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FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

This Month's Theme: Exploring The Historic Anza Trail

History Of The Anza Trail

By Jessica Hutchins, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

In the late 1700s, the area that we today call California was ruled by Spain, and was known as *Alta*, or upper, California. The Spanish had built five missions and two presidios (or forts) along the California coast, but it was difficult and dangerous for ships to bring supplies to the settlements. It became necessary to find a safe overland route from Mexico to Alta California.

On January 8, 1774, Captain Juan Bautista de Anza left Tubac, Arizona with a small band of twenty soldiers, a dozen servants, and a herd of 200 cattle and pack animals. After a long, hard journey, the expedition found a mountain pass leading toward coastal California. A little over two months later, Anza arrived at Mission San Gabriel. The overland route to California was now open for supplies, immigration, and military use.

In 1775-76, Anza made the long journey from Mexico to California once more. The Spanish government ordered Anza to take settlers as far as San Francisco to establish a presidio and two missions. This colonizing expedition was made up of about 240 people, including 29 women and 128 children. Along their way, they faced extreme cold, snow, and a shortage of water. The group safely reached its destination after a journey of 130 days and nearly 1,200 miles.

Anza's overland route allowed for the passage of enough people and supplies to ensure the survival of the settlements in Alta California. Anza's outstanding leadership and his impact on the history of California is inspiring even today.



Photo courtesy of National Park Service; Artist: Cal Peters.



Photo courtesy National Park Service; Artist: Bill Singleton.

The Anza Trail Today

By David Smith, Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Congress and the President created the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in 1990. They felt that the trail was an important part of America's history. The trail tells the story of the first families from Mexico who came to live in Northern California in 1776. They were some of the first people to meet with the Chumash and other Indians as they rode along the Santa Barbara coast more than 200 years ago.

Today, rangers with the National Park Service help people discover the trail and learn about the story of these first settlers. At some of the different missions and along the El Camino Real, rangers and volunteers paint a picture of life in early California. Rangers take visitors on hikes to explore this piece of western history at Tumacacori Mission and Saguara National Park in Arizona.

Outside of National Parks, volunteers help students relive the expedition. At the Santa Barbara Presidio, fourth graders learn about how children on the expedition played,

what they ate, and what their chores were. In Los Angeles, docents take parents and children to hike and ride bikes along the Anza Trail on the Los Angeles River. In San Francisco, high school students hike the trail with naturalists to study how the plants and animals have changed since the first families came in 1776.

You may have seen the Anza Trail signs along Highway 101. The expedition followed the same route on horses going north along the coast from Oxnard to Pismo Beach. Today, you can follow much of the same trail by car by following the signs. You can even hike or ride your bike along the coastal trail by following the Anza Trail markers.

You can find out more by visiting the Anza Trail web sites at www.nps.gov/juba or by writing to trail headquarters at 1111 Jackson #700, Oakland, CA 84607.



Courtesy of National Park Service.

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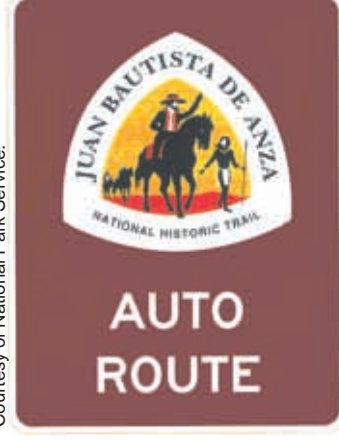
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Courtesy of National Park Service.

Can You Find Anza In Santa Barbara?

Do you recognize the locations of these local reminders of Anza? All of them are in Santa Barbara today. Answers are below.

ANSWERS		

Photos courtesy of Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

Discover The Anza Trail By Train!

By Gary Coombs, South Coast Railroad Museum

The South Coast Railroad Museum has teamed up with the Anza Historic Trail to offer a unique way for people to rediscover the great adventure of the Anza explorers. From Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo, museum volunteers ride Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* train, sharing information about the natural history of the area, points-of-interest, and local history, including the Anza expedition.

There are no public roads through much of this area, but the train tracks closely follow the Anza route. So, thanks to the museum-trail partnership, passengers aboard the *Coast Starlight* can learn about the Anza expedition — and see some of the same sights that Anza and his companions witnessed over 220 years ago — all from the comfort of their train seats.



South Coast Railroad Museum photograph by James Felland.

Guide Ed Leska shares Anza Trail information with *Coast Starlight* passengers.

Are You Descended from Anza Settlers?

By Gary Coombs and Phyllis Olsen, South Coast Railroad Museum

William Andrew Delbrook is a 6th grader at Montecito Union School. He is also the great, great ... (ten generations back!) grandson of Pedro Antonio Lialde, one of the men who accompanied Anza on his history-making journey. Noah Patrick Tack, a 5th grader at Peabody Charter School, is also a 10th-generation direct descendant of Lialde, as well as of two other members of the Anza expedition, Jose Ramon Bojorquez and Jose Feliz, who was only about 12 years old!



Noah Tack



William Delbrook

USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest
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