

MANY OST TRAVELERS CAME FROM NEW MEXICO

They left for Los Angeles in the Fall. They came back to Santa Fé in the Spring, with herds of horses and mules.

The Southwestern cultural mixing started on the Old Spanish Trail. The peoples included Indians, Spanish and Anglos, among others.

NATIVE AMERICANS

The three branches of the OST went along old Indian routes, used by Pueblo, Utes, Navajos, Paiutes, Apaches, and California tribes. Utes often served as guides. Ute elders still ask, "*Why do you call these Ute trails the Old Spanish Trail?*"

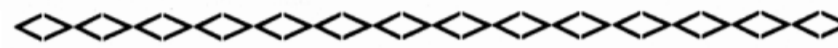
The Utes controlled much of Colorado and Utah at the time of the trading activity. They asked for and got many good horses as tribute from traders crossing their lands.

CALLED "SPANISH", BUT IT WAS MEXICAN

The Trail was called "Spanish" even though at the time it was all the northwest frontier of the Republic of Mexico. Spanish colonizers arrived in 'Nuevo Mexico' by 1598 and in 'Alta California' by 1769. Their descendants live in the area to this day.

THE ANGLOS

Frontiersmen from Canada and the United States came into Taos and Santa Fé in the early 1800s. Many of them married Hispanic women and became Mexican citizens.



IMPORTANT ANIMALS

Churro Sheep

Rugged Spanish churro sheep (*churras* in Spain) thrived in this rough country. They turned the grasses into wool. Their wool made durable rugs and blankets.

Churros soon became the Navajos' and Pueblos' source of wool, which they and the Spanish wove into beautiful designs.

Some of the rams have four horns. Other rams and the ewes have only two horns. The wool comes in several different colors.



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The Old Spanish Trail connected Santa Fé & Los Angeles 1829-1848



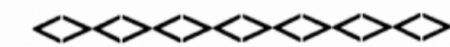
The OST traders found a profitable way to sell goods made in New Mexico.

ITEMS FROM NEW MEXICO:

Frezadas, Serapes (blankets, shawls)
Colchas (quilts or bedspreads)

WERE TRADED IN CALIFORNIA FOR:

Mulas (mules), Caballos (horses)
Imports



There was no trade between California and New Mexico before the Old Spanish Trail.

Most New Mexican trade went overland, south through Chihuahua to Mexico City. Most California trade was by sea to Mazatlán and other Mexican ports.

IMPORTANT ANIMALS

Mules and Horses

Mules and horses carried all the trade goods and people between New Mexico and California, through high valleys, over mountains, and across deserts.

Equipment for the *Mula de Carga*:

1. *Aparejo* a square pad of stuffed leather that sits like an open book on the mule's back. A broad grass cinch holds it on.
2. *Jerga* a saddle cloth, laid over a *Salea* or raw sheep skin.
3. *Carga* the load, balanced over the *aparejo*.
4. *Cuerda* or *soga* the rope that goes over all the load, tied tight around the packs and under the belly.
5. *Petate* a square mat that goes over the top to protect from rain.

Loading a mule in the morning took about 3 minutes. When a mule was loaded and taut, the *cargador* cried out *Adios!*

The packer answered *Vaya!*
then, to the mule, *Anda!*

The mule would stroll off to join the others, waiting until all 50-200 mules were ready to hit the trail.

Each mule carried 200-400 lbs of woolen dry goods. Each day, the *atajo* (caravan) traveled 12-15 miles (*una jornada*).



WHO TRAVELED THE TRAIL?

*Not a single diary
of the regular annual merchant caravans
of 1831 to 1848 has been found.*

--Hafen and Hafen,

Among the known travelers, you *may* find
your family names.

Armijo	Espinosa
Rowland	Wilson
Baca	Frémont
Salazar	Wolfskill
Carson	Martín / Martinez
Slover	Workman
Chacón	Quintana
Trujillo	Young
Charlefoix	Robidoux
Vigil	

Tough people and clever traders!

TRAIL FOOD

For the horses and mules:
fresh grass and clean water.

For the 30-100 men:
clean water, berries, frijoles, chili colorado,
corn flour, jerky, now and then
venison or turkey.

A MAIN ROUTE WITH ALTERNATES

The first or "Armijo" route went through Arizona and Navajo country. Later travelers arched north for better water and forage. The Main route runs northwest from Santa Fe into Utah, then turns southwest over mountains and desert through Nevada to Los Angeles. But alternates include a North Branch through Colorado and the "Mojave Road" towards the Colorado River.



Want More Information?

Check: www.oldspanishtrail.org

Read:

- Poling-Kempes. 1997. *Valley of Shining Stone*.
- Hafen & Hafen. 1993. *Old Spanish Trail; Santa Fé to Los Angeles*.
- Crampton & Madsen. 1994. *In Search of the Spanish Trail*.