the New Mexico Territory is a minor drama. The dreams behind it, however, were grandiose. Rebels dreamed of access to the Santa Fe Trail and the gold mines of Colorado and California. They dreamed of fulfilling their manifest destiny and changing the course of the war. The Union knew it must deny those dreams. Some 4,000 Union and 3,000 Confederate soldiers fought in New Mexico, the westernmost campaign of the Civil War. More than 280 men died. The Confederacy won tactical victories at every major battle before returning empty-handed to Texas, defeated by harsh land and determined people. Today, the battlefields are places of beauty, of sands and marshes, mesas and canyons, where the wind whispers of dreams that died and dreams that lived.

CIVIL WAR SITES IN NEW MEXICO

See newmexico.com/civilwar for more information.

Use the I-25 corridor to follow a path similar to the ones used by both the Union and Confederate armies.

TEXAS BORDER TO SOCORRO:

— La Mesilla was the Confederate western headquarters. Visit the plaza, where the Confederate flag hung, and the Civil War relics in the Gadsden Museum. 505-526-6293.

— Fort Seldon State Monument, a post-Civil War fort and Confederate campsite, has displays and self-guided tours that reflect 19th century military life. 505-526-8911.

— Landmarks to note: Organ Mountains and Pass, Jornada del Muerto, San Mateo Mountains, Mesa del la Contadera.

— Fort Craig National Historic Site offers brochures and self-guided tours. 505-835-0412

— The Civil War Monument honors Confederate soldiers. Take the San Marcial, Exit A85 and go east to the monument. Continue to San Marcial, a small town built after the Valverde battle. Time has washed away the battlefield, but you can get an overview using Mesa del la Contadera as a reference point.

SOCORRO TO ALBUQUERQUE

— Socorro's historic walking tour visits period houses around the plaza. Sibley set up artillery on the southern bluffs. Some Civil War information can be viewed at the BLM office. A reenactment takes place around the February 21 anniversary of the Valverde Battle. 505-835-0424

— Old Town Albuquerque's plaza has replicas of Confederate cannons. Nearby Albuquerque Museum displays the originals and has a permanent civil war exhibit. The museum sponsors a reenactment every October. 505-242-4600.

ALBUQUERQUE TO FORT UNION

— El Rancho de las Golondrinas was used by both the Union and the Confederacy as a campsite. Now this living museum has a reenactment every spring. 505-471-2261.

— Santa Fe's plaza was the end of the Santa Fe Trail. The Palace of the Governors, where the Confederate flag briefly flew, is now a museum which contains civil war relics. 505-827-6483. The rampart ruins of Fort Marey, a Union strong-hold, are still visible. 505-955-6200.

— Landmarks to note: Pecos River, Glorieta Creek, Glorieta Mesa and Glorieta Pass (unmarked).

— See the Glorieta Battlefield Historic Marker. From I-25, take Glorieta-Pecos Interchange 299 and go east on NM 50. The marker is .4 mile on the south.

— Pecos National Historical Park contains ruins of Pecos Pueblo and protects important Civil War sites, including Kozlowski's Ranch and Pigeon's Ranch. The visitor center is a must-see. Limited guided tours of Civil War sites are scheduled. 505-757-6414, Ext. 1.

— Stroll Las Vegas's plaza, where Territorial Governor Connelly "relocated." The Rough Riders' Memorial and City Museum has some Civil War relics. 800-832-5947.

— Ft. Union National Monument, pictured on cover, is another must-see. Visitor center displays and self-guided ruin tours. 505-425-8025.



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CIVIL WAR

I N N E W M E X I C O



IN A NARROW AND WOODED PASS
CALLED GLORIETA, THE ROCKY
CANYON WALLS ONCE ECHOED WITH
ROARING CANNONS AND THE CRIES
OF BRAVE MEN FIGHTING AND DYING.
THIS BROCHURE IS A TRIBUTE TO
THOSE UNION AND CONFEDERATE
SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THE
NEW MEXICO CAMPAIGN.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

www.NEnewmexico.com/civilwar

Photos courtesy of Museum of New Mexico Archives (A - neg. no. 9846; D - neg. no. 9833), Colorado Historical Society (B), Nesbitt Memorial Library (C) and New Mexico State Records and Archives, Hubbell Collection (cover background - neg. no. 12306). Cover inset is Fort Union, New Mexico. Reenactment of the Battle at Glorieta from Pecos National Historical Park. Designed in Taos by Webb Design.

