

The OREGON Treasures Quest

2026 Guide to Oregon's Treasures

*Treasures worth exploring in each of Oregon's 36 counties
Brought to you by Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley*

Join the Oregon Treasures
Quest Party in November!

Visit 10+ counties and share
selfies for a ticket.

See details on page 3 or
visit merkley.senate.gov.

Photo Credit from Cover (left to right): Rowena Crest (Team Merkley); Klamath Wild and Scenic River, Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management; Waterfall along Timberline Road in the Cascade Mountains, Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives; Yaquina Head Lighthouse, Meredith Matherly, Bureau of Land Management; Rock Formations at Leslie Gulch, Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives; Otter Point Recreation Site at Gold Beach, Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives.



A NOTE FROM JEFF

Oregon is the most spectacular place. Every one of our 36 counties has exciting and rewarding places to explore. Since 2024, hundreds of people have participated in the Oregon Treasures Quest Challenge.

I hope this book will help you find and enjoy sites throughout our state. And should you choose to accept it, we offer you the 2026 Oregon Treasures Quest Challenge.

Visit at least 10 different counties between January 1, 2026 and October 15, 2026 to participate in the Oregon Treasures Quest Challenge. To qualify for this challenge, you must visit sites that are listed in the main descriptions or the "You May Also Want to Explore..." section of this book. Document your visits by sending us selfies with the sites in the background through our web form, and if you reach Oregon Ranger status, you will win an invitation to the 2026 Oregon Treasures Quest Party, to be held near the end of the year.

Visit:	And be recognized as an:
10 sites in 10 counties	Oregon Ranger
25 sites in 25 counties	Oregon Trailblazer
36 sites in 36 counties	Oregon Explorer

Visit www.merkley.senate.gov/connect/oregon-treasures-quest for FAQs and more information on how to submit your selfies and win an invitation to the 2026 Oregon Treasures Quest Party.

It is a great honor to represent the people of Oregon in the U.S. Senate. I hope you will enjoy visiting every county of the state as much as I have.



SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

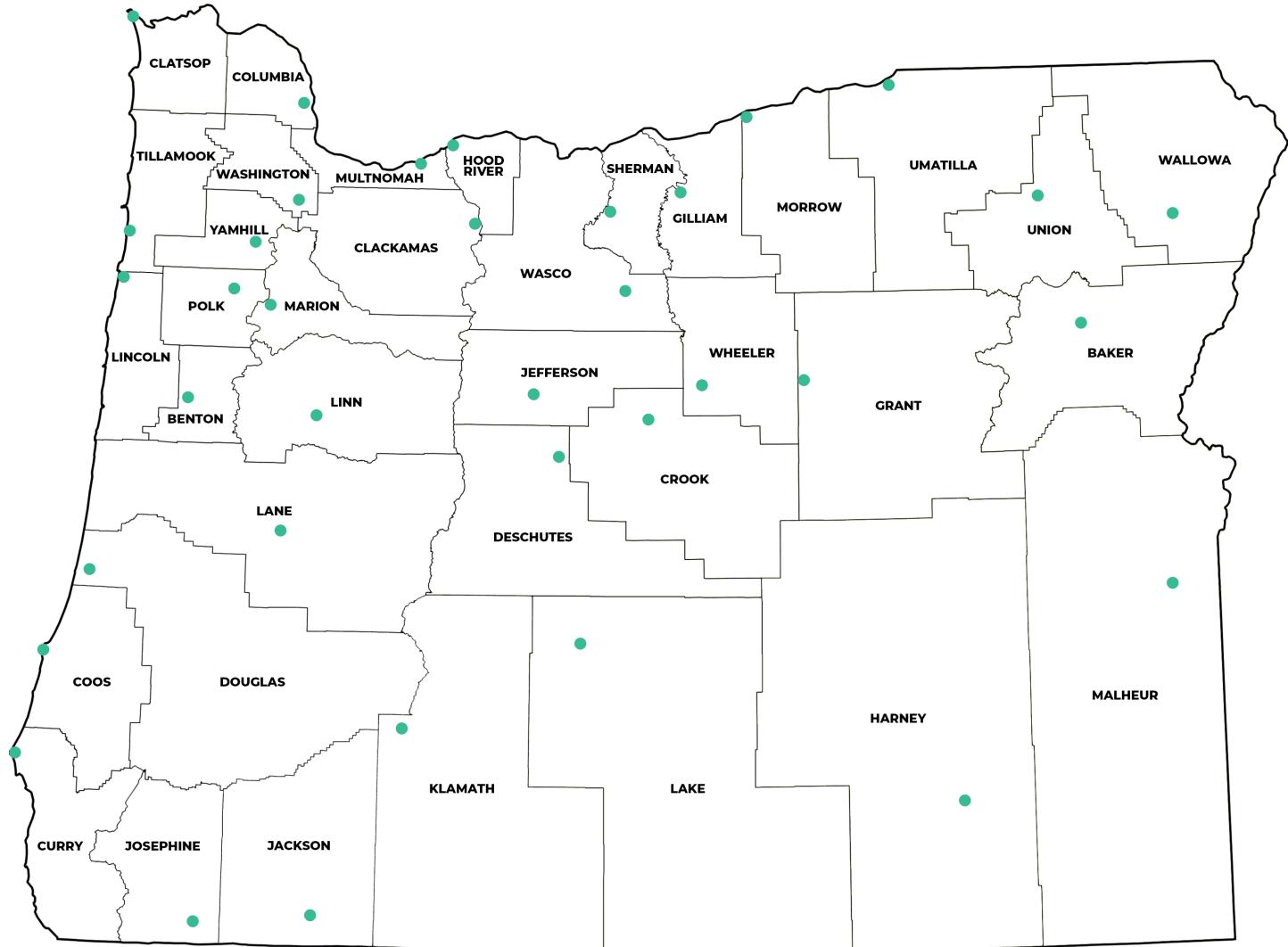
Please Note: The Oregon Treasures Quest book is not a comprehensive list of all the wonderful sites to visit in the state. The book doesn't include either annual events staged by communities or private attractions. For additional opportunities, please consult city and county tourist bureaus and TravelOregon.com, a comprehensive website presented by our state tourist bureau. Travel Oregon also maintains a calendar of Oregon events you may wish to check out when planning your Quest visits.

