

Geronimo Springs Museum

211 Main Street

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The Sierra County Historical Society is proud to be able to schedule fundraising **tours of the historic Armendaris Ranch** in support of Geronimo Springs Museum. The ranch tours are held during the late spring and early summer, with the schedule being determined in early spring.

May 19, 2007
Black Mesa This tour leaves the Museum about 8:00 AM and goes to the north end of the ranch, along parts of the original Jornada del Muerto portion of the Camino Real. You will go up on top of Black Mesa, also known as Mesa del Contadero, overlooking the ranch and look down on the Rio Grande Valley with Fort Craig on the other side of the river, and Val Verde battlefield to the north. There may be opportunity to view bison, antelope, oryx and several species of small animals and birds en route. Return will be around 6:00 PM.

June 16, 2007
Bat Caves This tour leaves the Museum approximately 1:00 PM and may stop at the pens where the bison are vaccinated, tested, and examined. The trip will reach the bat caves in the lava beds just before dusk, in time to observe the flight out of the thousands of bats that dwell in the caves below the lava beds. En route it may be possible to see antelope, oryx, bison, small animals and a variety of birds. Return to the Museum about 10:00 PM.

Fra Cristobal This tour leaves the Museum about 8:00 AM and climbs up into the Fra Cristobal Mountains, with a view overlooking the Rio Grande Valley from the east side of Elephant Butte Lake. There is a possibility of seeing the big horn sheep that live in the mountains. En route it may be possible to see antelope, oryx, bison, small animals and a variety of birds. Return to the Museum about 6:00 PM.

Each of these tours will include a meal, soft drinks and plenty of water. Cost to participants is **\$150.00 per person** payable to the **Geronimo Springs Museum**. All proceeds go to the Museum for its operating funds. **Four-wheel-drive, high clearance vehicles are required.** If you have a vehicle and would like the added convenience of taking it, you may with the provision that you are willing to take riders if needed. If you do not have an approved vehicle, transportation will be provided to you. You will want to wear hiking shoes or boots, as there will be some walking. It is recommended to wear a hat, bring a camera, binoculars, and sun screen. A portable potty will be available at the meal site.

Please contact **Geronimo Springs Museum** if you are interested at **505-894-6600** for additional information or to be placed on the mailing list for the tour schedule when it is finalized. Registration will be with the Museum. There is a trip limit of 20 participants plus staff, and 6 vehicles per tour. Participants will be required to sign waivers both for the Historical Society and New Mexico Ranch Properties.

Thank you for your interest in the Armendaris Tours and in Geronimo Springs Museum.

LaRena Miller, Museum Director Ann Welborn, Pat Woosley, Gayla Hubble, Cissy Nobbe, Staff