

Anza Society Conference Trip Details

Chair - [Jesús Roberto Romo Véjar](#)

25th International Conference

March 24-27, 2022 (re-scheduled dates)

Banámichi, Sonora, Mexico

The Anza Society is hosting its' 25th conference during March 24 to 27, 2022 in Banámichi, Sonora, Mexico. Many of the attendees from the U.S. will be arriving in Tucson on March 23rd where they may participate in a special tour of the new outdoor cultural park, [La Expedición de Anza, 1775](#). LEA as it is referred to, is located on the Anza National Historic Trail next to the Santa Cruz River in Tucson.

On the morning of the 24th, tour participants will leave by bus from Tucson crossing the border at Agua Prieta, Sonora, with a stop at Fronteras, Sonora, where they will be met by the town authorities. Fronteras, founded by the Jesuits in 1645 as the Mission of Santa Rosa de Corodéhuachi, is the birthplace of Juan Bautista de Anza, II, son of Juan Bautista de Anza the elder, who at the time of his son's birthdate in 1736 was the commander of the Presidio de Fronteras built in Santa Rosa in 1692.



After lunch, the bus will leave for Banámichi crossing the Sierra west to Bacoachi on the Sonora River through a fairly new road called La Pera, named after a local ranch. The road offers spectacular views of the Sonoran Desert.

The bus will then head south along the Sonora River through ancient routes created by prior explorers and traveled by Anza the elder as he established himself in what was then Nueva Navarra. The bus will pass through Arizpe, where Anza, II died and rests in its church, finally reaching Banámichi that afternoon.



Banámichi or Banamitzi, as the indigenous people called it, was founded in 1639 by the Jesuits. After leaving Fronteras, Anza the elder settled on the Sonora River. He became involved with the mining boom towns of Tetuachi outside of Arizpe and Real del Motepore, outside Banámichi. He was killed by the Apaches in 1740 when his son was about to turn 4 years old.

Anza, II, founder of San Francisco, and Governor of New Mexico, lived and died in the area. The towns of Banámichi and Arizpe remain small, yet filled with memories of their past prominent members. The towns of Tetuachi and Motepore no longer exist. The site of Tetuachi, where the Anzas' owned mining interests, has the ruins of the church built by them and dedicated to the Virgen of Aránzazu, protector of the Basques. Tetuachi, also has the remnants of the ancient canal system (still in use,) built to irrigate the adjacent land using the Sonora River. The canals were originally built by the Opata Nation who inhabited the region before the arrival of the Spanish. A similar canal system was also built and used by Opatas in the town of Banámichi.



Tetuachi

Upon arrival in Banámichi, the group will have a welcoming dinner. The following day Friday, there will be a series of presentations followed by dinner. On Saturday, the group will take a field trip to Arizpe to visit the historical sites including, Tetuachi and the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción where Anza, II is buried. The field trip will be followed by a farewell dinner at the municipal offices and a program presentation. The Anza Society will have its annual board meeting on Sunday morning, with the group departing afterwards, heading back for Tucson.