Many of these treasures are located in the natural world, and may be subject to damage from natural disasters, seasonal closures, and other accessibility challenges. I encourage you to visit the federal, state, and local government websites linked throughout this book for more information on ADA accessibility.

Email my team with questions or suggestions at OregonTreasuresQuest@Merkley.senate.gov.



MAP OF OREGON



The dots indicate locations spotlighted in this Oregon Treasures Quest booklet.

For more information about any of the sites mentioned in this booklet—and beyond—please visit TravelOregon.com.

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Baker County



National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center: The newly upgraded National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is a must-visit destination in Baker County. The Center is located just outside of Baker City on 500 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and contains Oregon Trail exhibits, four miles of interpretive trails, theater presentations, and historical artifacts including actual wheel ruts from covered wagons. All of it paints a vivid picture of the emigrant experience along the Oregon Trail out West.

For more information: Visit blm.gov and search “Oregon Trail Interpretive Center”

You may also want to explore...

- [Historic Downtown Baker City](#)
- [Snake River Canyon](#)
- [Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Site](#)

Benton County



*Marys Peak in Benton County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Marys Peak: Did you know Marys Peak in Benton County is the highest point in Oregon's Coast Range? On a clear day, hikers can see the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Cascade Mountains to the east while standing at the 4,097 foot summit. Called tcha Timanwi, or “place of spiritual power” by the native Kalapuya, this jewel in the Siuslaw National Forest offers several excellent hikes for all experience levels and was designated a Scenic Botanical Area because of its wide range of dazzling wildflowers throughout the spring and summer.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/siuslaw and search “Marys Peak”

You may also want to explore...

- [Alsea Falls](#)
- [William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Bald Hill Natural Area](#)

Clackamas County



Timberline Lodge in Clackamas County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

Timberline Lodge: Perched on iconic Mt. Hood, Timberline Lodge is a historic ski lodge in Clackamas County. As a massive undertaking that was born out of the New Deal during the Great Depression, and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1977, this Oregon treasure is the perfect blend of incredible alpine views and local art and history that's even inspired Hollywood movies. Whether you want to hit the slopes, hike, view wildlife, or just take in a stunning mountain landscape, the sprawling 55,000 square foot Timberline Lodge is a must-see destination that embodies all the beauty and grit of the Great Northwest.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/mthood and navigate to the "Destinations" tab on the "Visit Us" drop down menu

You may also want to explore...

- [Old Salmon River Trail](#)
- [Trillium Lake](#)
- [The Oregon City Municipal Elevator](#)

Clatsop County



Shipwreck of the Peter Iredale in Fort Stevens State Park in Clatsop County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

Shipwreck of the Peter Iredale: In 1906, the Peter Iredale, a four-masted English ship, ran ashore on the Clatsop Spit en route to Portland. Miraculously, all 27 crew members (and two stowaways) survived the wreck and the ship's hull was left intact. But by the time the weather cleared up enough to tow the ship back out to sea, the ship was already embedded in the sand and has remained there ever since. Visitors to Clatsop County's Fort Stevens State Park can still see the century-old ghostly remains of the Iredale's bow and ribs on the beach.

For more information: Visit stateparks.oregon.gov and search “Fort Stevens”

You may also want to explore...

- [The Astoria Column](#)
- [Oregon Film Museum](#)
- [Haystack Rock](#)
- [Driving on Sunset Beach](#)

Columbia County



Scappoose Bay in Columbia County.
(Source: Port of Columbia County)

You can't miss...

Scappoose Bay Marine Park: Kayaking or stand-up paddle boarding around Scappoose Bay Marine Park are two of the best ways to witness the beauty of Columbia County. The bay itself is an 85,000-acre magical array of wetlands, streams, channels, and islands that serve as the perfect place to see migrating birds and native fish like Chinook and coho salmon.

For more information: Visit portofcolumbiacounty.org and search “Scappoose Bay”

You may also want to explore...

- [The Crown Z Trail](#)
- [Old Town St. Helens](#)
- [Watts Pioneer Museum & Heritage Site](#)

Coos County



*Cape Arago State Park in Coos County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Cape Arago State Park: Nestled in Coos County north of Bandon, Cape Arago State Park is a gem! Travel to the end of the iconic Cape Arago Highway to take in the sweeping views of our beautiful Oregon coast and stretch your legs on one of the park's many hiking trails. Whether you want to watch seals, sea lions, or migrating whales, make sure to bring your binoculars so you don't miss any of the wildlife the park has to offer.

For more information: Visit oregon.gov and search for "Cape Arago State Park"

You may also want to explore...

