The Anza Trail commemorates the Spanish colonizing expedition led by Anza, commander of the Tubac presidio, which brought approximately 240 colonists and soldiers from Sonora, Mexico to establish San Francisco, California. The expedition departed Tubac on October 23, 1775.

The segment of the Anza Trail between the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park and Tumacacori National Historical Park offers the visitor an opportunity to experience historic sites and a landscape similar to that experienced by the Anza party over 235 years ago. The six mile trail connecting the two parks follows the Santa Cruz River through a lush cottonwood-willow riparian forest and mesquite bosque. Due to the presence of water, the river corridor supports a high diversity of plant and bird species within the arid Sonoran Desert region. Over 250 miles of the Anza Trail exist along the 1200 mile route within the U.S., including many miles along the Santa Cruz River through Santa Cruz and Pima counties.

This segment of the Anza Trail is maintained by volunteers from the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA), in partnership with private landowners and the National Park Service. The ATCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation devoted to the establishment and interpretation of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail within Arizona.