



Oregon's Coast, Mountains, Columbia River Gorge and Wine

Shhh...It's a secret.

Some of the most beautiful scenery in the United States surrounds Portland, Oregon...and some of the best wine and cheese in the world are made here...and two of the United States' most significant westward adventures terminated here. In other words, this is a fine-looking, good-tasting and interesting place to visit. Why "Shhh..."? It's simple: Oregonians like visitors, but they're not keen on increasing the population of their state.

Here's what you'll see and experience during your visit: Oregon's wild and beautiful coastline; its award-winning Pinot Noir wine; a tour of the Tillamook Cheese Factory; two mountain ranges with the highly fertile Willamette Valley in between; Columbia River Gorge with its many waterfalls; and Mount Hood. You'll also learn about the Lewis and Clark expedition and the pioneer migration by way of the Oregon Trail.

When to go? Northwest Oregon's reputation is that it's always cloudy and raining. That's not true from mid-June through mid-October when it's normally sunny, warm and dry. Aim for July or August and you're likely to get weather that goes with the scenery.

Pathfinder Newsletter

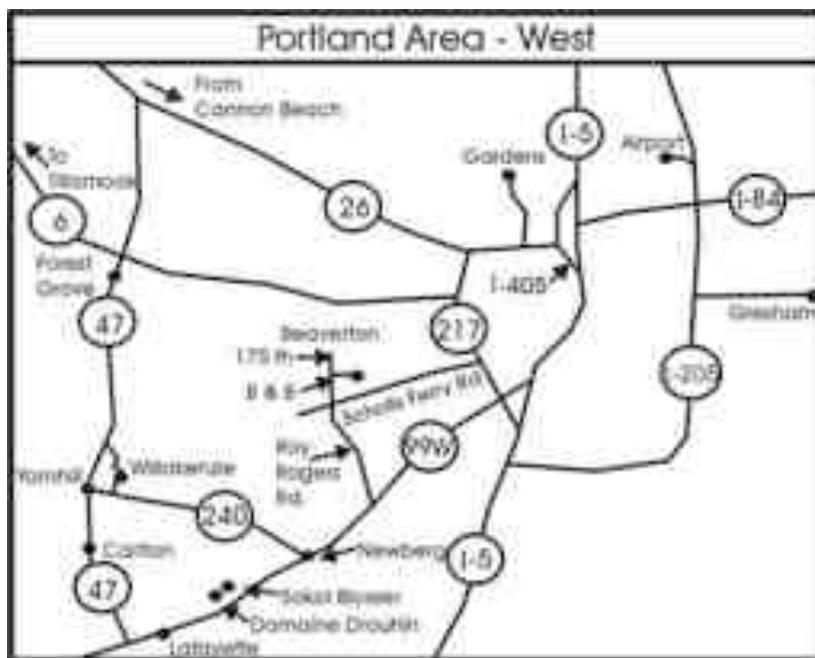
Winter 2012

Guided Tours of Cities, Towns, and National Parks in the American West

by the authors of *Seven Perfect Days in Northern California*,
Seven Perfect Days in Arizona and *Seven Perfect Days in Colorado*

The Day Before Day One

Since you'll most likely arrive with at least several hours left in the touring day, we recommend a visit to Portland's Japanese Garden and the International Rose Test Garden. (We did scout other Portland sites for this issue, but we couldn't fit them into our usual three-day newsletter format. You'll find other Portland attractions—and links to their websites—listed at the end of this issue as Additional Attractions, to be visited if you have more time.)



The Japanese and Rose Test gardens are rated #1 and #2, of 290 attractions in the Portland area, by TripAdvisor.com contributors. The gardens are adjacent to one another in Washington Park, which is located in the West Hills of Portland. To get there from the Portland International Airport:

- Drive on NE Airport Way 1-3/4 miles until it intersects Interstate 205
- drive toward Portland on Interstate 205 about 2-1/2 miles to Interstate 84
- drive toward Portland on I-84 about 5 miles to Interstate 5 (exit left toward Beaverton/Salem)
- then south on Interstate 5 for 1-1/2 miles to Interstate 405 North (exit left, toward City Center/US26/Beaverton)
- then 2 miles to Highway 26
- then west on Highway 26 for 1-1/2 miles to the Oregon Zoo and Forestry Center exit
- bear right after the exit and follow signs for the Forestry Center. Continue up the hill past the Forestry Center and make a right turn onto Kingston Drive.
- Follow Kingston Drive for approximately 1-1/2 miles to the gardens.

