

# ADVENTURE CAPITAL OF NEW MEXICO

Gallup, NM holds many different claims to fame. The diverse people, rich history, and cultural opportunities have all shaped Gallup's character.

From a Route 66 legend to the world's source for Indian jewelry, from Western films to rodeo thrills, from paintings made of sand to America's archeological heartland, from majestic sunsets to chiles both green or red, from hot-air balloon rides to stars at night, and from red rock mesas to ponderosa pines. And now Gallup has become the place where history and mystery meet adventure.

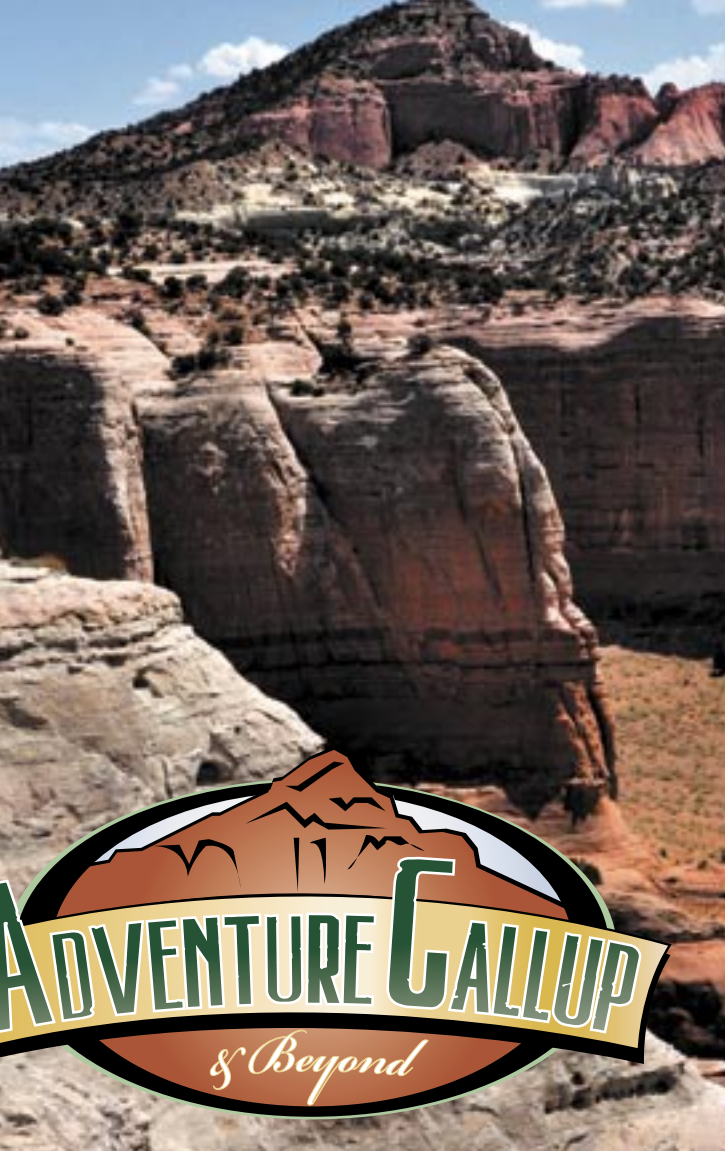
The epicenter for indigenous cultures and authentic experiences provide the perfect base camp for the adventure of your choice. Choosing your next adventure in Gallup is a difficult challenge. The word and the recognition are spreading. The worker bees of Adventure Gallup & Beyond (AGB) and its cadre of partners have built a playground of endless seasons.

Not to brag but just to state facts. Gallup is the gateway to Red Rock Park, Pyramid Rock and Churchrock trails, Gallup Motocross/ATV/OHV Park, High Desert Trail System, Gallup's NRA Shooting Range, Mentmore Rock Climbing Area, McGaffey and Ramah Lakes, the Hogback Trail, and the jewel of the Southwest - the Zuni Mountain Trail System.

In 2011, Patty Lundstrom, State Representative, introduced and advocated for legislation to proclaim Gallup as the "Adventure Capital of New Mexico". After debate and deliberation, a unanimous decision was reached by the New Mexico State Legislature - etching in history Gallup's rightful place and igniting pride in its people. Now, Gallup under its new moniker, as "Adventure Capital of New Mexico", has quite literally put itself on the map. A map distributed to the chosen ones, who are invited to the place:

- Where trails never end.
- Where the Journey isn't just our mag.
- Where the world comes to play.
- Where there is something for everyone, for every skill, and for every age.
- And where history and mystery meet adventure.

# A GUIDE TO THE ADVENTURE CAPITAL OF NEW MEXICO GALLUP



# ADVENTURE GALLUP AND BEYOND

In 1999, a group of 150 community members attended a forum to define a sustainable economic development strategy for Gallup and surrounding area. The concept of building on the current assets and "everything good that Gallup has to offer" rose to the top.

This asset-based community development focus lead to a hometown initiative to harness and promote adventure tourism to drive the regional economy. Adventure tourism locally defined as both spectator and participatory outdoor activities where people are enjoying the natural beauty of the area: horseback riding, fishing, and hunting or snowshoeing, ballooning, and bird watching.

