



OREGON TRAIL

INTERPRETIVE

CENTER.

BAKER CITY,

OREGON.

© Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at
Flagstaff Hill. A federal facility managed by
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FOR TWO
THOUSAND MILES
THE OREGON TRAIL
STRETCHED,
WINDING THROUGH
A LAND MOSTLY
UNMAPPED,
UNEXPLORED,
AND UNKNOWN.

For two thousand miles, from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon, the pioneers walked. Mothers, fathers, and children plodded with their wagons across endless prairies, scorched deserts, craggy summits, and swollen rivers. Days were sweat and, often, starvation. Nights were bitter cold. For five months straight, as far as twenty miles a day they marched, enduring the brutal summer in a race against something far worse: winter. Yet somehow, despite the distance and perils, they came.

FOR ONCE, THE GRASS WAS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE.

300,000 emigrants departed from Missouri, each bound for the Pacific with a different dream. Each hoped to find in Oregon a parcel of rich farmland to settle and raise a family. Or in California, a huge gold nugget just waiting to be dug up.

Near the end of the trail, atop Flagstaff Hill, as the worn travelers began to lose hope, they were greeted with their first sight of the promised land beyond. A lush valley opened below. The Blue Mountains beckoned in the distance. There, the uncertainties of the trail faded. In that view, many saw the realization of their dreams.

150 YEARS LATER THE TRAIL RETURNS.

In the spring of 1992, on the very same spot, you'll be able to relive the emigrants' journey in a building dedicated to preserving forever the experience of life on

The Trail – The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill.

Begin your visit with either a movie or a live performance in the theater. You'll learn the background and history of America in the early 1800's, see what lured the emigrants westward, and watch their dreams and those of a young nation take form.

Afterwards, in the exhibit hall, artifacts, photographs, and pages from actual diaries will acquaint you with individuals on The Trail. They were in many ways like you, with similar fears, hopes, and aspirations. Ordinary people in an extraordinary situation.

What may be the most impressive feature of the center is a 100-foot-long gallery in which The Trail and trail life have been dramatically re-created.

You'll feel what the pioneers felt as the sights and sounds of their remarkable journey come to life all around

you through powerful interactive exhibits.

Walk amid the sounds of creaking wagons, plodding oxen, and the chatter of pioneers. See a wagon train, riders on horseback, and trail animals.

Here, six major themes of the trail will be highlighted:

NATURAL HISTORY.

The land itself is at the core of the trail experience. You'll see the wilderness as it was in the 1800's and how it has been altered and tenuously preserved.

PRE-EMIGRANT TRAVELERS.

Early fur traders, missionaries and explorers all played a role in the establishment of The Trail. Sense what it must have been like to blaze a 2000-mile path across the unknown with only the sky and the land as signposts.

NATIVE AMERICANS.

Long before the pioneers arrived, the West was inhabited by great tribes of Indians. The stream of emigrants changed forever the fate of Native Americans. Within the center detailed exhibits illustrate the collision of cultures.

EMIGRANT LIFE ALONG THE TRAIL.

Few anticipated the harsh, often lethal, reality ahead. You'll experience their daily life in a new, often hostile environment. You'll share the achievements and losses of those whose courage brought them west.

THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE/ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

The federal government encouraged the settlement of the West and development of its many resources. You'll see exhibits outlining its important role in shaping the West.

MINING AND SETTLEMENT OF NORTHEAST OREGON.

Gold! No other word holds such power over men. Discovered in California in 1849 and later in Oregon, it drew thousands who sought to strike it rich. Gold brought a new breed west: dreamers, adventurers, troublemakers. Standing in the boots of an early prospector, you too may catch gold fever.

THE LAND REMEMBERS.

Outside you'll experience a sweeping vista little changed from 150 years ago. From nearly five miles of interpretive trails, you will witness a natural setting nearly identical to what the pioneers saw.

Atop the hill you'll walk through a pioneer wagon encampment and see people living as the pioneers did. Farther down the hill is a 19th century mining camp. Walking through it is much like stepping back in time.

Finally you reach the Oregon Trail itself. With a newfound understanding, you will walk along ruts still etched indelibly into the western earth, on ground firmly trampled from the many wagons and footsteps. Even now, grass grows only reluctantly. The Oregon Trail has forever left its mark on the land. And the people.

NORTHEAST OREGON. IT'S STILL THE PROMISED LAND.

After the interpretive center, what then? Well, for starters, try jet boating through Hell's Canyon. Go llama trekking through the Wallowa Mountains. Fish for trout and bass. Pan for gold. Visit a ghost town, or spend a day exploring historic Baker City. All of these activities and many more await you in Northeast Oregon.

For more information, or assistance in booking your trip, call the Baker County Visitor and Convention Bureau at **1-800-523-1235.**

Your great-great-great grandpa found it worth the trip. We think you will too.

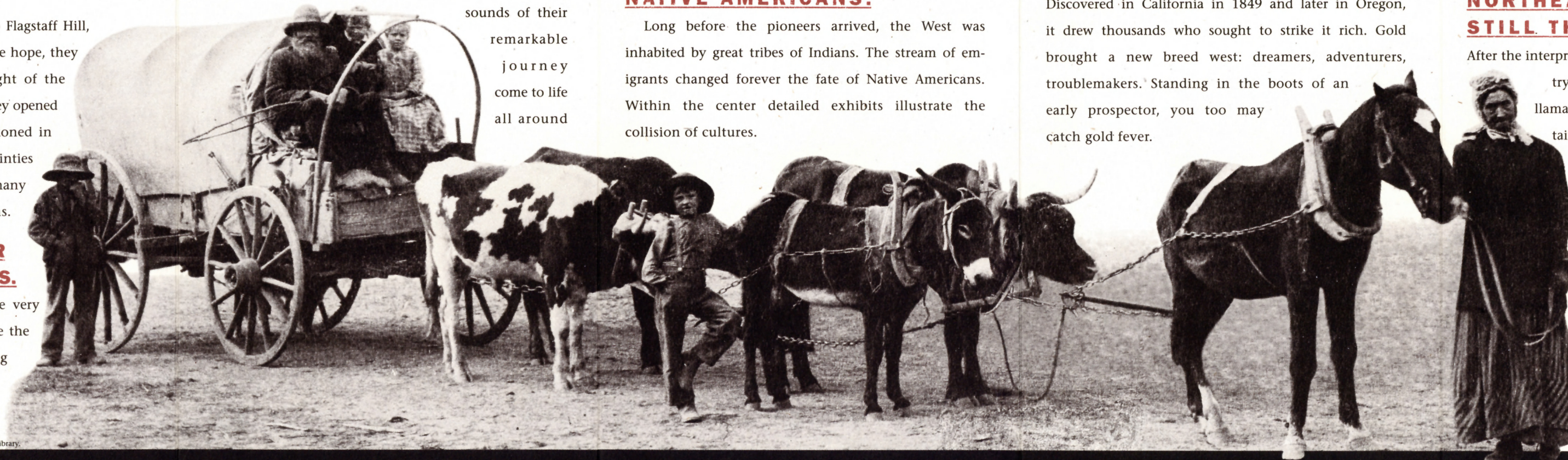


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