

# HISTORY



EVIDENCE OF THE EARLY ADOBE HOMES CAN STILL BE FOUND IN THE MESQUITE HISTORIC DISTRICT, THE ORIGINAL TOWNSITE LOCATED JUST EAST OF DOWNTOWN.

In 1907 Las Cruces, "The City of the Crosses," was officially incorporated as a town, and in 1912 New Mexico was awarded statehood, becoming the country's 47th state.

The United States' involvement in World War II dramatically affected life in Las Cruces. More than 2,000 New Mexicans died in the war, many of them on the Bataan Death March in 1942, in which Japanese soldiers forced 75,000 troops to march more than 60 miles under brutal conditions. The sacrifices of New Mexico's fallen marchers are honored each spring in the Bataan Memorial Death March, a 26.2-mile desert trek hosted by White Sands Missile Range and attended by thousands of participants from around the world. The day before the march, Bataan survivors share their experiences with rapt audiences.

Ultimately Las Cruces benefited from the war. The Tularosa Basin became one of the Army's most important weapons testing grounds with the establishment of what is now called

White Sands Missile Range. The Trinity Site at the basin's north end was the site of the first atomic bomb explosion. By 1945 the Army Corps of Engineers declared White Sands Proving Ground an area of military necessity.

Both New Mexico State University and White Sands Testing Facilities are key components of New Mexico's economy and the success of Las Cruces, one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation and the second-largest city in New Mexico.

Las Cruces and southern New Mexico have become the hotbed for advancement in commercial space with the construction of Spaceport America located north of the city.

The past and the present uniquely coexist in fascinating Las Cruces, a city with a colorful history and a future that only continues to grow brighter.



SCAN ME

For a more detailed history of Las Cruces

We'll Guide You Home

REAL ESTATE? WE'D LOVE TO HELP!  
HOMES@ENCHANTEDSUNREALTY.COM

TOLL FREE:  
1.855.532.5400

ENCHANTED SUN  
REALTY

RELOCATION • RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL  
NEW CONSTRUCTION • CONCIERGE SERVICE  
WWW.ENCHANTEDSUNREALTY.COM

