



Treasures Quest

2024 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*



Photo Credit from Cover (left to right): Lower Owyhee Canyon, Greg Shine Bureau of Land Management; 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. I hope this book will help you find and enjoy those locations throughout the state.

And should you choose to accept it, we offer you the
2024 Oregon Treasures Quest Challenge.

Visit at least 10 different counties between January 1, 2024 and November 1, 2024 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, and you will win an invitation to the Oregon Treasures Quest Party, to be held later this year.

Or be more ambitious and secure a prize package at the party!

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

To submit your selfies, send the picture along with your name, the date of the picture, and the name of the location to:
OregonTreasuresQuest@Merkley.senate.gov

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.

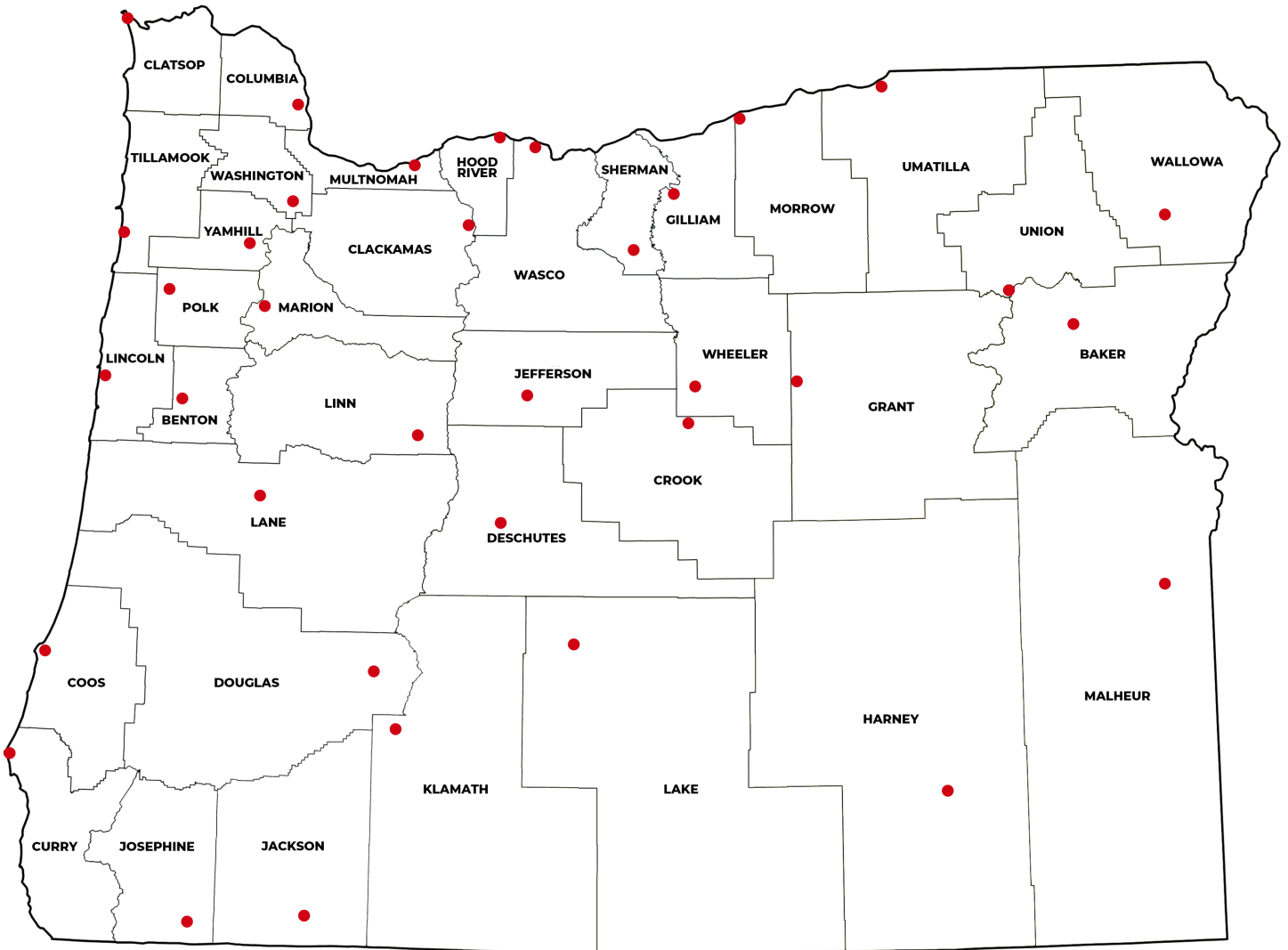


SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

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.

