ROAD TRIP: CHAMA RIVER VALLEY

MAP NOT TO SCALE
NOTE: GPS IS NOT RELIABLE NORTH OF ESPAÑOLA
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The village of Abiquiu, home to O’Keeffe’s Home and Studio, is the southernmost point of the Chama River Valley. Occupied for 5,000 years by Pueblo people and then by Spanish settlers, the valley is known for its extraordinary scenic beauty. Its riches are characterized by the Chama River, Ghost Ranch, the Carson National Forest, mountains, lakes, streams, and centuries of interesting stories.

1 TIERRA AMARILLA
tierraamarilla.com
Formed as part of a Mexican land grant in 1832, the area in and around Tierra Amarilla has seen its share of territorial disputes, including a famous gunfight at the courthouse in 1967. The village, although small, is the county seat of Rio Arriba County, holding sway over the much larger town of Española to the south. Highway 64, which branches east off of 84 a little to the south, is a beautiful hour-and-forty-minute drive to Taos.

2 TIERRA WOOLS
91 Main St., Los Ojos, NM 87551; 575.588.7231; handweavers.com
The legacy of Spanish sheep in New Mexico can be found at this cooperative of weavers. Tierra Wools continues the heritage of weaving that has been traditional in the valley for generations. The hundred-year-old weaving studio and showroom displays traditional and new designs.

3 CHAMA
chamavillage.com; also chamavalley.com
The charming village of Chama, near the Colorado border, is a vacation destination for fly fishing, camping, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor activities. Stay in a cabin by the river, or indulge yourself at a bed-and-breakfast or a lodge tucked away in the woods. With Chama as your headquarters, take a train or horseback ride, attend a festival, or explore the back country.

4 CUMBRES AND TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD
Depot in downtown Chama, 888.286.2737, cumbrestoltec.com
Take an excursion into the 19th century on the narrow-gauge Cumbres and Toltec steam train. The 64 miles from Chama to Antonito, Colorado is a daylong outing through the Rocky Mountains. Special trains, dinner trains, half day trips, and special programs are available. Built in 1880 as part of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, the railroad and its equipment and buildings was saved by the states of New Mexico and Colorado, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2012. It’s the highest and longest narrow-gauge railroad in the nation.

5 THE LODGE AND RANCH AT CHAMA
575.756.2133; lodgeatchama.com
Luxury accommodations and fine dining might make you want to stay indoors, but the fishing and hunting will beckon you out into some of the most spectacular scenery in New Mexico (which is saying a lot), with experienced guides and transportation included in the offered packages.

6 OJO CALIENTE MINERAL SPRINGS RESORT AND SPA
50 Los Banos Dr., Ojo Caliente, NM 87549; 800.222.2233, ojospa.com
Backtrack from the Chama River Valley to the healing waters and spa treatments of Ojo Caliente, just north of Española. One of the oldest natural health resorts in the country, the sulfur-free, geothermal mineral waters have flowed from a subterranean volcanic aquifer for thousands of years. A full menu of spa treatments (think massage, skin treatment, restorative body therapies), along with accommodations, dining, and outdoor activities, may entice you to linger. Reservations required for most services; full list of available services at ojospa.com.

DOWNLOAD THE RIO CHAMA MOBILE APP

The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Ghost Ranch Education and Retreat Center, Rio Arriba County, the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, and the New Mexico Department of Tourism have joined together to create a mobile app for the Rio Chama River Valley. Look for the Highway 84 Rio Chama Corridor app in your iOS or Android app store.

Georgia O’Keeffe, Chama River, Ghost Ranch, 1937