



## ANZA TRAIL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Why did the Anza expedition come to California?**

During the later eighteenth century, Spain had a world empire that included much of the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. In order to prevent rival European powers from gaining control of California, Spain made a major attempt to occupy and develop the region. As part of the larger project to extend Spanish political control, Lieutenant Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, the commander of the military outpost (presidio) of Tubac, in modern-day Arizona, received permission from the viceroy of New Spain to lead two expeditions to California. The first, in 1774, established an overland route from Sonora to the California coast, where Spain was creating settlements. The next year, a second expedition under Anza was launched to bring 30 families of colonists comprised of soldiers and their families (197 people) to California. The entire force numbered about 300. This second expedition had the immediate objective of creating a new military outpost at the strategic harbor of San Francisco. It arrived in Monterey, the regional headquarters of the Spanish army in California, on March 10, 1776, having left Tubac on October 23, 1775. A small group led by Anza then reconnoitered the Bay Area. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail commemorates the second of these two expeditions.

### **How many people did Anza bring?**

The answer to this question is complicated, first, because Father Font is on record in his diary saying that 240 people left Tubac, so 240 is the number that has been used for years, and second because we do not know exactly how many people may have stayed in California. However, after Herbert Bolton published the translation of Font's journal in the 1930s and used the number 240 in his own writing, Donald T. Garate found an untranslated report from Anza dated October 20, 1775 from Tubac which lists the name and age of everyone on the expedition. The list totals 195. Included at the end of the list is a comment that "it is very probable that there is yet a third part made up of mule packers and other servants and like members of the expedition." On the trek, after this listing was made by Anza, one woman died and three babies were born. So, we say that Anza brought 197 settlers—87 of whom were age 12 or under—but the entire expedition numbered around 300. [*Antepasados*, Volume VIII, 1995, a publication of Los Californianos, San Leandro, California] However, Anza reports on April 14, 1776, as he leaves Monterey that he is leaving behind two cowboys, four servants, all but six muleteers (how many came in the first place?), four of whom were sentenced to work at the presidio as deserters and thieves. What were the names of these people he left behind? How many others may he have left behind?

### **Whom did Anza bring?**

Seven presidios in what is now Sonora, Mexico each offered a soldier to establish the new garrison at San Francisco. [Letter by Anza dated January 10, 1775 in *Antepasados*, Vol. VIII, Los Californianos, 1995, Don Garate, Translator and Editor p. 26.] The rest were recruited and trained as soldiers by Anza. All were told to bring wives and children. The racial mix of the colonists was a cross section of New Spain at the time. Expedition members were *Criollo* (persons of European parentage born in North America), *Peninsular* (persons born on the Iberian Peninsula or the islands off the Iberian Peninsula), *mulato* (persons with half-European and half-African parentage) and *Mestizo* (persons of mixed European and Indian parentage). Those people of African descent on the expedition were not slaves or servants, but were free blacks. Independent of their racial group, the colonists were considered *gente de razón* (people of reason) and shared a common language, religion, and many other important cultural traditions. The surnames of the expedition members include: Aceves,



## ANZA TRAIL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Altamirano, Amézquita, Linares, Tapia, Vásquez, Bernal, Berreysa, Bojórques, Galindo, González, Higuera, Pico, Pinto, Soto, Alvarez, Castro, Félix, López, Mesa, Moraga, Peralta, Sánchez, Valencia, Valenzuela, Villela. Aside from the colonists, a portion of the people on the trek were hired by Anza as muleteers and cowboys.

### **Why did these people come on the expedition?**

We have no direct knowledge of the colonist's motivation for joining the expedition, but we do know they were volunteers and were not forced to go. A new set of 1772 laws made it possible for people who joined the army to gain title to land and other economic opportunities. The people who found these opportunities the most attract generally belonged to the frontier's middle economic group. Most had backgrounds in ranching and farming, and many had some knowledge of mining. On the other hand, Anza wrote in his diary that he started his recruitment in the poorer part of New Spain in Culiacán. Suffice it to say that they came to settle California, and while some were poor and others were not, they came because it offered an opportunity to better their lives.

