

Lordsburg, NM

Lordsburg, New Mexico has been an important stop for travelers throughout the growth of the Old West. It continues to be a strong community and a launching point to destinations in the New West.

Lordsburg was part of the famous Butterfield Stage route which ran from the Mississippi River all the way to San Francisco. The Butterfield Overland Express Company used four-horse coaches and traveled the distance in 25 days or less. Before that, private companies, some under government contract, would transport mail to the West. But settlers were not happy with receiving mail only once or twice a month. So in 1857, congress voted to subsidize a semi-weekly mail service and hired John Butterfield for the job. Passengers could pay a fare to ride the stagecoach along with the mail, and many found it a very uncomfortable way to travel. The route through Lordsburg was longer than other proposed routes through Denver or Salt Lake City, but had the advantage of being snow-free throughout the year. Just a few years into operation the Civil War began, and because the route traversed Confederate states, it was considered too risky.

In 1927, Lordsburg was one of the stops on Charles Lindbergh's transcontinental flight. Today's travelers can still experience the old west by visiting two nearby authentic ghost towns: Shakespeare and Steins. Travelers can then enjoy the comfort and convenience of modern Lordsburg.

Source(s):

Hoffman, Eva J. "A Guidebook to Amtrak's Sunset Limited." Flashing Yellow Guidebooks, Golden, CO, 2009.

Author(s):

Written by Luke A. Scott for project within the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University, as part of a National Park Service Trails and Rails project funded by Amtrak, 2009.