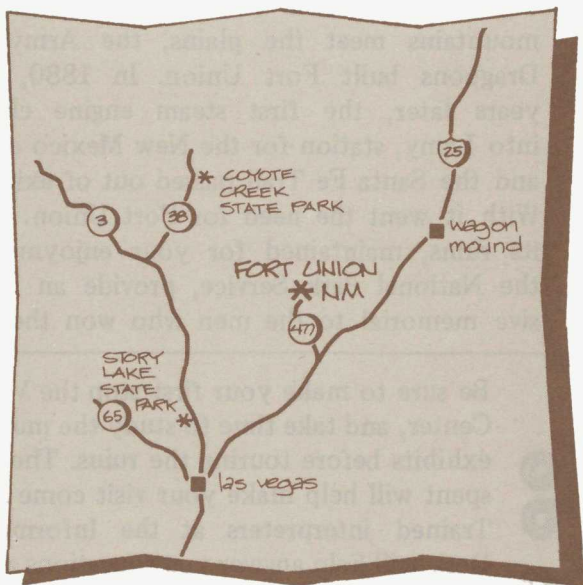


your SUPER '77 visit planner for

Fort Union National Monument



have a SUPER visit

**Safely
Use
Preserve
Enjoy
this Resource**

For 28 years they lumbered by here, those big, dust covered red wagons of the Santa Fe Trail. They were pulled by 10 or 12 New Mexico mules and loaded with 5 to 7 thousand pounds of merchandise packed tightly in their beds. The grasslands around Fort Union are still deeply marked with the ruts of the old Santa Fe Trail.

This great wilderness highway started from the banks of the Missouri River 800 miles to the east. Each spring the traders backed their wagons up to warehouses, loaded, mounted the box and cracked their "Missouri pistols" over the ears of the mules and headed for the great southwest.

Near the junction of the Mountain and Cimarron Branches of the Trail, where the mountains meet the plains, the Army's 1st Dragoons built Fort Union. In 1880, thirty years later, the first steam engine chugged into Lamy, station for the New Mexico capital, and the Santa Fe Trail passed out of existence. With it went the need for Fort Union. Today its ruins, maintained for your enjoyment by the National Park Service, provide an impressive memorial to the men who won the West.

Be sure to make your first stop the Visitor Center, and take time to study the museum exhibits before touring the ruins. The time spent will help make your visit come alive. Trained interpreters at the Information Desk will help answer your questions about the old Fort.

With the story fresh in mind, go out and roam the 74 acres of adobe ruins at your leisure; there is no set tour route. Stand in the shadow of 20-foot adobe walls and listen, as in your mind's eye a drill sergeant prepares his troops for a scouting patrol along the Santa Fe Trail. This was the largest military post guarding the

southwest frontier and played a key role in shaping the destiny of the Southwest.

North of the Fort you can walk about a half-mile portion of the old Santa Fe Trail ruts. Travel back in your imagination to the arrival of the dusty red wagons with their load of trade goods or military supplies.

South of the Fort are the contours of the old "Star Fort" earthworks — the second Fort Union. Examine this ruin and imagine the excitement here as the troops passed rumors that Confederate Col. Sibley's mounted Texas Riflemen were headed this direction.

If your visit to Fort Union is during the summer months, uniformed Rangers conduct tours of Fort Union and present talks about his history. Check at the Visitor Center for the schedule.

We suggest your visit to Fort Union be combined with a picnic — the closest food service is 30 miles away and walking through the ruins builds up an appetite. Picnic tables are provided and we have a machine that dispenses cold soft drinks.

Fort Union is a designated Federal Fee area. This means you must pay a nominal entrance fee: 50 cents if you're a loner, \$1 for the family if you come as a group. Golden Eagle and Golden Age Passports are honored, of course.

Old Town Plaza, in Las Vegas, 26 miles to the south on Interstate 25, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1846, Stephen Watts Kearney stood on the roof of a building overlooking this place and claimed the Province of New Mexico for the United States.

The Rough Riders Museum in Las Vegas. Look for it next door to the Cham-

ber of Commerce as you drive through town on I-25. Many of the men who rode with Col. Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish American War came from right around here. Free admission; open daily except Sundays.

Storrie Lake State Park, 6 miles north of Las Vegas on State Route 3, offers camping, picnicking, fishing, boating (with ramps) and water sports. There is no guarded beach but you can swim at your own risk.

