



Juan Bautista de Anza Exploration of the San Francisco Bay Area, March & April 1776

Drawing of Juan Bautista de Anza, from a painting by Fray Orsi in 1774, in Zoeth Skinner Eldredge, A History of California, 1915.



East Bay
Regional Park District

The Anza Historic Trail

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is administered by the U.S. National Park Service. This 1,210-mile historic route extends from Nogales, Arizona on the U.S.-Mexico border, through the desert and coastal areas in Southern California along the Central Coast region to the San Francisco Bay Area.

The trail commemorates the story of the 1775–1776 Spanish Expedition led by Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza. The expedition left Mexico with 240 settlers, soldiers, and others bound for Alta California to colonize the region, explore, and establish San Francisco's presidio and mission. Anza's smaller East Bay exploration in March and April of 1776 is displayed in the fourteen interpretive panels throughout the East Bay, produced in collaboration with the National Park Service.

We invite you to retrace the travels of Anza and learn about the profound changes set in motion by the Expedition on the future of the people and the land around us.





David Rickman paintings courtesy of the National Park Service.

The Anza party overlooking the Golden Gate from what is now San Francisco.



Painting by David Rickman

marshes in low-lying areas. After traveling the foothills, avoiding the diverse landscapes along the travelers rode through inland. Bay, and explored further was a river running into the Counties to see if there Alameda and Contra Costa San Francisco. Then, they investigated today's choose sites for a mission and presidio in Anza and Font led a smaller group to After arriving in Monterey, California.



From a painting by David Rickman

ment colonists to Spain's Alta purpose was to bring perma- to Monterey, California. Their miles from Sonora, Mexico and others traveled 1,800 with 240 settlers, soldiers, de Anza, Father Pedro Font, along in 1775 and 1776 Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista The Anza Expedition of 1775-1776



Anza portrait unknown painter New Mexico Governor's Palace

The animals and landscape the Anza party saw were vastly different from what we see today, in part due to local Indian management of the land with specialized burning, digging, and pruning techniques. Fresh and saltwater marsh covered vast areas. The foothills were covered with native bunchgrasses and spring wildflowers, interspersed with oaks and buckeyes, and bordered by streamside trees and shrubs. Father Font recorded frequent sightings of pronghorn antelope, grizzly bear, and tule elk. The Anza Expedition of 1775-1776, crucial to the Spanish colonization of the area, led to changes that over time have shaped the Bay Area that we see today.

A Rich and Varied Landscape

When Anza and his followers traveled through the Bay Area, numerous groups of native peoples were living comfortably in small villages that dotted the landscape. This is what one of those villages may have looked like.



Drawing by Linda Yamane (Runsten, an Ohlone tribe)

For local tribal peoples, these encounters led to decades of disruption, displacement, and suffering, first under Spanish rule, then under the Mexican and American governments. Despite this history, local tribal peoples find pride in preserving cultural traditions, bringing these forward into the future in both old and new ways, and work to preserve ancestral cultural sites.

Anza's expedition traveled well-worn trails used by Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and Northern Valley Yokuts peoples from several tribes, whose ancestors had lived in the East Bay for some 13,000 years. According to expedition diaries of Anza and Font, native peoples responded to the newcomers with surprise, fear, and hospitality, including gifts of fish, seed "cakes," and other foods. In return the Spanish gave them glass beads.

Profound Changes



Drawings by Barbara Downs, photo by Nick Cavagnaro

along the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo and Suisun Bays, the impassable marshlands of the Delta prevented further exploration to the east, and the expedition returned to Monterey.

George H. Cardinet, Jr.
April 8, 1909–January 19, 2007



Courtesy of American Trails Magazine

George Cardinet has been called the Father of California Trails and the Grandfather of National Trails. A resident of Clayton and Concord, California he became a trail advocate in the early 1940s. His efforts significantly contributed to the passage of the California Hiking and Riding Trails Act of 1945 and the National Trails System Act of 1968, which established an extensive system of scenic and historic trails.