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

MAP OF OREGON



Red 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](https://www.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: Reopening Memorial Day weekend 2024 after a closure for building upgrades, the 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...

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

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? While standing on the 4,097-foot summit, hikers can see the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Cascade Mountains to the east on a clear day. Called tcha Timanwi, or "place of spiritual power" by the native Kalapuya, this Siuslaw National Forest jewel offers several excellent hikes of all 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](#)

Clackamas County



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

You can't miss...

Timberline Lodge: Timberline Lodge is a historic ski lodge in Clackamas County, perched on iconic Mt. Hood. 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" dropdown 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 paddling around Scappoose Bay Marine Park is one 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



*South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in Coos County.
(Source: Team Merkley)*

You can't miss...

South Slough Research Reserve Interpretive Center and Hidden Creek Trail: On a lush, 7,000-acre landscape in Coos County you'll find this magical research reserve on Oregon's South Coast filled with shady trails, open water channels, wonderful wetlands, and an interpretive center. There are about a dozen hikes to explore, including the Hidden Creek Trail, which features a boardwalk and marsh observation deck. You might consider the Wasson Creek and Fredrickson Marsh loop trails for prime forest and marsh viewing. You could also launch a kayak or canoe from Hinch Bridge to see wildlife like the great blue heron. One visit to the South Slough will show you why this iridescent estuary is home to critical research, education, and coastal stewardship efforts.

For more information: Visit [oregon.gov](https://www.oregon.gov) and search for "South Slough Reserve"

You may also want to explore...

- [Face Rock](#)
- [Coquille Falls](#)
- [Coquille River Lighthouse](#)
- [South Cove Beach at Cape Arago State Park](#)
- [Doerner Doug Fir](#)

Crook County



*Abandoned mines at the Ochoco National Forest in Crook County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Explore the Ochoco Forest Mines: The mining history of Crook County is hidden in the hills of the Ochoco National Forest. Once over 1,000 mines bore gold, thundereggs, and cinnabar throughout the Ochocos, but only a few are left in operation. However, many of the abandoned mines are still around today to explore on trails throughout the Lookout Mountain area, including Blue Ridge Mine, the Mother Lode Mine, and the Independent Mine. And to immerse yourself in the history of the mining operations in this area known as the “Cowboy Capital of Oregon,” trek the shorter interpretive Baneberry Trail for a fun side adventure.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/ochoco and search “Baneberry Trail”

You may also want to explore...

- [Steins Pillar Trailhead](#)
- [Bowman Museum](#)

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 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



Lava River Cave in Deschutes County.
(Source: U.S. Forest Service)

You can't miss...

Lava River Cave: The Lava River Cave in Deschutes County is the 80,000-year-old geologic gem of Newberry National Volcanic Monument, featuring stalactites and wall ridges that bear witness to the powerful lava that once coursed through the cave. Grab a flashlight to trek a mile through this longest continuous lava tube in Oregon that serves as critical habitat for bats and other subterranean critters. Remember to plan ahead: the cave is only open from early-May through mid-September.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/deschutes and search "Lava River Cave"

You may also want to explore...

- [High Desert Museum](#)
- [Smith Rock](#)
- [Three Sisters Wilderness](#)
- [The "Big Red" Ponderosa tree](#)

Douglas County



*Umpqua Toketee Hot Springs in Douglas County.
(Source: U.S. Forest Service)*

You can't miss...

