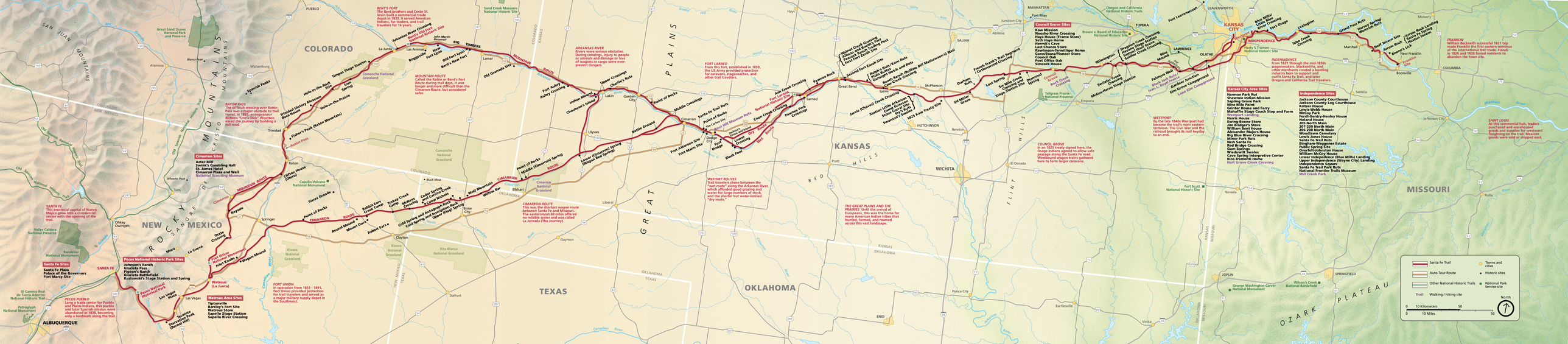
BENT'S FORT
The Bent brothers and Cerán St. Vrain built a commercial trade depot in 1833. It served American Indians, fur traders, and trail travelers for 16 years.
Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
ARKANSAS RIVER
Rivers were serious obstacles. Rising water, injury to people or animals and damage or loss of wagons or cargo were ever-present dangers.
MOUNTAIN ROUTE
Called the Raton or Bent's Fort Route during trail days, it was longer and more difficult than the Cimarron Route, but considered safer.
RATON PASS
The difficult crossing over Raton Pass was a major obstacle to trail travelers. The 1866 construction of Richens "Uncle Dick" Wootton eased the journey by building a toll road.
FORT LARNED
From this fort, established in 1859, the US Army provided protection for caravans, stagecoaches, and other trail travelers.
Fort Larned National Historic Site
Santa Fe Trail Ruts National Historic Site
Pawnee Rock Museum
Pawnee Rock
Ash Creek Crossing
Lyons Crossing
Jarvis (Chaves) Creek Crossing
Station Little Arkansas
Little Arkansas Crossing
Sumner's Camp
Sumner's Cutoff
1825 Kaw Treaty Site
Ed Miller Grave
Durham Park
Lost Spring
Cottonwood Crossing
Strahlendorf Crossing
Diamond Spring
Cottonwood Crossing
Turkey Creek Crossing
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve
Council Grove Sites
Kaw Mission
Neosho River Crossing
Hays House (Frame Store)
Seth Hays Home
Harnett's Cave
Last Chance Store
Rare/Donson Israel/Higer Home
Conn/Stone/Pioneer Store
Council Oak
Post Office Oak
Simcock House
Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
Dragoon Creek Crossing
Switzler Creek Crossing
Elm Creek Crossing
Switzler Creek
McGee-Harris Stage Station
Wakarusa River Crossing
Blue River Crossing
Palmyra Wall
Palmyra
Kansas City Area Sites
Harmon Park Rut
Shawnee Indian Mission
Sapling Grove Park
Nine Mile Point
Grinter House and Ferry
Mahaffie Stage Coach Stop and Farm
Black Jack Battlefield
Harris House
Ewing-Boone Store
Jim Bridger's Store
William Bent House
Lykins County Jail House
Big Blue River Crossing
Minor Park Ruts
New Santa Fe
Red Bridge Crossing
Byram's Ford
Woodswalk Swales
Cave Spring Interpretive Center
Rice-Tremonti Home
Hart Grove Creek Crossing
WESTPORT
By the late 1840s Westport had become the trail's main eastern terminus. The Civil War and the Gold Rush brought its trail heyday to an end.
COUNCIL GROVE
In an 1825 treaty signed here, the Osage Indians agreed to allow safe passage along the Santa Fe road. Westbound wagon trains gathered here to form larger caravans.
Kansas City
Blue Mills/Independence Landing
Fort Osage
Independence
Harry S Truman National Historic Site
INDEPENDENCE
From 1831 through the mid-1850s wagonmakers, blacksmiths, and other merchants created a bustling industry here to support and outfit Santa Fe trail, and later Oregon and California Trail travelers.
