



Discover America

Newsletter of the American Discovery Trail Society

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ADT Featured Trail: Santa Fe Trail



Eastern terminus of the Santa Fe Trail, Old Franklin, Missouri

The allure of the ADT goes beyond the wide range of scenic vistas and physical challenges its travelers can experience. It can also provide a uniquely American living history lesson. A prime example of this is the Santa Fe Trail, a National Historic Trail administered by the National Park Service in cooperation with other agencies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners.

Stretching over 900 miles from Old Franklin, Mo., to Santa Fe, N. M., the Santa Fe Trail was the "Great Prairie Highway" used by traders, military freighters, American Indians, emigrants, gold-seekers, Mexican children headed for school in the United States, adventurers, and others. Today's explorer can gain a deeper understanding of the cultures that combined, and at times clashed, as well as what life was like along the trail.

The Santa Fe Trail had its roots as game trails followed by Indian hunters and traders.

Later the Indians led Spanish explorers along their traditional routes. These explorers were followed by Hispanic settlers and French traders. After Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821, trade with the United States opened up and the Santa Fe Trail was born.

The economies of Santa Fe (which was then a northern Mexican province) and Missouri burgeoned as the route became a two-way avenue for commerce. By 1860, a total of \$3.5 million, or more than \$53 million in today's dollars, traveled its path in a year. But this increased traffic brought confrontations. Tension rose between the United States

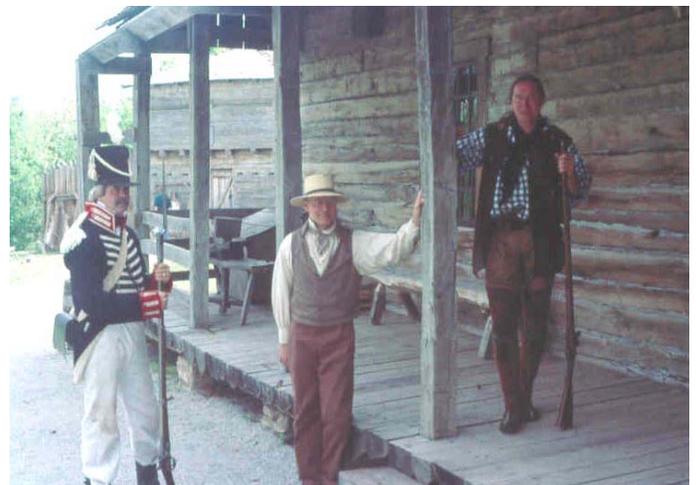
and Mexico because America was pushing toward territorial expansion. When the Mexican-American War erupted in 1846, the trail became an avenue for armies to take and hold what would become New Mexico.

As various groups crossed through the homelands of many American Indian people, mostly peaceful negotiations and trading gave way to misunderstandings and conflicting values. A series of military forts, including Fort Larned in Kansas, and private commercial trading posts, such as Bent's Old Fort in La Junta, Colo., sprang up.

Over time, the Santa Fe Trail developed into a braided variety of routes, shortcuts, and passages. In the 1840s, the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail was established across Colorado. Though longer than the main Cimarron Route along the usually dry Cimarron River, the Mountain Route offered more water and safer travel.

After the Civil War, the trail shortened as the railroad expanded. The slower, less efficient means of travel faded into

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Living history at Fort Osage, Missouri

Discovery in Action: Where Can You See the Mountains?

One of the missions of the American Discovery Trail Society is to promote education and discovery. But what is “Discovery?” Harv Hisgen, Chair of Discovery and Education for the ADTS, says that it is more than just an answer to a question. It is the process that uses our “gray matter” to question, postulate, explore, test, and learn. What follows is an example of how the ADT can be used in the process of discovery.

It started with an innocent question. Brian Stark, ADT trail runner, asked, “Where is the first point along the ADT from which one would be able to see the Rocky Mountains traveling westward in Colorado along the Arkansas River?” Dick Bratton, Colorado ADT State Coordinator, sent that question on to various ADT helpers and travelers for input.

Bratton then kicked into high gear. First, judging from the distance he knew he could see from his seats at the Denver Broncos’ stadium to Pikes Peak (around 70 miles), Bratton looked at topographical maps for the distance from the highest peaks along the ADT route. He guessed the towns of Rocky Ford or Olney Springs might be close.