- [Face Rock](#)
- [Coquille Falls](#)
- [Coquille River Lighthouse](#)
- [Golden and Silver Falls State Natural Area](#)
- [South Slough Reserve](#)

Crook County



Steins Pillar in Crook County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

Steins Pillar: Formed 44 million years ago, Steins Pillar rises a towering 350 feet out of the slopes of the Ochoco Mountains. A favorite of rock climbers, if you're lucky you may catch a glimpse of brave climbers scaling the face of this natural wonder. If heights aren't for you, check out the Steins Pillar Trailhead for a family-friendly four mile out and back hike to the base of the pillar, winding through a sea of Ponderosa pines and ancient Junipers. **Tip:** May is a great time to hike this trail—you'll find yourself immersed in the balsamroot, paintbrush, and lupine wildflowers blooming along the trail.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/ochoco and search “Steins Pillar”

You may also want to explore...

- [Ochoco National Forest Mines](#)
- [Bowman Museum](#)
- [Lower Crooked River Back Country Byway](#)

Curry County



*Cape Blanco Lighthouse in Curry County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Cape Blanco State Park and Lighthouse: Perch yourself on the sweeping bluffs of Cape Blanco State Park in Curry County for a panoramic view of the Pacific. As the westernmost point of land in Oregon, this stunning coastline is a prime spot to whale watch and catch unforgettable sunrises and sunsets. It is also home to the Cape Blanco Lighthouse—the state's oldest continuously operating lighthouse that's been guiding the way home for travelers and fishermen since 1870. You can take a tour of this historical gem in the warmer months.

For more information: Visit blm.gov and search “Cape Blanco”

You may also want to explore...

- [Redwood Trail #1111](#)
- [Natural Bridges Viewpoint](#)
- [Cove Trail at Port Orford Heads State Park](#)

Deschutes County



*Smith Rock State Park in Deschutes County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Smith Rock State Park: Dubbed the “Birthplace of American Sport Climbing,” Smith Rock State Park in Deschutes County boasts the first climb in America that established the 5.14 grade—one of the most technically-difficult ratings in the sport. Famed climber Alan Watts was key to putting this spectacular spot to “hang” out on the map in the 1980s, as he elevated Smith Rock’s incredible crags and cracks to new heights. Today, the park has thousands of climbing routes on walls like Monkey Face, Morning Glory, and The Marsupials, as well as many miles of hiking and mountain biking trails. And, to top it off, the Crooked River runs through the middle of the park, making it a picturesque, “pitch” perfect paradise in Central Oregon’s High Desert.

For more information: Visit stateparks.oregon.gov and search “Smith Rock”

You may also want to explore...

- [Lava River Cave Interpretive Site](#)
- [High Desert Museum](#)
- [Three Sisters Wilderness](#)
- [The “Big Red” Ponderosa tree](#)

Douglas County



*Sand dunes at Umpqua Beach in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area in Douglas County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area: The stunning Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area in coastal Douglas County blends a rare combination of ocean, forest, rivers, lakes, and desert-like landscapes all into one location. The 40-mile-long dunes spread inland about 2.5 miles and tower as high as 500 feet above sea level in some spots, making them the largest coastal dune system in North America. A visit to Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area provides endless opportunities to see diverse wildlife, delicate ecosystems, and embark on unique outdoor adventures like sandboarding and ATV rides. It's a place so special that it inspired Frank Herbert's classic science-fiction "Dune" book series, which has been turned into major Hollywood blockbusters.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/siuslaw and search "Oregon Dunes"

You may also want to explore...

- [Umpqua Toketee Hot Springs](#)
- [Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area](#)
- [Devil's Staircase Wilderness](#)
- [Umpqua River Lighthouse](#)
- [World's tallest sugar pine](#)
- [Cavitt Creek Falls swimming hole](#)

Gilliam County



Cottonwood Canyon State Park in Gilliam County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

Cottonwood Canyon State Park: At over 8,000 acres, Cottonwood Canyon State Park in Gilliam County is one of Oregon's newest and largest state parks. Enveloped by vertical cliffs, the park features unmatched access to the John Day River—the longest free-flowing river west of the Rockies. At the park, you can fish for steelhead and smallmouth bass, hike old roads and trails into the outback, and pitch a tent. And for a real John Day adventure, canoe, kayak, or float down the 10 mile stretch of the river from the Cottonwood Bridge to the Starvation Lane take-out. **Tip:** Stick around for nightfall—Cottonwood has some of the best stargazing in the whole state.

For more information: Visit stateparks.oregon.gov and search “Cottonwood Canyon”

You may also want to explore...

- [Earl Snell Memorial Park](#)
- [Historic Main Street Condon](#)
- [City of Lonerock's “Lone Rock” and historic downtown](#)
- [Albert Phillipi Park](#)

Grant County



A fossil exhibit at the Thomas Condon Visitor Center in Grant County.
(Source: National Park Service/N. Famoso)

You can't miss...

John Day Fossil Beds - Sheep Rock Unit and Thomas Condon Visitor Center: Want to see remnants of ancient camels and rhinos and be floored by prehistoric flora and fauna? Then John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Grant County is for you! The Thomas Condon Visitor Center is a great place for families and friends to journey to the land before time to learn more about the world-renowned paleontology and geology of the region, and see a fantastic fossil record that spans over 40 million years. You can also take a hike through the colorful Sheep Rock Unit to see green layers of volcanic ash. Before leaving, walk the peaceful grounds of the Historic Cant Ranch, the headquarters for this monumental treasure.

For more information: Visit nps.gov and search “Thomas Condon Center”

You may also want to explore...