Independence Sites
Jackson County Courthouse
Jackson County Log Courthouse
Log Courthouse
Lewis-Webb House
McCoy Park
Ferril-Gentry-Henley House
Noland House
201-205 North Main
207-209 North Main
206-208 North Main
Woodlawn Cemetery
Lewis Jones House
Bingham Property
Bingham-Waggoner Estate
Public Spring Site
Overholt Johnson House
William Young House
Upper Independence (Blue Mills) Landing
Upper Independence (Wayne City) Landing
Independence Square
Santa Fe Trail Ruts
National Frontier Trails Museum
Mill Creek Park
Lexington
Grand Pass Ruts
Harrison Square Landing
Lexington Landing
Jeff Tavern Site
Arrow Rock
Byron's Lick
New Franklin
Boonville
FRANKLIN
William Becknell's successful 1821 trip from Franklin to Santa Fe captures the attention of the international fur trade. Floods in 1826 and 1828 forced residents to abandon the town site.
SAINT LOUIS
A major commercial hub, traders purchased and warehoused goods and supplies for westward freighting on the trail. Mexican goods were sold or shipped east.
Fort Leavenworth
LEAVENWORTH
Fort Riley
MANHATTAN
Junction City
Abilene
SALINA
McPherson
Great Bend
Larned
Lyons
Hutchinson
Newton
Emporia
TOPEKA
LAWRENCE
OLATHE
Moberly
Marshall
COLUMBIA
Jefferson City
Sedalia
Rolla
MISSOURI
KANSAS
Pratt
Liberal
Dodge City
Garden City
Lakin
Ulysses
Elkhart
Point of Rocks
Middle Crossings
Cimarron
Santa Fe Trail Ruts
Fort Dodge
Fort Atkinson Site
Fort Mann Site
Lower (Cimarron) Spring (Wagon Bed Spring)
Point of Rocks
Middle (Cimarron) Spring
Wolf Mountain
William Bar
Black Mesa
Cedar Spring
Cedar Spring and Autograph Rock
Upper (Cimarron) Spring
Cold Spring and Autograph Rock
Cold Spring
Rolla
Clayton
Guymon
Kiowa National Grassland
Rita Blanca National Grassland
Comanche National Grassland
Cimarron National Grassland
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve
Valles Caldera National Preserve
Bandelier National Monument
Petroglyph National Monument
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail
Old Spanish National Historic Trail
Old Santa Fe National Historic Trail
SANTA FE
This provincial capital of Nuevo Mexico grew into a commercial center with the opening of the trail.
Santa Fe Sites
Santa Fe Plaza
Palace of the Governors
Fort Marcy Site
Pecos National Historic Park Sites
Johnson's Ranch
Kozlowski's Ruts
Pigeon's Ranch
Glorieta Battlefield
Kozlowski's Stage Station and Spring
Pecos National Historical Park
Fort Union National Monument
Fort Union
Watrous (La Junta)
Las Vegas
Las Vegas Area Sites
Tiptonville
Hennry's Fort Site
Watrous Store
Sapello Stage Station
Sapello River Crossing
Sena Plaza
Romero House
Plaza Nueva
Rough and Ready City
Kearny's Camp
Las Vegas Museum
Las Vegas Museum 2
Hermit's Peak
Harman's Cabin
Hermit's Peak (Harman Cabin)
PECOS PUEBLO
Once the center for Pueblo and Plains Indians, this pueblo and later Spanish mission were abandoned in 1838, becoming only a landmark along the trail.
ALBUQUERQUE
Albuquerque
Rio Grande
Rio Puerco
Rio Chama
Rio Pecos
Rio Mora
Canadian River
Cimarron River
Arkansas River
Walsenburg
Trinidad
Raton
Cimarron Sites
Aztec Mill
Swink's Gambling Hall
St. James Hotel
Cimarron Plaza and Well
National Scrambling Museum
Clifton House
Capulin Volcano National Monument
Sierra Grande
Point of Rocks
CIMARRON
ROUTE
Round Mound
Mount Dora
Rabbit Ears
Bobby's Ears Creek Camp
Turkey Creek Camp
McNees Crossing
Oratay Crossing
Raymdo
Ohkay Owingeh
Pueblo
Colorado Springs
Fountain Creek
Timpas Stage Station
Hole-in-the-Rock Site
Hole-in-the-Rock Spring
Hole-in-the-Prairie
Spanish Peaks
Blanca Peak
Alamosa
Wheeler Peak
Taos
Mount Elbert
Old Fort Lyon
Bent's New Fort
Big Timbers
John Martin Reservoir
Arkansas River Crossing
Las Animas
Boggsville
Fort Lyon
La Junta
Timpas
Old Granada Site
Granada
Lamar
Mountain Route
Upper Crossings
Chouteau's Island
Indian Mound
Chouteau's Island
Fort Aubry Crossing
Aubry Crossing
Chalice's Ruts
Point of Rocks
Middle Crossings
Cimarron
Santa Fe Trail Ruts
Fort Dodge
Dodge City
Fort Dodge
Lower Crossing
Black Point
Kansas Route
Cimarron Route
Jones & Plummer Trail
Jones & Plummer Trail
Dry Route
Wet Route
Cimarron Route
Middle Route
Lower Route
Ruts
Cimarron Route
Cimarron Mountain Route
Raton Route
Mountain Route
Santa Fe Trail
Old Santa Fe Trail
Cimarron Route
Middle Route
Lower Route
Mountain Route
Raton Route
Cimarron Mountain Route
Cimarron