Japanese Garden

The following are often-repeated, pieced-together comments made by TripAdvisor.com contributors; they nicely capture what we saw for ourselves:

“There’s a trail from the parking lot up the hill to the entrance, or use the free shuttle. There are guided tours every hour by knowledgeable volunteers (to appreciate what you are seeing); the tour is included in the price of admission. The garden sits high above mostly-hidden Portland, with Mount Hood looming in the background. [See the photo on page 1.] It’s authentic, one of the most beautiful Japanese gardens this side of Japan. It’s simply and beautifully designed, and is meticulously manicured. Don’t expect a lot of flowers most seasons; the many shades of green are very beautiful. It’s peaceful/serene/tranquil/calming/quiet; cell phones are discouraged. It’s very lush, a beautiful place for contemplation. It’s a collection of five distinct gardens. There are meandering paths and streams and a lovely waterfall and pond. Other features include Koi fish and Japanese structures. It’s a sanctuary and a relaxing oasis of natural beauty, sculpture and solitude. It’s a bit tricky for people with walking problems. It’s a little expensive, but totally worth it. It’s a ‘must see’ when visiting Portland.”

Hours: October 1-March 31, noon-4pm Monday and 10-4 Tuesday-Sunday; April 1-September 30, noon-7pm Monday and 10-7 Tuesday-Sunday; 611 Southwest Kingston Avenue, Portland OR 97205, (503) 223-1321, www.Japanesegarden.com.

The International Rose Test Garden

Located immediately down the hill from the Japanese Garden, this is the site of Portland’s annual Rose Festival, which is Oregon’s premier civic celebration. Portland was dubbed “The City of Roses” after the 1905 Lewis and Clark centennial celebration, when 20 miles of city streets were bordered with roses.

Founded as a test garden in 1917, this is one of 10 official rose testing sites in the United States. After quarantine requirements are met, some 200 plants are received by this garden every year from around the world to be evaluated for two years on 14 characteristics that are important to consumers, such as foliage, color, disease resistance, vigor, flower production and fragrance. It’s in this way that the All-American Rose Selections organization is able to assign its seal of approval to new hybrids.

The International Rose Test Garden’s stunning 4-1/2 acres display more than 650 varieties totaling 8,500 plants; almost all are available on the open market. The garden’s mission is to test and display roses that can be purchased by consumers. One section of the garden contains nothing but gold medal selections from earlier testings. The roses bloom April through mid-November; the peak period is late May through early June—and there is no admission fee. The view of downtown Portland and Mount Hood from the garden’s four terraces is also free. The garden is run by Portland Parks and Recreation.

As one TripAdvisor.com contributor said, “Love gardens? Love roses? GO! And even if you don’t [love them], it’s really worth a visit to see and smell this wonderful collection.”

Hours: Open 7:30am to 9:00pm, 400 Southwest Kingston Ave., Portland, OR 97205, 503-823-3636, www.rosegardenstore.com.

Travel alert: The historic and beautiful Pittock Mansion is located near the two gardens. If you’re interested and think you’ll have time, click on the link to the mansion’s website at the end of this article to get more information.

Beaverton Accommodations

After visiting the two gardens, return to Highway 26, turn right, and drive about 2-3/4 miles west to the Beaverton/Highway 217 exit. If you’ve made reservations at the Cornerstone B&B, drive 4-1/2 miles south on Highway 217 to Scholls Ferry Road and turn right. Drive about 1-3/4 miles to Roy Rogers Dr./175th Street. Turn right on 175th, drive ½ mile to Alvord, and again turn right. You’ll find the B&B on your right at 17290 SW Alvord.

We’ve chosen Beaverton because it’s located in the center of our touring area. (You’ll be driving southwest to the wine country, west to the coast, and east to the Columbia River Gorge and Mount Hood.) Also, it’s convenient to all the freeways in the area.

