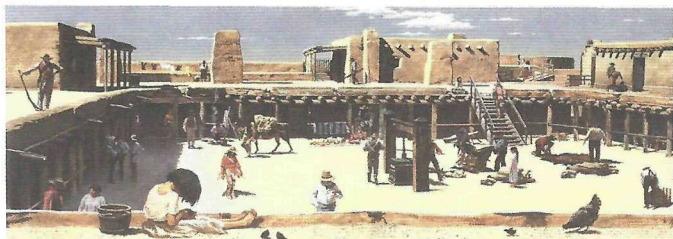




Visiting Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site



As you approach the gate, you smell a cottonwood campfire. Entering the plaza, you hear the clang of blacksmith's hammer on anvil. You are greeted by a guide in 19th-century garb muddied with adobe. Welcome to 1846! Welcome to Bent's Old Fort! Here is preserved the site and story of a famous trading post. The fort was one of the significant centers of the fur trade on the Santa Fe Trail. Built by Bent, St. Vrain & Company in 1833, the post was the center of a prosperous trading empire for 16 years. Strategically located, the fort paved the way for U.S. expansion as an instrument of manifest destiny. Today, Bent's Old Fort is reborn: faithfully reconstructed by the National Park Service in 1975-76 on the site of the original post. Interpreters in period clothing tell the important story of this crossroads of culture, where Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics and other cultures came together to trade. Come back to that time and experience the sights, sounds and smells of the past at "the Castle on the Plains."

Visitor Hours

June 1 - August 31: 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
September 1 - May 31: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Self-Guided Tours / Orientation Film

Year-round. Available anytime during visitor hours.

Guided Tours*

June 1 - August 31: 9:30, 11:00, 1:00, 2:30
September 1 - May 31: 10:30, 1:00

*subject to available staffing

School/Group Guided Tours

(Reservations required, based on availability)

Phone 719-383-5026 10:30, 1:00

Living History Demonstrations

Scheduled seasonally

continued on other side

2010 Special Events:

June 4 – 5, 2010

50th Anniversary Celebration

Speakers, living history demonstrations, reenactments, a special dinner and a fandango are some of the events scheduled to celebrate the establishment of Bent's Old Fort NHS on June 3, 1960.

July 10, 2010

Kid's Quarters

Seven to eleven year-olds are invited to "step back in time" to experience life as a trapper, trader, craftsman, or Indian. Registration is required; to apply call (719) 383-5051 after May 3, 2010.

September 18, 2010

Hispanic Heritage Day

The rich and colorful history of Mexico's northern frontier comes alive with adobe work, trading, cooking, livestock demonstrations, music, dance, and other special programs and exhibits.

October 9, 2010

Fur Trade Encampment

The park's main living history event celebrates the traders, tribes, and trappers associated with the fur trade in the Southwest. More than 60 living history volunteers bring the post back to life!

December 3 – 4, 2010

Holiday Celebration

Witness the holiday pleasures and pastimes of the 1840s at an isolated trading post. For reservations for the evening candlelight tours, phone (719) 383-5051 after October 11, 2010.

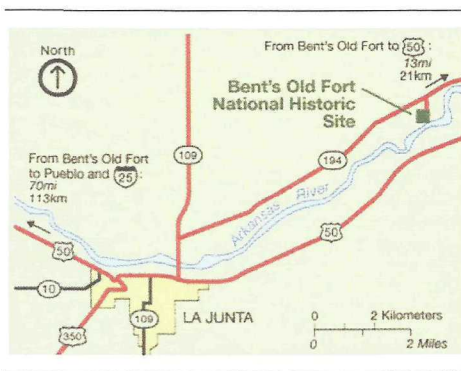
Note: Events are subject to change. Check our website or telephone the park for details and more information on these and other special events.

Fees

13 years and above	\$3.00 per person
6 - 12 years	\$2.00 per person
5 years and under	Free
Interagency Annual Passholder	Free
Interagency Senior and Access Passholders	Free

How to get here

Located on Highway 194, 8 miles east of La Junta and 15 miles west of Las Animas, Colorado.



For more information contact:

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

35110 Highway 194 East
La Junta, CO 81050

719 383-5010
www.nps.gov/beol