



BENT'S FORT
The Bent brothers and Cerán St. Vrain built a commercial trade depot in 1823. It served American Indians, fur traders, and trail travelers for 17 years.

MOUNTAIN ROUTE
Called the Ratón or Bent's Fort Route during Trail days, it was longer and more difficult than the Cimarron Route, but considered safer.

RATÓN PASS
The difficult crossing over Ratón Pass was a major obstacle to Trail travel. In 1865, entrepreneur Richens "Uncle Dick" Wootton eased the journey by building a toll road.

PECOS PUEBLO
Long a trade center for Pueblo and Plains Indians, this pueblo and later Spanish mission were abandoned in 1838, becoming only a landmark along the Trail.

SANTA FE
This provincial capital of Nuevo Mejiro was an isolated outpost until the Santa Fe Trail turned it into a commercial center.

Santa Fe Sites:
Santa Fe Plaza
Palace of the Governors
Fort Marcy Site

WATROUS AREA SITES:
Barclay's Fort Site
Watrous Store
Sapello Stage Station
Sapello River Crossing

FORT UNION
Three successive forts were built to protect Trail travelers and to serve as a major military supply depot for the Southwest.

CIMARRON SITES:
Aztec Mill
Swink's Gambling Hall
St. James Hotel
Cimarron Plaza and Well

ARKANSAS RIVER
Rivers were serious obstacles. During crossings, injury to people or animals and damage to loss of wagons or cargo were ever-present dangers.

FORT LARNED
From this fort, established in 1859, the U.S. Army provided protection for caravans, stagecoaches, and other Trail travelers.

WET/DRY ROUTES
Trail travelers chose between the "wet route," which afforded good grazing and water for large numbers of stock, and the shorter but water-limited "dry route."

CIMARRON ROUTE
This was the shortest and the original wagon route between Santa Fe and Missouri. The easternmost 60 miles offered no reliable water and was called La Jornada (The Journey).

THE GREAT PLAINS AND THE PRAIRIES
Until the arrival of Europeans, this was the home for many American Indian tribes that hunted, farmed, and roamed across this vast landscape.

COUNCIL GROVE
The 1825 treaty signed here with the Osage Indians ensured safe travel to this "prairie Eden." Westbound wagon trains gathered here to form larger caravans.

WESTPORT
By 1853, Westport had become the Trail's main eastern terminus. The Civil War and the railroad brought its Trail heyday to an end.

KANSAS CITY AREA SITES:
Harmon Park Rut
Shawnee Mission
Grinter House and Ferry
Mahaffie Farmstead
Westport Landing
Harris House
Ewing-Boone Store
Jim Bridger's Store
William Bent House
Alexander Majors House
Big Blue River Crossing
Archibald Rice Farmhouse
Minor Park Ruts
New Santa Fe
Red Bridge Crossing
Gum Springs
85th and Manchester Swale

INDEPENDENCE SITES:
Jackson County Courthouse
Kritzer House
Lewis-Webb House
Ferril-Gentry-Henley House
Noland House
205 North Main
207-209 North Main
206-208 North Main
Woodlawn Cemetery
Lewis Jones House
Santa Fe Trail Ruts
Lewis-Bingham-Waggoner House
Public Spring Site
Overfelt-Johnston House
William McCoy House
Lower Independence (Blue Mills) Landing
Upper Independence (Wayne City) Landing
Independence Square
Santa Fe Trail Park Ruts

FRANKLIN
William Becknell's successful 1821 trip made Franklin the first eastern terminus of the international Trail trade. Floods in 1826 and 1828 contributed to its demise.

SAINT LOUIS
At this commercial hub, traders purchased and warehoused goods and supplies for westward freighting on the Trail. Mexican goods were sold or shipped east.

Remember: You Are a Guest
Some private landowners are graciously allowing you to visit their sites. Please behave as you would like guests on your own property to behave. Leave everything the way you find it. Don't disturb the owner, owner's family, or employees, except in the rare case of emergency, accidents, or other problems. Owners retain the right to ask you to leave at any time. Obey posted signs, use designated roads and parking areas, and stay only long enough to appreciate the natural and cultural resources of the site.

For Your Safety and Comfort
Do not assume that signs will warn you of all safety hazards. Keep watch over children. Keep pets under physical restraint at all times. Leave domestic stock and wild animals alone. Be aware of potentially extreme weather conditions and the sometimes-high danger of fire on the prairie. Many Trail sites lack amenities; plan ahead. Use public restrooms and other facilities while in towns or developed areas.

Scale:
0 10 Kilometers
0 10 Miles

North

Scale:
0 10 Kilometers
0 10 Miles

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