TRAVEL OREGON

Oregon's stunning natural attractions – romantic beaches, rugged Pacific coastline, snow-capped mountains, fertile valleys and wine country, deep scenic gorges, majestic high deserts, and pristine rivers and lakes – make the state a "must" on "Best of the West" itineraries.

Nonstop service from London, Frankfurt, Japan, Mexico, Iceland, Canada and The Netherlands make Oregon an easy destination for experienced and first-time visitors.

Oregon is well-known for outdoor recreation, cultural and culinary attractions, Native American culture and Oregon Trail history. Activities include year-round skiing/snowboarding, whale watching, fishing, rafting, hiking, golfing, birding, horseback riding and boat cruising – not to mention, exquisite dining and value shopping with no sales tax!

A visit to Oregon will guarantee fantastic memories on any trip to the U.S. West!

Go West SUMMIT

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CLIMATE

Of the ten different climate zones that exist in the world, Oregon has seven. With a temperate zone along the coast and through the valleys of western Oregon, humidity is generally low, temperatures rarely go above 90°F (32°C) in the summer or below freezing in the winter.

Our snow-capped peaks feature alpine climates with snow from November through May. East of the Cascade Mountains, high and low temperatures are more extreme, with low precipitation.

For more precise information, visit the Oregon Climate Services website at https://oregonstate.edu/.

TOURISM ATTRACTIONS

Year-round skiing
Crater Lake National Park
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
High Desert Museum
Multnomah Falls
Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
Oregon Caves National Monument
Oregon Coast Aquarium
Oregon Garden
Lan Su Chinese Garden
Portland Food Carts
Portland Spirit and Sternwheeler
Lewis & Clark National Historic Park/Fort Clatsop
Portland Japanese Garden
Statewide Saturday Markets
Tamástslikt Cultural Institute
Tax-free Shopping
Timberline Lodge
Wineries
9 Lighthouses

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DAY 1: ARRIVE IN PORTLAND

Arrive at Portland International Airport, named best airport in the U.S. by Travel + Leisure for six years in a row, and take MAX light rail for an easy ride into Portland, this always-evolving city.

Energize with Stumptown coffee and explore Portland's deep – and sometimes a bit shady – history. What's in the nick name: "Stumptown" – during an earlier period of phenomenal growth in Portland after 1847, there were more stumps than trees in Portland to make room for roads. Take a Third Wave Coffee tour to taste more than coffee. Buy a pound of Stumptown beans or any of the many other coffees and take it home to make your visit last.

DAY 2: PORTLAND

Start your day with breakfast at Slappy Cakes with DIY pancakes (and a full bar…) and immerse yourself into becoming a Maker today.

Portland's deep love for the skill to make things by hand, this love for craft, gives us the more recent nick names "Beervana" and "Makers City." The craft of creating excellent micro-beers, world-famous wines, spirits, and cider, and chefs laboring over one plate – the culinary scene is now talked about worldwide. Simply, in Portland taste the hand-crafted food from fresh ingredients and beverages made of the clearest water. Choose to be a maker and take your beautifully crafted things home from ADX Makerspace and DIY Bar.

Enjoy lunch at one of the 600 food carts that helped to put Portland on the international map of culinary destinations. Spend your afternoon taking in Portland from above in an exciting (and affordable) helicopter ride or hop-on-hop-off tour.

Enjoy your evening with live music at one of the many festivals or music venues in Portland's diverse neighborhoods like Mississippi Studios, Alberta Rose Theatre, Doug Fir Lounge, Crystal Ballroom and many others.

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DAY 3: PORTLAND

Brunch and breakfast is not only enjoyed in Portland, it is celebrated. Make sure you ask locals for their favorite spot.

With over 100 years of rose history in our city, Portland is also known as the City of Roses. Smell the roses at the International Rose Test Garden. Visit during three weeks in June for the annual Rose Festival, or anytime in the year – roses bloom until hit by frost – often blooming into December.

An afternoon spent in the Portland Japanese Garden and Lan Su Chinese Garden – both considered incredibly authentic, built by craftsmen from their own countries and cultures – will add a transformative value to your visit.

In the afternoon join a bike or walking tour with one of the professional local companies for a tour of the City of Bridges with the newest – Tilikum Crossing – a showcase of Portland's values as the largest bridge in the U.S. built solely for public transportation, bike and pedestrian lanes (no cars!) and named to honor our first people, the Tilikum.

This evening, get swept up with Portlanders' famous fandom in RIP City and Soccer City USA, as you experience a Trail Blazers NBA basketball game, or a Timbers or Thorns soccer match.