### **What is the second expedition timeline?**

Spring 1775	Anza begins recruiting
9/29/1775	Settlers leave Horcasitas
10/23/1775	Expedition departs Tubac
10/31/1775	Anza and Font explore Casa Grande
11/28/1775	Expedition reaches the Colorado River
12/24/1775	Child born in Coyote Canyon
1/4/1776	Expedition arrives at Mission San Gabriel
2/21/1776	Expedition departs Mission San Gabriel after delay by San Diego uprising
3/10/1776	Expedition arrives in Monterey
3/23-4/8/1776	Anza explores the Bay Area
4/14/1776	Anza leaves for Sonora
6/27/1776	Colonists arrive at the San Francisco mission site

### **What effect did the expedition have on the population of California?**

It more than doubled the population of Spanish colonials, numbered at 170 in January 1775. [The Census of 1775 as quoted in William Mason, *The Census of 1790*, p.22]

### **Who were the native populations that Anza encountered?**

In Arizona and California, they passed through the lands of the Tohono O'odham (Papago), Akimel O'odham (Pimas), Quechan (Yumas), Cahuilla, Luiseño, Tongva (Gabrieleño), Chumash, Salinan, Rumsen, Esselen, Ohlone, and Bay Miwok. At the time that Anza came through, these tribal areas were each comprised of many villages, often with very separate identities. The National Park Service is committed to interpreting the cultures of these tribes at the time that Anza came and as they are today.



## ANZA TRAIL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the difference between the expedition route and the national trail?**

The expedition route is the corridor that Anza followed to recruit and lead settlers to Alta California, select sites for the presidio and missions at San Francisco Bay, and explore the East Bay of San Francisco. It begins in Culiacán, Mexico and could be said to begin in Mexico City, where Anza, a string of pack mules with supplies, and undoubtedly several of the muleteers who went to California, started. The 1200-mile Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail commemorates that expedition route in the United States, beginning in Nogales, Arizona. It does not include all the places Anza went on his journey. It provides opportunities for visitors to experience landscapes similar to those the expedition encountered and to visit sites associated with the expedition, its members and descendants, and the American Indians who allowed the expedition passage and are here today. The Trail was designated a national historic trail by the U.S. Congress in 1990. There is an auto tour route marked in California and about 250 miles of marked recreation trail on or parallel to the historic route. The *Comprehensive Management and Use Plan* sets forth a vision for a continuous recreation trail for hikers and equestrians from Nogales, Arizona, to San Francisco and around the East Bay.

### **You mentioned a recreation trail. Is this a hiking trail?**

We intend for the recreation trail to be a shared use trail appropriate for hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists. In practice, use depends upon policies of the various managing agencies, but all portions of the trail should be available to hikers. The National Park Service owns only three miles of the trail (in the Presidio of San Francisco) and therefore relies on other federal, state, local, and private partners to construct and maintain the trail. The NPS generally signs and interprets the trail and supports trail and site protection in a variety of ways. Trail segments available for use can be found on our website: [www.nps.gov/juba](http://www.nps.gov/juba). Click on "In Depth."

### **What is the National Trails System?**

The National Trails System now consists of 24 long-distance trails designated by the U.S. Congress. It contains nine scenic trails, which are continuous protected scenic corridors for outdoor recreation, and 15 historic trails which recognize broad facets of history such as prominent past routes of exploration, migration, trade, communication, and military action.

### **Why is the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail a national trail?**

The Anza Expedition of 1775/1776 had far reaching consequences for the eventual development of an important region of the United States. It helped to establish a strategic northern Spanish military outpost that eventually evolved into the modern City of San Francisco. The creation of the trail also established important links between California and the rest of New Spain, Mexico today. It provides the opportunity to present the legacy of Spain and Mexico in California and Arizona and to connect with Hispanic populations.

Public interest in the trail was stimulated during the 1975-76 bicentennial when the Anza trek was reenacted following the diaries of the expedition to the day and the hour for the entire route, beginning in Mexico City. This reenactment was organized by the bicentennial committees of each state and Mexico, and the committees within each county. George Cardinet, Director of Heritage Trails Fund (HTF), organized the equestrian part of the trek. After the reenactment, HTF initiated the idea of the national historic trail, encouraged Congress to include the trail in the 1978 amendment



# ANZA TRAIL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

to the National Trails System Act, and worked for a national trail study, which Congress requested in Public Law 98-11 (March 1983). With continued support from HTF and a broader public, Congress made the trail a component of the National Trails System in August, 1990 (Public Law 101-365). The official trail, from Nogales, Arizona to San Francisco, California, includes the loop on the east side of San Francisco Bay.

## **Who administers the National Trail?**

**The National Park Service has responsibility for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in perpetuity. It is administered from the Pacific West Regional Office in Oakland, California.**

Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent  
David Smith, Interpretive Specialist  
National Park Service  
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, CA 94607  
510-817-1438 (Kaplan)  
510-817-1323 (Smith)

## **How many miles is the National Trail?**

1210 in the United States

## **How many miles was the expedition?**

613	Miles from Culiacán to Tubac, the final staging area
890	Miles from Tubac to Monterey where Anza left the colonists
133	Miles from Monterey to site of San Francisco Presidio
213	Miles of reconnoitering trip around East Bay back to Monterey
<u>1849</u>	<u>Total Miles in Mexico and the United States</u>

