

Travel Guides and Descriptions of Traveling the Oregon Trail Shively, 1846

Excerpt from Shively, J. M. *Route and Distances to Oregon and California, with a Description of Watering Places, Crossings, Dangerous Indians, &c.* Washington, D.C.: Wm. Greer, 1846.
Newberry Library call number Ayer 128.3 S55 1846.

Leave the Soda Springs early in the morning, and when you go down the river about 4 miles, fill your kegs, as you cannot get water here, you leave the river. Six miles below, opposite the great Sheep mountain, you leave Bear river, from which it is 12 miles to a little branch of good water, but no wood; six miles farther to Portniff creek, one of the tributaries of Snake river, from which it is 48 miles to Fort Hall (1278 miles). Here you will have an opportunity of buying provisions, swapping cattle for horses, and will receive many acts of kindness from Captain Grant, the superintendent of the Fort. Here you must hire an Indian to pilot you at the crossings of Snake river, it being dangerous if not perfectly understood.

Fort Hall is situated in a large fertile valley on Snake River; you will not travel far, however, 'til the gloom of desolation will spread around you, grass very scarce, water and wood plenty. 160 miles below Fort Hall, you will come to the Salmon Falls, where you will find a great many Indians fishing; you can buy the fish very cheap but you need not lay in any supply, as you will have opportunities for trading for them the balance of your journey. Two days below, you come to the crossings where you must follow the instruction of your Indian guide; when you are across Snake river, all you will gain is good grass for your animals – there not being a sufficient quantity for a large band of stock on the southside, from the crossing of Snake river.

It is 70 miles to Boise river, where you will again get fine salmon, – (45 miles crossing Boise river to Fort Boise, 1574 miles)– on Snake river. Here you recross Snake river by ferry. All across, you first camp 12 miles to the Mallair river.