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DAY 4: THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE TO PENDLETON

Kilometers: 336 | Miles: 209 | Driving Time: 3hr 15min

When you drive east of Portland along I-84, you'll encounter the jaw-dropping beauty of the Columbia River Gorge, a glacially carved 70-mile canyon that forms the border between Oregon and Washington. Spend the morning visiting the corridor's signature attractions, including the Vista House, a 1917 octagonal structure set on a 725-foot-tall rampart that affords mesmerizing panoramas of the river. Also be sure to have a look at 620-foot Multnomah Falls, arguably the most stunning (and one of the most accessible) of several impressive waterfalls situated along the narrow, two-lane Historic Columbia River Highway Scenic Byway.

Stop for lunch in Hood River, where you'll find plenty of excellent dining options in the walkable downtown, including the acclaimed Double Mountain Brewery & Taproom. Next, venture a bit inland from the Columbia Gorge to the ranching and farming center of Pendleton, which is famous for the colorful blankets and textiles produced by Pendleton Woolen Mills, and for hosting one of the nation's largest rodeos, the Pendleton Round-Up in September.

Also in Pendleton, the Happy Canyon Indian Pageant and Wild West Show – a tradition since 1916 – delights spectators with its rollicking theatrical presentation of Eastern Oregon's colorful pioneer and Native American heritage. And no trip to Pendleton is complete without stopping to browse the colorful and ornate hand-tooled leather boots, classic cowboy hats, and other fine art and accessories at Hamley & Co. Western Store, a fixture in downtown since 1905. As the sun sets over picturesque Pendleton, enjoy a leisurely cowboy-style steak dinner at Virgil's at Cimmiyotti's, a favorite choice for more than 60 years. Overnight in Pendleton.

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DAY 5: PENDLETON TO MITCHELL

Kilometers: 287 | Miles: 178 | Driving Time: 3hr 30min

Before departing Pendleton, grab a coffee and pastry for the road at The Pendleton Coffee Bean & Bistro and drive south on U.S. 395 toward the Painted Hills, the most picturesque section of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, where fossils dating back more than 33 million years have been found. You can soak up impressive views of the hills – which are layered dramatically in shades of auburn, red, brown and black – from the rugged but short Carroll Rim Trail.

After exploring the Painted Hills, continue to Mitchell – a small pioneer town located in Eastern Oregon just 9 miles/12 kilometers from the Painted Hills. The town is situated in a rugged canyon right off Highway 26 with an remarkable rock formation, the Mitchell Rock, looming above the town's entrance and two impressive hills, Black Butte and White Butte, rising in distance. Overnight in Mitchell.

DAY 6: MITCHELL TO BEND

Kilometers: 133 | Miles: 82.6 | Driving Time: 1hr 45min

In the early morning, depart Mitchell for one of Oregon's most visually impressive geological sites, Smith Rock State Park, a 650-acre tract of soaring rock spires bisected by a meandering river. Experienced rock climbers flock here, but it's also a rewarding destination for a light hike and perhaps, a picnic lunch.

In the afternoon, drive to the beautiful city of Bend, which is known for its lively downtown of foodie-approved breweries, cafes and bistros. On the outskirts of town, Crux Fermentation Project has become a favorite stop for fans of complex beers created using unusual methods such as open fermentation and adding wild yeast strains or little-known varieties of hops. Crux produces some of the most distinctive ales in the state, from farmhouse-style saisons to zesty IPAs. In the heart of downtown, at the iconic Deschutes Brewery, you'll find both tasty pub fare (try the elk burger with brown-sugar-chipotle mayo) and an extensive menu of classic Oregon-style craft beers. The Pinedrops IPA imparts the piney notes of the region's verdant forests, while the Twilight Shandy is a refreshing combination of Twilight Summer Ale and locally brewed Humm Kombucha. Overnight in Bend.

