



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 a blacksmith's hammer on anvil. You are greeted by a guide in 19th-century garb muddled with adobe. Welcome to 1846! Welcome to Bent's Old Fort! Preserved here is 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

2017 Special Events:

March 18, 2017

Frontier Skills Day

Adults are invited to take on various roles at the fort for a day. Be a hunter, blacksmith, trader, carpenter, laborer, or domestic. Space is limited; **pre-registration required.** Call (719) 383-5026 for information.

June 9 – 11, 2017

Living History Encampment

A training event for living history volunteers features demonstrations for visitors Friday, June 9 to midday Sunday, June 11. Full course of instruction runs June 7-11. For course information, phone (719) 383-5023.

July 8, 2017

Kids' Quarters

Children, ages 7 to 11, get "step back in time" and experience the life of a fort employee, customer, or visitor. **Pre-registration required.** Call (719) 383-5026 for application **starting May 1, 2017.**

October 7 – 8, 2017

Fur Trade Encampment

The post comes to life to celebrate the fur trade in the Southwest during the 1830s and 1840s. Living history volunteers demonstrate 19th century skills at the fort and in camps along the Arkansas River.

December 1 – 2, 2017

Holiday Celebration

Witness the holiday pleasures and pastimes of the 1840s at an isolated trading post. Reservations are required for the evening candlelight tours, phone (719) 383-5026 **starting November 1, 2017.**

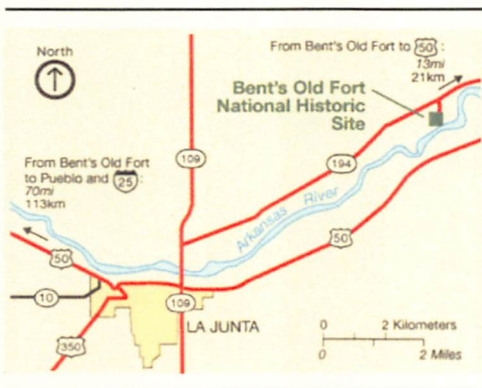
Note: Events are subject to change. Check our website or phone the park for details and more information on these and other special events.

Fees

13 years and above	\$3.00 per person
6 – 12 years of age	\$2.00 per person
5 years and under	Free
Interagency Passholders	Free
Special Event Fee (for all ages 6 and up)	\$5.00 per person

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