



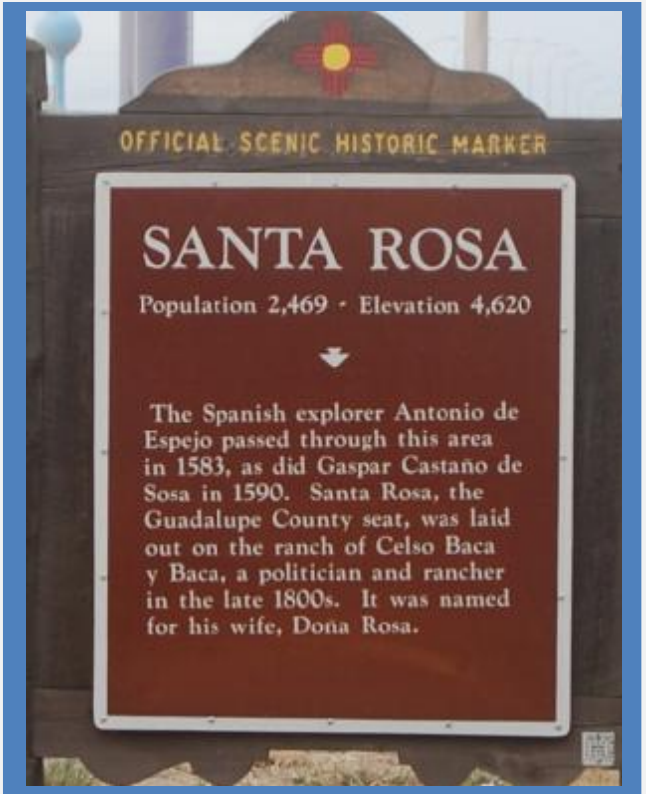
The Reel west newsletter

Just a short newsletter today. First off, let me say that my back feels really good and I should have no trouble riding a horse. Since I am a little short on western garb, mainly because

I live in the Midwest, I planned on getting to Santa Fe with enough time to try and buy or rent some cowboy gear. More on that later.

After a night at the La Mesa Motel, which lived up to its 3 stars on TripAdvisor, I spent a little time in Santa Rosa.

I don't believe I have ever seen an Edsel quite like the one below.



Day 8
Friday
April 8th
Santa Rosa, NM
To
Santa Fe, NM

Stats
475 miles
475 total miles this trip
Just over 9 hours on the road

Weather
High Temp: 53
Low Temp: TBD
Conditions: Cloudy, a little rain





The Blue Hole is quite an anomaly, especially here in the midst of the high mesa desert. Once known as Blue Lake, it is one of seven sister lakes connected underground by a vast system of water. The lake is unsurpassed for its clear, pure water. Because the outflow is so high, the water completely renews itself ever 6 hours, the visibility is 100'. This makes it a real haven for land-locked scuba divers.



Unfortunately, today is cloudy and the real beauty of the Blue Hole cannot be imparted.