For decades, Gallup has been the gateway to Indian country and thrived on cultural tourism. It is the source for authentic Native American jewelry, art, and crafts - showcased by the oldest continuous New Mexico event, the Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial. Linking Gallup's strong hospitality base and its cultural tourism niche with the outdoor opportunities of the high desert is a unique powerful formula for success.

Gallup is a special place, "where a person can ride singletack till their wheels bleed, attend nightly Native American dances in the downtown square, and then go buy handmade native jewelry."

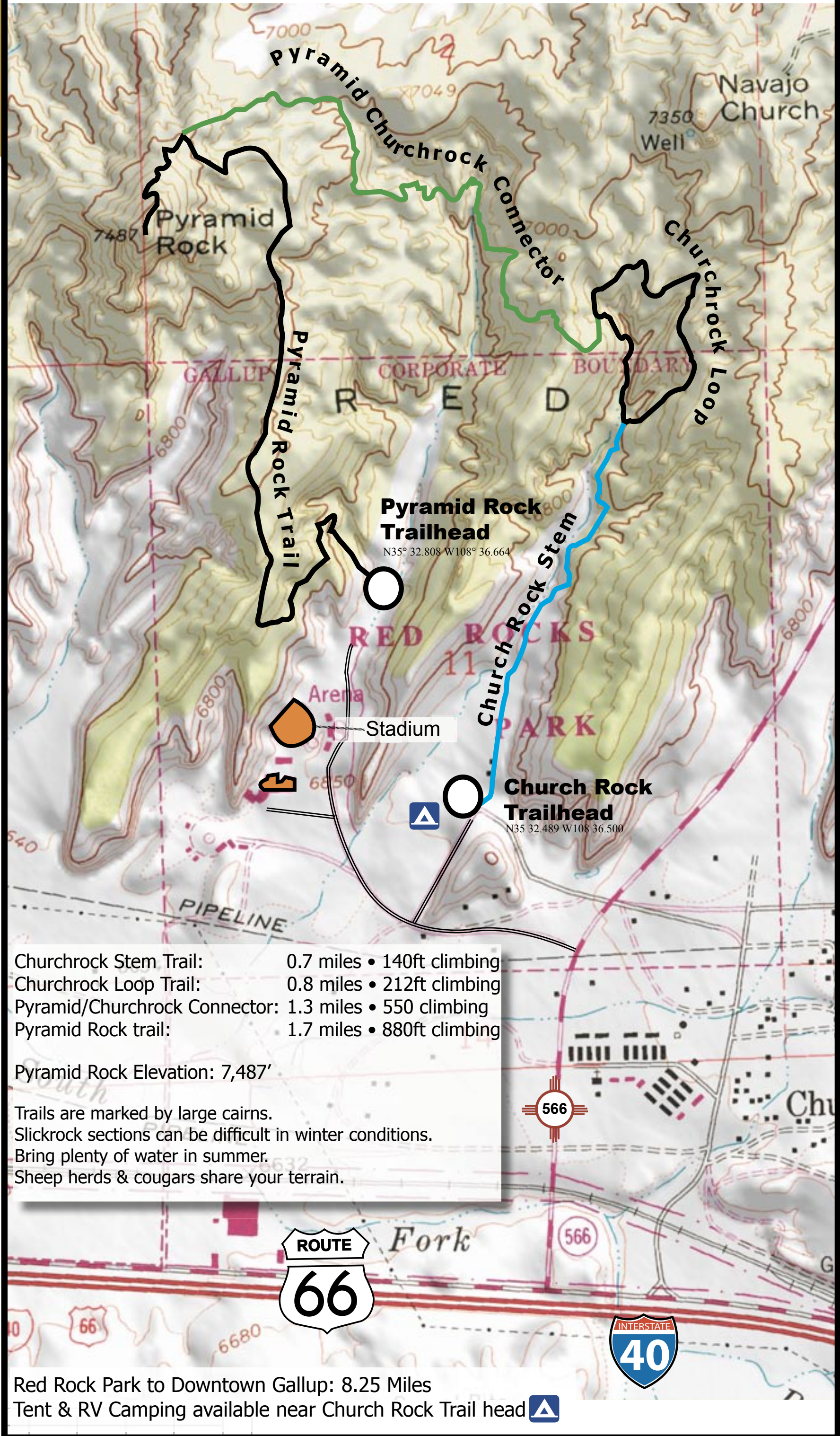
A group of dedicated stakeholders formed a Steering Committee, Adventure Gallup & Beyond (AGB). The AGB Steering Committee has many partners, committed individuals, and subcommittees that worked intensely on land use, hospitality, events, marketing and enterprise. In 2005, this grassroots initiative grew into a non-profit organization and Board.

The AGB Board continues to harness the passion of the community and its willingness to share its wondrous diverse backyard. This publication not only goes out as an invitation to visit us again for the first time, but represents our sincerest gratitude to those who have made:

"Gallup, the Adventure Capital of New Mexico". We welcome you to travel to 5,500 feet of red rock high desert and the ponderosa pine forest.

