

Gateway to the Historic Anza Trail



Discover the Spanish and Mexican history and culture of the American Southwest with a tour of the **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**. The Anza Trail is a 1,200-mile marked route, beginning in Southern Arizona. Perfect for groups or individuals, it memorializes the route established over two centuries ago by Juan Bautista de Anza II, Captain of the Presidio of Tubac in Sonora (now Southern Arizona). This intrepid explorer led an expedition to scout a new overland route to northern California and established the Presidio at San Francisco.

Anza set out from the Tubac frontier on October 23, 1775 with a colonizing expedition of nearly 200 settlers and their escorts—cowboys, translators, mulepackers, Indian guides—and more than 1,000 head of livestock. Joining them as spiritual leader was Franciscan Father Pedro Font who kept an invaluable diary. After 80 days, the route they established—a trail stretching from Tubac, Arizona to San Francisco, California—remained a crucial link to California throughout Spanish colonization. Follow it and relive some of the experiences of those first travelers.

The tour makes a wonderful motorcoach itinerary with three different travel options —**the 14-day tour** (full two-state tour), **the two-season tour** (full tour divided over two trips), or **the Gateway tour** (exploring just Southern Arizona history). The tour can be shortened or lengthened to satisfy individual interests. If your travelers have specific interests, side tours or alternatives can be arranged easily. For the more active traveler, nature trails are found along the route to acquaint you with the flora and fauna of the areas.

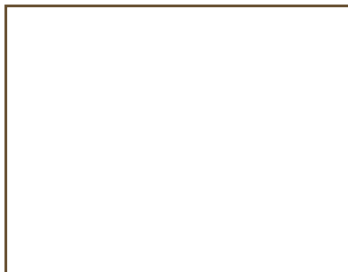
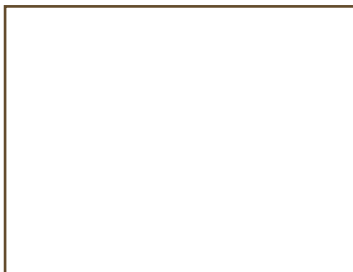
The 14-day tour begins at the Mission Tumacacori where Anza spent much of his time before beginning his journey. Next, visit the Presidio at Tubac, where the expedition camped and prepared for the journey ahead. Heading north, the stop before Tucson is the beautiful Mission San Xavier del Bac, where the group stopped to mourn the expedition's only death and celebrate three marriages. Next is the city of Tucson, where they traveled along the Santa Cruz River in the pristine Sonoran Desert. The remainder of the route then leads west to Yuma before crossing the Colorado River into California, where you'll experience the beautiful Anza Borrego Desert. Travel across the mountains to Los Angeles and then up the California coast, enjoying ocean breezes, rugged mountain ranges, and fresh seafood at places such as Santa Barbara, Monterey and Carmel on the way to San Francisco Bay.

For assistance with arranging the Southern Arizona portion of this tour, contact the Tourism department at the Metropolitan Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1-800-638-8350 or e-mail bblackledge@visitTucson.org or abourie@visitTucson.org.

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Southern Arizona Gateway Tour

1. **Mission San Jose De Tumacacori** (now Tumacacori National Historic Park), located on interstate highway I-19 about 18 miles north of Nogales, was first listed in 1691 as an outlying visita by the famous Jesuit missionary Father Eusebio Francisco Kino. Father Font spent several days at Tumacacori while Anza marshaled his forces at Tubac, and the mission contributed a small herd of cattle to the expedition.
2. A hiking and equestrian trail runs 4.5 miles between **Tumacacori National Historic Park** and **Tubac Presidio State Historic Park** to the north. The trail crosses the beautiful Santa Cruz River a number of times.
3. **The Presidio De San Ignacio De Tubac** was founded in 1752 in response to a Pima Indian revolt. Juan Bautista de Anza II, second commander of the presidio, staged two overland expeditions to Alta California from this location. The ruins of the presidio can be viewed through an underground archeological exhibit at **Tubac Presidio State Historic Park**. Guided tours and hands-on interpretation programs are available on request. Picnic tables are provided for visitors.
4. The charming **Village Of Tubac** is full of art galleries and restaurants to fill an afternoon.
5. **Mission San Xavier del Bac**, located off interstate highway I-19 along the Santa Cruz River and a part of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation, is an active parish administered by the Franciscans. Father Kino established the mission in 1732, which is lovingly referred to as the "White Dove of the Desert." This church was built between 1783-1797 and authorities have acclaimed it the finest example of mission architecture in the United States. It is a graceful blending of Moorish, Byzantine and late Mexico Renaissance styles. On the hill to the east is a replica of the grotto in Lourdes, France.
6. An Anza Trail interpretive exhibit is installed at a day-use campsite on the west side of **Picacho Peak State Park** overlooking a campsite area and the Anza Trail through the Santa Cruz River Valley.
7. **The Casa Grande Ruins**, located on Arizona state highway 87 outside the town of Coolidge, were visited and named by Father Kino in 1694 when friendly Pimas took him to see the already abandoned mysterious complex. The Anza expedition camped approximately five miles to the northwest, and on October 31, 1775 Father Font and Anza visited the ruins in order to check the accuracy of Kino's descriptions and measurements. The ruins are a National Monument administered by the National Park Service.
8. **Yuma, Arizona** is where the party crossed the Colorado River to continue north through what is now California.



Hiking & Biking Trails

The 4.5-mile trail from Tumacacori to Tubac meanders through the shaded Santa Cruz River valley and closely follows Anza's original route.

The **Santa Cruz River Park** follows the dry Santa Cruz River in the City of Tucson, and has a multi-use trail within the historic corridor and offers the potential for interpretation of the Anza Trail.

Picacho Peak State Park offers extensive hiking trails through the area and is especially beautiful during the April–May wildflower season.

Events

October 22–23, 2005

Every year on the third weekend of October, the **Tubac Presidio State Historic Park** celebrates the day Anza's expedition left Tubac with an outdoor festival featuring hands-on activities for the children and stage presentations by Native-, Spanish-, Mexican- and Territorial-period cultures at **Anza Days**. You'll meet historian Don Garate who regales audiences with an impersonation of Juan Bautista de Anza. You'll hear stories about Anza and his compadres as the town bustles with period re-enactments, such as the colorful Spanish soldados as they ride into town.

December 3–4, 2005

La Fiesta De Tumacacori at **Tumacacori National Historical Park** is an annual two-day event featuring guided tours of the mission, educational exhibits and traditional Southwestern food and craft vendors as well as all-day staged entertainment. Sunday is the traditional Mariachi Procession and Mass in front of the old Mission church.

March 11–12, 2006

Try the delicious fry bread prepared by the local Tohono O'odham Indians at the **Mission San Xavier del Bac** during the **Wa: K Powwow** held every year, usually the second weekend of March.

