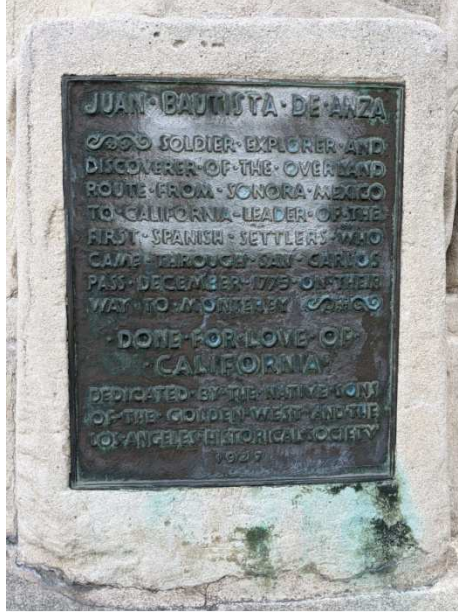
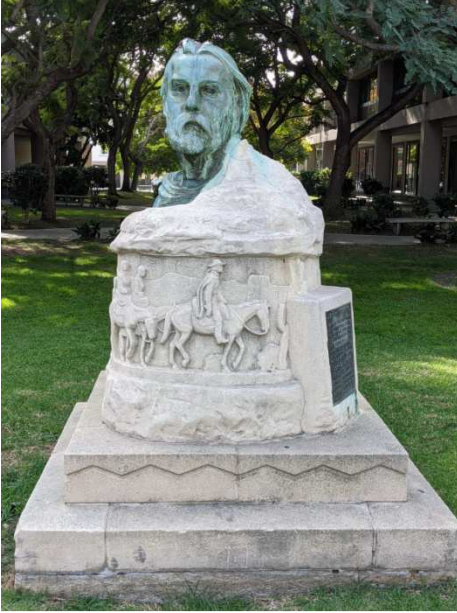


# The Bust of Juan Bautista De Anza Article by JBARTLETT2000

Anza led the first Spanish settlers from Mexico to Monterey, CA in the 1770s.

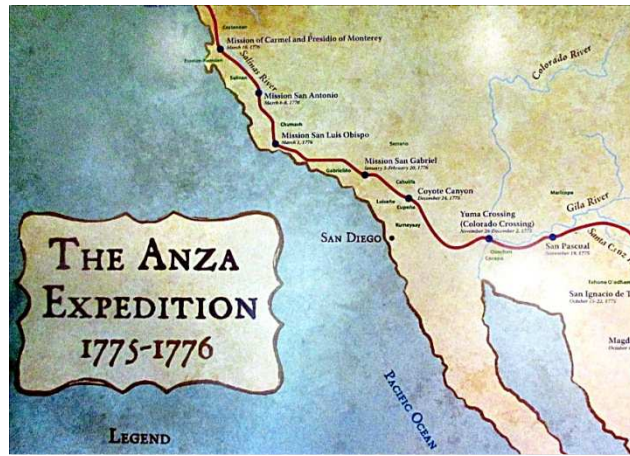


This bronze statue with plaque celebrates his 1770s expedition from Mexico to northern California. Created by Henry Lion in 1927. The work of art was dedicated in 1927 to Juan Bautista De Anza by the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Los Angeles Historical Society. The bronze bust of the bearded De Anza is atop a circular plinth that features a three-dimensional frieze of that journey; depicted are settlers on horseback, priests with a crucifix staff, soldiers, and some cattle, while in the background are rocks, boulders, and large cactuses. De Anza's actual party consisted of three padres, 20 soldiers, 11 servants, 35 mules, 65 cattle, and 140 horses. The expedition was actually two meandering trips that lasted several years, though the plaque notes 1775 and reads simply: "Done for the love of California."



A soldier and explorer, De Anza led the first Spanish settlers from the Mexican state of Sonora through Arizona and the San Carlos Pass far north to Monterey, California—a distance of some 1,700 miles.





One of the founders of Spanish California and later Governor of New Mexico, De Anza is celebrated in many places, most notably by a 1,200 mile National Historic Route hiking and driving trail through California and Arizona that's inspired by his travels. De Anza died in 1788 and is buried in a grand church in Arizpe in Sonora, Mexico.



Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest California state park.



The small town of Anza, east of Temecula, lies in the mountain valley traversed by De Anza. Here there is a short overlap with the Pacific Crest Trail. Parks and other place-names are found throughout California including De Anza Cove Park in San Diego, community parks in Calabasas & Ontario, De Anza Park in Sunnyvale and De Anza Historical Park in San Mateo. Another statue can be found in Riverside, and another in Lake Merced Park in San Francisco.