- [Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site](#)
- [Bates State Park](#)
- [Hiking in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness via picturesque Prairie City](#)
- [Canyon City Historic District](#)

Harney County



Steens Mountain in Harney County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

Steens Mountain: For starry nights, glacier-carved gorges, wild wilderness hikes, and top-notch hunting and fishing, Steens Mountain in Harney County reigns supreme. Take the 52-mile Steens Mountain Back Country Byway to reach campgrounds and catch stunning views from several high overlooks in the summer. When the full loop road is closed in the winter, try snowshoeing or snowmobiling in the larger Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area instead. There is just so much to offer in this whopping 428,000-acre jewel that's right in the heart of remote southeastern Oregon's high desert. **Tip:** Contact the Bureau of Land Management to ask about winter activities and closures before you go!

For more information: Visit blm.gov and search “Steens Mountain”

You may also want to explore...

- [Alvord Desert](#)
- [Pete French Round Barn](#)
- [Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Donner und Blitzen Wild and Scenic River](#)

Hood River County



*The Bridge of the Gods in Hood River County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Bridge of the Gods: Celebrate the 100th birthday of the Bridge of the Gods in 2026! Located in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge, the Bridge of the Gods gets its name from an Indigenous legend about a land bridge across the Columbia River that was destroyed by an earthquake hundreds of years ago. Today, hikers use the Bridge of the Gods as a connection point between Oregon and Washington on the Pacific Crest Trail, the sprawling 2,660-mile National Scenic Trail extending from Mexico to Canada. Keep an eye out for anniversary celebration events planned for Fall 2026!

For more information: Visit oregon.gov and search “Bridge of the Gods”

You may also want to explore...

- [The Spit and Event Site](#)
- [Hood River Fruit Loop](#)
- [Tamanawas Falls](#)

Jackson County



Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Jackson County.
(Source: Oregon Shakespeare Festival)

You can't miss...

See a Play at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival: Shall I compare thee, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, to a summer's day? Dazzling audiences since 1935, this magical experience in Jackson County has proven 'tis more lovely and more temperate than just about any festival around as it draws actors from across the globe to perform the iconic works of William Shakespeare on one of the festival's several stages. So, if you're asking yourself "to go or not to go" to a play at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, know this is unquestionably the best opportunity to see The Bard's canon brought to life on this side of the pond.

For more information: Visit osfashland.org

You may also want to explore...

- [Pilot Rock in Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument](#)
- [Mt. Ashland Grouse Gap Loop](#)
- [Grizzly Peak Trail](#)
- [Upper and Lower Table Rock Trails](#)
- [East Applegate Ridge Trail](#)

Jefferson County



*The Cove Palisades State Park in Jefferson County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

The Cove Palisades State Park: Endless recreational opportunities, including excellent hiking, camping, boating, fishing, and bird watching, await you at The Cove Palisades State Park in Jefferson County. This stunner in the state's center is located on the waters of Lake Billy Chinook, nestled deep within canyons formed by the Crooked, Deschutes, and Metolius rivers. With all of the canyons, rivers, and lakes (oh my!), this park is a relaxing slice of paradise that proves there's no place like Oregon.

For more information: Visit stateparks.oregon.gov and search "Cove Palisades"

You may also want to explore...

- [The Museum at Warm Springs](#)
- [Black Butte fire lookout](#)
- [Tam-A-Lau Loop Hike](#)
- [Crooked River High Bridge](#)
- [Metolius Balancing Rocks](#)

Josephine County



Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve in Josephine County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

The Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve: Call it Oregon's very own Cave of Wonders! Buried within the Siskiyou Mountains in Josephine County you'll find The Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve—a labyrinth of bends, twists, and treasures that will truly allow you to explore a mountain from the inside and out. A hunter named Elijah Davidson came across the cave in 1874 while chasing after his dog who went in after a bear, and the cave went on to become the state's first national monument in 1909. Visit the "Marble Halls of Oregon" for yourself to see the colorful rocks of the cave that appear painted from the eons of acidic water that seeped into them. **Tip:** If you are super adventurous, check out the "Off Trail Caving Tour" opportunity and be sure to schedule ahead to secure your tour slot.

For more information: Visit nps.gov and search "Oregon Caves"

You may also want to explore...

- [Hellgate Recreation Area](#)
- [Grants Pass Caveman](#)
- [Wolf Creek Inn State Heritage Site](#)
- [Dollar Mountain Trail System](#)

Klamath County



Crater Lake National Park in Klamath County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

Crater Lake National Park: There is nothing else like Crater Lake on Earth. It was formed nearly 8,000 years ago when Mount Mazama erupted so forcefully that its tall peak collapsed in on itself and formed a deep caldera in Klamath County. Over the last 700 years, that caldera filled with rain and snow, creating Crater Lake—the deepest lake in the United States at nearly 2,000 feet, and the clearest and cleanest large body of water in the world. There are endless adventures awaiting you at Oregon's only national park.

For more information: Visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov/crla) and search “Crater Lake”

You may also want to explore...

- [Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Spence Mountain](#)
- [Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Jackson F. Kimball State Recreation Site](#)
- [Williamson River for trout fishing](#)

Lake County



Fort Rock State Natural Area in Lake County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

Fort Rock: Jutting out amid the barren and flat landscape of the Oregon High Desert, Fort Rock in Lake County demands to be noticed. Standing 200 feet tall and nearly 4,500 feet wide, it is believed to be the result of magma forcefully rising to the surface of a prehistoric lake. Archaeological expeditions have also unearthed countless artifacts belonging to Indigenous peoples of the region, including the famous “Fort Rock Sandals” which have been dated to more than 9,000 years old—that’s not just the oldest footwear found in Oregon, but the oldest on Earth.

