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EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO AS RURAL LANDSCAPE

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A Living History JOIN us:

Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the Royal Inland Road, also known as the Silver Route. The inscribed property consists of 55 sites and five existing World Heritage sites lying along a 1400 km section of this 2900 km route, that extends north from Mexico City to Texas and New Mexico, United States of America. The route was actively used as a trade route for 300 years, from the mid-16th to the 19th centuries, mainly for transporting silver extracted from the mines of Zacatecas, Guanajuato and San Luis Potosí, and mercury imported from Europe. Although it is a route that was motivated and consolidated by the mining industry, it also fostered the creation of social, cultural and religious links in particular between Spanish and Amerindian cultures.

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1351/>

Nominated by the UNESCO⁴ criteria II and IV, is the first and biggest continental rout of America which incorporates 11 States of the Mexican Republic, and its road goes deep through the relief of Mexico organized around a large central plateau and a high plateau. The framework of the rural landscape along the road is the guide to reconsider the character of the conservation of an entire territory. An entire public politic of rural daily life styles and quality of life between north and south. The way those palimpsests let us understand the way cultures of productivity and entrepreneurship can be introduced for recover the best uses and practices to guide a sustainable process of management integration of industrialization of agricultural production, and competition from world markets are revolutionizing traditional social and economic relations with the land.

“The Landscapes In Camino Real De Tierra Adentro”: An Identity Icon

The old Spanish road called the “*Camino Real de Tierra Adentro*” it was not an ordinary road. This path formed on the actual Mexican plains, cross all the east border of Sierra Madre Occidental. Each one of the regions where the route of this path, was made presented a lot of particularities that showed the natural beauty and some other visual references that can be appreciated in the present. From Mexico City, the small towns succeeded each by other thanks to the proximity with the activity farming. This condition helped to produce some kind of fodder like “tlazones” to feed the beast that were used for the transportation. In the centre of Mexico, the landscapes changed and come to be

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open and wide. In the north, some cactus like pitayos and garambuyos do original the landscape meanwhile in the Bajío, can appreciate the abundance of croplands.

The Bufa Mountain in Guanajuato, ending with this geographic characteristic where are the "Real Minas". Taking course to Zacatecas the arid weather continues. This landscapes conditions also are present in the Aguascalientes and Zacatecas landscapes, showing a red land colours, but in Durango this condition finish with the soil form the Mercado mountain that work like the last border.

The Camino Real follow a way between pastureland, cactus, plants of mezquites, huinches and oak trees, that shape a big area in a plain land, before to discover the severe deserts in the continental centre.

Section Of The Tunal Grande Branch

El Camino Real was used for more than 350 years, and was forgotten during the 20th century do to road and railroad building, but thanks to some religious pilgrimages parts of this road were kept in use.

Founded on January 21st of 1562. The city of San Felipe, in the Mexican state of Guanajuato, has important pilgrimages during the year, but the most important pilgrimage takes place in September when the town celebrates Saint Michael Archangel's festivities. People from many parts of Mexico gather here to celebrate the festivities. They walk from different states of the country to San Felipe using parts of this antique path that has not being destroyed by roads or forgotten by lack of use. San Felipe Fort, was a refuge from chichimeca Indian attacks, to people that brought minerals in carts pulled by horses. It importance resides on being a point of intersection where branches of this road, that came from states like Zacatecas, and the northern territories converged. Today one of this branches comes from San Luis Potosí and ends in San Felipe.

Associations like ICOMOS Guanajuato, The Historic Council of San Felipe, A.C, and The History College of San Luis Potosí, A.C., Recently started reconnaissance works to begin analytic studies on the "Section of the Tunal Grande branch", that belongs to The Royal Inland Path.