

Travel Guides and Descriptions of Traveling the Oregon Trail
The Cost of the Journey

Excerpt from *The Emigrant’s Guide to New Mexico, California, and Oregon; Giving the Different Overland and Sea Routes*. New York: John Disturnell, 1850. Newberry Library call number: Graff 5306.

Estimate of an Outfit.

The following estimate of an outfit, for one year, for three persons, with ox teams, is copied from “The Emigrants Guide to California” by Joseph E. Ware, published by J. Halsall, St. Louis, Mo.: –

Four yoke of oxen,* \$50 each	\$200.00
One wagon, cover, &c.....	100.00
Three rifles, \$20.....	60.00
Three pair pistols, \$20.....	45.00
Five barrels flour, 1080 lbs.....	20.00
Bacon, 600 “.....	30.00
Coffee, 100 “.....	8.00
Tea, 5 “.....	2.75
Sugar, 150 “.....	7.00
Rice, 75 “.....	3.75
Fruit, dried, 50 “.....	3.00
Salt, pepper, &c., 50 “.....	3.00
Salteratus, 10 “.....	1.00
Lead, 30 “.....	1.20
Powder, 25 “.....	5.50
Tools, &c., 25	7.50
Mining tools, 36 “.....	12.00
Tent, 30 “.....	5.00
Bedding, 45 “.....	22.50
Cooking utensils, 30 “.....	4.00
Lard, 50 “.....	2.50
Private baggage 150 “.....	
Matches	1.00
One mule	50.00
Candles and soap	5.30
 Total <u>2,583 lbs</u>	 600.00

NOTE. – Estimated cost for one person, \$200; those having families, with children, will find it necessary to make nearly as large an estimate for children as an adult. Make no calculation on game, you will need that in addition; as men women and children require much more food on the road than usual.

Do not leave home, or St. Louis, without possessing the above guide, also the best map of California , &c., that can be produced.

* The teams for the journey should be oxen or mules, either of which can be purchased at the frontier towns. Cows are often taken along for their milk, being sometimes the only dependence for drink.