ADVENTURE, RESPECTFULLY LEAVE NO TRACE

# Red Rock Park Trails



# WELCOME TO GALLUP

The Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to the "Adventure Capital of New Mexico". In addition to our warm, friendly hospitality we are sure you will find our high desert community has plenty to offer when it comes to things to see and do.

Established in 1881, Gallup has a very colorful, cultural, and historic past. Gallup was founded as a railroad for the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad and the city was named after David Gallup, a paymaster for the railroad. Because of its location in the heart of Native American lands, and the presence of the Navajo, Zuni, Hopi, Laguna, and Acoma tribes, Gallup is also recognized as the "Indian Capital of the World". An estimated 75 percent of the world's Native American arts, crafts, and silver jewelry are traded in Gallup. The craftsmanship and beauty of Native American art is unequalled and you will find the best prices in Gallup.

Gallup's annual Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial, held each August at Red Rock Park, was begun in 1922 to celebrate and preserve Native American Culture. Today, the event featuring noted Indian artists, craftspeople and dancers from the United States, Canada and Central America has become a "must see" not only for the people of Gallup, but for the many visitors the event draws each year. (www.theceremonial.com)

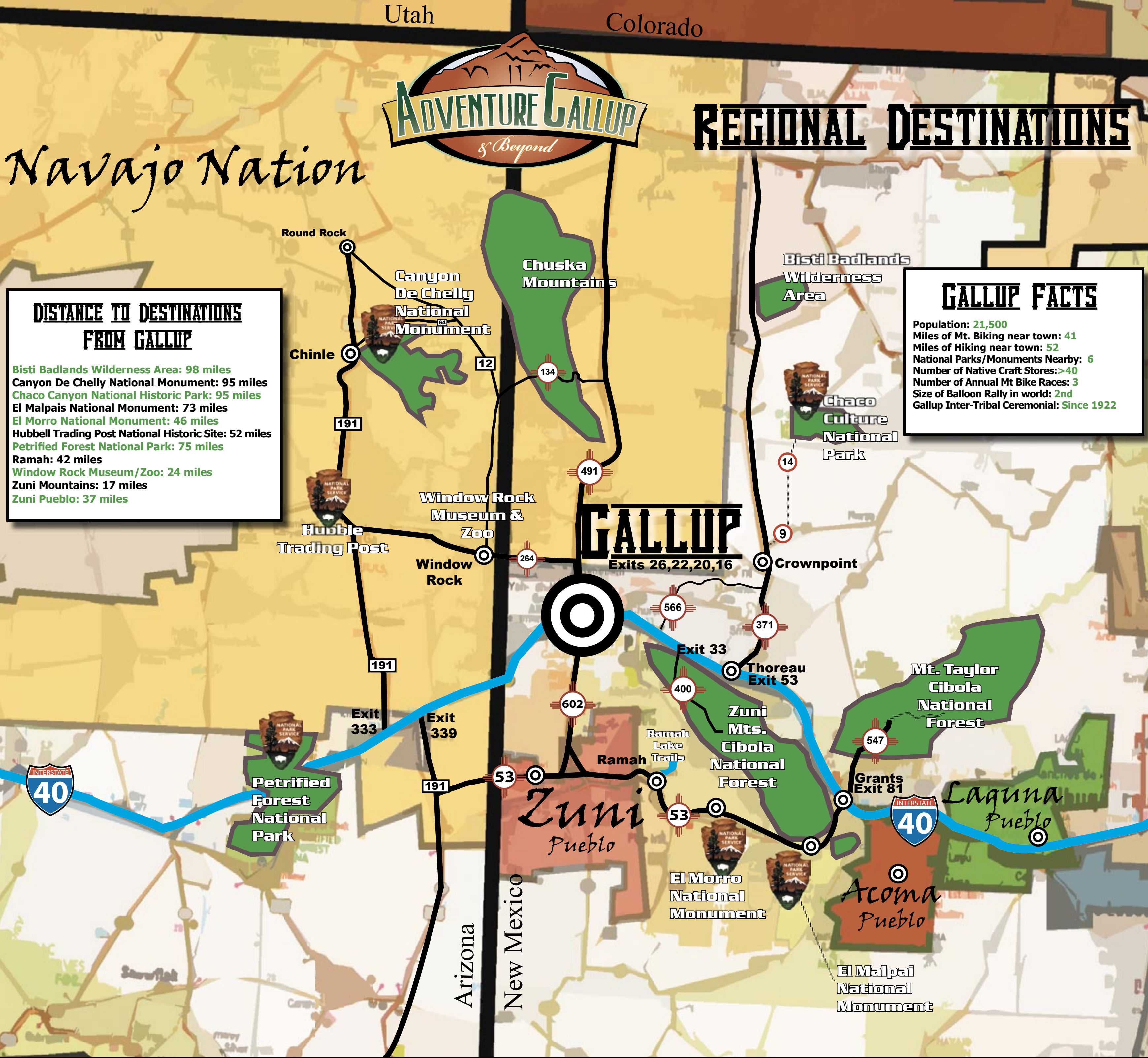
Every night from Memorial Day through Labor Day in the Downtown Courthouse Plaza, you can experience the Nightly Indian Dances and the cultures they represent. The dances are held from 7:00-8:00 PM each evening, they are free of charge and photography is permitted.