Scott Hobson, the southeast Colorado ADT coordinator, remembered seeing the mountains from his scouting trips along the ADT but wasn’t sure where the first spot was. Hobson volunteered to drive the route looking for the answer to the question.

Next, Bratton called the Pioneer’s Museum in Colorado Springs to ask where Lt. Zebulon Pike first saw Pikes Peak on the horizon. The chief archivist looked up Pike’s trip journal (which had been confiscated by the Mexican government because his expedition took him through what was then Mexican territory). She said that “Pike was on the Purgatoire River one mile upsteam from the confluence with the Arkansas River” when he reported seeing what he first thought was a “blue cloud” but later concluded was a big mountain. But what was not reported was whether he was using a telescope or his naked eye. More research needed to be done.



Can you see the mountains from Bent’s Old Fort in La Junta, Colorado?

Bratton went to the library to get a copy of *The Journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike*, edited and annotated by Donald Jackson (University of Oklahoma Press, 1966). Bratton realized that Pike made his first sighting at 2:00 in the afternoon, but didn’t reach the Purgatoire River until a couple of hours later. Bratton checked the U.S. Naval Observatory website for the time of sunrise and sunset on the day that Pike recorded in his journal. Then he estimated the speed the expedition traveled from the number of miles covered that day and their likely starting and stopping times. Bratton figured that at a speed of 2.2 miles per hour, the place for the first sighting would have been 5.5 miles east of the campsite. Again, using contour maps to find that spot, it was discovered that Pike’s spot was 2.5 miles south of where the ADT passes the area. Bratton’s next chore was to find a nearby spot along the ADT route with a similar elevation and distance from the mountains. He altered his guessed location to Kreybill, Colo., near the John Martin Reservoir.

The next call was to the John Martin Reservoir State Park office to ask if they could see the mountains from their location. Bratton was told that on a clear day they could see Pikes Peak and the Spanish Peaks on the horizon from the

back porch of the new visitor center. A trip was in order to verify the finding. And so, on Dec. 6 Bratton and Hisgen drove to the John Martin Reservoir, stood on the porch of the visitor center, and with their naked eyes saw those beautiful blue mountains on the horizon. They were about 120 miles from the Spanish Peaks and 115 miles from the Greenhorn Mountains. Farther east, the ADT drops into lower elevations along the Arkansas River, so no more mountain sightings could occur along the trail. It was a moment of discovery well worth the effort.

Trail Association to Observe Zebulon Pike Bicentennial

Zebulon Pike’s exploration of the southwest portion of the Louisiana Purchase in 1806–7 has been compared with the Lewis and Clark expedition in terms of significance for our nation. After Pike’s return and the publication of his reports, Americans were aroused by the prospects for trade with the Indians and the Spanish. The Santa Fe Trail was opened, and the idea of westward expansion took hold.

The Santa Fe Trail Association is sponsoring and planning the bicentennial commemoration of the Pike Expedition in 2006 and 2007, and the American Discovery Trail Society has offered to help in this celebration.



ADT Society Displays Exhibit at Adventures in Travel Expositions in Chicago, New York, and Washington

The American Discovery Trail Society took our booth and handouts to the “Adventures in Travel Expo” in Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C., this winter. The Travel Expos showcased more than 350 exhibitors from all over the world representing destinations and services in the general, active, and adventure travel industry.

When we were offered a free booth in the Hiking Pavilion, it was felt that the exposure and possible memberships gained from our presence would offset any other costs. ADTS members who lived in any of the three Expo areas were e-mailed a

coupon for reduced admission to the show as a membership bonus.

All the shows were very well attended. The Chicago show had 13,000 attendees, and the New York show had over 33,000. At the D.C. show, our booth was in a prime location, in front, just across the aisle from two of the major sponsors, the Washington Post and National Geographic Society Adventure Travel. The other shows had media co-sponsors as well, the Chicago Tribune and the New York Post.

In total, the ADTS distributed 3600 of

our Backpacker magazine inserts and our membership brochures. We also handed out our merchandise order forms and our “Frequently Asked Questions” sheets. Getting the ADT name in front of the public was one of the main reasons for attending the show. A quick survey indicated that numerous people in D.C. had heard of the trail, and a few had even seen trail markers, but many more said they had never heard of it. Efforts such as this one will help turn those numbers around.

There is another Adventure Travel Exposition scheduled for San Francisco this fall, and the ADTS has plans to be at that one, too. We hope to see you there!



