

At Ease

takes
The Ultimate Road Trip

New Mexico

Arkansas

Oklahoma

Louisiana

ONE WAY

SPEED LIMIT

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with Melisa Hohlt
behind the wheel

After almost four weeks of being force-fed English, history, engineering and/or any other class, hopes and aspirations of going somewhere — anywhere — begin to take up the brain capacity we don't seem to have for classroom information.

As all native Texans should know, there are plenty of things to see right here in our very own state, but as native Texans, you've probably already been there.

Whether Texan or not, if "getting away from it all" means not only leaving College Station but leaving Texas all together, you really should be introduced to some of the options in the surrounding states.

The farthest state to get to from here is probably New Mexico, since you have to travel through practically all of Texas to

get there. But once you get there you'll be happy you took the time.

The climate in New Mexico is warm and dry, and the average July temperature is a cool 74 degrees. The state is made up of four main land regions consisting of the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Basin and Range region, and the Colorado Plateau.

Included in the nine national monuments are the ancient pueblo Aztec Ruins, a large deposit of gypsum sand called White Sands, and an old Santa Fe Trail military post called Fort Union.

The capital city of Santa Fe is located in the central region of the state. History can be relived while visiting Santa Fe by touring the oldest house and the oldest church in the United States.

If you like Indian art, the 50-year-old Indian Market will be August 22-23 in Santa Fe. This market is a place where Indians from all over the state can come to display and sell their wares.

All 3,000 motel rooms are already booked for the weekend of the Indian Market, but if you're planning to go, you can stay in nearby Albuquerque.

Also part of New Mexico's history is the

new Palace of the Governors Historical Museum. This palace was home to the Mexican governor until 1837 when the Mexicans and the Indians rebelled against the government, killing the governor and seizing the palace.

Closer to the Texas-New Mexico border is the

famous Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

This park is a series of caves which tourists can visit via lighted walking trails. The two levels of 750 feet and 829 feet underground can be reached by open trail or