The Red Rock Balloon Rally is the second largest balloon rally in the world. The rally is held annually the first full weekend in December when 200 balloons fly over Gallup and through the beautiful sandstone canyons of Red Rock Park. (www.redrockballoonrally.com)

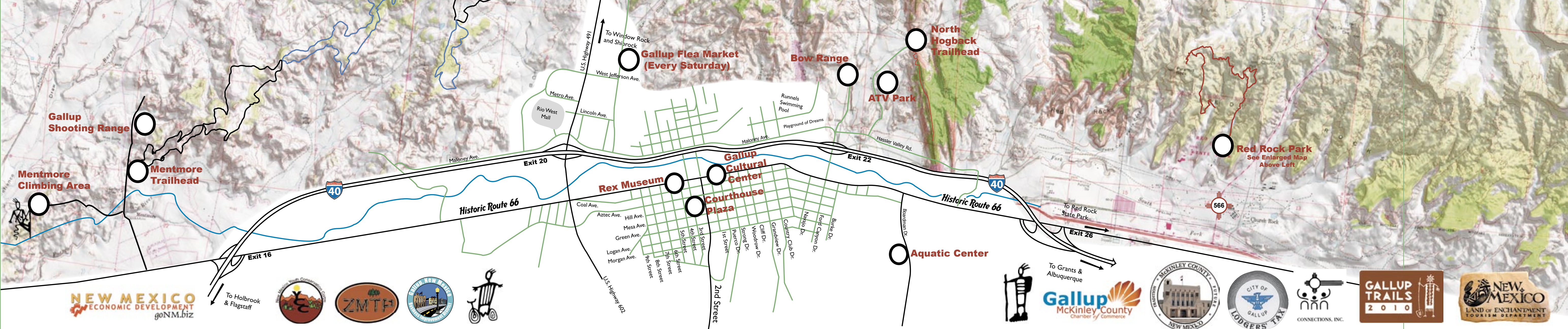
In addition to a full calendar of annual events, Gallup also offers the incredible hiking, biking, and outdoor adventure opportunities. Trails in the Zuni Mountains, and the High Desert Trail System, combined with trails at Red Rock Park offer scenic views at every turn. Gallup is also the gateway to the Trail of the Ancients State Scenic By-way on highway 53 to the Zuni pueblo. Along this scenic drive you can take in the El Morro and El Malpais National Monuments, the Ice Caves, and Bandera Crater.

The Gallup McKinley County area is famous for rodeo. Annually in June, Gallup hosts the state's largest amateur event, the Lions Club Rodeo. The National Jr. High School Rodeo Finals has called Gallup home since the event began. Also held annually in July is the Wild Thing Championship Bull Riding. Gallup also hosts the Red Rock USTRC Team Roping competition featuring close to 2000 teams competing from all over the country.

