

# Exploring the Anza Trail

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Juan Bautista de Anza  
National Historic Trail



## The Natural and Historic Landscapes of Santa Clara County



*Drivers along the Anza Trail on Gilroy Hot Springs Road in eastern Santa Clara County are greeted by oak covered hillsides little changed over the last two centuries.*

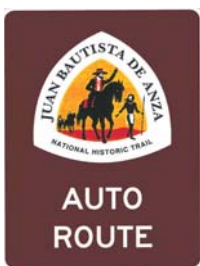
### Historic Oaks

*There is a great abundance of oaks...we found some lagoons of water collected in pools when it rains or formed by the arroyos which run from the sides of the sierras and, flowing toward the estuary of the port, become lost in those plains and flats.*

*25 March, 1776 - Padre Font*

When the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition traveled through Santa Clara County in the spring of 1776, they encountered a rich landscape. From oak covered hillsides to marshy flats, new landscapes offered the promise of farming and ranching. In the Ohlone people living there, Anza saw a thriving culture that survived on abundant wild game, acorns, and fish. Among the Ohlones, Anza found peaceful and well established communities, much as he had throughout California. Although much has changed in the ensuing two centuries, today's visitors can still find traces of the original beauty as well as the surviving Ohlone culture in a number of regional and state parks.

### Enjoying the Trail



*Driving route trail sign*

**By Car** - Drivers can experience the Anza Trail in Santa Clara County by driving north on US 101 and exiting west on State Route 25. Turn left at Bloomfield Road (G 7) and then left at Ferguson Road/Pacheco Pass Hwy. At Canada Road, turn right following it to Gilroy Hot Springs Road and turn left. At Roop Road, make a sharp right to New Avenue and turn left. At Leavesley Road, turn right and return to US 101 north. Exit on Steven's Creek Freeway/CA 85 and travel north to San Mateo County. If you are following Anza's journey to the East Bay, you can pick up the trail traveling south from Alameda County on San Antonio Road/Mines Road which is on the historic route. When it makes a sharp turn west, it turns away from the historic route. Take CA 130/Alum Rock Road and follow it to US 101.

**By Foot** - Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park -

*We found that the Indians had made a fence . . . decorated with many feathers tied in something like a net.*

*24 March, 1776 - Padre Font*

Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park provides a glimpse into the lives of some of California's first inhabitants. An interpretive center illustrates the language, technology, food preparation, and art of the pre-contact Ohlone people. Petroglyphs and bedrock mortars are visible remnants of pre-Spanish cultures in Santa Clara County.

*10001 Watsonville Rd. Gilroy, CA 95025. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-sunset.*

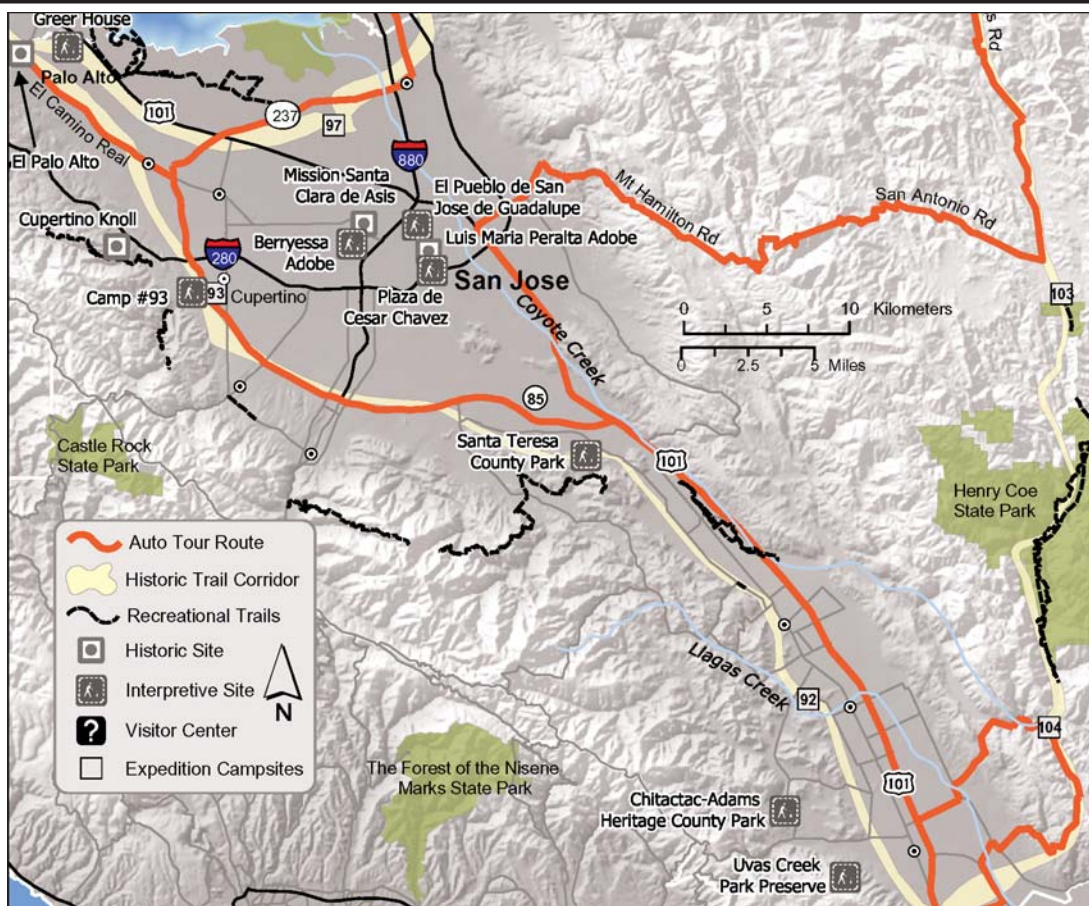
*Restroom facilities. Handicapped accessible. Picnic and lecture facilities.*



