

WALK



# DURANES

NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

1.75-2 MILES



No 4

ALBUQUERQUE NEIGHBORHOOD  
WALKING TOUR SERIES

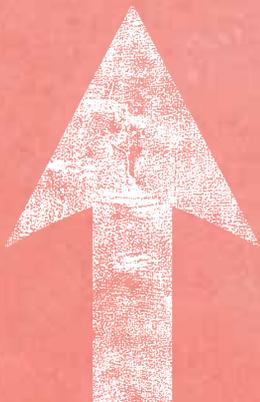
## ABOUT LOS DURANES

Duranes offers secret roads lined with old trees, funky homes, orchards, goats and very territorial dogs. Little roads where you have to hug the fence to let cars pass, but stunningly cozy.

Duranes is bounded by Rio Grande Boulevard and the Rio Grande River, just north of I-40 and Old Town. This cohesive neighborhood includes many long-term residents. Like other communities of the valley, it has remained a small, semi-agricultural district, keeping the pattern of fields, farms and small gardens, ditches and wandering dirt roads, the sense and feel of country in the midst of the city. A mixture of rural, residential and retail, the walk possibilities include access to the bosque, as well as commercial destinations on Rio Grande Boulevard.

## WALKABILITY

The Duranes neighborhood can be a delightful walking experience, but sidewalks are a token gesture. Walk, or roll, down the streets with an eye out for cars and roaming dogs. Roads are good and have little traffic. Explore, at your own risk, the quiet dirt “goat trails”, along the irrigation ditches and drains – they may be rough in places. There are lots of eyes on the street.

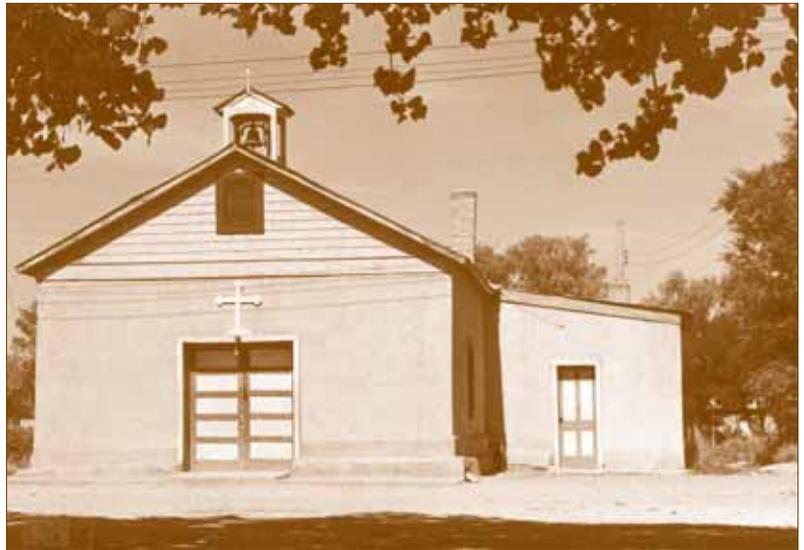


# HISTORY

Resources: Shining River, Precious Land, Kathryn Sargeant and Mary Davis  
Historic Albuquerque Today, Susan Dewitt

Los Duranes was a small farming community founded by the Duran family c. 1750 along El Camino Real, the royal road from Chihuahua to Santa Fe. An official Spanish census in 1790 listed the Plaza de Senor San Jose de los Duranes, with 27 families, as one of six defined settlements north of Villa de Albuquerque de San Felipe, along with Los Candelarias, Los Griegos, Los Gallegos, Los Ranchos and Alameda. Drains and irrigation ditches (acequias) of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District form a network of informal pathways and an oasis in the desert throughout the valley adjacent to the Rio Grande. The early flooding that occurred in this area before the levees were built took away much of the historic architecture. A few of the early farm houses remain, some crumbling, some well preserved. Many of the houses appear to have been built after World War II.