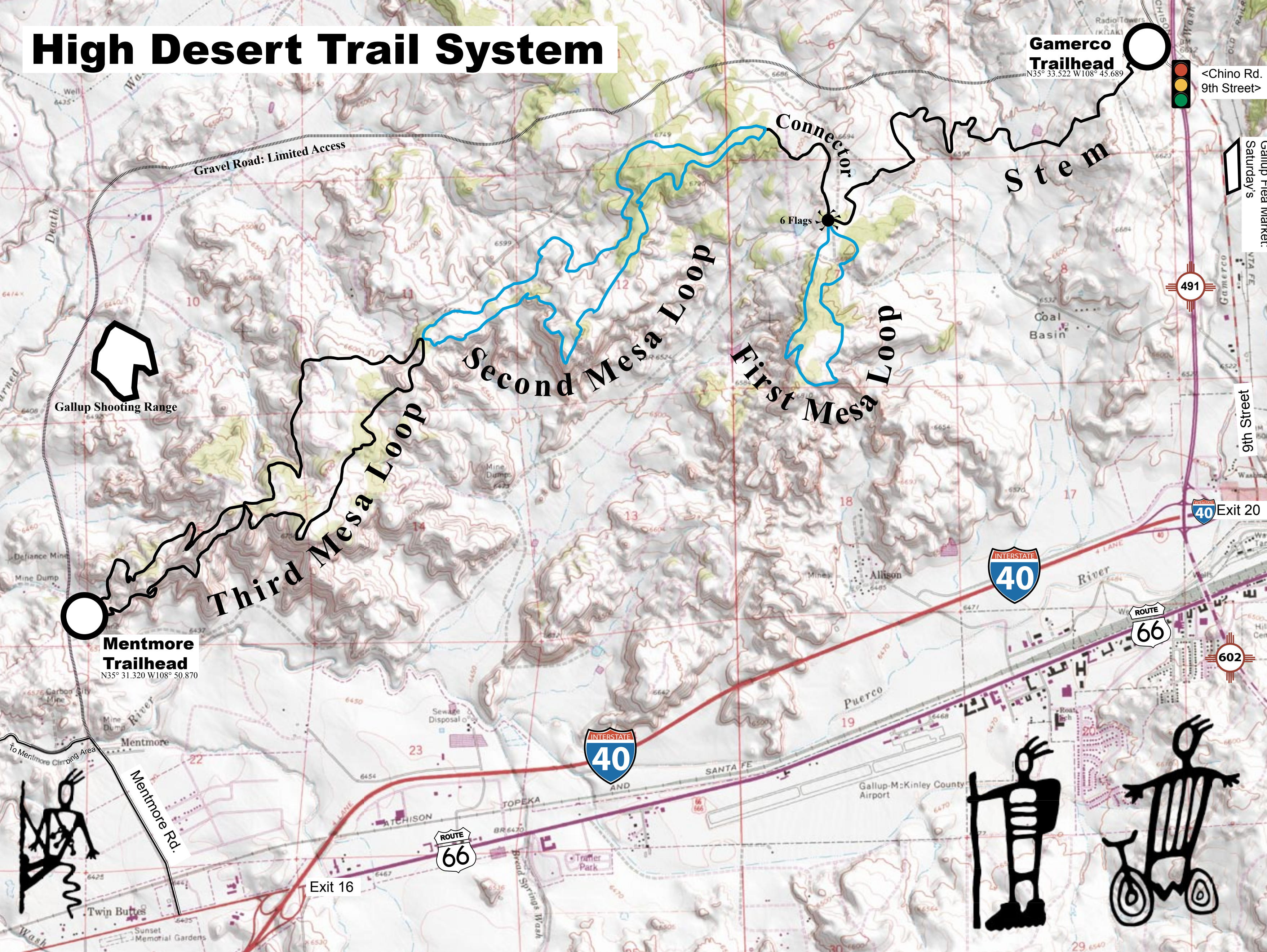
Thanks for making Gallup a destination for your outdoor adventures. The Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce is located on 1<sup>st</sup> and Highway 66 downtown, and has plenty of information on all there is to do and see during your stay.



# City of Gallup



# High Desert Trail System



## 3rd Mesa Loop



## High Desert Trail System

Stem:	3.0 miles • 250ft climbing
1st Mesa Loop:	2.0 Miles • 330ft climbing
Connector:	0.7 Miles • 130ft climbing
2nd Mesa Loop:	5.5 miles • 550ft climbing
3rd Mesa Loop:	6.0 Miles • 680ft climbing

**Stem:** Starting at the Garamco Trailhead located off of HWY 491 on Chino Rd, the stem is the most popular walking/running section of the High Desert Trail System. It is rolling and gentle with a sitting bench about halfway through the 3 mile section. The stem goes to the intersection of First Mesa Loop & Connector which is marked by six flags.

**First Mesa Loop:** This is the easiest and least technical of the high desert loops. 2 miles in length it offers great vistas and good terrain for the novice or advanced mountain biker. Can be ridden efficiently in either direction.

**Connector:** A short 0.7 mile trail that connects First and Second Mesa loops. An arroyo crossing may be seasonally difficult.

**Second Mesa Loop:** This 5.5 mile loop is slightly more demanding and technical than First Mesa. Can be ridden efficiently in either direction.

**Third Mesa Loop:** Most technical of loops with some exposed climbs on Southwestern end. 6.0 miles with some extended climbs. Loop can be cut in half at middle intersection. Can be ridden efficiently in either direction. Counterclockwise is more demanding.

## THE HIGH DESERT TRAIL SYSTEM

The High Desert Trail System, located just north of Gallup with access at Garamco (east side) and Mentmore (west side), is designed in a series of stacked loops atop the mesas overlooking Gallup. Each mesa offers increasingly harder terrain to navigate and will engage riders of every skill level.

The course is fast and fun single-track over packed clay, interspersed with some slickrock and sand. There are lots of small climbs and some technical sections. If you've never left the pavement, this is the trail for you. If you're in the mood for something fun and fast, this is the trail for you. If you're looking for a challenge and like a thrill, this is the trail for you.

The High Desert Trail System is a reality that's been a long time coming. It required countless hours of labor on the part of local bikers, Adventure Gallup & Beyond, State, County, City representatives and employees.