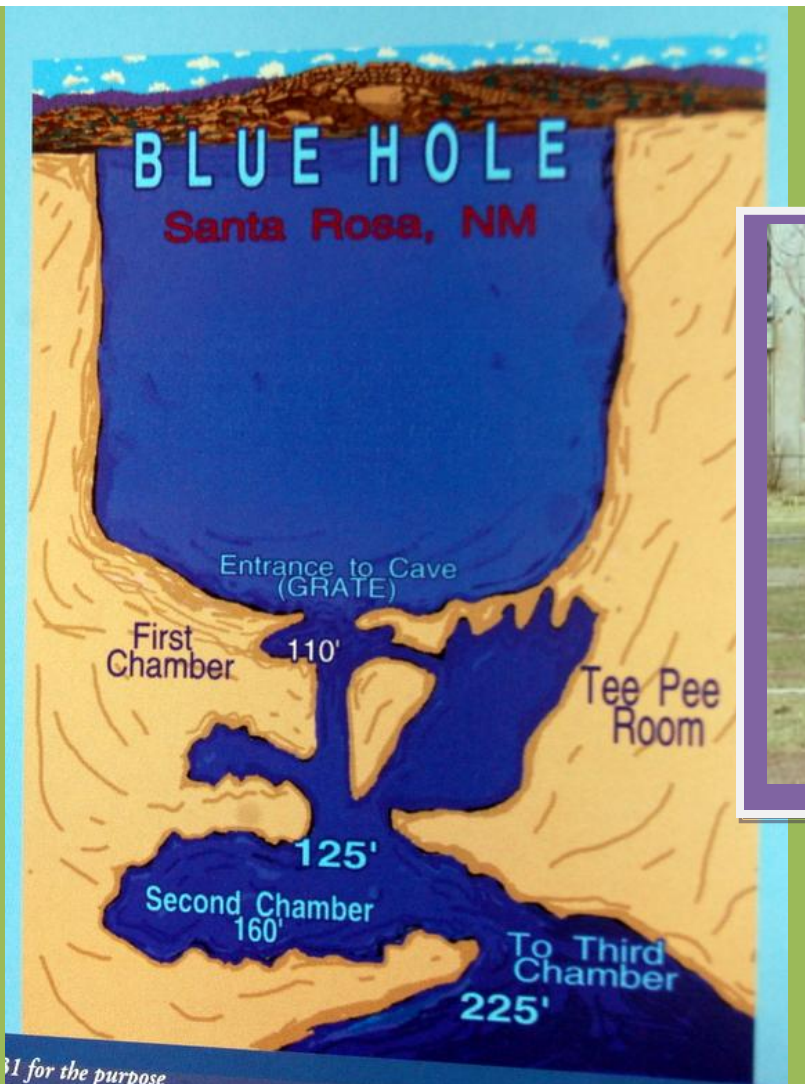


Right is a view from the rock ledge you can see in the photo below. I would really need a wide angle lens or a drone to get a good overhead shot.

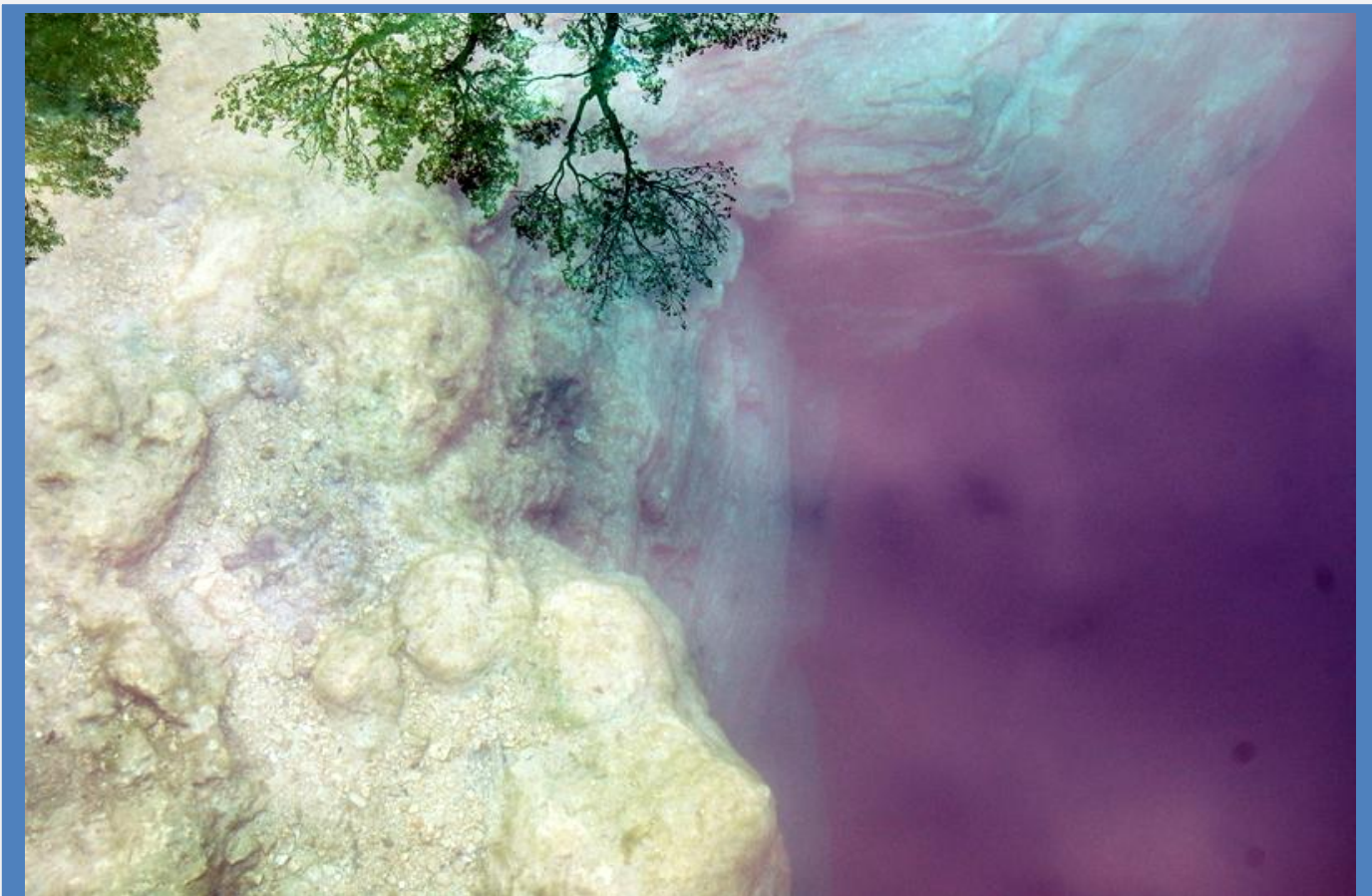


Left is a photo from the brochure.

