



18th Year

THE SANTA FE TRAIL BICYCLE TREK—2012

The Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Committee is now accepting Applications for our 2012 Santa Fe Trail bicycle trip.

We have two objectives in organizing these non-profit trips: first, to provide a safe, fun, non-competitive, and inexpensive ride; second, to explore and learn about The Santa Fe Trail from Santa Fe, New Mexico to New Franklin, Missouri; learn its history and contribution to the western expansion of our country's growth; the challenges faced along the Trail; and the work currently being done to preserve historic sites along the Trail. We ride the Northern Trail route, eastbound.

Nearly all of the original Santa Fe Trail is on private land. It crosses through towns, fields, farms, ranches, prairies, and mountain passes. This is a "road bike" trip following the Trail as closely as possible using only paved public roads.

After reading the details, if you want to ride the Trail with us, please send your Application and Deposit.

ROUTE

The original Santa Fe Trail passes through or near all of the towns where we stop each afternoon or evening along the route. All riders must start in Santa Fe and ride at least the first 4 days to Trinidad, Colorado.

In some of the stop-over towns, Santa Fe Trail Association members and town residents will meet us and talk about historic points of interest and the town's role in Trail history. There are old forts such as Fort Union, Bent's Old Fort, Fort Larned, and Fort Osage, state parks, monuments, national sites, trail markers, museums, and recreation areas. We visit many of them. In planning, we have tried to balance the joy of cycling with time to see and appreciate Trail history.

CAMP SITES, MEALS and PAYMENTS

This is a non-profit, minimum cost, camping trip with dinner and breakfast provided in each stop-over town. Working with Trail Association members and local town people, we have camp sites with showers in all the stop-over towns. These camp sites are at colleges, high schools, city & national parks etc. None of the sites are indoors, but there are some "back up" indoor facilities in gymnasiums and halls in case of rain.

Dinners and breakfasts are adjacent to the camp sites in school cafeterias, local town halls, or catered and brought to the camp site. We do not cook in camp. Dinner is from 5:30-6:30 PM and breakfast from 7:00-8:00 (later on days off).

Riders buy their lunches in the towns along the route. However, there are several days where no cafes or markets are available. On these days, we arrange for sack lunches and select a meeting place for lunch. The cost of the sack lunches is included in your fees.

Riders must pre-pay for all of the days they are on the trip. Full payment must be received by August 1st.

Persons accompanying a Rider may eat and camp with the group or make other arrangements. If they want to eat and camp with the group, they must pre-pay at the same time as their riding companion pays the fees. Non-Rider meals and camping costs are shown in the Application form.

GENERAL INFORMATION and PREPARATION

You and your bike must be prepared and be able to ride the daily mileages shown on the Daily Ride Schedule. The segment from Santa Fe to Trinidad, Colorado has significant climbs at high altitude starting at Santa Fe (elevation 7,000 feet), rolling hills to Las Vegas, leveling off then climbing to Cimarron, then over 8,400 foot Raton Pass to Trinidad. After Trinidad, the route flattens out through eastern Colorado and Kansas. The country begins to roll with small hills near Council Grove. After Council Grove, the land continues to roll gently across the remainder of Kansas and into Missouri where we finish across the Missouri River at New Franklin.

You should be able to fix flats and do minor adjustments. Bikes should be in good repair, properly geared, and capable of carrying at least 2 water bottles, pump, spare tube & patch kit, minor tools, snacks, and a jacket or rain gear. Some, not all, towns have bike shops for repairs. If you have tools and spare parts, bring them. A suggested list of clothing and equipment will be sent on receipt of your Application.

Type I. Riders will have their camping gear and luggage carried by truck to each day's camp site. However, they will not have access to their gear during the day before the truck arrives at the camp site. All items must be name tagged.

Riders can leave the camp site whenever they want, but only after cleaning up their area and loading their gear on the truck. The truck leaves camp at 8:45 AM and heads directly to the next camp site.

The truck does not have room to carry bike boxes. If you come to Santa Fe with a box, you must leave it behind and get another one at the Kansas City Airport, Amtrak Station, or a bike shop, if necessary.

Bicycle helmets are mandatory. The Application has a Waiver of Liability so you should have personal medical and accident insurance.

The truck will take riders over mountain passes, if requested. No one is allowed to ride after dark. Many of the stop-over towns have laundromats and a few have bike shops.

GROUP SIZE, DEPOSITS, CANCELLATIONS and REFUNDS

Group Size: The group is limited to 50 riders. All riders must start in Santa Fe and ride at least the first 4 days to Trinidad, Colorado. We accept the first 50 riders who send their completed Application and Deposit. If we are full, riders can be put on a Waiting List or their deposit immediately returned. Please mark the "Waiting List" section on the back of the Application.

Deposit: Your deposit will be applied to the trip cost. We will contact you by mail or email to confirm receipt of your Application and Deposit.

Refunds & Cancellations: If you cancel in writing before July 1st, we will refund your Deposit less \$50. Cancellations received after July 1st will be refunded less \$100. Full payment must be received by August 1st unless you phone us for an extension. No refunds after August 1st, except at our discretion.

