

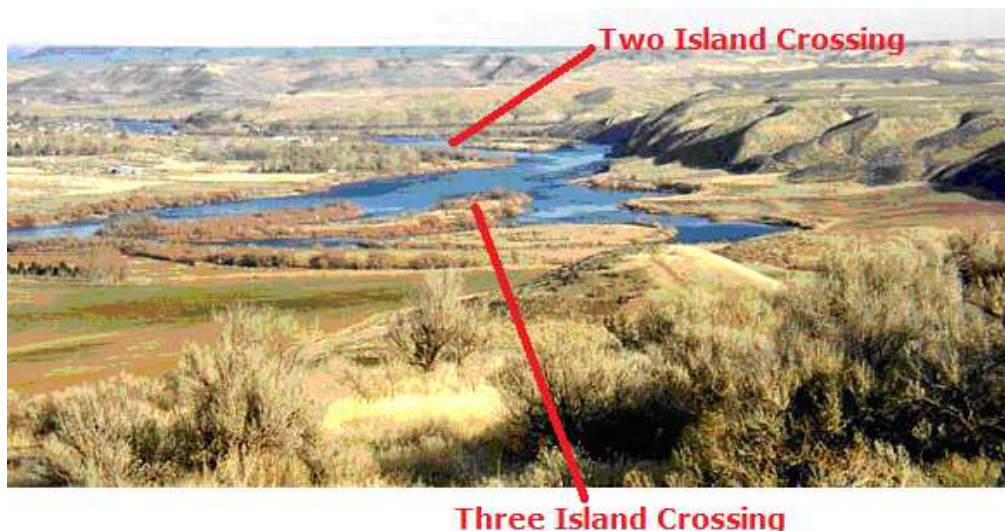
# Three Island Crossing Loop Drive

Follow these directions to view Three Island Crossing of the Snake River from a bluff on the south side of the river. There are interpretive signs and an excellent view of the crossing area from this vantage point. These directions will also guide you to the Three Island Crossing State Park on the north side of the river. The park has an interpretive center with a video of the crossing and a gift shop.

The following directions are taken from the BLM Oregon Trail Scenic Byway booklet which is being developed in cooperation with the Idaho chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association. All written material and photographs by Jerry Eichhorst. Prepared for personal, non-commercial use for the [www.idahocta.org](http://www.idahocta.org) website.

## Mile    Directions

- 0        Exit 121 from Interstate 84. Go south 150 feet.
- 0.0     Turn left onto Frontage Road and go under the railroad tracks.
- 0.5     Turn left onto Pasadena Valley Road at the stop sign. Gustavus Glenn built a ferry just downstream from the bridge over the Snake River in 1863 which was used by freighters on the Kelton Road transporting freight from the railroad at Kelton, Utah.
- 0.9     Turn right onto Rosevear Road.
- 3.2     **Rosevear Gulch.** Some emigrants crossed the Snake River at the mouth of Rosevear Gulch at what is known as **Two Island Crossing** by using their wagon boxes as ferries. The water was too deep to ford the wagons at this location so those that crossed here had to caulk their wagons and float them across. Men would swim across the river carrying ropes and then pull the wagons across. The animals were forced to swim across the river. Others came to the Snake River at this location to water their animals, then went over the ridges and down the river to Three Island Crossing.



- 4.3 Oregon Trail ruts below road on the right.
- 4.4 Oregon Trail variant comes down on the left.
- 4.7 Oregon Trail crosses road from the left.
- 4.8 Turn right onto Slick Ranch Road.
- 4.9 Oregon Trail variant crosses from the southeast. There are several variants in the next mile approaching the Snake River. Many of these trail remnants on public land are marked with white posts.
- 5.7 Turn right onto gravel road with green cattle guard. There are good ruts which can be seen on top of the mesa approaching Three Island Crossing. Several routes were taken by the emigrants to get down the bluffs to the edge of the Snake River and many of these are still clearly visible. This area is Idaho State Parks land.
- 6.2 Parking area for the **Three Island Crossing Overlook**. Follow the gravel walkway toward the river to the overlook and interpretive signs. Although there are three islands at this location, only two were used in the crossing. Strong currents, deep water, and hidden holes caused difficulties and drownings as the emigrants forded the Snake River here. Return to Slick Ranch Road when finished at the overlook.



- 6.8 Turn right onto Slick Ranch Road.
- 8.2 Good view of Three Island Crossing upstream. Oregon Trail variant is clearly visible winding down ridge to the right.
- 10.1 Turn right onto Sailor Creek Road at the stop sign. Cross the Snake River on Slick Bridge.
- 10.7 Cross the railroad tracks and turn left.

- 10.8 Turn right onto Highway 30 at the stop sign.
- 12.4 Turn right onto 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue just before the hamburger stand and continue through downtown Glens Ferry.
- 13.0 Turn right onto Commercial Street.
- 13.5 Turn right onto Madison.
- 14.5 Turn left into **Three Island Crossing State Park**. There is a small fee to enter the park. Idaho's state park dedicated to the Oregon Trail contains an interpretive center and large full-hookup campground. Oregon Trail ruts are visible between the river and the interpretive center. A reenactment of the emigrant crossing of the Snake River occurs the second Saturday of August each year. Additional information about the park may be found at [www.stateparks.com/three\\_island\\_crossing.html](http://www.stateparks.com/three_island_crossing.html).
- 15.0 **Interpretive Center**. The interpretive center shows a film about the Oregon Trail. It has excellent displays and a gift shop.



Return to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in downtown Glens Ferry by turning right onto Madison and left onto Commercial.

- 17.0 Turn right (east) onto 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue to proceed to Interstate 84 with eastbound and westbound access.