**A short walk leads to Ohlone mortar sites at Chitactac.**

**Ulistac Natural Area** - Ulistac Natural Area allows a glimpse into the landscape that Anza recalled in his journal. Though the introduction non-native plants and modifications to the course of the Guadalupe River have changed the pre-contact land, replanting programs seek to restore the landscape that the expedition encountered in 1776. *Hours: Sunrise to sunset. On Lick Mill Road (Between Hope Dr. and Tasman Rd.) in Santa, CA.*

## Map



## Enjoying the Trail



Recreational route trail sign

Henry Coe State Park - Anza's historic trek is memorialized in Henry Coe State Park. People can visit the 87,000-acre park all year around. This rugged landscape is filled with opportunities to hike, backpack, camp, bike, fish, and horseback ride. **Los Cruzeros Campsite:** Located 6.1 miles from Coe State Park Headquarters, Los Cruzeros creek-bed trail commemorates the expeditions passage through the park. The hike to this landmark is recommended during fall, winter, and spring and visitors are encouraged to camp for a night due to the strenuous nature of the hike. **Anza Trail Segment:** Accessed through the Coyote Creek Entrance and the Coit fire road, the 2.1-mile Anza trail segment marks part of the expedition's path through the park. The steep climb illuminates the historic landscape and hardships faced by the group. *Henry Coe State Park. 9000 E. Dunne Ave. Morgan Hill, CA 95031. For information, call (408) 779-2728. For Campsite Reservations, call (800) 444-7275.*



The Ulistac Natural area in Santa Clara



Today, visitors can walk the same route used by the Anza expedition in Coyote Creek in Coe State Park.

*Today, visitors can walk the same route used by the Anza expedition in Coyote Creek in Coe State Park.* **Coyote Peak Trail, Santa Teresa County Park** - A segment of the Ridge Trail runs between the Pueblo Group Picnic Area and Coyote Peak within 1,627-acre Santa Teresa County Park. 260 Bernal Road. San Jose, CA. (408) 268-3883.

**Woods Trail, Almaden Quicksilver Park** located amongst steep, oak covered hills, a portion of the trail can be accessed in this park. The 4,157-acre park has opportunities for hiking, picnicking, horseback riding and biking. *Can be accessed from Hicks Road in New Almaden. (408) 268-3883.*

**Woods Trail, Sierra Azul, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District** - The continuation of the Woods Trail runs through this 16,727 acre park. The diverse landscape can be enjoyed through hiking, biking, horseback riding, and picnicking. *Accessed from Hicks Road. Parking is available to the right off of Mt. Umunhum Rd. Open from dawn to one-half hour after sunset.*

*Pictures, Text, and Layout - Vanessa Koons, Trail Volunteer*

## Contact

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail was created by Congress in 1990 to commemorate the epic journey of colonists from Mexico to San Francisco. The trail is administered by the National Park Service in cooperation with public and private partners. For information about the trail, contact the trail superintendent at 1111 Jackson, Oakland California, 94607. Or call (510) 817-1438. (English); (510) 817-1323 (Spanish). You can visit the trail website at [www.nps.gov/juba](http://www.nps.gov/juba) or at <http://anza.uoregon.edu>.