



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Bent's Old Fort
National Historic Site

35110 Highway 194 East
La Junta, CO 81050

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Bent's Old Fort 2012 Calendar of Events

May 6 – September 3: Trails and Rails Trips

Narrated excursions aboard Amtrak's *Southwest Chief* depart La Junta, Colorado on Mondays and Fridays for overnight trips to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Follow the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail up and over Raton Pass while learning the stories of people, plants and animals along the way. For more information, call (719) 383-5024.

May 12 – 13: Wagons Ho! Trail Transportation through Time

The park joins with several trail organizations for a two-day look at wagons used along the historic trails of the West. Displays, demonstrations and presentations will introduce the vehicles on Saturday. On Sunday, the wagons will take to the trail for an excursion along the trace of the Santa Fe Trail. For more information, call (719) 383-5023.

June 2 – 3: Fur Trade Encampment

The park's largest living history event for 2012 takes place this weekend and celebrates the trappers, traders, and tribes associated with the fur trade in the Southwest. Their camps, set up near the fort, will be open for touring. More than 50 living history volunteers bring the post back to life during this event!

July 14: Kids' Quarters

Seven to eleven year-old children are invited to "step back in time" and experience the life of a trapper, trader, laborer, craftsman, Indian, soldier or other roles. Kids learn and practice 19th century skills and experience living history for themselves. Pre-registration is required. Call (719) 383-5026 for an application **after May 1, 2012**.

September 8: Daughters of the American Revolution Marker Reenactment

In September 1912, the Daughters of the American Revolution, who became the first true caretakers of the fort as an historic place, dedicated a marker at the site of Bent's Old Fort. Using written accounts and photographs from 100 years ago, the park will recreate the event and rededicate the marker with the help of the D.A.R.

October 6: Hispanic Heritage Day

One 19th-century visitor remarked that, "Spanish is the prevailing language spoken at the fort..." Come visit as the rich and colorful history of Mexico's frontier comes alive with period adobe work, music and dance, trading, cooking, storytelling, livestock use demonstrations and other special programs and exhibits.

December 7 – 8: Holiday Celebration

Witness for yourself the joys, pleasures and pastimes of the 1840s at an isolated trading post. The spirit of the season comes alive with wagon rides, games, toy making and other holiday festivities. The event begins Friday evening December 7 with candlelight tours of the fort and continues all through Saturday, December 8 culminating with another evening of candlelight tours. For reservations for the evening tours, phone (719) 383-5026 **after November 1, 2012**.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.