And we’ve chosen the Cornerstone Bed and Breakfast, because: it’s highly rated on TripAdvisor.com; it’s very reasonably priced and includes a delicious full breakfast; it’s in a rural Beaverton setting; it’s immaculate and beautifully decorated; it’s a very relaxing place to be; its owners/innkeepers, Margaret and Harold Meyering, are wonderful people; and we loved the wraparound porch, which allows guests the option of entering their rooms from the outside without going through the main house. We were also delighted by the parade of 27 species of birds that frequent the Meyering’s bird feeders. *When making your reservation, be sure to tell the Meyerings that of the four nights you’ll be in the area, three will be spent with them and one will be spent on the coast.* 17290 SW Alvord Lane, 97007, 503-747-2345, www.cornerstonebedandbreakfast.com. If you wish, you can make reservations directly on that website and you’ll receive a confirmation by email.

The Cornerstone is the only bona fide B&B in Beaverton, but there are other B&Bs in nearby cities and towns; they can be seen at www.bedandbreakfast.com. Other lodgings in Beaverton—ranked and with traveler comments—can be seen at www.tripadvisor.com/Search?q=beaverton+or.

The Willamette Valley and Its Wineries

Before you get started on your tour of Oregon’s wine country, we think a little geological, geographical and historical context is in order.

There are three mountain ranges that hem-in the Willamette Valley: the tall Cascades on the east, the smaller Coast Range on the west, and the Calapooya Mountains on the south, near Eugene. The valley is 20 to 40 miles (32 to 64 km) wide and 120 miles (193 km) long, and its principal population centers are strung-out in the middle of the valley from Vancouver, WA and Portland in the north to Eugene in the south.

The significance of this is that during the Ice Ages, about 200 vertical feet of topsoil was washed through the Columbia River Gorge by numerous floods and was deposited between the mountain ranges. In the early 1800s, small pioneer groups found this v-shaped valley to be excellent farmland and spread the word about the “land of milk and honey.”

Anxious to establish the area as part of the United States (Great Britain also claimed it), the US government encouraged people to emigrate from the east to the “promised land.” And about 800,000 of them did so, from the 1840s into the 1860s, traveling by wagon trains over the Oregon Trail. Oregon City, south of Portland, was the official end of the trail. Oregon became a state in February of 1859.

Some of the pioneers planted wine grapes in the Willamette Valley as early as the mid-1800s, but it wasn't until 1965 that wine became a business in Oregon. In that year, after studying viticulture and the potential success of the Pinot Noir grape in this climate, David Lett planted 3,000 grape cuttings in the Dundee Hills, southwest of Portland. His Eyrie Vineyards produced its first wine five years later and in 1979 his Pinot Noir wine finished third in a Paris blind-tasting of some of the world's best pinots.

Meanwhile, other growers followed Lett's lead in planting Pinot Noir grapes, and in 1985, Oregon's pinots dominated at a blind-tasting in New York City against some of world's best Burgundies. Today, there are more than 450 wineries in the state with 19,000 acres of wine grapes under cultivation, and Oregon is regarded as one of the premier pinot-producing regions in the world.

Other wines are produced here, primarily Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Riesling. The cool climate and soil are especially well matched to the early-ripening Pinot Noir grape.

Day One

Today, you'll travel to the heart of Oregon's wine country and visit three wineries, drive up and over the coastal range, visit the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum, and tour the Tillamook Cheese Factory. We'll call this our “wine and cheese day.”

If you are a novice wine taster, this brief four-step process may be helpful:

1. Examine the color and clarity of the wine in the glass.
2. Gently swirl the wine in the glass and take a deep sniff of its aroma. Taste, as you know, is heavily influenced by smell.
3. Take in a small amount of wine and roll it around your mouth. The idea is to expose the wine to the back, top, tip and sides of the tongue where different taste sensations occur.
4. Swallow and assess the aftertaste; that is, the continuation of the aroma and flavor in your mouth after swallowing.

Domaine Drouhin (pronounced drew-in)

Depending upon where you are in Beaverton, you'll need to be on the road by about 9-9:15am to make the 10am winery tour at Domaine Drouhin. (Although reservations are not required, they are strongly advised, one month in advance, by telephoning 503-864-2700. There is a fee for the tour and tasting.)

