



### **Pike's Time Has Arrived**

Our purpose is to establish the Pike National Historic Trail for all 3664 miles of the 1806-1807 Pike Expedition.

We welcome the interest from many across the nation of folks interested in creating a lasting memorial to one of our country's heroes- Brigadier General Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

We enjoy the interest and involvement of the Pike Family, many of those involved in bringing the Pike Bicentennial to the nation's attention, the support of four other long distance trails, and have the attention of federal agencies.

We have visited with those who have gone through the process of establishing National Trails, who know who to contact and know where some of the rocks are. We have gained valued, knowledgeable advice, and garnered a growing list of supporters and a nucleus group. Currently, we are considering the material needed in the first step in the process of establishing a National Historic Trail.

### **The Route**

Pike's responsibility was to explore portions of the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase, this after returning Osage Native Americans to their home. The route covered 3664 miles from St. Louis on the Missouri and Osage Rivers, up the Arkansas River watershed, down the Rio del Norte (Rio Grande- starting 160 miles from its headwaters), traversing through central New Spain, through Texas and ending in western Louisiana.

Ground artifacts of Pike's expedition are difficult to find. There are, of course, no wagon ruts. Our suggested route will not likely be an overlay the path of the Expedition, but, like many historic trails, will follow roads to visit known sites and memorials.

### **What parts of Pike's Route are already established?**

There are many markers and memorials in place, and much of the route is known. Expert, detailed advice is being used to pinpoint route, and campsites using available data including Pike's maps. Three established trails follow his route.

**Santa Fe Trail-** The Main/Northern Route of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail is contiguous with Pike's route from Great Bend, KS to LaJunta, CO, a distance of 303 miles.

**American Discovery Trail-** The American Discovery Trail is also contiguous with the Pike Expedition route from Great Bend, KS to near Cripple Creek, CO (north of Canon City, CO, a distance of 426 miles (303 of which is the Santa Fe Trail.)

**El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro-** An International effort El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail (Spanish Road of the Interior) stretches from the San Juan Pueblo Reservation (north of Santa Fe) along the Rio Grande to El Paso, for 349 miles. The Mexican continuation of this US National Historic Trail, through an International effort, continues south through Chihuahua and Mexico City.

It is believed that Pike and his men may have been brought along this route. To establish a designation on the Spanish road from Torreon (Durango Mexico) toward Monterey and San Antonio (the route the Spanish probably used for Pike) will require additional Mexican cooperation.

Distance on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro 837 miles (349 mi. in US and 488 mi. from El Paso to Torreon, Durango, Mexico.)

Perhaps, then, there may be 1263 of 3664 miles (426 + 837) or 35%, already in place.



### **Did you know?**

- **Pikes Peak**, the 14,110 foot "Grand Mountain" which Zebulon was unable to bag, is the location where **America, The Beautiful** was penned.
- **Telegraph Gulch** in the Royal Gorge, where Pike is believed to have climbed out of the Gorge, was recently renamed Pike's Gulch. The incline into the Gorge fills Pike's Gulch.



**The Small Blue Cloud** Probably the best known of Pike memorials is Pike's Peak. At 2 pm on November 15, 2006, many of us stood in the place Pike and his men stood 200 years to the minute, when he sighted the "small blue cloud." He called it the Grand Mountain, the Spanish and Ute Indians called it El Capitan. At that place one can no longer see Pike's Peak because of the John Martin Reservoir. The location is south of Ft. Lyons Hospital in Las Animas, CO, where Kit Carson later died.

The Santa Fe Trail Assn. and others were dedicating this rock where Pike first saw the "small blue cloud," 117 miles away.



**More numbers-**

State/Prov	Today	Today	1806-1807	1806-1807	1806-1807
	Miles	%	Country	Miles	%
Missouri	430	11.7	US	430	11.7
Nebraska	10	0.3	US	10	0.3
Kansas	648	17.7	US	648	17.7
Colorado	670	18.3	US	546	14.9
Colorado (South Of Arkansas River)			NS	124	3.4
New Mexico	417	11.4	NS	417	11.4
Chihuahua	466	12.7	NS	466	12.7
Durango	92	2.5	NS	92	2.5
Coahuila	409	11.2	NS	409	11.2
Texas	477	13.0	NS	477	13.0
Louisiana	45	1.2	US	45	1.2
Mexico	967	26.4	Mex.		
United States	2697	73.6	US	1679	45.8
New Spain			NS	1985	54.2
	<b>3664</b>		NS= New	Spain	

Table 1- Pike Mileage

Days in State or Providence	Dates	days	%
<b>Missouri</b>	7/14/06 to 9/3/06	51.5	14.6
<b>Nebraska</b>	9/24/06 to 10/7/06	13	3.7
<b>Kansas</b>	9/3 to 24/06 & 10/7 to 11/11/06	21 35	5.9 9.9
<b>Colorado</b>	11/11/06 to 1/13/07	63	17.8
<b>CO/New Spain</b>	1/13/07 to 2/27/07	45	12.7
<b>New Mexico</b>	2/27/07 to 3/20/07	21	5.9
<b>Chihuahua</b>	3/20/07 to 5/7/07	48	13.6
<b>Durango</b>	5/7/07 to 5/13/07	6	1.7
<b>Coahuila</b>	5/13/07 to 6/1/07	19	5.4
<b>Texas</b>	6/1/07 to 6/28/07	27	7.6
<b>Louisiana</b>	6/28/07 to 7/1/07	3.5	1.0
		<b>353</b>	
In US 1806-7	7/14/06 to 1/13/07 & 6/28/07 to 7/1/07	187	53.0
In NS 1806-7	1/13/07 to 6/28/07	166	47.0
In US today	7/14/06 to 3/20/07 & 6/1/07 to 7/1/07	280	79.3
In Mexico today	3/20/07 to 6/1/07	73	20.7

Table 2- Pike Days in State/Providence



Time line- Land south of the Arkansas River- New Spain to 1820 (Mexican Independence)  
 Land south of the Arkansas River- Mexico 1820 to 1848 (Santa Fe Trail opens 1821)  
 US gains land south of the Arkansas River 1846 to 1848- Mexican American War

Please complete the following questionnaire and return it to:

Harv Hisgen 10060 Blue Sky Trail Conifer, CO 80433

1. Please indicate your preference for a name of this association

- Pike National Historic Trail Association
- Pike National Historic Trail Society
- Friends of the Pike National Historic Trail
- (Other- specifically) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is a website for this effort essential?

- Absolutely, if you're going to let the word out to a wider audience
- Probably
- Not at all

3. Would you be willing to help defray costs (mailing, printing, web, etc.) with a donation to the association?

- Absolutely
- Probably
- Not at all

Do you have acquaintances (individuals or organizations) that would be willing to participate in our effort, i.e. write support letters, contact state and national officials, and what is needed to establish the Pike National Historic Trail? If so, please, share their name, address, phone, and e-mail.

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They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind. – Tuscarora

*Top 10 Reasons why-  
Pike Brought Only Cotton Clothing-*

10. He didn't listen to his mother.
9. Farmer's Almanac says it's going to be warm this year.
8. Colorado sees 300 days of sunshine.
7. There's snow out there?
6. He really believed- Cotton is the fabric of his life.
5. Mountain goats have wool, don't they?
4. Isn't Kit Carson's Boutique opened yet?
3. Where are Fremont's supply wagons?
2. He thought he'd be home for dinner.
  1. He expected global warming to kick in.



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