



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. In many places, the trail is only a line on the map, but sections of walking trail do exist. The route to the Presidio in San Francisco follows as closely as possible the historic route taken by Anza and the 300 immigrants in his charge during the winter of 1775-76. Due to the changes in the landscape or property issues, the commemorative trail may deviate one to three miles from the original route. 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.

It is unlikely that the entire trail will be open for public use, but through planning and negotiating large stretches of trail are accessible now to hiking, biking, and/or equestrian use. The first section to be opened to the public in Arizona lies between Tumacácori National Historical Park and Tubac Presidio State Historic Park. It is a hiking and equestrian trail only. Another 5 mile section exists in Rio Rico, Arizona. It is hoped in the coming years to connect these two sections to make a continuous 10 mile trail. As the years pass, more and more of the Anza trail will meet, connecting the communities along the way with their past.

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 on a journey that would forever secure his role in the history of California. Anza was charged by the King of Spain to establish a land route through the desert to the coast of California, taking with him families, grain and livestock. The goal was to create a viable community in Alta California that would expand the reach and power of Spain. Anza also brought several priests who were charged with evaluating potential mission sites, acting as translators, and guiding the spiritual journey of immigrants who joined them. The final staging area for the group was at Tubac. When the expedition left there in late October, 1775, they had over 1200 difficult miles ahead of them. Anza carefully planned the journey to avoid the extreme high temperatures and lack of rain in early summer and the monsoon rains of late summer which would bog the travelers down in sticky mud. Of the approximately 300 people on the journey, half were women and children. Anza brought 340 horses, 165 pack mules and 302 cattle to seed agriculture in the new settlements, as well as feed the people on the journey. For the next eighty days between Tubac

and San Francisco, there was only one human death of a woman during childbirth. Three babies were born and survived including the child of the woman who died after giving birth. Along the way great discoveries were made including documentation of Casa Grande. People belonging to various Native American tribes were met and befriended. This relationship would prove fruitful. Many close calls along the way were averted by Anza's deft ability to enlist the willing help of Native Americans. As weather extremes and lack of forage and water took their toll, dozens of animals died, leaving their bones along the trail as haunting reminders of the harrowing journey. The animals that made it to California arrived gaunt and malnourished, but alive. The people built homes, communities, an economy, and a vibrant new culture. The story of their journey and contribution to the history of the United States is recognized by the National Park Service through the establishment of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

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 be washed away by floods.

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

◆ No camping allowed.

◆ Stay on the trail. Use of the trail outside of the National Park is provided as a courtesy by private owners. Users of the trail must respect the private property surrounding it.

Notice: Beyond the borders of Tumacacori National Historical Park, the trail is on private property. 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."

Health And Safety

◆ Hiking the trail can be very hot during the middle of the day. Take at least one quart of drinking water per person.

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

◆ The flow in the Santa Cruz River between Rio Rico and Tubac consists almost completely of effluent released from the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Facility. For your health and safety:

- Avoid contact with the river water.
- Do not drink or wash with the water.
- If you come into contact with river water, wash the affected area as soon as possible.

◆ Diseases can be spread to humans and their pets from contact with wild animals. The viruses that cause Avian influenza, carried by birds, and West Nile Virus, Dog Heartworm and Equine Encephalitis, carried by mosquitos, are all present in Arizona. For your health and safety:

- Avoid touching wildlife. If you must handle a dead or sick bird, wear disposable gloves and wash your hands afterwards. Do not pick up or touch feathers.
- Avoid outside activity after dusk during mosquito season. Wear protective clothing and apply insect repellant containing DEET to exposed skin. (Birders beware! DEET can "melt" plastics such as the housing and eyecups of cameras and binoculars, and might even damage lenses. Wash your hands thoroughly after applying DEET.)