The original community reached south of I-40; the freeway was built almost through its center. In the process, houses were demolished, farm lands torn up and the neighborhood cut in two.



The Albuquerque Museum, Capilla de San Jose, 1949, # 80.185.731, no other info available.

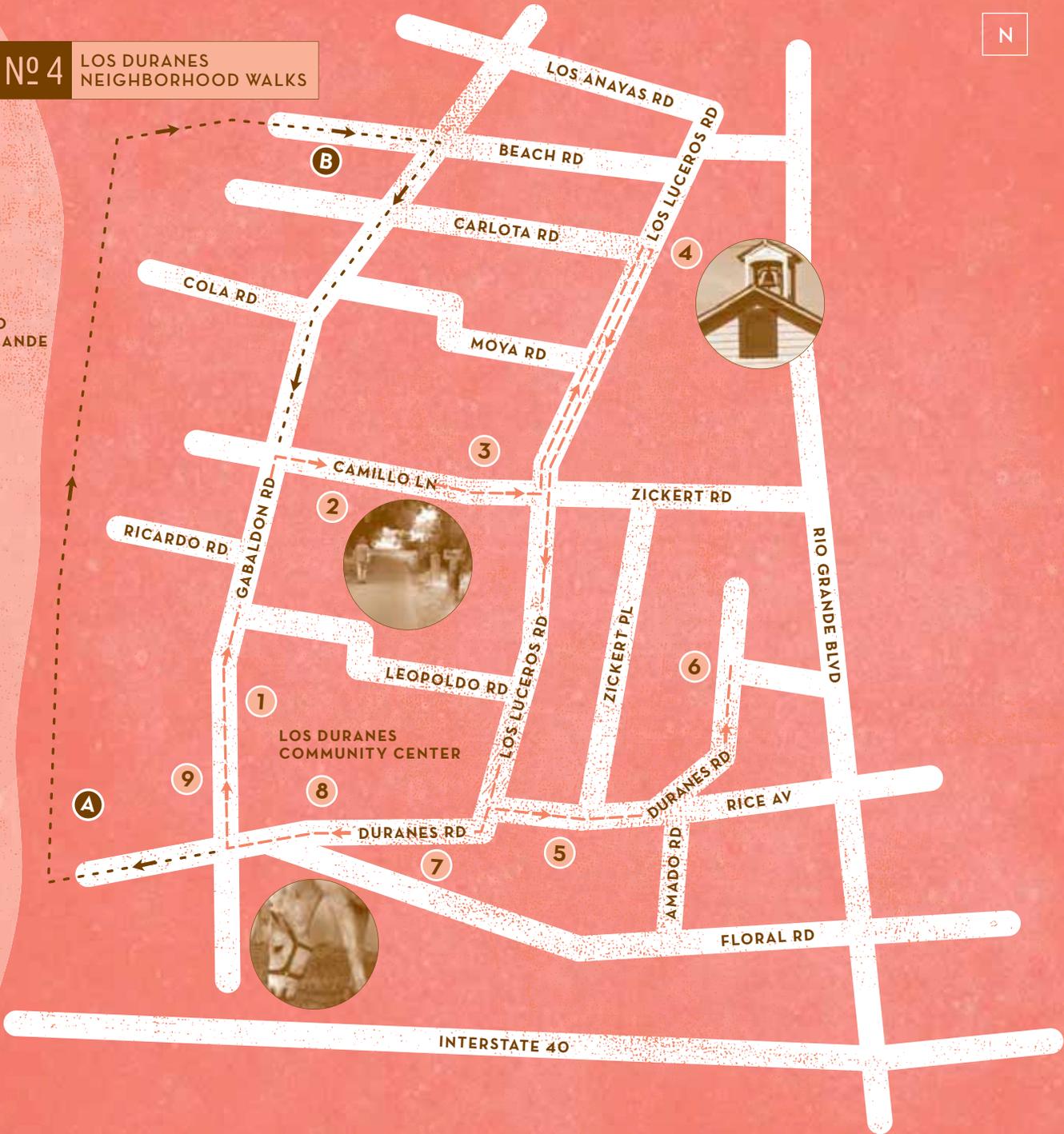
All paths **lead**  
**nowhere**, so it is  
important to choose a path  
that has **heart.**

