

McPherson - Rice - Barton Counties in Kansas

PASSPORT & SITE BOOK



EXPLORE THE CENTRAL KANSAS JOURNEY!
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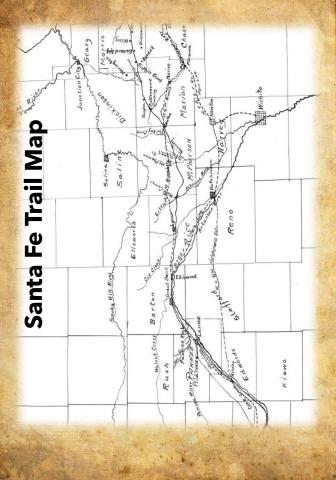
Welcome to the Santa Fe Trail!

This booklet is your personal adventure and trail guide. On each page you will find a QR Code in the top right hand corner.

Download a QR Code reader on your smartphone and scan the code to give you exact directions to that site. At each site you will find a stamp. Get all the stamps and drop off the information page at any one of the museums in this booklet. You will be entered for a grand prize at the end of 2021.

Scan the QR codes below & on each page with a smartphone camera for more information on the Santa Fe Trail sites!

Go Explore & Enjoy!!



Fuller's Ranch & Running Turkey Creek Crossing





Fuller's Ranch was one of the trading ranches established on the Santa Fe Trail for travelers. The ranch was established near the Running Turkey Creek crossing. The site is located 1 mile east and about 2 miles south of Galva, Kansas on 22nd Avenue.



STAMP HERE

Kaw Treaty Site







The Kaw Indian Peace Treaty was a major treaty conducted with the Kaw (Kanza) tribe by government surveyors led by George Sibley August 15 - 16, 1825. The Kansas Historical marker and the DAR marker commemorating the event are located in the roadside park on Old Highway 81 just south of Elyria, Kansas.

McPherson Museum





The signs on the west side of the McPherson Museum, 1111 E. Kansas Avenue in McPherson, are a source of information for sites east and west of McPherson as well as providing information on the trading ranches located along the Trail.



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Swanson's Swales







Swanson's Swales are at least seven deep swales made by the wagons as they prepared for crossing the Little Arkansas River. The swales are located at 1525 31st Rd, Windom, Kansas. Turn west at the driveway, proceed to the site sign, and turn south until you reach the interpretive sign.

Camp Grierson







Camp Grierson was a military camp established to protect the Santa Fe Trail. Camp Grierson is located on Avenue P about ¾ of a mile west of the 31st Road (Plum Street) and 5 miles south of Highway 56 near Windom, Kansas.

Stone Corral





the Little Arkansas Crossing. This 200 by 300 foot rectangular stone enclosure, having walls eight feet high and 30 inches thick, was an overnight camping spot for trail travelers and was the site of the trading ranch at the Little Arkansas crossing. The interpretive sign is located on 30th Road about 1/2 mile north of Avenue P and 5 miles south of Highway 56 near Windom, Kansas.



STAMP HERE

Fry Ruts







STAMP HERE The Fry Ruts are another beautiful set of ruts. The pasture setting and the silhouette give visitors a taste of the Trail on the open prairie. The Fry Ruts are located on Avenue P about ½ mile west of 30th Road and 5 miles south of Highway 56 near Windom, Kansas.

Chavez Murder Site





Santa Fe trader Don Antonio José Chávez was the murder victim of Missouri ruffians in 1843. The international incident occurred where the Santa Fe Trail crossed Jarvis Creek (formerly Owl Creek). The marker is located on Avenue P just over 1/2 mile west of 21st Road and southeast of Lyons, Kansas.



HERE

Coronado Quivira Museum







The wagon "jockey box" carried by Don Antonio José Chávez was returned to the family after his murder. In 1998, the wagon box was placed at the Coronado Quivira Museum, 105 West Lyon' Street, Lyons, Kansas. Additional Trail artifacts are also located at the museum.

Cow Creek Crossing & Buffalo Bill's Well





Cow Creek Ranch was established at the crossing of Cow Creek in the fall of 1858 by the Beach family. William Mathewson, the original Buffalo Bill, later managed the ranch at this site. Cow Creek Crossing & Buffalo Bill's Well are located on 12th Avenue about 1 mile south of Highway 56 and west of Lyons, Kansas.



HERE

Ralph's Ruts & Kern Ruts







Ralph's Ruts are a set of some of the finest pristine wagon ruts about seven to eight ruts wide. They have been preserved by several generations of the Hathaway family, most notably Ralph Hathaway. The Kern Ruts are across the road to the west. The ruts are located on 4th Road about 3/4 of a mile north of Highway 56 and west of Chase. Kansas.

Gunsight Notch





Toward the west end of this pasture there is a ridge running north and south. Several trail ruts converge to cross this ridge.

Almost sixty years of trail travel wore a wide notch in this ridge, giving the site its name.

Gunsight Notch is located on the south side of Avenue L about 3/8 of a mile west of 3rd Road and west of Chase, Kansas.



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Plum Buttes







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The marker is just west of the former site of three tall sand dunes called "Plum Buttes" named for the wild plum bushes growing around them. East of here is where the Plum Buttes Massacre occurred. The Plum Butts DAR Marker is located on Avenue L at the intersection with 2nd Road and west of Chase, Kansas

Fort Zarah





in 1864 to protect the mail and the Trail. It was located about 1/2 mile south of Highway 56, west of 30th Road, and north of Walnut Creek. The second Fort Zarah was located just east of Great Bend Kansas and a short distance east of the roadside park on the north side of Highway 56.



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Barton County Historical Society Museum





The Barton County Historical Society Museum is located at 85 South U.S. Hwy 281, Great Bend, Kansas. The museum houses a number of artifacts from the Santa Fe Trail. The Barton County Historical Society Museum and Village has received certification from the National Park Service as an official SFT Interpretive Site.

Pawnee Rock





Pawnee Rock was a well-known landmark for Santa Fe Trail travelers. Although the current site is not nearly as tall as it was in Trail days, it is still an impressive site. Pawnee Rock State Historic Site is located at 631 Centre St., Pawnee Rock, Kansas.



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