With his strong passion for history, Cardinet was drawn to the significance of the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition of 1775-1776. In 1976 he organized a bicentennial reenactment of 1,800 miles from Mexico City to the San Francisco Bay, riding a major portion of that trail as Lt. Joaquin Moraga, Anza's second in command. To his great delight, and as a result of his determined advocacy, the trail was designated a National Historic Trail in 1990.

Cardinet worked with the East Bay Regional Park District to annex Contra Costa County to the District in 1964. He established trails and trail links in and between East Bay Regional and Mount Diablo State Parks. In all, Cardinet is credited with having mapped and routed more than 200 miles of trails throughout the greater East Bay region.

To learn more about George Cardinet's accomplishments, visit www.pnts.org and the National Park Service Anza Trail site at www.nps.gov/juba.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions about the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in the East Bay, call or email a Park District naturalist at one of the Visitor Centers listed below.

- ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM
Fremont 510-544-2797, awvisit@ebparks.org
- BLACK DIAMOND MINES
Antioch 510-544-2750, bdvisit@ebparks.org
- BOTANIC GARDEN
Berkeley 510-544-3169, www.nativeplants.org
- COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK
Fremont 510-544-3220, chvisit@ebparks.org
- CRAB COVE at CROWN BEACH
Alameda 510-544-3187, ccove@ebparks.org
- SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS
Sunol 510-544-3249, svisit@ebparks.org
- TILDEN NATURE AREA/EEC and LITTLE FARM
Berkeley 510-544-2233, tnarea@ebparks.org

Text: Michael Charnofsky & Beverly Ortiz
Design: Rachel Blau, Nick Cavagnaro, and Doyle Wegner
Map: Kara Haas, EBRPD GIS
Cover Painting: David Rickman, courtesy of the National Park Service

This brochure is provided as a public service of the Interpretive and Recreation Services Department of the East Bay Regional Park District.



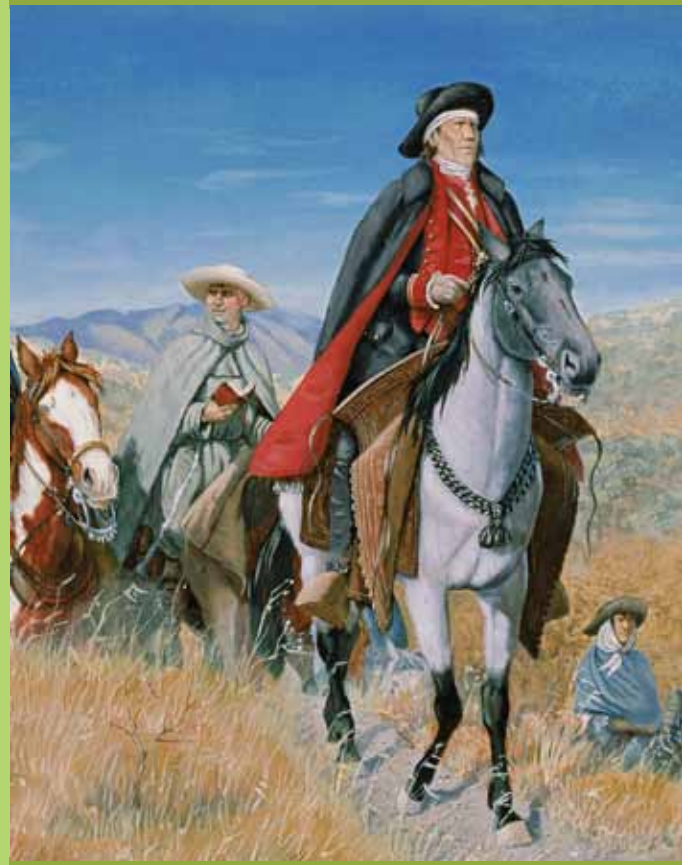
East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
1-888-EBPARKS www.ebparks.org
TDD phone 510-633-0460



The Anza Expedition of 1776



East Bay
Regional Park District



Follow the historic journey of Juan Bautista de Anza through what is now part of the East Bay Regional Park District.