## **Who was Juan Bautista de Anza?**

Juan Bautista de Anza was born in July 1736, possibly at Fronteras but more likely at Cuquiarachi, Sonora, Mexico. Both his father and maternal grandfather had served Spain on the northern frontier of New Spain for the greater part of their lives. Anza joined the militia as a volunteer in late 1751. In 1754 he began his service in the presidial cavalry as a cadet under the tutelage of his brother-in-law, Captain Gabriel de Vildósola. He spent his first 25 years of military service in Sonora, defending the frontier of New Spain against various hostile Indian tribes, most notably the Apaches and Seris. Captivated by the idea of an overland connection between the Sonora frontier and the western frontier of New Spain in Baja California, he gained permission from the Viceroy to conduct an exploratory expedition in 1774. With success of the trek, Anza was awarded the position of Lieutenant Colonel and ordered to take colonists to find sites for a presidio and two missions at the port of San Francisco.



## ANZA TRAIL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Because of Anza's exceptional service, the king appointed him governor of New Mexico on 24 August 1777. As governor, Anza made several expeditions and explorations along the northern frontier. In 1779, he led 800 men against the Comanches, defeating them in two battles. In the following year, he scouted a much-needed trail from Santa Fe to Arizpe. In addition, Anza and Comanche Chief Ecueraacapa orchestrated a peace treaty between the Spaniards and the Comanches, Utes, and various other tribes and factions in 1786—the longest lasting peace treaty ever signed with the Comanche nation. The peace treaty was fully in effect when the United States westward movement across Comanche lands began. Without that treaty, the history of the United States might have been written differently. Anza requested to be released from the governorship of New Mexico on November 18, 1786. He remained at Santa Fe until after his replacement, Fernando de la Concha arrived on August 25, 1787. Anza left Santa Fe in November 1787 to take up new duties as Captain of the old Fronteras Presidio at San Bernardino. Upon arrival in Sonora, he was made commander of all the Sonoran troops, a position that he held for nearly a year. He received his final commission as commander of the presidio of Tucson on October 1, 1788. However, he had known it was coming and had already completed a review of the troops on September 27th. Returning to Arizpe, Sonora, he died on December 19, 1788 before having the chance to officially move his family to Tucson. [summarized from <http://anza.uoregon.edu/people/anzabio.html> and reviewed by Don Garate]

In 1761, he married Ana María Perez Serrano in Arizpe. They had no children. However, they did take over raising the two daughters of Anza's brother, Francisco, after he died. Francisco had married Ana Maria's sister. Both girls were born in Tubac. They were María Rosa born in 1772 and Ana María born in 1775. [Donald T. Garate, *Anza, A Basque legacy on New Spain's Northern Frontier*, a manuscript in the NPS office in Oakland.]

### **Is it Anza or de Anza?**

Research by Donald T. Garate, Interpretive Chief at Tumacacori National Historical Park, of hundreds of official documents signed by Juan Bautista de Anza or referring to him has turned up no use of "de Anza." He seems to have been known as Juan Anza to friend, foe, and self. Therefore, when we shorten the official name of the trail from Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, we always use Anza Trail. [*Antepasados*, Volume VIII, 1995, a publication of Los Californianos, San Leandro, California] For more information, see also <http://anza.uoregon.edu/resources.html>



## ANZA TRAIL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

County of Santa Clara, California  
Anza expedition descendant  
Chair, Superior Court Historical Committee  
Former chair Historical Heritage  
Commission of Santa Clara County  
For quick response:  
Instant Superior Court Judge locator: 408-  
299-2074  
email: [pbernal@sct.co.scl.ca.us](mailto:pbernal@sct.co.scl.ca.us)

### **For further information:**

**For the diaries of the expedition in  
Spanish and English, maps, and other  
materials**

<http://anza.uoregon.edu>

**Overall history of Spanish colonial period  
and Anza**

Don Garate  
Chief of Interpretation  
Tumacacori National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 76  
Tumacácori, AZ 85640  
520-398-2341 x 25  
FAX 398-9271  
Biographer of Anza and his father

Dr. Jack S. Williams  
Los Californianos  
11047 Pegasus Avenue  
San Diego, California 92126  
858-693-4926  
[sdpresidio@mindspring.com](mailto:sdpresidio@mindspring.com)

### **Monterey County and Northern California**

Greg Bernal Mendoza Smestad, Ph.D.  
Anza expedition descendant  
P.O. Box 5729  
San Jose', CA 95150  
415-979-8730  
email: [inquiries@solideas.com](mailto:inquiries@solideas.com)

Phil Valdez  
Anza expedition descendant  
26691 Hawk Terrace  
Willets, CA 95490  
707-459-9063  
[deanza8g@aol.com](mailto:deanza8g@aol.com)

Santa Clara County/San José  
Hon. Paul Bernal  
Superior Court Judge