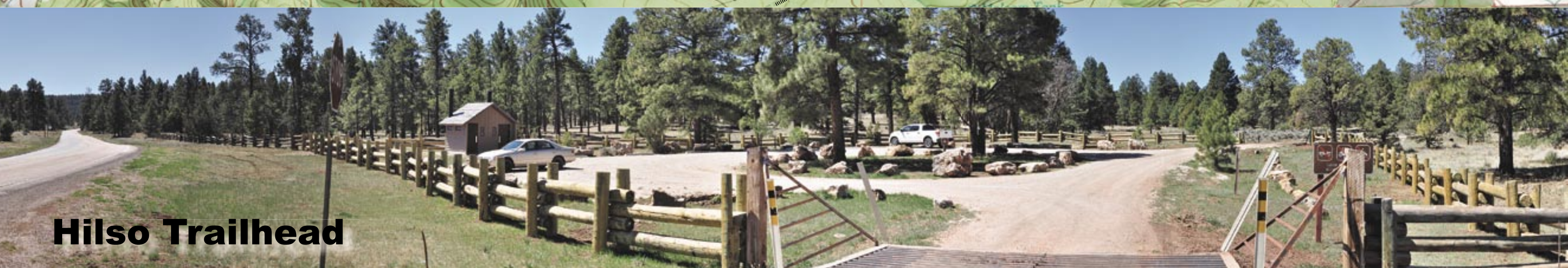
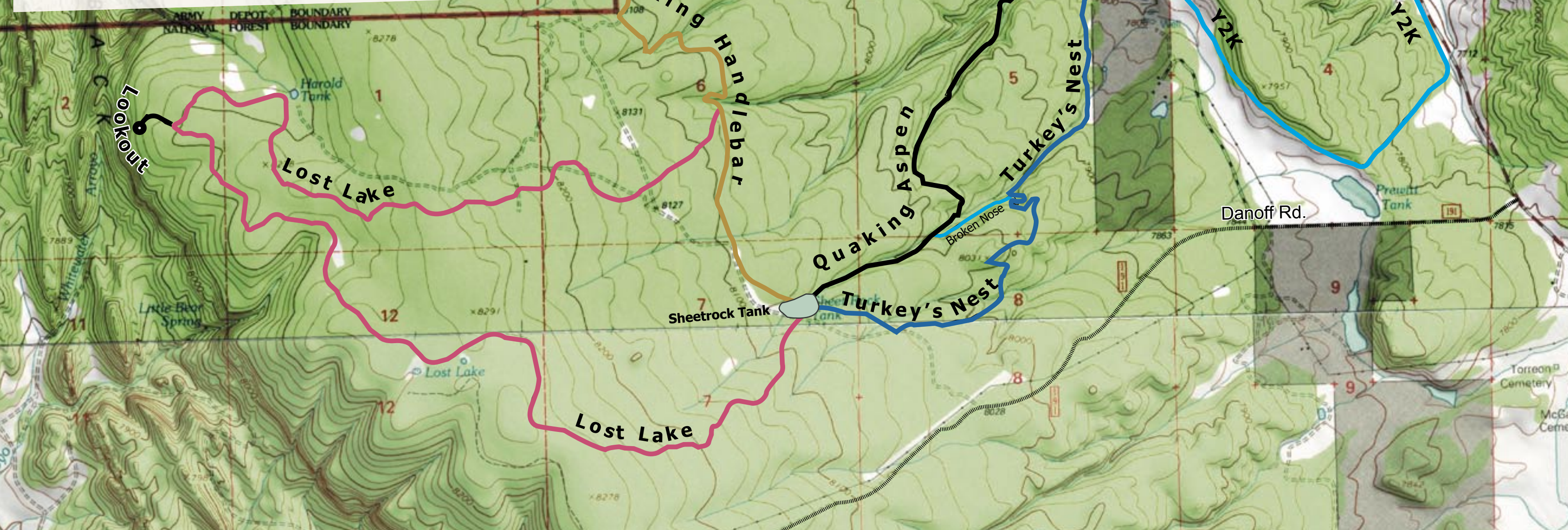
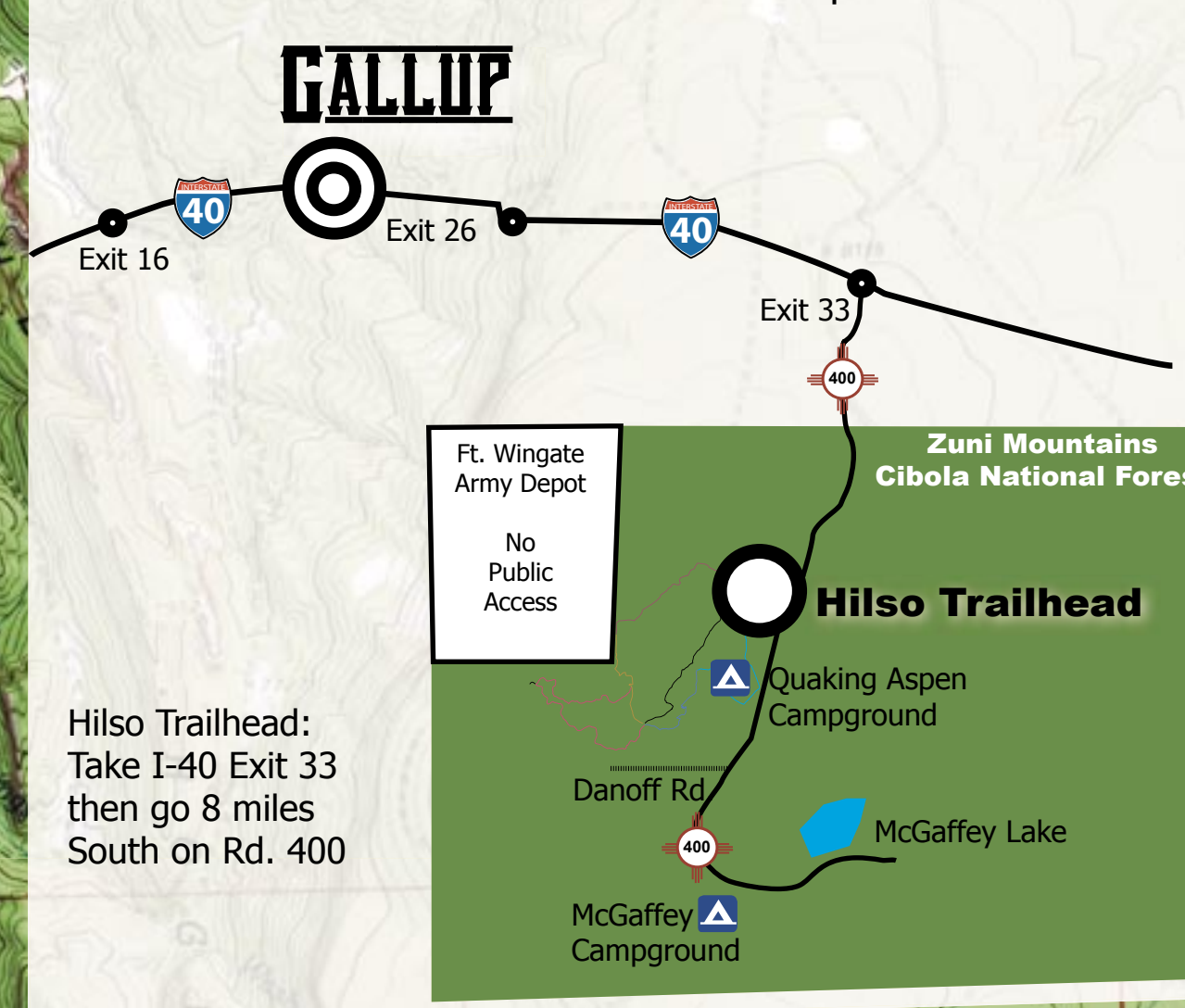
Garamco Associates provided a legal easement through a tract of private land located on the high mesas between Garamco and Mentmore. Stan Smith, ace trail designer, worked with Rich Freedman, County surveyor and archaeologist, to layout and survey the basic path.