SANTA FE TRAIL BICYCLE TREK—2012**Daily Ride Schedule**

| Day | Date | Town | Miles |
|------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| | Saturday | 9/8 | <i>Santa Fe – Cyclists Check In</i> |
| 1. | Sunday | 9/9 | Santa Fe, NM to Las Vegas, NM |
| 2. | Monday | 9/10 | Las Vegas, NM to Wagon Mound, NM |
| 3. | Tuesday | 9/11 | Wagon Mound, NM to Cimarron, NM |
| 4. | Wednesday | 9/12 | Cimarron, NM to Trinidad, Colorado |
| 5. | Thursday | 9/13 | <i>Day off in Trinidad, Colorado</i> |
| 6. | Friday | 9/14 | Trinidad to La Junta, Colorado |
| 7. | Saturday | 9/15 | La Junta to Lamar, Colorado |
| 8. | Sunday | 9/16 | Lamar, Colorado to Lakin, Kansas |
| 9. | Monday | 9/17 | Lakin to Dodge City, Kansas |
| 10. | Tuesday | 9/18 | <i>Day off in Dodge City, Kansas</i> |
| 11. | Wednesday | 9/19 | Dodge City to Larned, Kansas |
| 12. | Thursday | 9/20 | Larned to Sterling, Kansas |
| 13. | Friday | 9/21 | Sterling to Hillsboro, Kansas |
| 14. | Saturday | 9/22 | Hillsboro to Council Grove, Kansas |
| 15. | Sunday | 9/23 | <i>Day off in Council Grove, Kansas</i> |
| 16. | Monday | 9/24 | Council Grove to Baldwin City, Kansas |
| 17. | Tuesday | 9/25 | Baldwin City to Independence, Missouri |
| 18. | Wednesday | 9/26 | Independence to Lexington, Missouri |
| 19. | Thursday | 9/27 | Lexington to Arrow Rock, Missouri |
| 20. | Friday | 9/28 | Arrow Rock to New Franklin, Missouri |
| | Saturday | 9/29 | <i>Return home.</i> |
| | | | Approx. Total Miles |
| | | | 1096 |

TYPE OF RIDERS

Type I. Regular Riders who use meals, truck support, and camping facilities.

Type II. Riders *not* using truck support — i.e. accompanied by a companion with a car and using meals and camping facilities only.

PARTICIPANTS PACKAGE

All participants receive a “Ride Kit” containing Daily Ride Sheets, daily route maps, and travel information. The Daily Ride Sheets have written route instructions, and a map to the camp site.

Before coming on the trip, we suggest that you read about the Santa Fe Trail to increase your knowledge and understanding of its role in American history. Some suggested books, in paperback, are listed below. These and other Trail books may be at your local library or can be ordered from: Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA); Last Chance Book Store, PO Box 3, Woodston, KS 67675, Tel (785) 425-7312, Fax (785) 425-6865.

Marc Simmons—*The Old Santa Fe Trail*

Max Moorhead—*New Mexico’s Royal Road*

Susan S. Magoffin—*Down The Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico (diary of Susan Magoffin)*

Marion Russell—*Land of Enchantment (memoirs of Marian Russell along the Santa Fe Trail)*

Jami Parkison—*Path To Glory: A Pictorial Celebration of The Santa Fe Trail*

ACCOMMODATIONS IN SANTA FE and MOTELS ON THE TRIP

The night before we leave on the trip, most riders camp in Santa Fe where we make arrangements for one night of camping at the Fort Marcy Sports Center.

If you want lodging in Santa Fe, visit the web sites: www.visitsantafe.com and www.santafe.org or contact the Santa Fe Visitors Bureau 1-800-777-2489.

If you are planning to use motels on the trip, we cannot provide rider or baggage transport to & from motels. Therefore, riders staying in motels, even for a few nights, should use a daypack or panniers to carry their over-night gear from the camp sites to the motels. Riders must also bring their gear back to the baggage truck at the camp site no later than 8:30 AM the next morning. For motel information, contact the Chambers of Commerce or Visitors Bureaus in our stop-over towns.

LEAVING YOUR CAR IN SANTA FE and GETTING BACK TO SANTA FE

If you drive to Santa Fe, we can give you the names of several storage places where you can store your vehicle until you return. The Bicycle Committee is not responsible for vehicle storage, damage, or loss.

AMTRAK or THE GREYHOUND-TRAILWAYS BUS COMPANY: AMTRAK has different bike policies at each station along our route. We suggest that you contact them (1-800-872-7245) or the Bus Company (1-800-231-2222) for their schedules, policies, and cost. We can arrange for you, your bike, and gear to be taken to either an AMTRAK or Bus station on any scheduled "Day Off" and from New Franklin, Missouri. And, perhaps from other stop-over towns along the route, depending on the distance. There will be a charge for this service. If you need transportation to the bus or train, we must know at least 3 days in advance.

From past experience, we have found that at the Kansas City Airport you can rent a one-way car to drive back to Santa Fe. For costs and availability, check with the car rental agencies—Hertz, Avis, National, Budget etc.

AMTRAK does not come into Santa Fe, but has their station at Lamy, a town 17 miles away. A private carrier, Lamy Shuttle, will take you and your bike into Santa Fe. For reservations and cost, their number is (505) 982-8829.

RETURNING FROM TRINIDAD: Riders riding only the first 4 days to Trinidad can take AMTRAK back to Santa Fe. The train leaves Trinidad daily at 10:45 AM and arrives at Lamy (Santa Fe station) at 3:30 PM. Check with AMTRAK for reservations and fare information. The station at Trinidad is "un-manned" — i.e. passengers can board the train after buying their tickets in the station, but cannot check baggage (bike boxes) onto the baggage car.

RETURNING FROM NEW FRANKLIN:

We arrange for a bus to take riders, bikes, and baggage from our camp site in New Franklin to the Kansas City Airport and train station (125 miles). The bus leaves the camp right after breakfast on Saturday morning and arrives at the Airport about 1:00 PM and the Train station about 2:00 PM. There will be an estimated \$30. charge for this.

Major airlines service Albuquerque International Airport where the Sandia Shuttle Bus will take passengers with boxed bikes to Santa Fe Their phone number is 888-775-5696 or 505-474-5696. If there are several in your group, renting a car or van at the airport and dropping it in Santa Fe may be less expensive.

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