

Exploring the Trail



The Donner-Reed party's final obstacle into the Salt Lake Valley in 1846 was the difficult climb over **DONNER HILL**. This significantly contributed to the disaster in the Sierra Nevada later that year.

Upon entering Salt Lake Valley and coming to **TRAIL'S END**, Mormon pioneers immediately began a permanent settlement by farming, building shelters, and establishing local traders.

The narrow, 16-mile gorge of **ECHO CANYON** impressed pioneers with its particular echo. The canyon also includes stone breastworks built in 1857 to guard against an invasion by rumored Mormon rebellion.

Mormon pioneers built rafts and floated wagons across the Green River here. In 1847 they built a ferry (later known as the **LOMBARD FERRY**) and provided a commercial service for travelers.

One of two "stations" on the trail at the onset of the 1847 pioneer journey, **FORT BRIDGER** became a military post. The Mormons bought the fort in 1855 to supply emigrant parties.

SOUTH PASS was called "Cumberland Gap of the West." Here pioneers the Continental Divide gentle grade that was the wagons.

IN THIS IS THE PLACE HERITAGE PARK, a 60-foot-high monument honors the Mormon pioneers and others who explored the Great Basin.

LITTLE EMIGRATION CANYON was one of the last climbs before reaching Salt Lake Valley and is now marked by a 4-mile hiking trail from **MORMON FLAT** to **BIG MOUNTAIN PASS** where the emigrants caught the first view of their new home. An additional hiking trail extends another 5 miles from the top of the pass, down Dell Canyon to Little Dell Reservoir.

LEGEND

- Mo pto (no)
- Mo pto (vis)