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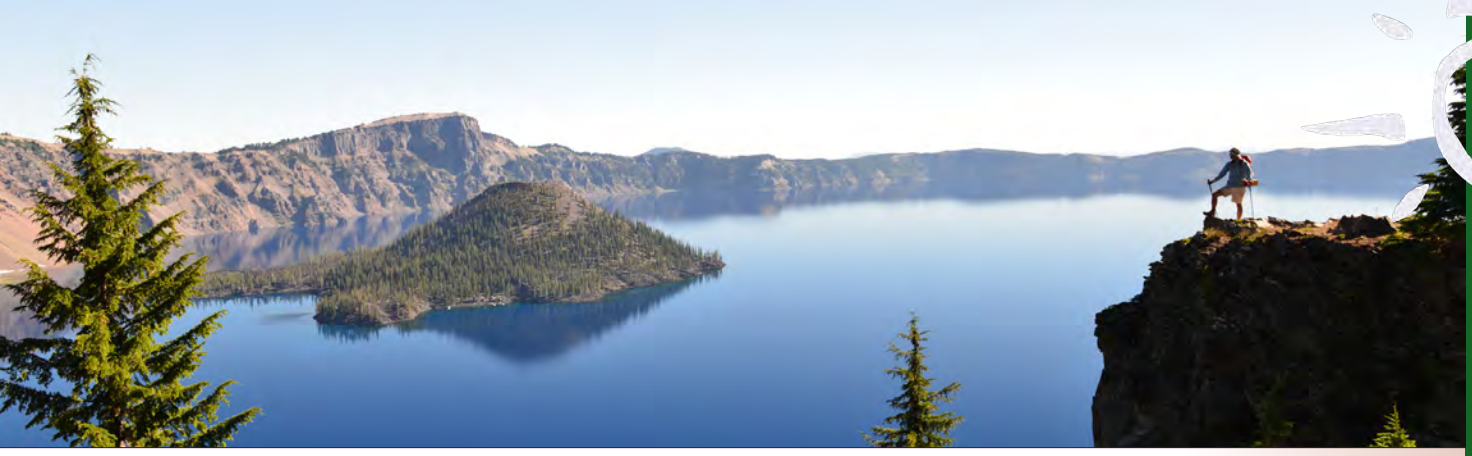

DAY 7: BEND TO CRATER NATIONAL PARK

Kilometers: 146 | Miles: 90.6 | Driving Time: 1hr 36min

In the morning, you can easily explore the ancient – and dramatic – geological forces that have shaped Central Oregon's mesmerizing landscape. Begin your day with a visit to nearby Newberry National Volcanic Monument and Lava Lands, a massive, starkly beautiful 54,000-acre expanse of crimson and black lava fields and basalt formations punctuated by rippling lakes. You can drive to the rim of the 500-foot-tall Lava Butte and gaze into its volcanic crater, and trek through the fascinating 1-mile-long Lava River Cave (lantern rentals are available at the park visitor center).

Afterward, depart for a 2 hour drive to Crater Lake National Park. Crater Lake is the deepest body of water in the United States; this crystal clear, sapphire-blue lake formed inside the caldera of Mt. Mazama, a volcano that exploded in spectacular fashion roughly 7,700 years ago. Make time for the 33-mile auto tour around Rim Drive, where you'll encounter numerous scenic viewpoints that offer awesome photo opportunities. Take a scenic narrated cruise around the lake with a stop at Wizard Island (a volcanic cinder cone), and have lunch at the grand Crater Lake Lodge, built in 1915. The restaurant overlooks the lake and has a terrace with majestic water and mountain views, and the kitchen specializes in locally sourced Northwest fare, including a blackberry-marionberry-raspberry cobbler that's justly famous. Overnight night at Crater Lake Lodge or in Prospect.

DAY 8: CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK TO ASHLAND

Kilometers: 178 | Miles: 75 | Driving Time: 1hr 30 min

From Crater Lake, make your way to outdoorsy and creative college town of Ashland, which is famous for its annual Shakespeare Festival (performances run from mid-February through October). The city's charming, tree-shaded downtown also abounds with distinctive shops and culinary destinations, from organic cafes to sophisticated farm-to-table restaurants. Start your stroll around town by fueling up with a handcrafted Americano or cold-brew iced coffee from Noble Coffee Roasting, which sources its fair-trade beans from small farms in Colombia, Ethiopia, Bali and other coffee meccas, roasting beans daily on premises. If it's a nice day, sip your coffee while sauntering through downtown's leafy Lithia Park, a verdant 93-acre patch of lawns, gardens, duck ponds and forestland featuring a gurgling creek fed by mineral springs. Over a three-day weekend in early March, the Oregon Chocolate Festival takes place at the inviting Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites and features the distinctive and delicious products of more than 30 artisan chocolatiers from throughout the nation, including several Oregon based companies. You can view dramatic chocolate sculptures, stroll a chocolate-themed downtown art walk, feast at a special chocolate maker's dinner, attend a variety of workshops and chef demos, and (of course) sample dozens of amazing chocolate bars, candies and confections. Overnight in Ashland.

