



## Juan Bautista de Anza National Historical Trail



### The Anza Trail

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail was authorized by Congress on August 15, 1990, the first such trail in the Western Region of the National Park Service. It is one of twelve National Historic Trails in the United States. As originally planned it would run from Nogales, Arizona to San Francisco, California following as closely as possible the historic route taken by Anza and 240 immigrants in the winter of 1775-76. However, since the expedition started in Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico, plans are under way to include the 600 miles of the route that lie within Mexico to make it the first International Historic Trail in the world.

Before the entire length of trail can be opened for public use, much planning and negotiating will be necessary, requiring several years. One section of the trail is open within the boundaries of the Anza-Borrego State Park in California. The first section to be opened to the public in Arizona lies within Tumacacori National Historical Park and Tubac Presidio State Historic Park. It is a hiking and equestrian trail only, but plans are underway for signage of a bike trail along the back roads from Nogales to Tubac. Eventually, signage of the route along the interstate will also be accomplished.

### Historic Anza Expedition from Culiacan to San Francisco

1775-1776

Juan Bautista de Anza, Presidial Captain of Tubac, left Culiacan, Mexico in the summer of 1775 with a party of immigrants destined to establish the first European colony at San Francisco in Alta California. After several weeks of travel, they stopped at the presidio of San Miguel de Horcasitas for other soldiers and immigrants to join the expedition. The next, and final gathering point, before setting out across the desert to California was at Tubac. When the expedition left there in late October, 1775, they had over 1200 difficult miles ahead of them. There were 240 people, (155 women and children), 340 horses, 165 pack mules and 302

cattle. For this large group, the expedition carried 13 tents. Over the next eighty days between Tubac and San Francisco, there was one death and three live births. Thus, after many trials and hardships, the colonizers arrived at their new home in California with 242 people. Juan Anza returned to Mexico City to report on the mission, where he learned he had been appointed governor of New Mexico by the King of Spain.

### Juan Bautista de Anza

1736	Born, Cuquiáráchi, Sonora
1752	Army Cadette (Fronteras)
1755	Lieutenant (Fronteras)
1760	Presidial Captain (Tubac)
1774	Exploratory California Expedition
1775	Lieutenant Colonel (Tubac)
1775-76	Colonizing California Expedition
1778	Governor of New Mexico
1782	Colonel (Santa Fe)
1788	Died, Arizpe, Sonora



**Imporant Trail Information**

**Trail Heads**

*Tumacacori National Historical Park*  
Beginning from the Frontage Road, beside the northwest corner of the National Park Property, next to the Fiesta grounds

*Tubac Presidio State Historic Park*  
Beginning at the south side of the picnic grounds, south of the museum

**Length**

The overall length of the trail in 4.5 miles. It is approximately 1.25 miles from either trail head to the first river crossing.

An additional loop trail can take hikers directly to the Santa Cruz River. Beginning from the Tumacacori trailhead, hikers can follow signs leading away from the Anza Trail and going directly to the river, 1/4 mile from the trailhead. After reaching the river, hikers can continue another 1/4 mile on the loop trail to reconnect with the Anza Trail.

**General Information**

◆ The trail crosses the Santa Cruz River several times. Bridges at river crossings may wash away by floods. Hikers should be prepared to wade. River height may make crossing dangerous.

◆ Hiking the trail can be very hot during the middle of the day. Take at least one quart of drinking water per person. *Do not drink the river water.*

◆ Beware of rattlesnakes and other desert dwellers and prickly desert plants.

◆ Stay on the trail. Since use of the trail is provided as a courtesy of the private owners it is necessary that we all *respect the private property* surrounding it.

◆ No camping allowed.

◆ **HIKING & EQUESTRIAN TRAIL ONLY.** No motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed.

**Notice**

This trail is on private property owned by Baca Float Land Development Ltd. Partnership and Tumacacori Mission Land Development Ltd. Partnership. Users of the trail should be aware that under State Legislature Article I 33- 1551, "An owner, lessee or occupant of premises does not:

1. Owe any duty to a recreational user to keep the premises safe for such use;
2. Extend any assurance to a recreational user through the act of giving permission to enter the premises, that the premises are safe for such entry or use, or;
3. Incur liability for any injury to persons or property caused by any act of a recreational user."