For more information: Visit stateparks.oregon.gov and search “Fort Rock”

You may also want to explore...

- [Old Perpetual Geyser](#)
- [Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Site](#)
- [Historic Downtown Paisley](#)
- [Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge](#)

Lane County



*Dorena Covered Bridge in Lane County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Historic Covered Bridges: If you're looking to drive through a piece of Oregon history, Lane County has you covered—literally! With over 20 covered bridges, Lane County has more of these structures than any other county west of the Mississippi River. Many were built around a hundred years ago to shield wooden bridges from the wear and tear of the Oregon Coast's heavy rain and salty sea air, doubling the life expectancy of these high-quality timber bridges. Today, many covered bridges are still open to pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle traffic, letting folks admire the beautiful craftsmanship of these structures that harken back to Oregon's past.

For more information: Visit lanecounty.org and search “covered bridges”

You may also want to explore...

- [Hobbit Trail](#)
- [Heceta Head Lighthouse](#)
- [Owen Rose Garden](#)
- [Hayward Field](#)
- [Fall Creek State Recreation Area](#)
- [Wayne Morse Family Farm](#)

Lincoln County



Cascade Head in Lincoln County.
(Source: Matthew Tharp, U.S. Forest Service)

You can't miss...

Cascade Head: From extraordinary hikes with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean to safe havens for rare plants and wildlife, Cascade Head in Lincoln County is a slice of paradise on Oregon's Central Coast. In fact, Congress chose this coastal headland as the first non-wilderness land in the United States to be safeguarded as a Scenic-Research Area for its breathtaking ecological and scientific benefits. It was also recognized as a United Nations Biosphere Reserve. One visit and you'll see why: Bald eagles and the Oregon silverspot butterfly—known to only live in a few other places in the world—soar over the exquisite wildflowers and native prairie grasses that make Cascade Head a critical area for both environmental research and delightful recreation.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/siuslaw and search “Cascade Head”

You may also want to explore...

- [Oregon Coast Aquarium](#)
- [Thor's Well](#)
- [Drift Creek Falls Suspension Bridge](#)
- [Depoe Bay Whale Watching](#)
- [Roads End State Recreation Area](#)
- [Lincoln City Cultural Center](#)

Linn County



McDowell Creek Falls in Linn County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

McDowell Creek Falls: Visitors to the lush green hiking trails at McDowell Creek are greeted by impressive views of Royal Terrace and Majestic Falls. If you're looking for views of cascading, crystal-clear water and lush woodland scenes from bridges and viewing decks—this is the hike for you! **Tip:** Swim or fish in the pools beneath the falls or bring a picnic to enjoy on the banks.

For more information: Visit linncountyor.gov and search “McDowell Creek Falls”

You may also want to explore...

- [Tamolitch Blue Pool](#)
- [Albany Carousel](#)
- [Stand By Me penny in Brownsville](#)
- [Sahalie/Koosah Loop](#)

Malheur County



Owyhee Canyonlands in Malheur County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

Owyhee Canyonlands: Be sure to pack extra water, fuel, and a spare tire because you are heading to the exhilarating Owyhee Canyonlands! One of the largest undeveloped regions in the lower 48 states, the Owyhee country—often dubbed “Oregon’s Grand Canyon”—is truly a place to get away from it all. You’ll see wildlife, rocky spires, deep pools, and steep canyons. Try the short Timber Gulch hike through sheer cliffs or get splashed on a whitewater adventure on the Owyhee Wild and Scenic River.

For more information: Visit blm.gov and search “Owyhee”

You may also want to explore...

- [Birch Creek Historic Ranch](#)
- [Pillars of Rome](#)
- [Lake Owyhee State Park](#)
- [Four Rivers Cultural Center](#)

Marion County



Oregon State Capitol in Marion County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

Oregon State Capitol: Explore the Beaver State's past and future in Marion County with a visit to the Oregon State Capitol building in Salem, Oregon's capital city. It is one of only three state capitols built in the Art Deco architectural style and is topped with the Oregon Pioneer—a 22 foot tall bronze sculpture of a golden woodsman. Guided tours are available, including a tour of the tower which offers a 360-degree view of the City of Salem and surrounding Willamette Valley. **Hint:** Try to time your visit to go in the spring, because the cherry blossoms blooming around the Capitol are a feast for the senses.

For more information: Visit oregoncapitol.com

You may also want to explore...

- [Silver Falls State Park](#)
- [The Oregon Garden](#)
- [The Champoeg Heritage Site](#)
- [Willamette Heritage Center](#)

Morrow County



A pond along the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway in Morrow County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

Blue Mountain Scenic Byway: Whether traveling by car, bicycle, or motorcycle, the beautiful Blue Mountain Scenic Byway in Morrow County will transport you through a slice of heaven in Eastern Oregon. This long, paved, two-lane stretch will take you through the historic communities of Lone, Lexington, and Heppner. Along the way, be sure to look for the Oregon Trail, stop to admire the trees in the Umatilla National Forest, or try to catch a glimpse of Rocky Mountain Elk. **Tip:** For a full adventure of the byway, start on the west side at Heppner Junction off of I-84 and continue east through Morrow County all the way to Baker City. These views of the Blues will fill you with joy.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/umatilla and search “Blue Mountain Scenic Byway”

You may also want to explore...