Umpqua Toketee Hot Springs: Soak in the magic of Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County from the best seat in the house—hot springs that are perched under a lush canopy overlooking the roaring North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River. You'll need to take a short, steep climb to get to the tubs carved into the cliffs, but it'll all be worth it as you take in the views and relax the day away in the geothermal hot pools that are filled with water that's seeped through an active fault. This creates hot springs with temperatures that reach upwards of 115 degrees in a setting that no spa can top.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/umpqua, click on the "Recreation" on the "Visit Us" dropdown menu, and scroll to find "Umpqua Hot Springs Trail #1444"

You may also want to explore...

- [Oregon Dunes Recreation Area](#)
- [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 camp at Lone Tree Campground. 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](#)

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 the 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](https://www.nps.gov) and search "Thomas Condon Center"

You may also want to explore...

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

Harney County



*Steens Mountain in Harney County.
(Source: Team Merkley)*

You can't miss...

Steens Mountain Back Country Byway: 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-thousand acre jewel that's right in the heart of remote southeastern Oregon's high desert. **Tip:** make sure to contact the Bureau of Land Management to ask about winter activities and closures before you go!

For more information: Visit [blm.gov](https://www.blm.gov) and search "Steens Mountain"

You may also want to explore...

- [Pete French Round Barn](#)
- [Donner ünd Blitzen Wild and Scenic River](#) for kayaking/paddling/rafting
- [Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#)

Hood River County



*The Event Site in Hood River County.
(Source: Port of Hood River)*

You can't miss...

The Spit and Event Site: Head lickety-split to the Event Site and Spit in Hood River County where all kinds of wind and water sports on the Columbia River come alive. Wind flows through the towering river canyon walls and into the City of Hood River, making it a world-renowned windsurfing destination. The Spit is a nearly half-mile long sandbar that's also perfect to launch a kite and go stand-up paddle boarding. **Bonus:** the beachfront is located right near the city's historic downtown that's bustling with fun shops and breweries.

For more information: Visit portofhoodriver.com and click on "Waterfont Recreation"

You may also want to explore...

- [Bridge of the Gods/Pacific Crest Trailhead](#)
- [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 thou art 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 cannon 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...

Oregon Caves: Call it Oregon's very own Cave of Wonders! Buried within the Siskiyou Mountains in Josephine County is 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 discovered the cave in 1874 while chasing after his dog and a bear, and it 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.

For more information: Visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov) and search "Oregon Caves"

You may also want to explore...

- [Hellgate Recreation Area, a beautiful stretch of 27 miles of the Rogue River](#)
- [Grants Pass Caveman](#)

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. Trek down Cleetwood Cove Trail to take a brisk swim or catch a boat or trolley tour instead. There are endless adventures awaiting you at Oregon's only national park.

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

You may also want to explore...

- [Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Spence Mountain](#)
- [Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [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



Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in Lane County.
(Source: University of Oregon)

You can't miss...

Hayward Field: They don't call Eugene, Oregon "Track Town, U.S.A." for nothin'. Nestled on the University of Oregon's campus in Lane County, Hayward Field is known around the world for its rich history of churning out track and field's best athletes, including Oregon running legend Steve Prefontaine. The storied track has also played host to huge events including the World Athletics Championship and many USA Track and Field Olympic Trials. Visit Hayward Hall located at the base of the tower for interactive exhibits and sliding doors that offer a trackside view.

For more information: Visit hayward.uoregon.edu

You may also want to explore...

- [Hobbit Trail](#)
- [Heceta Head Lighthouse](#)
- [Historic Covered Bridges](#)

Lincoln County



*Oregon Coast Aquarium in Lincoln County.
(Source: Oregon Coast Aquarium)*

You can't miss...

Oregon Coast Aquarium: There's no better place to immerse yourself in Oregon's coastal landscape from the seafloor to shore than the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Lincoln County. Renowned for its active and vital role in research, conservation, and animal rehabilitation efforts, the Aquarium's engaging exhibits will give you a deep dive into the unique wildlife and waters of the Pacific Northwest.

For more information: Visit aquarium.org

You may also want to explore...

- [Cascade Head](#)
- [Thor's Well](#)
- [Drift Creek Falls Suspension Bridge](#)
- [Depoe Bay Whale Watching/World's Smallest Harbor](#)

Linn County



*Tamolitch Blue Pool in Willamette National Forest.
(Source: Willamette National Forest)*

You can't miss...

