

GHOST TOWNS

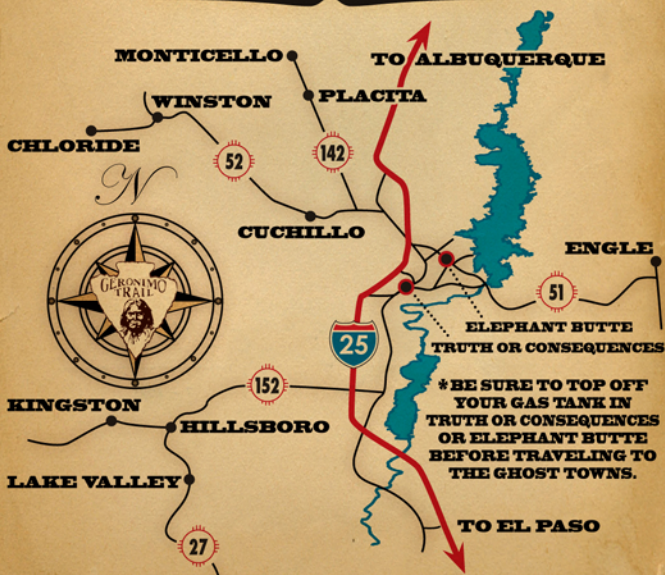
of

SIERRA COUNTY

New Mexico



**MONTICELLO · PLACITA · WINSTON
CHLORIDE · CUCHILLO · ENGLE
HILLSBORO · KINGSTON · LAKE VALLEY**



WWW.GERONIMOTRAIL.COM * 575-894-1968

MONTICELLO: (25mi N of TorC on NM142) founded by ranchers and farmers in 1856 as Cañada Alamosa (cottonwood canyon). The town was renamed by its first postmaster, Aristide Bourguet, in 1881. Nearby Ojo Caliente was headquarters for the Southern Apache Agency, home to 500 Chiricahua Apaches. Monticello was built in a square to protect residents from attack. You can see remains of the old adobe town walls when you visit the historic plaza. The cemetery has graves dating back to the 1700s. Mass is said at historic San Ignacio Catholic Church, first built in 1867.
www.ghostowns.com/states/nm/monticello

PLACITA: (2mi S of Monticello on NM 142) founded by the Sedillo family in the 1840s. San Lorenzo Catholic Church was built in 1916. The schoolhouse, a dance hall and some old homes still stand. Placita means "little Plaza."
www.ghostowns.com/states/nm/monticello

CUCHILLO: (15mi NW of TorC on NM 52) named for nearby Cuchillo Negro (Black Knife) Creek, which took its name from a local Apache chief. The town was established by ranchers and farmers in the 1850s. Located midway between the northern Black Range mining district and the railroad at Engle, it flourished as a stage stop and trade center from the 1880s to 1930s. Few original buildings still stand, including Cuchillo Bar and Store and San Jose Catholic Church built in 1907.
www.cuchillobar.com Email info@cuchillobar.com

WINSTON: (38mi NW of TorC on NM 52) called Fairview when settled by miners from nearby Chloride in 1881. By 1884, it had 600 people, a school, bars, horse races, and featured plays and songfests at Cloudman Hall. Miner, businessman and future state legislator Frank H. Winston came to town in 1882. He eventually owned several businesses and gave credit to customers in bad times. When he died in 1929, the town was renamed in his honor. Winston declined as silver prices dropped. Today, only a few families remain. Frank Winston's home and carriage house still stand, along with the 1890 schoolhouse and other old buildings. The Winston store is open to the public.
www.ghostowns.com/states/nm/winston 575-743-6915

CHLORIDE: (about 2mi SW of Winston on Forest Road 226) founded in 1880 after Englishman Harry Pye discovered silver ore nearby. Despite Indian attacks (Pye was killed by Apaches a few months after filing his claim), the town grew to 3,000 people. It had 9 saloons, 3 general stores, restaurants, butcher shops, candy store, lawyer, doctor, Chinese laundry, 2 hotels, livery stable, smelter, and sawmill. There were 12 producing mines and nearly 500 prospector holes in and around Chloride. The silver panic of 1893 wiped out the town, but many original structures still stand, along with the town's two cemeteries. The old Pioneer Store is now a museum. The "Hanging Tree" on Wall Street is 200 or more years old. About 11 people now live in Chloride.
www.pioneerstoremuseum.com 575-743-2736

ENGLE: (17mi E of TorC on NM 51) founded in 1879 as a station on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. It became a thriving cattle shipping town. Construction of nearby Elephant Butte Dam from 1911-16 raised the population, but it declined after the dam was completed. Today, only a few people remain. The headquarters of Ted Turner's Armendaris ranch and an old schoolhouse are in Engle. Trains still pass through town, although the train station has been torn down.
www.livingghostowns.com

HILLSBORO: (32mi SW of TorC on NM 152) born in 1877 when gold was found at the nearby Opportunity and Ready Pay mines. Despite fierce Indian attacks, the town grew. It became the county seat in 1884 and had 1,200 people by 1907. Area mines produced more than \$6 million in gold and silver. A slowdown occurred, and Hot Springs (Truth or Consequences) became the county seat in 1938. About 80 people live in Hillsboro today. There are gift shops, restaurants, a bed and breakfast, galleries, the 120 year old general store, the remains of the old county courthouse where three men were tried in 1899 for the murders of Judge Albert J. Fountain and his nine-year-old son, the Black Range Museum, Union Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.
www.hillsboronm.com

KINGSTON: (9mi W of Hillsboro on NM 152) founded when Jack Sheddon discovered a rich lode of silver ore in 1882. It grew rapidly to more than 7,000 people and was the largest town in the territory, and one of the wildest in the Wild West. Kingston produced \$10 million in silver in the 1880s-90s. It had 22 saloons, 14 groceries, gambling halls, a brewery, and three newspapers. Today, about 30 people live in Kingston. One floor of the old Victoria Hotel remains. The Black Range Lodge is built with salvage of Pretty Sam's Casino and the Old Percha Bank is a museum opened by appointment only. The Spit and Whittle Club, the nation's oldest social club, dates to 1888 and is still active.
www.kingstonnm.com

LAKE VALLEY: (17mi S of Hillsboro on NM 27) named for ancient lake beds nearby. It was founded with the discovery of silver in the area in 1878. The town moved twice before settling at its present site in 1882, when the Bridal Chamber Mine was discovered. The subterranean mine produced 2.5 million ounces of silver ore so pure it was shipped unsmelted to the mint. A stage stop and railhead, Lake Valley grew to 4,000 people, with 12 saloons, 3 churches, 2 newspapers, a school, stores and hotels. The 1893 silver panic wiped out the town and a fire destroyed Main Street in 1895. Lake Valley is today a true ghost town, as the last permanent residents left in 1994. You can take a walking tour of the town. The schoolhouse, built in 1904, is open to the public, managed by the BLM. A chapel and several old homes still stand. The cemetery is across the highway from town.
www.blm.gov/nm Click on outdoor recreation, Lake Valley 575-895-5603