Gallup Trails 2010 oversaw the construction, while local bikers refined the route and established the initial tread. Karl Lohmann and the Youth Conservation Corps provided supervisors, work crews, with the oversight of an ex-Forest Service trail engineer named Strider Brown. Strider designed several monumental stone switchbacks and many state-of-the-art erosion control features. His ability to see a route through a seemingly impossible obstacle is a testament to his experience and creativity.



# Zuni Mt. Trail System

Overview Map of Zuni Mountains



## Zuni Mt. Trail System

The above trails are marked with map/signs at all intersections and are part of the official Zuni Mountains Trail System, which was created in 2006. The System is being expanded to include other unmarked trails in the vicinity and will eventually include some 60+ miles of high quality mountain bike singletrack.

## Trail Descriptions

**Quaking Aspen:** 3.5 mile singletrack trail that climbs 590ft to Sheetrock Tank. Starts at the Hilso Trailhead and includes an intimate aspen-lined drainage, some slick rock sections, and a few short technical spots on its way up to Sheet Rock Tank. Can be ridden as a great descent, but beware of hikers.

**Lost Lake Loop:** 6.0 mile singletrack trail with 700ft of climbing and descending regardless of direction. Starts at Sheet Rock Tank and continues to gradually climb to the west rim. In the middle of the loop is a small spur that leads to a spectacular lookout.

**Smoking Handlebar:** 2.1 mile singletrack trail with 155ft of climbing that hugs a section of the Fort Wingate Army Depot. One of four trails that intersect at Sheet Rock Tank, it runs North across a few rocky drainages to the upper end of Forest Road 481.

**Y2k:** 3.2 mile singletrack trail that climbs 455ft and intersects with Turkey's Nest and Quaking Aspen. Can be ridden as a steady climb or a fast descent. The trail parallels NM400 for a mile, then turns west and works its way up to Andrew's Tank. Mostly rolling with a few short climbs.

**Turkey's Nest:** 2.1 mile singletrack trail that climbs 358ft to Sheetrock Tank. Wild turkey are known to frequent this area.

