

The Lost Mine of the Chisos (in A minor)

words and music copyright Bill Staines (as recorded on Just Play One Tune More)
mandolin chord arrangement by John Tauxe 31 Dec 2023 • updated 31 Mar 2024 • mando.tauxe.net

The original key is B flat minor. Here it is transposed to A minor which may be easier for beginners.

A



There is a tale from the Big Bend country,



And I heard it once, so long ago



By firelight on the Rio Grande,



While the moon shown bright on Mexico.

B



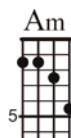
An aged one—an old *compadre*—



Told this to me as I to you.



The desert sun had burned his body,



But his eyes told me that the tale was true.

A

Years ago, up in the Chisos,
Conquistadores, they mined for gold,
And far below they built a prison.
It was a bold presidio.

B

Early each and every morning
The Spaniards led unto the hills
Blindfolded slaves—a captive people—
To work the mines and do their will.

YODEL REFRAIN

Am F Dm Am G Am

A

The years they fade like dying echoes.
The way is lost. The trail is gone.
All that remains is just the legend.
The story ends; a passing song.

B

But if you stand at San Vincente
And watch the sun on Easter morn,
Where its first light falls on the mountains
The way is shown, and the secret torn.

B

Listen well: If on the West wind
The sounds of horses, they fill the air,
Don't venture on; they guard the treasure
From anyone who enters there.

YODEL REFRAIN

B

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