



Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail



Juan Bautista de Anza, Captain of the Tubac Presidio, left Culiacan, Mexico in the summer of 1775 on a journey that would forever secure his role in the history of California. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, authorized by Congress on August 15, 1990, recognizes the story of this journey.

The Anza Trail

In many places, the trail is only a line on the map, but sections of walking trail do exist in both Arizona and California. 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. 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.

The first section of trail established in Arizona was the four mile stretch between Tumacácori National Historical Park and Tubac Presidio State Historic Park. It is a hiking and equestrian trail only.

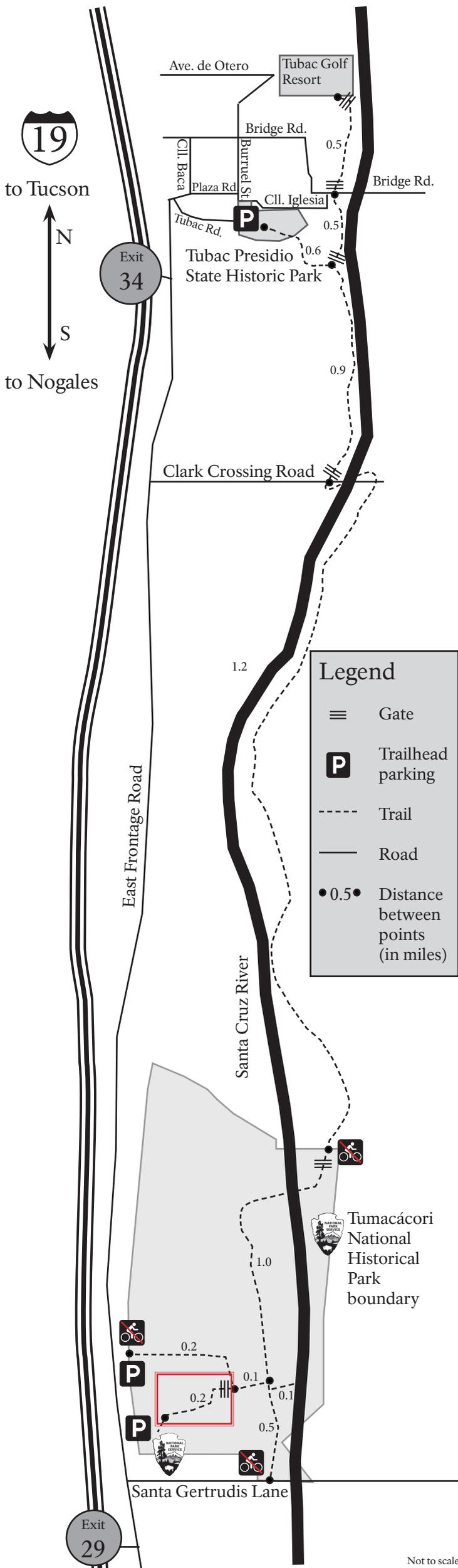
New sections of trail are constantly being added, connecting communities along the way with their past. See AnzaTrail.org and AnzaHistoricTrail.org for current information on available trail segments.

Historic Anza Expedition from Culiacan to San Francisco, 1775-1776

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.





General Information

The trail is great for:



Not permitted:



Inside Tumacácori National Historical Park:

Bicycles not permitted on the Anza trail within Tumacácori National Historical Park

Pets not permitted inside the mission grounds



Tumacácori National Historical Park is a federal fee area. Please pay in the visitor center or at the self-pay station at the trailhead.

Land Ownership and Easements

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: Regarding the private property through which the trail runs beyond the borders of Tumacácori National Historical Park, 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

Drink plenty of water. Weather is most often hot, and very dry. Bring at least one quart of drinking water per person.

Keep wildlife wild. Beware of rattlesnakes, mosquitoes, and prickly plants.

The flow in the Santa Cruz River between Rio Rico and Tubac consists almost completely of treated effluent released from the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Facility.

- 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.

If you observe any illegal border-related activity, do not intervene. Note your location and leave the area immediately. Call 911 or report it to a ranger as quickly as possible.

Inset detail:

