

Watrous and vicinity - Mora County



The Sun Country Striders
Welcomes You to
Watrous, New Mexico



Mora County

AVA Sanctioned Year Round Event

This county walk is composed of three segments to amount to 10k, or shorter distances if preferred. Fort Union has impressive ruins of a military fort that protected the Santa Fe Trail in the late 1800's. The ruts from the old trail are visible and the walk crosses it at two locations. The Visitor Center has a nice history film. The Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge Juniper Trail crosses a shortgrass prairie and then transitions to a moderate hike to cliffs that overlook the Mora River. Watrous is a tiny town but was an important junction for two branches of the Santa Fe Trail.

Walk Registration:

Please use the Online Start Box (OSB) to register and complete the event or contact the POC for remote registration. The directions and stamps will be available during the Sun Country Striders Week of Walking April 11-16, 2024 from the POC at selected sites. If wishing to do the walk on the way to the events, contact the POC.

Walk Completion and Walk Credit:

Once you have completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may choose to print out.

Driving Directions to Start Point:

From Albuquerque: (156 miles), Santa Fe (94 miles), or Las Vegas NM (28 miles), take I-25 North, exit 366 at Watrous and continue to the Watrous Coffee House for the town walk. Restrooms at Coffee House and trailheads.

Continue 8 miles on NM-161 to the Fort Union National Monument (8:00 to 5:00). No entry fee. Visitor Center has trail map of the ruins.

For Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge, take exit 364 and turn west onto Hwy 161. Continue for about 6 miles to the Juniper Trail parking area (8:00 to 4:00).

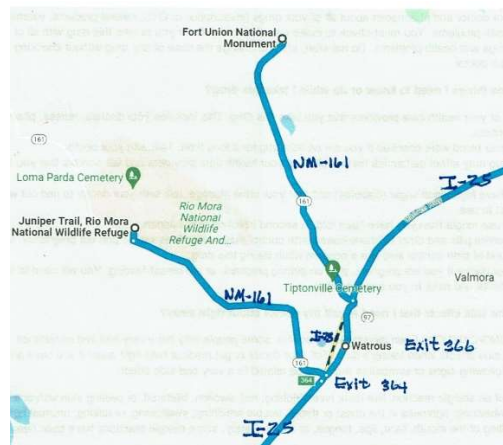


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WATROUS - MORA COUNTY – 4K

Walk starts at the Watrous Coffee House at 2115 NM-161, Watrous. From I-25, take exit 366 to Watrous and continue to the Coffee House. Distance from the Wildlife Refuge thru Watrous to Fort Union is 15 miles.

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

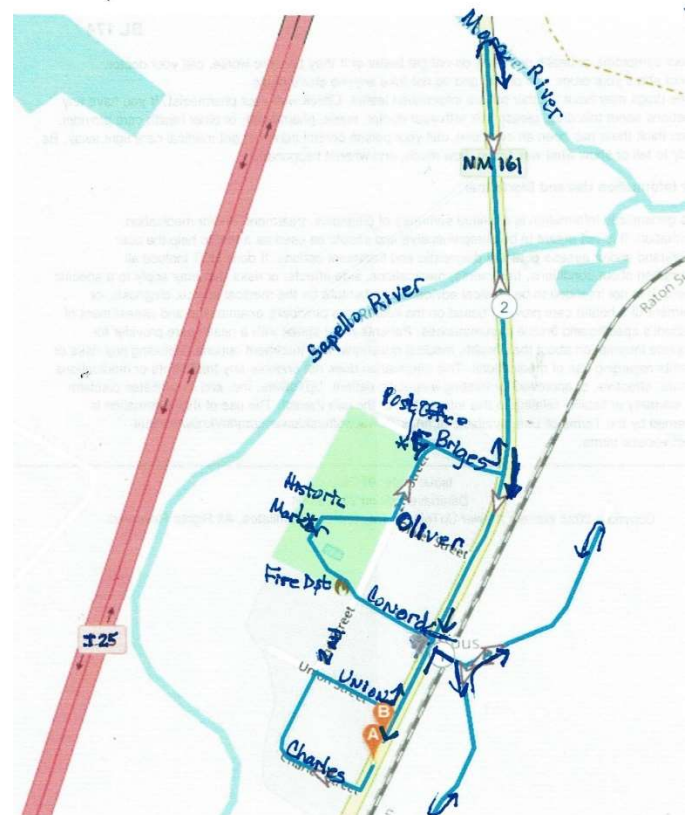
1. From the Coffee Shop and facing the highway, **RIGHT** on highway to Charles St.
2. **RIGHT** on Charles 1 block to 2nd St.
3. **RIGHT** on 2nd 1 block to Union.
4. **RIGHT** on Union 1 block to NM-161.
5. **LEFT** on NM-161 1 block to Concord.
6. **RIGHT** on Concord crossing the highway and the railroad tracks to the road (Rail Rd or Railroad). **We need the distance!**
7. **RIGHT** on Rail Rd passing 3 houses and until the road starts to angle left.
8. **U-TURN** back to Concord, then **VEER RIGHT** to continue on Rail Rd.
9. **VEER RIGHT** at a major 'Y' and continue until you see private property. **U-TURN** back to Concord.
10. **RIGHT** on Concord crossing the railroad and the highway and continue to 2nd St.
11. Continue straight toward the Volunteer Fire Sept, then stay to the right to enter the park.
12. There should be a trail to a historic marker (according to my mapping app). Follow trail thru the park back to the 2nd St (and Oliver).
13. **LEFT** on 2nd 1 block to Briges.
14. **LEFT** on Briges to the Post Office (don't forget those postcards to the grandkids).
15. **U-TURN** on Briges to the highway.

