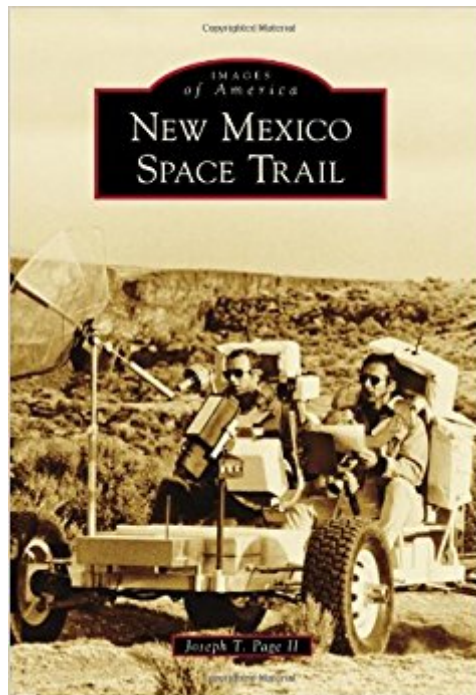




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New Mexico Space Trail (Images Of America)



Synopsis

In the Southwestern United States, the skies above New Mexico have provided an amazing stargazing experience for two millennia. Images of America: New Mexico Space Trail catalogs sites within the state that have inspired humankind to reach for the stars. The Space Trail includes various archaeoastronomy locations, such as Chaco Canyon, which Native Americans used to predict agricultural schedules according to the sun's position during the solstice. Rocket development in Roswell, missile launches in the Tularosa Basin, astronomy efforts around the state, and commercial space flights are just a few of the stops along the trail. Join the journey and discover night skies that are so dark that the Milky Way and its millions of luminous stars create shadows over the desert landscape.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Working on "Images of America: New Mexico Space Trail," was an amazing experience and a singular honor. The concept of a "trail," especially within the Southwest, is nothing new. Adventurers, explorers, families, soldiers, children all have walked or ridden along on many rutted pathways looking for a better tomorrow. In many ways, the New Mexico Space Trail (NMST) offers the same experience - searching for a better future. All 52 sites on the space trail share a common thread - save one: representing space in the past, present and future. My introduction to the New Mexico Space Trail began while I was researching my pictorial history on Holloman Air Force Base. The

head curator at the New Mexico Museum of Space History, Mr. George House, allowed me access to their archives about Holloman's early days of missile testing. As we talked, George showed me the other locations around the state that dealt with space exploration, archaeoastronomy, and rockets and missiles - he talked of this virtual "trail" sponsored by the NMMSH and recognized by the state government, which linked the whole of space throughout New Mexico. From that moment, I was hooked. After completing the Holloman book, I asked my editors at Arcadia Publishing if they'd be interested in a book about the stops on the NMST. They overwhelmingly said "YES!" The NMMSH was also very supportive in collecting information on the various sites, their histories and photos beyond what they previously held in their archives. Something to note about the NMST - a large number of the sites are "closed." Not in the sense of a 9am-5pm tourist site... but one that is not readily accessible to the public. The military installations, for example, have limited air parks or museums, but are not open for anyone to just drive around. Educational institutions perform sensitive research that may not allow visitors tramping around. And private locations were okay with being listed within the NMST sites, but didn't want anything beyond that. Overcoming this limitation, from a historic perspective, was my driving force behind producing this book. The sites include (in chronological order of space activity): Wizard's Roost, Wally's Dome, Tenuco Observatory, Three Rivers Petroglyphs, Chaco Canyon, Scholle Crab Nebula Supernova Petroglyph, Zuni Pueblo Crab Nebula Supernova Petroglyph, Sand Paintings, Navajo Reservation, New Mexico State University, Robert Goddard Rocket Research Site, Kirtland Air Force Base, Holloman Air Force Base, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Walker Air Force Base, Cannon Air Force Base, Sandia National Laboratory, White Sands Missile Range, Trinity Site, NMSU Physical Science Laboratory, Alleged UFO Crash Sites, Sacramento Peak, Sunspot, New Mexico University of New Mexico Campus Observatory, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Lovelace Medical Center, McGregor Range, New Mexico Tech, Atlas Missile Silos, White Sands Test Facility, Bradbury Science Museum, Valles Caldera National Preserve, Philmont Boy Scout Ranch, Tzec Maun Observatory, Zuni Salt Lake, National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, Roswell Museum and Art Center, Taos/Rio Grande Gorge, Clyde W. Tombaugh Campus Observatory, Very Large Array Radio Telescope, New Mexico Museum of Space History, White Sands Space Harbor, Tortugas Mountain Planetary Observatory, University of New Mexico's Capilla Peak Observatory, High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility, Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System, Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility, International UFO Museum Research Center, Apache Point Observatory, Comet Hale Bopp Co-discovered, Cloudcroft, New Mexico, New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science/Planetarium, Spaceport America, Virgin Galactic International Headquarters, Magdalena Ridge

ObservatoryThe book includes at least one photo of every site on the NMST, or an image relevant to the site (e.g. Comet Hale-Bopp). The maps included within are crude for traveling purposes, but give the reader a sense of how spread out some of these sites are. Historical facts and figures are incorporated into the image captions. If you're interested in traveling the New Mexico Space Trail, this book will be invaluable to your pre-travel research efforts.

Joseph T. Page II is a longtime resident of Southern New Mexico. Photographs detailing the New Mexico Space Trail were graciously provided by the New Mexico Museum of Space History, the US Department of Defense, various New Mexico educational institutions, and private collections. All of the author's royalties from the sale of this book will go to the New Mexico Museum of Space History's education and historical preservation efforts.

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