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DAY 9: ASHLAND TO EUGENE

Kilometers: 178 | Miles: 287 | Driving Time: 2hr 45min

From Ashland, depart for Eugene with a stop in Grants Pass, the starting point for adrenaline-producing white-water rafting and jet-boat trips along the Rogue River, a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River that courses through some of Southern Oregon's most dramatic scenery. Some outfitters in Grants Pass also offer more relaxed float adventures along the Rogue, including Paddled Pub, which provides participants with a chance to sample craft beer while enjoying the river breezes and passing scenery. Paddled Pub excursions depart at noon and 3:45 p.m. from popular Climate City Brewing Company in downtown Grants Pass. Continue on your way to Eugene with a stop at the campus of the University of Oregon to see Eugene's nearly century-old Hayward Field, one of the most celebrated venues in the country for track-and-field competitions. Just a few blocks west of campus in Eugene's vibrant downtown, Falling Sky Brewing is ideal for hearty dinner fare and well-crafted, European-inspired beers, including Bare Hands Northwest Bitter and Blue Balloon Belgian Pale Ale. Overnight in Eugene.

DAY 10: EUGENE TO NEWPORT VIA FLORENCE

Kilometers: 177.4 | Miles: 110.3 | 2hr 45min

From Eugene make the picturesque, 90-minute drive west to the Oregon Coast and Old Town Florence. Florence boasts several blocks of art galleries, gift shops and seafood eateries. After exploring Old Town, stop in for an espresso at Siuslaw River Coffee Roasters, overlooking the historic Siuslaw River Bridge. Continue north up U.S. 101, also known as the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway, where you'll be treated to spectacular ocean views from rocky bluffs and along sweeping beaches. Be sure to visit Heceta Head Lighthouse, a 56-foot-tall, late-19th-century beacon that shines the brightest beam of any lighthouse in the state. End your day about an hour's drive north in the historic bayfront district of Newport, which has an extensive selection of seaside hotels and fun, family-friendly attractions, as well as some of the best seafood eateries around. Both a retail market and an upscale restaurant with seating overlooking Yaquina Bay, Local Ocean Seafoods serves delectable dinner fare, including whole-cooked local Dungeness crab and seared Oregon albacore tuna kebabs. Also, don't miss the awe inspiring Oregon Coast Aquarium. Overnight in Newport.

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DAY 11: NEWPORT TO ASTORIA

Kilometers: 214 | Miles: 133 | Driving Time: 2hr 15min

From Newport, head north along U.S. 101 to Astoria with a stop in Depoe Bay to see Grey Whales right from the shore. Continue on to the artistic town of Cannon Beach for lunch. Cannon Beach is known for its galleries and boutiques, and views of the scenic wildlife sanctuary, Haystack Rock. After, drive to the bustling town of Astoria, home to John Jacob Astor's fur-trading post in the early 1800s – now a port-of-call for Alaska-bound cruise ships. Visit the Columbia River Maritime Museum and the Astoria Column and Fort Clatsop, the reconstructed winter headquarters of Lewis & Clark National Historic Park. After, enjoy dinner in this revitalized city at Buoy Brewing. Overnight in Astoria.

DAY 12: ASTORIA TO WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Kilometers: 164 | Miles: 102 | Driving Time: 2hr 15min

In the morning, depart Astoria for the Willamette Valley, home to more than 700 wineries. Here, you'll discover one of the world's most renowned regions for pinot noir. Other varietals that star in the 5,200-square-mile Willamette Valley AVA (American Viticultural Area) include pinot gris and chardonnay. Noted for its sleek, rectilinear tasting room, the LEED-certified Sokol Blosser Winery ranks among the Northwest's pioneers in sustainability, having earned numerous awards for its organic, balanced, berryforward pinot noirs. You'll find a bounty of first-rate restaurants as well as additional winery tasting rooms in the towns of Newberg and McMinnville, which are both rewarding stops. Overnight in the Willamette Valley.

DAY 13: DEPART FROM PDX

Kilometers: 95 | Miles: 59 | Driving Time: 1hr 10min

Take a leisurely drive through the Willamette Valley as you make your way back to Portland International Airport. Enjoy your time there and experience everything all over again: live music, local restaurants and food markets, locally owned stores like Timberline and Tender Loving Empire, Hollywood Theater, just like in Northeast Portland, just a bit smaller.

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FUN FACTS ABOUT OREGON

- Oregon is the 10th largest state in the Union, covering 97,073 square miles/156,223 square kilometers.
- 363 miles/584 kilometers of Public Beach.
- Oregon has no sales tax.
- Oregon's birthday is Valentine's Day, February 14, 1859.
- There are more than 6,000 lakes and 112,000 miles/180,246 kilometers of rivers and streams
- Oregon's National Park, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States. Stack up the Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty and the Washington Monument and you still haven't reached the top!
- Hells Canyon is the deepest gorge in North America, deeper than the Grand Canyon.
- There are currently 17 ghost towns in Oregon.

CONTACT US!

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