- [Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Port of Morrow's SAGE Center](#)
- [Morrow County Off-Highway Vehicle \(OHV\) Park](#)
- [Morrow County Museum](#)

Multnomah County



Multnomah Falls in Multnomah County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

Multnomah Falls: In far east Multnomah County, just a short 30 mile trek outside of Portland, you'll find one of the Pacific Northwest's most beautiful and recognizable natural features—Multnomah Falls. This 620-foot-tall striking presence is fed by underground springs from Larch Mountain, making it the tallest waterfall in the whole of Oregon. More than two million people visit this jewel in the Columbia River Gorge every year to take in the view, especially from atop the century-old Multnomah Falls Bridge, and visit the historic Multnomah Falls Lodge. **Bonus:** The area also boasts stellar hikes and over two dozen other wonderful waterfalls that are all just a hop, skip, and a jump from one another.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/crgnsa, click on “Recreation” under the “Visit Us” tab and scroll to “Multnomah Falls”

You may also want to explore...

- [Crown Point – Vista House](#)
- [Portland International Rose Test Garden](#)
- [Sherrard Point on Larch Mountain](#)
- [Portland Japanese Garden](#)
- [Lan Su Chinese Garden](#)
- [The Oregon Zoo](#)

Polk County



Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Polk County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge: Nestled in the heart of the Willamette Valley, the Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge is a haven for wildlife and nature lovers alike. The sprawling refuge boasts a wide diversity of wildlife—more than 250 bird species have been recorded in the park, and it's a crucial wintering habitat for the dusky Canada Goose. Find an observation deck to watch for birds or explore the more than 5 miles of trails that wind through the refuge. **Tip:** Check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about closures before you visit—some areas are protected during goose residency from October to March.

For more information: Visit fws.gov and search “Baskett Slough”

You may also want to explore...

- [Valley of the Giants](#)
- [Chachalu Tribal Museum and Cultural Center](#)
- [Monmouth-Independence Trolley](#)

Sherman County



*Macks Canyon in Sherman County.
(Source: Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management)*

You can't miss...

Macks Canyon Recreation Site: If you're looking for an adventure off the beaten path filled with outdoor fun, head to Macks Canyon Recreation Site in Sherman County. Located on the Wild and Scenic Lower Deschutes River, this little-known treasure offers fishing, boating, and camping opportunities galore all set against a stunning backdrop with a storied past. It was once home to a prehistoric winter village of the Sahaptin peoples of the Columbian Plateau, and the spot also set the scene for a railroad war in the early 1900s. Here, two tycoons battled to be the first to reach Bend, and the road to reach Macks Canyon is what remains of the losing line. The route is also one of only a few dozen National Back Country Byways in the West, making the journey here almost as beautiful as the destination.

For more information: Visit blm.gov and search “Macks Canyon”

You may also want to explore...

- [Ghost Town of Kent](#)
- [Sherman Historical Museum](#)
- [Sherman County Courthouse](#)
- [Oregon Trail Cutoff to Barlow Road and Oregon Trail Monuments](#)

Tillamook County



Cape Kiwanda in Tillamook County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

Cape Kiwanda: Home to some of the world's most breathtaking, dramatic sunsets, Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area in Tillamook County is a must-see sandstone headland that's constantly being re-sculpted by the churning Pacific Ocean below. You can play along the sprawling beaches, explore the tide pools, and climb the towering dune for a premier view of the Pacific. If you're lucky, you might see a dory boat or two land ashore. **Tip:** If the winds are from the northwest, you can often see paragliders launching on the north side of the Cape.

For more information: Visit stateparks.oregon.gov and search "Cape Kiwanda"

You may also want to explore...

- [Tunnel Beach](#)
- [Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad](#)
- [Neskowin Ghost Forest](#)
- [Munson Creek Falls State Natural Site](#)

Umatilla County



*Hat Rock in Umatilla County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Hat Rock State Park: There are many beautiful boulders in Oregon, but Hat Rock State Park in Umatilla County may be “a-head” of the pack for being the most “captivating.” Lewis and Clark dubbed it “Hat Rock” for its uncanny resemblance to a man’s hat. Today, the landmark is the star attraction of a desert oasis with excellent hiking, camping, and sand volleyball opportunities. And if you love to fish, the mighty Columbia River is filled with sturgeon and walleye, while Hat Rock Pond is stocked with rainbow trout. Hats off to this state park that offers plenty of family fun!

For more information: Visit stateparks.oregon.gov and search “Hat Rock”

You may also want to explore...

- [Tamástslikt Cultural Institute](#)
- [The historic town of Echo](#)
- [Umatilla Marina](#)
- [If you're visiting in September: the famous Pendleton Round-Up](#)

Union County



Mt. Emily in Union County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

Mt. Emily Recreation Area: Located in the majestic Blue Mountains outside of La Grande, the Mt. Emily Recreation Area—or MERA—boasts elevations ranging from 2,900 to 5,600 feet. Created in 2008 by Union County for its outstanding natural beauty and recreation opportunities, MERA offers visitors breathtaking views of the Grande Ronde Valley and trails popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders alike. You can even visit the archery range while you're there! Backcountry skiing and snowshoeing are popular in the winter, but come spring, the wildflowers make their return.

For more information: Visit meetMERA.org

You may also want to explore...