Villanueva State Park is located on State Route 3, 31 miles southwest of Las Vegas. It offers facilities for camping (May through November), picnicking and fishing.

If you enjoy *mountain scenery*, take State Route 3 out of Las Vegas to Taos, 70 miles to the northwest. This trip takes you through the Santa Fe National Forest; you'll like it!

A shorter trip is State Route 65, also out of Las Vegas, to the base of 10,263-foot Hermit Peak.

Fort Union National Monument is located in northeastern New Mexico, 8 miles west of Interstate 25. State Route 477 leads directly into the Monument. The intersection of State Route 477 with I-25 is 22 miles northeast of Las Vegas and 21 miles southwest of Wagon Mound.

The nearest overnight accommodations are in Las Vegas, 30 miles southwest, and Raton, 95 miles north. (Springer, 45 miles north, has limited overnight accommodations.)

Storrie Lake State Park, 6 miles north of Las Vegas on State Route 3, offers year-round camping. Villanueva State Park,

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31 miles southwest of Las Vegas on State Route 3, offers camping from May thru November. At both, the fee is \$2 per night.

At the Monument you can purchase cold soft drinks from a machine dispenser. Picnic tables are provided to make your visit more enjoyable. Bring a lunch and eat with us.

Full food service is available in Las Vegas, 30 miles south, and Wagon Mound, just off I-25, 28 miles to the north.

Fort Union is at elevation of 6,700 feet. It is windy most of the year.

Summer temperatures range between 70 and 90. Rain is frequent during July and August.

Winter temperatures range between 20 and 50. Heavy snowfall is infrequent (3 to 5 times a year) but can occur any-time between October and April.

Peak visitation to Fort Union occurs between May and September, with most people coming on weekends. The Fort is open every day except Christmas and New Year's Day, 8 a.m. till 5 p.m.

Fort Union Handbook \$.80
Santa Fe Trail, by H.L. James \$.75

To order, send a check or money order payable to the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association to Fort Union National Monument Information, Watrous, NM, 87753.

Although stabilized, the ruins will fall if climbed on.

During the summer months, an occasional rattlesnake is spotted within

be safe

the Fort area. All snakes should be avoided but not harmed and reported to a Ranger.

Drive alertly while in the Monument and in transit to and from.

While every effort is made to provide for your safety in these surroundings, you must remain alert and exercise caution for your own safety and that of your children.

rules

Natural and historical specimens and artifacts are protected under the Antiquities Act. They cannot be collected.

Pets must be restrained by leash or other means. Pets are not permitted in the Visitor Center.

Stay off adobe ruins. The National Park Service has a perplexing problem in preserving adobe from summer rains, winter snows and the erosive effects of continuous winds. Climbing over the wall ruins only adds to this problem.

PARKS AND FORESTS

When you are enjoying yourself, what difference does it make if you are in a National Park or a National Forest? Both offer outstanding recreational opportunities and special facilities and services to enhance your visit.

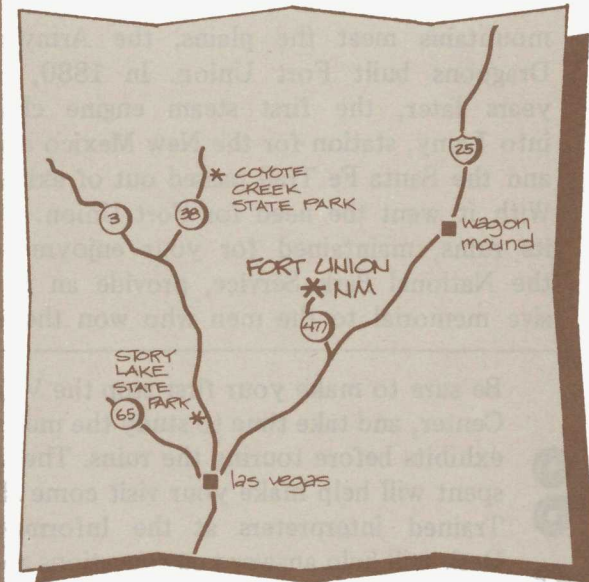
Differences are in concept — which determines the way they are managed. National Forests are managed as renewable natural resources — timber, forage, water, wildlife. National Parks are set aside to be preserved, as they are, in perpetuity.

National Park Service ★★★★★
U.S. Department of the Interior

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