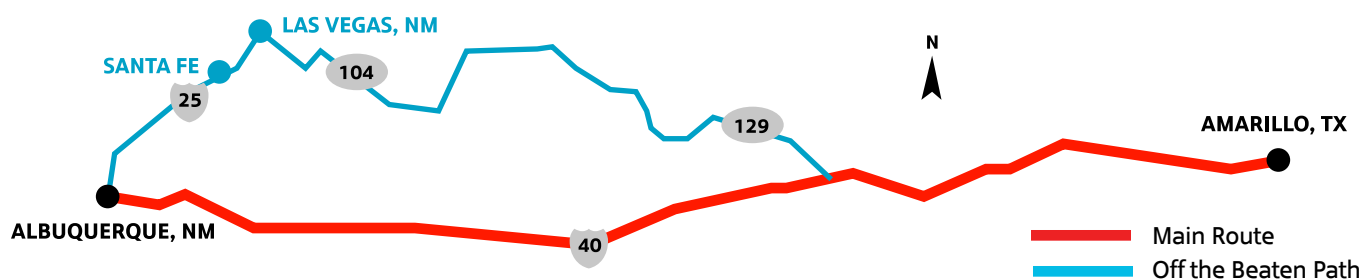


MINI TAKES THE STATES DAY 5 - AUGUST 25 - ALBUQUERQUE, NM TO AMARILLO, TX



Total Daily Drive Time: 4.5 hours or 289 miles

Departure Time: 8:00am (if driving through Santa Fe), 8:30am (if driving direct to Amarillo)

Departure Location: Embassy Suites Hotel parking lot – 1000 Woodward Place NE

Estimated Arrival into Amarillo: 1:00 pm (not including stops)

Main Route Synopsis: Stop by the morning departure desk at Embassy Suites hotel (1000 Woodward Place NE) parking lot between the hours of 7:30 am – 9:30 am to receive information and details on the day's drive and the upcoming stop.

Bring your sunglasses, turn on the air conditioning, slip in your favorite CD's and drink plenty of H₂O as you slowly wind your way into Texas. The temperatures will heat up, but so will MINI Takes the States as we begin to feel the Texas vibe. The Northern Texas panhandle is home to cattle ranches and endless fields. Think cowboys and BBQ's and you've got the scene in mind. Now where is that next rest stop?

Arrival Desk: For your convenience, the arrival desk in Amarillo will be located at the Ambassador Hotel (3100 I-40 West) in the San Jacinto room. The arrival desk will be open from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Main Route Directions: Interstate 40. Driving through the cities of: Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Santa Rosa, Tucumcari and Amarillo.

Special Events: It doesn't get much bigger than this!... **Giant** magazine invites MTTs participants to join us for movie night at Pioneer Amphitheater in breathtaking Palo Duro Canyon State Park for 500 MINI's. Yeh! Yeh! I'm sure you want to know what movie, but we're still ironing out the details so stay tuned.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park* is the 2nd largest canyon in the United States outdone on by the Grand Canyon. Arrive early if you'd like to spend sometime in the park prior to the screening. If you want to grab a bite to eat, we highly recommend The Big Texan which is located right on Interstate 40 in Amarillo. Gates open at 6:30PM. Movie begins at 8:30PM. Admission to the park is \$2 per person. Movie snacks and drinks courtesy of **Giant** Magazine.

Join **Sandia MINI** for a trip to Sandia Crest (altitude 10,250 ft) led by New Mexico MINI Motoring. All MINI motorists who want to join should meet at Sandia MINI. The dealership will open at 6:15am and the drive will start between 7:00am and 7:15am. Sandia MINI will be serving coffee and doughnuts prior to departure. For more information about this event visit www.nmmini.org.

SIRIUS, MINI's official satellite radio partner, will be providing the daily tip sheet at every 'check point' to all participants informing them of the daily route, traffic alerts and activities – so no one will miss a beat. **SIRIUS** will also provide the best in 100% commercial-free music at each stop.

WIRED MAGAZINE has officially joined the road rally! MINI USA and **WIRED** have hooked up to provide MINI Takes the States motorists with wireless Internet access throughout the entire journey. The MINI Takes the States **WIRED** branded tour bus will serve as the daily 'check point' for participants, where event updates and information can be obtained in addition to accessing the internet.

Lodging:

Headquarters:

- Ambassador Hotel \$\$ (www.ambassadoramarillo.com) - 3100 I-40 W, Amarillo – (800)817-0512 or (806)358-6161

Others:

- Holiday Inn Express Suites Amarillo \$\$ (www.ichotelsgroup.com) - 2806 Woflin Ave, Amarillo – (888)465-4329 or (806)322-3050
- Comfort Inn and Suites \$ (www.choicehotels.com) - 2300 Soncy Rd, Amarillo – (877)424-6423 or (806)457-9100
- La Kiva Hotel and Convention Center \$ (www.kayak.com) - 2501 I 40E, Amarillo – (806)379-6555

Campgrounds:

- www.reserveamerica.com
- www.reserveusa.com

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Dining:

- The Big Texan (bigtexan.com/tour.html) - 7700 E I-40, Amarillo - (806) 372-7000 – 7am-10:30pm (Reservations necessary for 20+)
- Cattle Call (www.cattlecall.com) - 7701 W I-40 Ste 398, Amarillo - (806) 353-1227 - Reservations necessary
- Los Insurgentes - 3521 E 15th Ave, Amarillo - (806) 353-5361
- Find More at Road Food – (www.roadfood.com/Restaurants)

Points of Interest:

- Santa Fe

Off the Beaten Path: From Albuquerque, drive North on I-25 to Santa Fe, then take Highway 84 to Las Vegas, NM and finally back to I-40 for the duration to Amarillo. 5.75 hr. drive time/370 miles

*Directions to Palo Duro Canyon

Take 1027 South 20 miles to TX 217/ Canyon Road in Canyon, TX. From there follow the signs 5 miles to Palo Duro Canyon State Park and the Pioneer Amphitheater to the park.

Fun Facts:

- Amarillo has the world's largest helium well.

City Convention and Visitors Bureaus: Amarillo, TX - www.visitamarillotx.com