

OREGON TRAIL ROUTES TO FORT BOISE

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Prominent natural features account for a series of Oregon Trail variant routes extending from Glens Ferry to Boise. A 40 mile geological fault line resulted in a long row of ridges running directly northwest toward Boise Valley. Small streams descend across that break where they run into a wide expanse of desert plain, supporting camping areas suitable for travelers moving along that arid fringe.

After gold discoveries in 1862 lured thousands of eager miners to Boise Basin, increased Shoshoni resistance was anticipated to expanded occupation of Indian Lands. So military authorities found a site for an Army Fort Boise that best would serve that area: they selected a point, safe from river floods, where Oregon Trail emigrants reached that stream. An adjacent city of Boise followed immediately after Fort Boise was located on July 4, 1863. Remote Civil War battles culminated at Gettysburg and Vicksburg that same day. Confederate refugees already were headed for Boise Valley, but they had to spend a long time getting there.

(This information has not been edited.)