Tamolitch Blue Pool: Dubbed “Blue Pool” for its vibrant turquoise and topaz blue color, this gorgeous body of water at the base of Tamolitch Falls in Linn County is an inspiration. A lava flow over 1,600 years ago buried a portion of McKenzie River, and when that water resurfaces through the porous lava buried below dry Tamolitch Falls, it produces an intensely cold, crystal-clear blue pool of water. You can see it for yourself by taking a two-mile hike along the McKenzie River Trail in the lush Willamette National Forest.

For more information: Visit fs.usda.gov/willamette and search “Blue Pool”

You may also want to explore...

- [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](https://www.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 Champeog Heritage Site](#)

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](#)
- [Sage Center](#)
- [Morrow County 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 miles 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](#)
- [Ole Bolle Troll](#)
- [Sherrard Point on Larch Mountain](#)
- [Portland Japanese Garden](#)
- [Lan Su Chinese Garden](#)
- [The Oregon Zoo](#)

Polk County



*Valley of the Giants in Polk County.
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Land Management)*

You can't miss...

Valley of the Giants: Step back in time to hear stories only ancient trees can tell as you wander through Valley of the Giants in Polk County. Among the largest Douglas-firs and Western Hemlocks in the Oregon Coast Range can be found in this old-growth forest, with many of the trees reaching twenty feet in circumference, 200 feet tall, and 400 to 450 years old. The trees are protected in a 51-acre Outstanding Natural Area so teeming with plants, fungi, and wildlife that it feels otherworldly.

Note: Valley of the Giants is always closed during fire season, and other conditions sometimes apply, so make sure to check the Bureau of Land Management's website before you go.

For more information: Visit blm.gov and search "Valley of the Giants"

You may also want to explore...

- [Chachalu Tribal Museum and Cultural Center](#)
- [Baskett Slough Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Monmouth-Independence Trolley](#)

Sherman County



*A building in Kent in Sherman County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Ghost Town of Kent: Let the wind blow you along the famed Oregon Trail to see nearly two dozen “ghost towns” and early settler sites in Sherman County. Pioneers traveled through the northern part of the county in the 1800s, and many settled in Oregon with towns springing up seemingly overnight. Today you can still see pieces of the Old West throughout Sherman County by visiting former homes and schools, abandoned rail sidings, and the leftovers of long-gone hamlets, including Kent which survives today as an unincorporated ghost town. **Bonus:** trek some 15 miles into nearby Wasco County to explore Shaniko, another famed ghost town.

For more information: Visit co.sherman.or.us, click the “Visitors” tab, and scroll to the “Ghost Towns” page.

You may also want to explore...

- [Oregon Trail Cutoff to Barlow Road and Oregon Trail Monuments](#)
- [Sherman Historical Museum](#)
- [Sherman County Courthouse, built in 1899](#)

Tillamook County



*Cape Kiwanda in Tillamook County.
(Source: Team Merkley)*

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 tidepools, 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](#)

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, Lake Wallula 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



*Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort in Union County.
(Source: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives)*

You can't miss...

Anthony Lakes Recreation: For a quiet, unspoiled mountain landscape that's begging to be explored, take in the Anthony Lakes recreation area's endless, year-round opportunities in the great outdoors. Located in Union County's Elkhorn Range, which it shares with neighboring Baker County, you can venture into a winter wonderland of backcountry skiing or snowboarding, groomed Nordic skiing, or downhill on great powder at a base elevation of 7,000 feet while at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort. Once the snows melt, ride your mountain bike down the slope and other nearby trails, hike to subalpine lakes, get out your fishing pole, and pitch a tent at Anthony Lake Campground.

For more information: Visit anthonylakes.com

You may also want to explore...

- [Mt. Emily Recreation Area](#)
- [Union Main Street Historic District](#)

Wallowa County



Wallowa Lake in Wallowa County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

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



Rowena Crest in Wasco County.
(Source: Team Merkley)

You can't miss...