16. **OK, we need more distance!**

17. **LEFT** on NM-161 about 1k to the Mora River Bridge and crossing the Sapello River.

18. **U-TURN** back to town and the Coffee Shop. Distance: barely 4k

Event related assistance:
Helen Hull: 972-530-1026



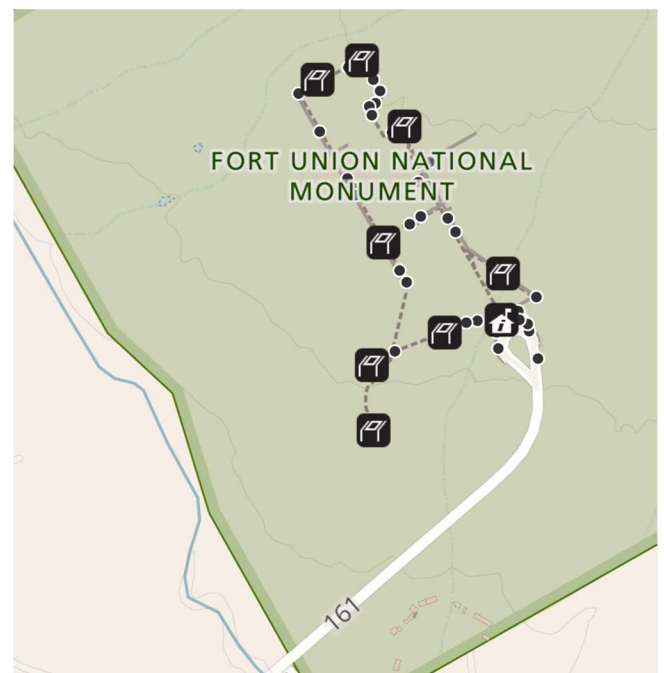
FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT - MORA COUNTY – 3K

Walk starts at the Fort Union National Monument Visitor Center near Watrous. From I-25, take exit 366 to Watrous and continue on NM-161 to the Fort Union National Monument. Distance from the Wildlife Refuge thru Watrous to Fort Union is 15 miles.

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1. View the park's film about the history of Fort Union.
2. Pick up a brochure and map of the camp grounds.
3. Follow the walking trail around the ruins and stopping at the information plaques.
4. Return to the Visitor Center.
5. Explore a bit of the Santa Fe Trail if desired.
6. Distance: 1.5 miles - short 3k

**Event related assistance:
Helen Hull: 972-530-1026**



RIO MORA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - MORA COUNTY – 3K

Walk starts at the Juniper Trail in the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge near Watrous. From I-25, take Exit 364 and turn west on NM-161. Distance from the Wildlife Refuge thru Watrous to Fort Union is 15 miles.

Near mile marker 16 is the 161 Welcome Area (stop here only to read the information signs). Continue on 161 for 5.5 miles to the Juniper Trail parking area. You will see a gravel road on the north side of the road - County Road 016-Loma Parada. The white with black trim sign says Loma Parada Ben C de Baca 1449, with cut-outs of an elk and deer on top. Cross the cattle guard and continue to parking lot which will be on the right. Hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. No fees.

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

1. Be aware that there is a bison herd of 40-50 but it's a large refuge so likely won't see them. The Juniper trail is a new trail and is well marked.
2. First $\frac{1}{4}$ mile is crushed fines, but it then becomes a path not suitable for wheelchairs or strollers.
3. Follow path to the canyon rim and view of the Mora River below.
4. **U-TURN** back to your car.
5. Distance: 2 miles roundtrip - long 3k

**Event related assistance:
Helen Hull: 972-530-1026**