Getting to Domaine Drouhin is quite easy from the Cornerstone B&B: you simply drive south 11 miles on 175th/Roy Rogers Dr. and Highway 99W to Newberg. Then, continue south on 99W another 10 miles to McDougall Rd., turn right and right again on Breyman Orchards Road. While still on 99W, look for the blue sign with white lettering that says Domaine Drouhin; most winery locations are similarly identified. Domaine Drouhin can be found at the top of the hill on the right.

This winery is one of a few in the area to offer scheduled tours of the premises. The tour and tasting take about 1-1/2 hours. It starts in the vineyard with information about the Pinot Noir grape, planting, growing season, picking by hand, and answers to questions you may have. The inside tour describes the winery's gravity flow system from squeezing to barreling, blending and bottling. The barrel storage is also seen and described. Finally, you'll be seated at a table for tasting of two Chardonnay and three Pinot Noir wines and have the opportunity to compare local production side-by-side with the Drouhin wines made in France.

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 11-4. 6750 Breyman Orchard's Rd., Dundee 97114, 503-864-2700, www.domainedrouhin.com.

Sokol Blosser

Sokol Blosser was among the earliest wineries to be established in Oregon. Like Domaine Drouhin, it offers both red and white wines, and is a winner of international wine-tasting competitions. Getting to this winery is even easier than to Domaine Drouhin: return to Highway 99W, turn left, and turn left immediately into Sokol Blosser Lane.

Sokol Blosser offers Walking Tours of the winery, but only on Saturday and Sunday and only by advance reservation (call the Tasting Room at 503-864-2282, extension 10). And the winery offers informative Summer Vineyard Hikes, which include a picnic lunch with tasting, and two-mile ATV Tours, with tasting throughout the vineyard as you travel, three times a day on Saturday and Sunday. (Check the website.) As you approach the tasting room, you'll see signs at the ends of vine rows that identify the winery's several grape varieties.

Open daily 10-4; 5000 Northeast Sokol Blosser Lane, Dundee OR 97115, 503-864-2282, www.sokolblosser.com. There is a tasting fee.

Travel alert: The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum is nearby. If you have an interest in flying machines, including Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose, click on the link to the museum's website at the end of this article.

Let's Have Lunch!

We recommend **The Horseradish** restaurant in Carlton for excellent sandwiches, salads, cheese plates, wines, homemade desserts and comfortable wine bar ambiance. (Try the macaroons; they're the best!) To get there from Sokol Blosser, return to Highway 99W and turn right. Drive 5-3/4 miles (9.2 km) to Highway 47 (past Lafayette) and turn right. Drive 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) to Carlton and find the restaurant at 211 West Main Street, 503-852-6656. This restaurant is on the way to our next stop.

Time for a Time Check

At this point, we suggest that you read ahead to determine what you want to do next. The Tillamook County Pioneer Museum closes at 4pm and the Tillamook Cheese Factory closes at 6pm or 8pm (check the Cheese Factory paragraphs, below). Also important is the fact that the drive to Tillamook will take about 1-1/2 hours from Carlton; add 45 minutes to one hour if you stop at the Willakenzie winery.

Willakenzie Estate

To get there from Carlton, return to Highway 47 and head north, toward Yamhill and Forest Grove. Drive 3-1/2 miles (5.6 km) to Yamhill, and turn right on Main St. Outside of town, Main St. becomes Highway 240/the Yamhill-Newberg Highway. Follow that highway for 1-1/2 miles (2.4 km) to Laughlin Rd. and turn left. You'll find Willakenzie after another 1-1/2 miles.

This beautiful, smallish winery sits high on a hill and has one of the best vineyard views in the Willamette Valley. The vineyards trail down from the top of the hill, much as chocolate does on an ice cream sundae. The grounds around the winery buildings are nicely groomed. Winery tours can generally be arranged by appointment, even on a few days notice (503-662-3280, ext. 46). One especially nice feature is the terrace outside the tasting room, which encourages visitors to enjoy the sweeping views with a glass of wine in hand and a superb aftertaste on the tongue. Cheese plates are available.

Founded in 1995, Willakenzie was named, in 2010 and 2011, by Wine & Spirits magazine, "one of the top 100 wineries from around the world that delivered the best overall performances in W&S tastings through the year." Willakenzie wines have been served at White House dinners.