Rowena Crest: Rowena Crest is a cut above the rest! Perfectly placed in the stunning Columbia River Gorge in Wasco County, you can access a viewpoint in Mayer State Park by pulling off the Historic Columbia River Highway—which is dubbed “The King of Roads” and treasure in its own right. From atop the viewpoint you’ll see the iconic Oregon treasures, including the Columbia River and Rowena Loops—horseshoe curves that wind up to the paved viewpoint. **Bonus:** the viewpoint serves as a trailhead for Tom McCall Nature Preserve, which includes a 4-mile out-and-back hike to McCall Point that’s teeming with wildflowers and a marvelous view of Mt. Hood.

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

You may also want to explore...

- [Deschutes River Rafting](#)
- [Neon Sign Museum](#)
- [Mosier Twin Tunnels](#)
- [White River Falls State Park](#)
- [Shaniko Ghost Town](#)

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. The 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](https://www.fws.gov) and search "Tualatin Wildlife Refuge"

You may also want to explore...

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

Wheeler County



*John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Wheeler County.
(Source: Team Merkley)*

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 upwards of 40 million years old. 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...

- [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, 2024 and November 1, 2024 and document the visits by sending us selfies with the sites in the background, and you will win an invitation to the annual Oregon Treasures Quest party to be held in mid-November.

To submit your selfies, send the picture along with your name, the date of the picture, and the name of the location to: OregonTreasuresQuest@Merkley.senate.gov

BAKER COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

BENTON COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Marys Peak**
- Alsea Falls
- William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Timberline Lodge**
- Old Salmon River Trail
- Trillium Lake for sledding and tubing
- 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**
- The Crown Z Trail
- Old Town St. Helens
- Watts Pioneer Museum & Heritage Site

COOS COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve**
- Face Rock
- Coquille Falls
- Coquille River Lighthouse
- South Cove Beach
- Doerner Doug Fir

OREGON'S TREASURES

CROOK COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Ochoco National Forest Mines**
- Steins Pillar
- Bowman Museum

CURRY COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

DESCHUTES COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Umpqua Toketee Hot Springs**
- Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area
- 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

GRANT COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- John Day Fossil Beds National Monument - Sheep Rock Unit**
- Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site
- Hiking in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness

HARNEY COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

HOOD RIVER COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Event Site and Spit**
- Bridge of the Gods/Pacific Crest Trailhead
- Hood River Fruit Loop
- Tamanawas Falls

OREGON'S TREASURES

JACKSON COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Oregon Shakespeare Festival**
- Pilot Rock and trailhead
- 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

KLAMATH COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Crater Lake National Park**
- Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- Spence Mountain
- Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
- Williamson River

LAKE COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Fort Rock State Natural Area**
- Old Perpetual Geyser
- Paisley's Pioneer Saloon
- Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Site
- Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge

LANE COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Hayward Field**
- Hobbit Trail
- Heceta Head Lighthouse
- Historic Covered Bridges

LINCOLN COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Oregon Coast Aquarium**
- Depoe Bay Whale Watching/World's Smallest Harbor
- Cascade Head
- Thor's Well

LINN COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

OREGON'S TREASURES

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): _____

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

MORROW COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Blue Mountain Scenic Byway**
- Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge
- 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
- Ole Bolle Troll
- The Oregon Zoo
- Sherrard Point on Larch Mountain

POLK COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

SHERMAN COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

TILLAMOOK COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

UMATILLA COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

OREGON'S TREASURES

UNION COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

WALLOWA COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

WASCO COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge**
- Oro the Giant at Hidden Creek Park West
- Quilt Barn Trail
- Paddle the Tualatin River Water Trail

WHEELER COUNTY

Visit Date(s): _____

- John Day Fossil Beds National Monument - Painted Hills Unit**
- 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



www.Merkley.senate.gov

JEFF'S OREGON OFFICE LOCATIONS

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Bend, OR 97703
(541) 318-1298

EUGENE

405 East 8th Ave., Ste. 2010
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 465-6750

MEDFORD

10 South Bartlett St., Ste. 201
Medford, OR 97501
(541) 608-9102

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121 SW Salmon St., Ste. 1400
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 326-3386

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Salem, OR 97301
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