— Carlos Castenda



**Nº 4** LOS DURANES  
NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS

RIO GRANDE



**B**

**4**

**3**

**2**

**1**

**6**

**4**

**9**

**8**

**7**

**5**



LOS DURANES  
COMMUNITY CENTER

INTERSTATE 40

## LOS DURANES NEIGHBORHOOD LOOP

### 2 MILE LOOP

**BEGIN AT THE WEST END OF LOS DURANES PARK ON GABALDON ROAD NW, AND LEOPOLD, NORTH OF LOS DURANES ROAD.**

**1. LOS DURANES PARK.**

The 1960's playground by the parking lot will soon be renovated. The park includes a community center at the east end.

**WALK NORTH ON GABALDON TO CAMILLO LANE AND TURN RIGHT.**

**2. CAMILLO LANE.**

This narrow lane is typical of the beloved roads in this neighborhood where pedestrians and cars share the road, but speeds are low. Many of the houses along Camillo were built in the early 1900's, in New Mexico Vernacular style. The residents of Duranes are working to keep roads narrower than typical standards as new development comes to the area. In early 2006, there were over 80 new homes under construction.

**FOLLOW THIS NARROW LANE EAST TO LOS LUCEROS ROAD.**

**3. DURANES ACEQUIA (IRRIGATION DITCH).**

**TURN LEFT, OR NORTH ON LOS LUCEROS ROAD.**

**4. MISSION SAN JOSE.**

On your right shortly after you cross the Duranes acequia for a second time. Note the tree house at 2037 Los Luceros.

**RETURN SOUTH, ALONG LOS LUCEROS ROAD, TO DURANES ROAD. WALK EAST ON DURANES ROAD.**

**5. 2704 DURANES ROAD, ALBUQUERQUE WATER GARDENS.**

Hidden among the homes is this surprising and delightful reprieve. This nursery has many unique water plants. It's only open in the summer, from Monday to Friday.

**6. CAPILLA DE SAN JOSE, 2601 INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD N.W., ON THE NW CORNER OF INDIAN SCHOOL AND DURANES.**

This small square stuccoed terron (sod block) and adobe structure, a historic landmark, was built in the NM Vernacular style around 1890. No longer the village church, it still has a wooden steeple on its pitched tin roof.

**RETURN WEST ON DURANES ROAD.**

**7. 2856 DURANES ROAD.**

Note the remnant trunk of a giant cottonwood and horses and goats along the way.

**8. THE GAVINO ANAYA HOUSE AT 2939 DURANES ROAD.**

This historic landmark is on both the NM Register of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Places. The plaque says, "Built in the early 19th century, this house may be one of the oldest in Albuquerque." It is built of terrones (sod blocks) in the traditional linear style, a single row of rooms running east-west. It belonged to the Anaya family for over 100 years. Older residents tell stories of the days when Indians and gypsies would go there to trade.

**WALK NORTH ON LOVELY TREE-LINED GABALDON ROAD AND RETURN TO YOUR STARTING PLACE.**

**9. THIS IS PERHAPS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SPONTANEOUS ALLÉE OF TREES IN THE NORTH VALLEY.**

You'll cross another picturesque acequia on your way back to the park.