National Trails Conference Will be Held in June

The Partnership for the National Trails System will be holding its 10th Conference on National and Scenic and Historic Trails from June 18-22, 2005. It will be hosted by the Old Spanish Trail Association and will be held in Las Vegas, Nev.

The theme will be “Connecting with Communities through Education, Tourism, and Stewardship.” Topics will include raising community awareness of trails, participating in local and regional trails and greenways planning, managing volunteer programs, connecting with the tourism community, and promoting the use of trails.

For more information, contact NAT-TRAILS@aol.com.

ADT Society Seeks Volunteers

The American Discovery Trail Society is looking for state coordinators in two states—Utah and West Virginia. State coordinators lead and coordinate the ADT efforts in their state by:

- * Working with the ADTS to refine, preserve, and maintain the route in their state, encouraging off-road travel when possible,
- *Serving as a liaison between the ADTS and local or regional trail communities and government agencies,
- *Promoting and publicizing the ADTS to increase visibility and membership,
- *Encouraging member involvement in ADTS projects or the creation of local trail clubs, and

*Supporting the goals of the ADTS.

If you know someone whom you feel would make a good representative and leader in the ADTS, or if you would like to become more fully involved yourself in this great American trail project, please send your trail resume to American Discovery Trail Society, P.O. Box 20155, Washington, DC 20041-2155, or e-mail it to info@discoverytrail.org.

And if you live in any other state and would like to be involved, please contact your state coordinator. You'll find them all listed at our website, www.discoverytrail.org. Be a part of the adventure, recreation, education, and discovery that is the ADT!

Memberships and Donations

Membership in the American Discovery Trail Society helps to promote and sustain America's only cross-country non-motorized trail.

Each membership includes a member I.D. card, a lapel pin, and *Discover America* newsletter. Discovery and Life members also receive an ADT decal, patch, and a guidebook.

- Yes, I want to be a part of this American adventure!
- Life Member - \$1,000
 - Corporate Member - \$250
 - Discovery Member - \$100
 - Family - \$50
 - Member - \$30

Did you know that the American Discovery Trail Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and your donations are tax-deductible?

Here's my additional tax-deductible contribution of:

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other: _____

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Lipton Simple Steps

The American Discovery Trail Society would like to thank Lipton Tea for sponsoring the ADTS and the Simple Steps Hikes Program this past year. Our many events along the ADT were a great success!





Hikers enjoy the winter trail in Hueston Woods State Park, Ohio.

Photo courtesy of Bill Scott

Annual Martin Luther King Hike

By Pat Hayes

About 20 hikers braved freezing temperatures and fallen snow to make the 11-mile trip around Acton Lake at Hueston Woods State Park in southwestern Ohio for the annual Martin Luther King Day hike. Several of the group, including two Buckeye Trail members from the Akron area, met for a pre-hike breakfast at the park lodge. Later, they shared their lunch spot with reptiles, amphibians, and raptors in the warm and dry park nature center.

Mike Ball of Oxford and Pat Hayes, ADT Ohio/Kentucky Coordinator, had hiked the route three days earlier, looking for trouble spots. It's a good thing they did because the footbridge over a steep ravine was damaged by a large fallen beech tree, forcing them to make a minor reroute of the trail. Overall, it was an enjoyable hike. The only thing that would have made it better is if Paul Daniel, the founder of the hike and longtime ADT coordinator, could have made the trip from Maryland to participate.

Paul Daniel Trail Signs

Because the South Western Ohio Trails Association (SWOTA) had made arrangements for a sign to designate the "Paul Daniel Trail" at its southern end in Elizabethtown, Patrick Hayes, Ohio/Kentucky Coordinator for the ADT, decided there also needed to be a sign at the northern end where the ADT crosses into Indiana. He approached Tony Moreland, Preble County engineer for the Ohio Department of Transportation, about installing a sign. Moreland agreed and had his crew do a professional installation.

When the other "Paul Daniel Trail" sign is

installed at Elizabethtown, hikers coming into Ohio from Indiana via either the northern or southern ADT route will know that the 59-mile stretch of trail is named after a man dedicated to promoting the ADT.



Proud sponsor of the American Discovery Trail and a leading manufacturer of equipment for camping, backpacking, and other outdoor leisure-time activities!