- [Anthony Lakes Recreation Area](#)
- [Union Main Street Historic District](#)
- [Union County Museum](#)

Wallowa County



Wallowa Lake in Wallowa County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

Wallowa Lake: Dubbed the “Swiss Alps of Oregon,” the Wallowa Lake region of Wallowa County earns the moniker with its magical mountain views and mirror-like water. The lake was formed by glacial events that began millions of years ago, and rests beneath the often snowcapped, 10,000 foot peaks of the Wallowa Mountains. You can camp at the park, enjoy paddling or boating on the lake, or take a nearby trail into the majestic Eagle Cap Wilderness that is filled with several smaller, sparkling lakes. For a special treat, take the Wallowa Lake Tramway’s Swiss-made gondola to the top of Mt. Howard for a heavenly view.

For more information: Visit stateparks.oregon.gov and search “Wallowa Lake”

You may also want to explore...

- [Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center](#)
- [Fishing on the Wallowa River](#)
- [Hells Canyon](#)
- [City of Joseph's unique arts scene](#)
- [Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Visitor Center and Tamkaliks Celebration grounds](#)

Wasco County



Shaniko Ghost Town in Wasco County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

Shaniko Ghost Town: Let the wind blow you back in time to see Oregon's most famous "ghost" town—Shaniko in Wasco County. Once dubbed the "Wool Capital of the World," today only a few dozen people still live in the town, which has one hotel and a few local businesses that mostly operate in the spring and summer. But while Shaniko sits off the beaten path, the city is filled with history and charm that immerses visitors in the Old West. So, grab your camera and snap some pictures of wooden sidewalks and the old city hall that houses a jail, a school, and a post office. And if you're there in August, check out "Shaniko Days"—the annual festival that brings out hundreds of folks to celebrate this special slice of Oregon history.

For more information: Visit cityofshaniko.org

You may also want to explore...

- [Deschutes River Rafting](#)
- [Neon Sign Museum](#)
- [Mosier Twin Tunnels](#)
- [White River Falls State Park](#)
- [Rowena Crest](#)
- [Antelope - Oregon's First DarkSky International Community](#)

Washington County



The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Washington County.
(Source: Carly Hirschmann, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

You can't miss...

The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge: As one of only a handful of urban national wildlife refuges across America, the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge feels like an oasis in Washington County. Featuring 900 protected acres that are just a short jaunt from Portland, the refuge has year-round walking trails through oak woodlands and forests and offers wetland views that are perfect for catching a glimpse of abundant native wildlife species, like beavers and western pond turtles. This urban treasure is also a birder's paradise, with over 200 species of birds, including bald eagles, calling the refuge home.

For more information: Visit fws.gov and search “Tualatin Wildlife Refuge”

You may also want to explore...

- [Oro the Giant at Hidden Creek Park West](#)
- [Ole Bolle Troll](#)
- [Quilt Barn Trail](#)
- [Paddle the Tualatin River Water Trail](#)

Wheeler County



John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Wheeler County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)

You can't miss...

John Day Fossil Beds – Painted Hills Unit: John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is just so special it made the list twice—this time for the iconic Painted Hills Unit located in Wheeler County. Marked by a vivid array of red, tan, orange, and black stripes that tell the story of a changing climate, the Painted Hills change hues based on light, moisture levels, and seasons. And hidden among the stunning tapestry of colors lies a world class record of plant and animal evolution, with some leaf fossils dating back 40 million years. Take a hike around this stunning backdrop, but please stay on the trails and don't collect any fossils.

For more information: Visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov) and search “Painted Hills”

You may also want to explore...

- [Sutton Mountain Wilderness Study Area](#)
- [Dig for fossils at Wheeler High School](#)
- [Spring Basin Wilderness](#)
- [Historic Wheeler County Courthouse](#)

Yamhill County



*The Spruce Goose at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in Yamhill County.
(Source: Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum)*

You can't miss...

Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum: Nestled within the rolling hills and vineyards of Yamhill County is the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, home of famed aviator Howard Hughes' iconic Spruce Goose—the largest flying boat ever built. Your imagination will take flight as you tour the cockpit of the aircraft and experience American aviation history on the big screen.

For more information: Visit evergreenmuseum.org

You may also want to explore...

- [Yamhill County's many vineyards and wineries](#)
- [Glacial Erratic Rock](#)
- [Historic downtown McMinnville](#)

OREGON'S TREASURES

Visit one of the sites in each of 10 different counties listed in the book **between January 1, 2026 and October 15, 2026** and document the visits by submitting our entry form, and you will win an invitation to the Oregon Treasures Quest party.

To learn more about the entry process, visit
www.merkley.senate.gov/connect/oregon-treasures-quest

BAKER COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center**
- Historic Downtown Baker City
- Snake River Canyon
- Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Site

BENTON COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Marys Peak**
- Alsea Falls
- William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge
- Bald Hill Natural Area

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Timberline Lodge**
- Old Salmon River Trail
- Trillium Lake
- The Oregon City Municipal Elevator

CLATSOP COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Shipwreck of the Peter Iredale**
- The Astoria Column
- Oregon Film Museum
- Haystack Rock
- Driving on Sunset Beach

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Scappoose Bay Marine Park**
- The Crown Z Trail
- Old Town St. Helens
- Watts Pioneer Museum & Heritage Site

COOS COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Cape Arago State Park**
- South Slough Reserve
- Face Rock
- Coquille Falls
- Coquille River Lighthouse
- Golden and Silver Falls State Natural Area

OREGON'S TREASURES

CROOK COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Steins Pillar**
- Ochoco National Forest Mines
- Bowman Museum
- Lower Crooked River Back Country Byway

CURRY COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Cape Blanco State Park and Lighthouse**
- Redwood Trail #1111
- Natural Bridges Viewpoint
- Cove Trail at Port Orford Heads State Park

