

Santa Fe National Historic Trail



New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma,
Kansas, Missouri



WAGONS HO! HIT THE TRAIL!

The Santa Fe Trail stirs the imagination as few other historic trails can. For 60 years the trail was one thread in a web of international trade routes. It influenced economies as far away as Mexico City, New York, and London. Spanning 900 miles between the United States (Missouri) and Mexico (Santa Fe), it brought together a cultural mosaic of individuals who sometimes cooperated—and sometimes clashed.

Unlike the emigrant trails that took travelers west to Utah, Oregon, and California, the Santa Fe Trail mainly handled commercial traffic. Wagon trains loaded with trade goods took from six weeks to two and a half months to make the trip. The need for the trail ended with the arrival of the railroad in Santa Fe in 1880.





Doug Holdread/Santa Fe Trail Association

Freight wagons no longer cross the prairie, but the Santa Fe Trail legacy endures as buildings, historic sites, landmarks, and original wagon-wheel ruts. The National Park Service coordinates efforts to protect, develop, and promote the trail for you and generations to follow.

There are plenty of places to explore across 900 miles of prairies, mountains, and deserts. Trip planning is essential for an enjoyable and memorable experience. Trail sites might be in private, tribal, municipal, state, or federal ownership. Check websites and call sites before you travel. Plan to stay safe—bring water, snacks, and accurate maps.

For more information, including historic site locations and trip planning tools, please visit the official trail websites.

National Park Service
National Trails Intermountain Region
(505) 988-6098, www.nps.gov/safe

Santa Fe Trail Association
(620) 285-2054, www.santafetrail.org



Follow signs
to retrace
the trail.



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