ADT Member in Tsunami

By John O'Dell

Bill Recktenwald, member of the River to River Trail board of directors and overseer of the Garden of the Gods section, was vacationing at the Hotel Club Lanka in Sri Lanka when the tsunami hit the hotel Dec. 26.

The hotel was badly damaged, and Bill survived by being fortunate enough to grasp a rope that was tied to a concrete pillar. He said the first wave was up to his knees, the second was up to his chin and the third was over his head.

Santa Fe Trail

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history by 1880, when the railroad reached Santa Fe.

Today, the Santa Fe Trail exists in the form of more than 200 miles of wagon-wheel ruts and traces along with buildings, historic sites, and landmarks. Some of the sites are on private land, and you will need to seek permission from the landowners to visit them.

The American Discovery Trail parallels the trail for more than 820 miles from Old Franklin, Mo., to La Junta, Colo., using the Mountain Branch cut-off west of Dodge City. In doing so, it offers access to the reconstructed Fort Larned and Bent's Old Fort as well as Kansas prairie and the high plains of eastern Colorado. It is as if one were stepping into the pages of a history book.

For more information on this National Historic Trail, visit the Santa Fe Trail Association website at www.santafetrail.org or the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov/safe.

ADTS Welcomes New State Coordinators

The ADTS is to happy to introduce three new state coordinators who are joining us. The state of Indiana, formerly filled by one coordinator, Ron Craig, will now be divided into two positions—northern and southern. This setup will be the same as in neighboring Illinois, where separate coordinators oversee the northern and southern routes. Patrick Hayes is replacing Paul Daniel as state coordinator in Ohio.

Stacy Leach Campbell is joining us as the Southern Indiana Coordinator. She is currently teaching first grade in Carmel, but does have a history with the ADT. Stacy was a member of the four-person ADT Ford Adventure Team who traveled coast-to-coast promoting the trail in 2000. With her teammates, Stacy traveled to all 15 trail states and worked with several local committees along the way. Stacy says, “I appreciate the State Coordinators who assisted us along the way and look forward to contributing my time and efforts to continue the success of the ADT.” Before teaching, Stacy worked in sports marketing, public relations, and fundraising, and hopes to utilize these skills with the ADT.

Swati Gunale grew up in Indianapolis and a little over two years ago, decided to become a Hoosier again after going to school in Chicago (Northwestern University) and living in Colorado. She’s learning that

Indiana has a lot to offer in outdoor experiences and is excited to be involved with the American Discovery Trail as the new Northern Indiana Coordinator. She says, “I had followed its progress in the early stages and cannot believe I am now playing a role with it.” Swati is active in the Indianapolis Hiking Club, as both a hike leader and participant. She enjoys biking and rides in at least one long-distance bike ride a year. Active in many sports, she also enjoys skiing, snowshoeing, and winter camping. Swati works for a small investment banking firm, which happens to be owned by the brother of Brian Stark—the ADT board member who ran the trail coast to coast in 1998. Their offices are right by the entrance of a state park where she spends a lot of time and leads most of her hikes.

Patrick Hayes is the new Ohio-Kentucky Coordinator. Pat retired from NCR Corp. where he first worked as a service engineer in Chicago. Later, he worked in Cambridge, Ohio, and Atlanta, Ga., as a service planner. Working inside and living in Georgia gave Pat the urge to “hit the trail,” and he hasn’t stopped since. His first major backpacking trip was 700 miles on the Appalachian Trail. A move to Ohio brought him in touch with the Buckeye Trail Association. Earlier this year he completed hiking all 1,286 miles of the Buckeye Trail. Pat has adopted and maintained a 10+ mile stretch of its

Troy section in southwestern Ohio. He is also part of the trail crew that builds and repairs the Buckeye Trail. He has accompanied the Buckeye Trail group on their yearly backpacking trips to Wyoming, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Utah. Because the ADT follows the Buckeye Trail through Ohio, Pat is a good fit to take on this position.

A big thank you to **Ron Craig**. Of course, it’s a little bittersweet to welcome our new coordinators because it means that Ron Craig is stepping down. Ron has been with the ADT since its inception, starting with planning the route through Indiana. But, as of a couple of weeks ago, Ron was preparing to teach a course on hiking at Indiana University. So we know he’ll be staying involved with the ADT one way or another, undoubtedly helping Swati and Stacy.

Making Connections... Coast to Coast

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