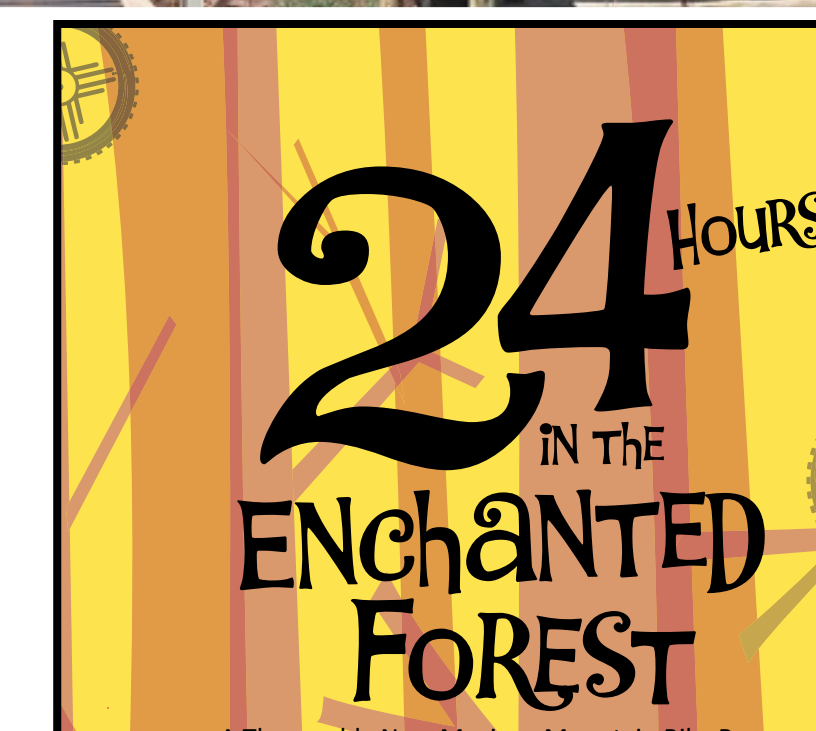
**Broken Nose:** 0.3 mile singletrack that connects Quaking Aspen and Turkey's nest. 105 ft of climbing to Quaking Aspen. Offers an alternative route to Sheet Rock Tank.

## Trail History

In 2007 the United States Forest Service officially authorized these trails as a non-motorized, multi-use trail system. Thanks to the continued efforts of the Zuni Mountain Trail Partnership (ZMTP) formed in 2006 and made up of Gallup Trails 2010 (GT2010), Gallup's top-notch local Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), and Adventure Gallup and Beyond (AGB), these 21 miles of signed and mapped trails can now be used for races and other public events. This didn't happen quickly or without significant effort from diverse parties. A process that began in the mid-1990s, with Bill Siebersma meeting with Mt. Taylor Ranger District Personnel, was furthered in the early-2000s when Mayor Bob Rosebrough took Congressman Tom Udall on a tour of McGaffey trails.

This interaction resulted in a letter from Udall to District Ranger Chuck Hagerdon requesting support in achieving the goals of GT2010 and AGB and bringing further momentum to the project. Slow and steady but continuous progress over the years eventually made the Hilso Trailhead and the McGaffey Trail System a reality.

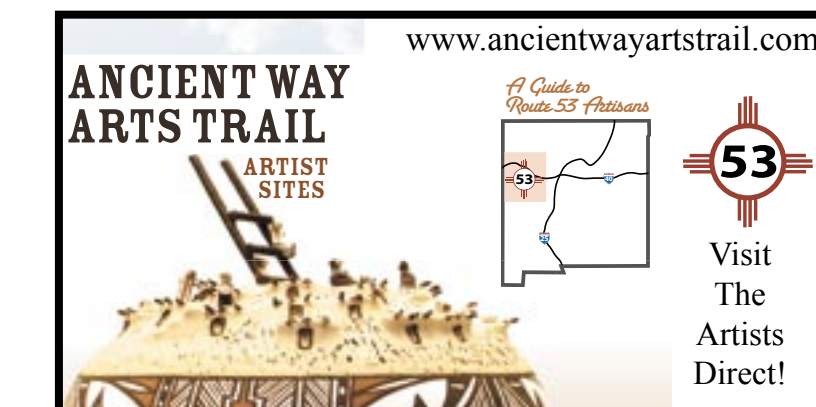
And the ZMTP is not done yet. In May 2010, McKinley County and the Ramah Land & Irrigation Company received a grant from New Mexico's Recreational Trail Program for construction of 6.1 miles of hiking trails and a trailhead facility adjacent to Ramah Lake. ZMTP and its partners have also recently contracted with International Mountain Biking Association Trail Solutions to provide community training and review of on-the-ground routes on the Eastern side of the Zuni Mountains. Change is afoot and it is hoped that linking trails already created in the McGaffey area with new routes near Ramah will make the Zunis a highlight of the Southwest for outdoor enthusiasts.



www.24tief.com

Annual Summer Event on the Zuni Mt. Trail System

- 24 Hour Endurance Race
- Kids Race
- Solo, Duo, 4 Person, and Singlespeed categories
- Live Music



www.ancientwayartstrail.com



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- Screamers Mountain Bike Race
- 1 Mile Fun Run
- 4.5 Mile Trail Run Race
- Kent Hodges Memorial 1/2 Marathon



www.dawntildusk.com

Annual Event in mid April on the High Desert Trail System.

- 12 Hour Endurance Race on 3rd & 2nd Mesa
- Kids Race
- Solo, Duo, 4 Person, and Singlespeed categories