

The Mormon Trail

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The Route



The Mormon Trail

- **It spans across 5 states**
- **Pioneer Company of 1846-1847 established first route from Nauvoo, IL to SLC, UT – 1300 miles**

The People

- **Joseph Smith, the first leader, died in 1844 by a mob**
- **Brigham Young led the Mormons after Joseph Smith**
- **70,000 Mormons traveled the Mormon Trail**
- **The poorer used push wagons other people that has more money used wagons**



The Hardships

- **Death by disease, starvation and weather were common**
- **The first 300 miles most tried courage, stamina, and equipment**
- **Church members realized that their settlement was becoming untenable**
- **Spring of 1846 didn't bring good weather**
- **Countless days of rain, muddy, and freezing temperatures**
- **Crossing the Chariton River became a perilous feat because of steep hills and muddy conditions**
- **Several hundred saints died during the winter of 1846-1847**



Across Iowa

- **Started in Spring in mid June still 12,000 Mormons spread across Iowa**
- **The Mormons that didn't get across Iowa got buried in Iowa**
- **Mormons began their procession following the Des Moines River**
- **Richardson's point was next resting stop after Sugar Creek**
- **A large settlement was created by Parley P. Pratt at Mt. Pisgah**



Personal Experiences

- *"I was informed that on the first night of the encampment nine children were born into the world from that time, as we journeyed onward, mothers gave birth to offspring under almost every variety of circumstances imaginable except those to which they had been accustomed some in tents, others in wagons-in rainstorms and in snowstorms." Eliza R. Snow 1846*
- *"Notwithstanding our suffering, hardships and privations, we are cheerful and rejoice that we have the privilege of passing through tribulations for truth's sake." Orson Pratt 1846*
- *"I saw 25 yokes of oxen hitched to one wagon to get up a hill." Allen Joseph Stout 1846*

Other Interesting Facts

- **February 4th the first Mormon wagon ferried across the Mississippi**
- **Mid-February river froze and they drove their wagons across the glazed highway of ice**
- **Part of first recognized National Historic Trail in the United States**