**Western New Mexico**

**Length:** 868.3 miles and 13:36

5 hours and 312.5 miles one way for the tour in New Mexico. Tucson to the beginning in Reserve, NM is 4:12 or 247.8 miles via I-10 east and US 191 north. From the termination in White Sands, NM home to Tucson is 308.0 miles and 4:24 on I-10.

**Directions:**  This route will traverse Catron, Socorro, Lincoln and Otero counties of New Mexico. From Reserve travel 1:40 or 102.4 miles to Magdalena on NM 12 and US 60 east. From Magdalena travel 1:34 or 101.5 miles on US 60 east and US 380 east to Carrizozo. From Carrizozo travel on US 54 south to Alamogordo for 56 minutes or 57.8 miles. Enroute you will visit the 3 Rivers Petroglyph site. From Alamogordo travel US 70 west 49 minutes or 50.8 miles to White Sands.

**What makes it memorable?**  The drive to Reserve on highway 191 is spectacular with great twisty sections and vistas of the Mogollon Rim and several mountain ranges. Reserve itself is steeped in the history of the Old West as the site of the gun battle between Elfego Baca and a gang of Texas cowboys. The route from there to the Very Large Array traverses an expansive plain and some amazing geologic landscapes, (for more about the Very Large Array of radio telescopes see the travel plan on this specific site). Between Carrizozo and Alamogordo you can see a large site of pre-historic rock art at the 3 Rivers Petroglyph site. In Alamogordo you can visit the Museum of Space History. White Sands National Monument features an otherworldly landscape of snow-white sand composed of gypsum crystals. You can drive about 8 miles into the monument.

**Other Helpful Comments:** If desired, the charming historic Spanish Colonial town of Mesilla, NM, south of Las Cruces, can be added. It features some terrific architecture along with great shops and eateries.