Below – Some divers getting ready to take the plunge.



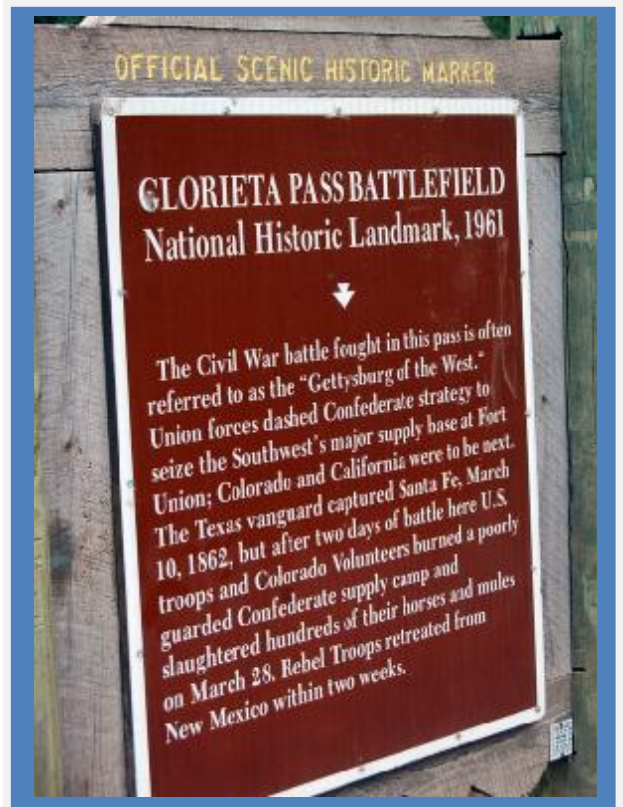
The tree branches below are just a reflection on the surface of the water. All the rocks you can see are underwater.





There are many places across the West where trail meets and/or crosses trail. The Ozark Trail. The Santa Fe Trail. Route 66, just to name a few. Here between Las Vegas, that's Las Vegas, New Mexico not Nevada, and Santa Fe, Route 66 and the Santa Fe run together. Specifically on the Santa Fe, to the south of Bernal, is the tall but relatively small mesa called Starvation Peak. Legend has it that settlers were chased up the mountain and held there, surrounded by Indian warriors, until they succumbed to starvation. It was a prominent landmark and made for an interesting story around the campfire for Santa Fe Trail traders.

Surprising news to me was that there were Civil War Battles this far west. I always get the impression of the Civil War as a war between the Eastern States.



The Civil War battle fought in this pass is often referred to as the "Gettysburg of the West." Union forces dashed Confederate strategy to seize the Southwest's major supply base at Fort Union; Colorado and California were to be next. The Texas vanguard captured Santa Fe, March 10, 1862, but after two days of battle here U.S. troops and Colorado Volunteers burned a poorly guarded Confederate supply camp and slaughtered hundreds of their horses and mules on March 28. Rebel Troops retreated from New Mexico within two weeks.



As I mentioned earlier, I needed to do some shopping in Santa Fe. I had tried in Amarillo to find used cowboy gear and had no luck. But I sure had some in Santa Fe.

Left is Randy Rodriguez, owner of the Rio Bravo Trading Company. Everything in Rio Bravo is used. Hats, chaps, spurs, coats, branding irons, memorabilia. The store is small but packed with a lot of things Randy has collected over the years.

Randy is also an expert at aging new items to look old. Left he is working on my felt hat. When I explained about the vacation I was taking to make a western movie, Randy immediately named Steve Shaw (master mind of Great American Adventures), and that another rider had been in the store yesterday and told him about the movie. I am not sure who is from Oregon, but that's who was there.

Randy is bringing some gear from home tomorrow. He said "We'll make you look like a bad guy."

So tomorrow will be a surprise for me and, especially Steve, when he sees how I look.

My home for the next eight days, The Inn at Santa Fe.

I had dinner in the lounge with several other riders. Shooting starts tomorrow afternoon.

I'M GONNA BE A STAR !!!!!

From now on I am in character so...

Good night,

Ace



