

The Old Spanish Trail Part III November 17 through 23, 2024 St. George, UT, to Santa Fe, NM



This tour will be limited to twenty five (25) vehicles and the registration form will be on the website or by contacting the director - Steve Fitzgerald by email at: studebakersteve@bresnan.net or calling (970) 209 7814.

We will leave from St. George with many pre-tour options on that weekend. We continue to follow the Dominguez and Velez de Escalante route across the Arizona strip. The padres persevered through many hardships, eating some of their horses and struggling to cross the Colorado River with the help of natives. Help from the Hopis and Zunis who knew Father Velez de Escalante, got them on their way to return to Santa Fe on what became the popular southern route through the Arizona Strip.

WE will see the area they traveled as well as Little Hollywood in Kanab, Utah. Many Westerns were filmed in the area. The balance of our journey will take us on old highways and back reservation roads as we follow the padres' route and see many amazing sites and sights along the way. As I drove it again in July, I saw many elk, deer, coyotes, turkeys and wild horses. We have some great lunch stops and wonderful museums and authentic trading posts along the way. Weather permitting, we will detour to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon as the fathers thought to do. We end this segment in Santa Fe with several options of things to see and do before and after our closing banquet. A list of motels will be available soon.

There will be a special Part IV tour from Cedar City, Utah to Monterrey, California from May 4 to May 10 in 2025 that will follow the route Dominguez and Velez de Escalante MIGHT have taken had they listened to the natives who told them the big water was only a week away. They had no way to calculate longitude and would not have reached their goal as it was far too far for them.

We will do it with virtually no freeway travel over fantastic back roads. These are roads I have not traveled since my days on a Vespa 125. We will cross Death Valley in May with much lower temperatures than the 131 degrees on the day I crossed it on July 19.