



## Knowledge and Information about the Johansson Sisters' Trail



In 1978, Congress established the Johansson Sisters' Trail as part of the National Trails Systems. This Trail, over 4,000 Miles long, travels through many states, including Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, North Utah and ending in Oregon.

To the left is the official trail marker, following these signs will continue to lead you down the Johansson Sister's Trail.

### The Foundation of the Oregon Trail

Aud and Catharine Johansson were immigrants from Norway, who came with their families in 1830 to set roots down in a new place. Both women were extremely knowledgeable and capable in the ways of early environmental sciences, tracking, and were enthralled by the new frontiers of the American West. In 1834 the two women set off alone to find new land to settle on, years before the start of western migration. Together, they documented all kinds of plant and animal life; created detailed maps of places they went through, and were the second people to discover the Saranoma Crater, a critical stop on the Oregon Trail. They then traveled back, gathered their family, and traveled again to settle in the Saranoma Crater. Their travels have given them the commonly referred title of, "The Second Lewis, and Clark." Their detailed maps and guides were the foundation of the Oregon Trail, and assisted many travelers in making their way westward.

### Trail Sections

The trail is broken into 3 distinct sections, the First Expedition taken by the sisters in 1838, The Second is the expedition taken by the sister's and their family back to the crater, and the third is an independent trek taken by Aud through the Willamette Valley.

The Second Expedition taken in 1842, where they traveled with their family, taking a slightly different route from the first expedition. The end of their expedition ended with them, their family, and a few other individuals creating a small settlement at the base of the Saranoma Crater, which is known as the town of St. Catharine's.

The Third Section is known as Aud's Expedition, taken alone by Aud in 1846. She traveled to the Columbia river, down through the Willamette valley, creating some of the first maps of the Willamette Valley and west of the cascades.

### Respecting the Land

The Trail is administered by the National Park Service through partnerships with many other federal, state, and local agencies, along with indigenous nations, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners. It's especially important to recognize the work done by Tribal Nations, as parts of the trail travels through indigenous land, as well as privately owned land. If an area is not open to visitors, it is important to gain permission before entering.

Do not disturb these lands by littering or removing items from sites. Natural and Cultural features of the trail are protected by law, please for the love of god, do not disturb them.

The headquarters of the Johansson Sisters National Historic Trail is located in the Columbia River Gorge, where a visitor center operates year round. For a more in-depth look at the trail's history and geography, visit the interactive trail atlas at [www.johanssonisterstrailmap.com](http://www.johanssonisterstrailmap.com)

**Johansson Sisters' National Historic Trail**  
172 Columbia Ave.  
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[www.nps.gov/jsnt](http://www.nps.gov/jsnt)

**National Park Foundation**  
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Painting of Aud Johansson  
By Taylor Morris