DESCHUTES COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Smith Rock State Park**
- Lava River Cave Interpretive Site
- High Desert Museum
- Three Sisters Wilderness
- The "Big Red" Ponderosa tree

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area**
- Umpqua Toketee Hot Springs
- Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area
- Devil's Staircase Wilderness
- Umpqua River Lighthouse
- World's tallest sugar pine
- Cavitt Creek Falls swimming hole

GILLIAM COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Cottonwood Canyon State Park**
- Earl Snell Memorial Park
- Historic Main Street Condon
- City of Lonerock's "Lone Rock" and historic downtown
- Albert Phillipi Park

GRANT COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- John Day Fossil Beds National Monument - Sheep Rock Unit**
- Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site
- Bates State Park
- Hiking in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness
- Canyon City Historic District

HARNEY COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Steens Mountain**
- Alvord Desert
- Pete French Round Barn
- Donner und Blitzen Wild and Scenic River
- Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

HOOD RIVER COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Bridge of the Gods**
- The Spit and Event Site
- Hood River Fruit Loop
- Tamanawas Falls

OREGON'S TREASURES

JACKSON COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Oregon Shakespeare Festival**
- Pilot Rock
- Mt. Ashland Grouse Gap Loop
- Grizzly Peak Trail
- Upper and Lower Table Rock Trails
- East Applegate Ridge Trail

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- The Cove Palisades State Park**
- The Museum at Warm Springs
- Black Butte fire lookout
- Tam-A-Lau Loop Hike
- Crooked River High Bridge
- Metolius Balancing Rocks

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve**
- Hellgate Recreation Area
- Grants Pass Caveman
- Wolf Creek Inn State Heritage Site
- Dollar Mountain Trail System

KLAMATH COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Crater Lake National Park**
- Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- Spence Mountain
- Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
- Jackson F. Kimball State Recreation Site
- Williamson River Trout Fishing

LAKE COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Fort Rock State Natural Area**
- Old Perpetual Geyser
- Historic Downtown Paisley
- Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Site
- Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge

LANE COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Historic Covered Bridges**
- Hobbit Trail
- Heceta Head Lighthouse
- Owen Rose Garden
- Hayward Field
- Fall Creek State Recreation Area
- Wayne Morse Family Farm

OREGON'S TREASURES

LINCOLN COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Cascade Head**
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Thor's Well
- Drift Creek Falls Suspension Bridge
- Depoe Bay Whale Watching
- Roads End State Recreation Area
- Lincoln City Cultural Center

LINN COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- McDowell Creek Falls**
- Tamolitch Falls Blue Pool
- Albany Carousel
- Stand By Me penny in Brownsville
- Sahalie/Koosah Loop

MALHEUR COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Owyhee Canyonlands**
- Birch Creek Historic Ranch
- Pillars of Rome
- Lake Owyhee State Park
- Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario

MARION COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Oregon State Capitol**
- Silver Falls State Park
- The Oregon Gardens
- Champoeg Heritage Site
- Willamette Heritage Center

MORROW COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Blue Mountain Scenic Byway**
- Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge
- Port of Morrow's SAGE Center
- Morrow County OHV Park
- Morrow County Museum

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Multnomah Falls**
- Crown Point – Vista House
- Portland International Rose Test Garden
- Portland Japanese Garden
- Lan Su Chinese Garden
- The Oregon Zoo
- Sherrard Point on Larch Mountain

POLK COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Baskett Slough Wildlife Refuge**
- Valley of the Giants
- Chachalu Tribal Museum and Cultural Center
- Monmouth-Independence Trolley

SHERMAN COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Macks Canyon**
- Ghost Town of Kent
- Oregon Trail Cutoff to Barlow Road and Oregon Trail Monuments
- Sherman Historical Museum
- Sherman County Courthouse

OREGON'S TREASURES

TILLAMOOK COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area**
- Tunnel Beach
- Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad
- Neskowin Ghost Forest
- Munson Creek Falls State Natural Site

UMATILLA COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Hat Rock State Park**
- Tamástslikt Cultural Institute
- Historic town of Echo
- Umatilla Marina
- World-famous Pendleton Round-Up

UNION COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Mt. Emily Recreation Area**
- Anthony Lakes Recreation Area
- Union Main Street Historic District
- Union County Museum

WALLOWA COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Wallowa Lake**
- Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center
- Fishing on the Wallowa River
- Hells Canyon
- City of Joseph's unique arts scene
- Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Visitor Center & Tamkaliks Celebration grounds

WASCO COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Shaniko Ghost Town**
- Deschutes River rafting
- Neon Sign Museum
- White River Falls State Park
- Rowena Crest
- Mosier Twin Tunnels
- Antelope - DarkSky community

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge**
- Oro the Giant
- Ole Bolle Troll at Nordic Northwest
- Quilt Barn Trail
- Paddle the Tualatin River Water Trail

WHEELER COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- John Day Fossil Beds National Monument - Painted Hills Unit**
- Sutton Mountain Wilderness Study Area
- Dig for fossils at Wheeler High School
- Spring Basin Wilderness
- Historic Wheeler County Courthouse

YAMHILL COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum**
- Yamhill County's many vineyards and wineries
- Glacial Erratic Rock
- Historic Downtown McMinnville

FIELD NOTES



www.Merkley.senate.gov

JEFF'S OREGON OFFICE LOCATIONS

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Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 465-6750

MEDFORD

10 South Bartlett St., Ste. 201
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