Photo: David Day

## LOS DURANES RIVER LOOP

### 1.75 MILES LOOP

**BEGIN AT LOS DURANES PARK, SEE #1 IN FIRST TOUR. WALK SOUTH ALONG GABALDON ROAD TO DURANES ROAD, WEST TOWARD THE RIVER AND THEN NORTH ALONG THE CLEAR DITCH.**

**A. AT THE END OF DURANES ROAD, NEAR THE CITY'S LIFT STATION, YOU'LL SEE A BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO THE PASEO DEL BOSQUE TRAIL, THE PAVED TRAIL THAT EXTENDS NORTH AND SOUTH FOR A CONTINUOUS 16+ MILES.**

Take this access, but don't cross the bridge across the clear ditch. Instead, head north along the east side of the clear ditch, before the bridge. On your left is the levee, built by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District in the late 1920s and early 1930s (and rebuilt in the 1950's) to protect the valley from flooding. The cottonwood bosque (the woods on the river's banks between the levees) is now being managed to remove non-native vegetation, reduce fire danger, and improve wildlife habitat.

This is a dirt path with heavy vegetation in some spots, along with some uneven ground and ant hills. Walking shoes, not sandals, are recommended. Note long narrow parcels

running east-west, called *lineas*, reflecting early agricultural patterns. Each parcel had access to an *acequia* for irrigation.

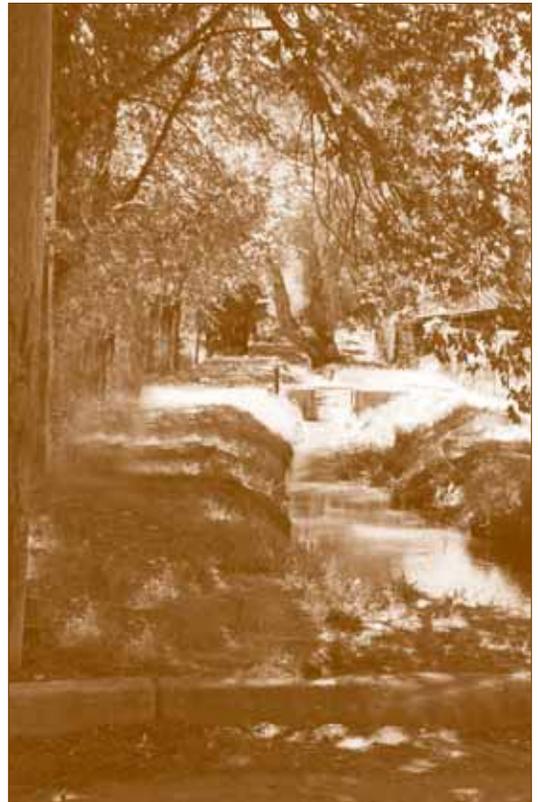
**LEAVE THE CLEAR DITCH AND WALK EAST ON BEACH ROAD.**

*(If you continue walking north about 1/8 of a mile, there's a second bridge across the clear ditch at Thomas Village.)*

**B. 3210 BEACH.**

Note the unusual small wooden house in the middle of the field.

**WALK SOUTH ON GABALDON ROAD BACK TO YOUR STARTING POINT AT LOS DURANES PARK.**





**A R E A H I G H L I G H T S**

- >> narrow secret lanes and allées of trees
- >> picturesque acequias
- >> access to the river and bosque

Pedestrian advocates, neighborhood residents, and planning and design professionals collaborated on this series of neighborhood walking guides. These walks highlight the architecture, art, history, and gardens, the hidden gems and quirky details of Albuquerque neighborhoods. The walking guide project is one of several initiated by WALK Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Alliance for Active Living to improve community health through increased daily activity. WALK Albuquerque is dedicated to creating and preserving safe, attractive, and accessible walking environments throughout the Albuquerque area. For information about our activities and projects and to download other walking guides, please visit our website or call us.

[WALKALBUQUERQUE.ORG](http://WALKALBUQUERQUE.ORG)

505.344.9742



Special thanks to landscape designer Paulina Aguilera-Eaton, for contributing ideas for this tour. Paulina is a big fan of Duranes and enjoys exploring her neighborhood's side streets on walks with her husband and her dog.

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**WALK**



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Please respect the privacy and wishes of home owners, occupants and neighbors.