Hours: 11-4, November-April, and 11-5 May-October. 191443 Laughlin Rd., Yamhill, OR 97148, 503-662-3280, www.willakenzie.com.

Drive to the Coast

As you leave Willakenzie, continue north on Laughlin Rd. for 1-1/2 miles (2.4 km) to Ridge Rd. Turn left and follow Ridge for 2 miles (3.2 km) to Flett Rd. and again turn left. In less than a mile, you'll come to Highway 47. Turn right and drive 16 miles (26 km) through beautiful countryside to Highway 8 in Forest Grove, where you'll turn left. When Highway 8 intersects Highway 6 (about 7 miles/11km), turn left/west on 6.

Now, you're in for a real treat: a very scenic 42-mile (68 km) drive to the town of Tillamook, much of which will take you over the Coast Range (average elevation 1,500 feet/460 km) on curvy mountain roads through the beautiful Tillamook State Forest.

But it wasn't always so beautiful. In 1933, 1939, 1945 and 1951 there was a series of fires here that burned a lot of old-growth forest. Collectively, the fires are called the "Tillamook Burn." Some 355,000 acres (143,700 hectares) were destroyed; that's the equivalent of 555 square miles, or more than half the size of Rhode Island. The burn area has been reforested by the State of Oregon; look for trees that were planted uniformly, side-by-side or in interesting patterns.

When you arrive in Tillamook, you'll be about 9 miles (14 km) from the actual coast of Oregon/the Pacific Ocean. Tomorrow, you'll drive 42 miles (68 km) up the coast and take a walk on at least one beach, so you'll be able satisfy your desire to see the ocean up close.

Tillamook County Pioneer Museum

As you approach downtown Tillamook on Highway 6 (First St. in town), turn left on Laurel Ave. then right on Second St. You've arrived.

This building was the Tillamook County Courthouse until 1935 when the museum was established. Inside this small, charming museum, you'll find an eclectic historical collection with a surprising 35,000 items and 10,000 photographs, not all of which are displayed, of course. On the museum's three floors, are: a replica of a pioneer cabin and barn; portraits, tools, equipment and other belongings of early pioneers; a replica harness shop; a blacksmith shop; a Victorian bedroom; a horseless carriage, a sleigh and a Tillamook Indian cedar canoe; baskets, arrowheads and other Native American artifacts; some natural history dioramas; and much more. Unlike the dirt farmers who arrived in the Willamette Valley in the mid-1880s, pioneers who settled in the Tillamook area were dairy farmers and fishermen. We really liked this museum!

Hours: open daily 10-4 except Monday, 2106 Second Street 97141, 503-842-4553, www.tcpm.org.

Tillamook Cheese Factory Tour and Tastes

Drive one block west to Pacific Ave., and turn right. Then turn left on Highway 6/First St. and right on 101/N Main Ave. In a little under 2 miles (3 km) north, you'll find the cheese factory in the large white building on your right.

Now, this is a company that knows how to communicate what it does, while stimulating visitor senses and their desire for its products! The whole place is self-guided and self-paced, from the plentiful signboards, videos and interactive kiosks, to the large second-floor windows that overlook the cheese-making, cheese-packaging and ice cream-making factory floors, to the tasting station on the first floor where visitors can sample most of the company's cheeses...for free. The cheeses are on sale in the next room, of course, as are crackers, yogurts, sour creams, jellies, olives, fudges and a lot of other goodies. There's a large wraparound ice cream counter where visitors can view the company's 38 flavors and purchase ice cream cones. And, there's the inevitable gift shop.

Here are some impressive numbers: the factory has about one million visitors every year; 1.7 million pounds of milk arrive at the factory every day; the factory makes 167,000 pounds of cheese each day; and it has the capacity to age 50 million pounds of cheese at one time.

Want to know how cheese is made...or, what the difference is between sharp and extra sharp? This is the place to find out! Admission is free.

Hours: 8-6 Labor Day (usually the beginning of September) through mid-June, and 8-8 mid-June through Labor Day. 4175 Highway 101 North, 97141, 503-815-1300, www.tillamook.com/cheesefactory.

Travel tip: Visit the Cheese Factory during the week; factory floor operations cease on weekends.

Where to Eat and Sleep

After nearly five years of doing onsite research for these *Pathfinder Newsletter* articles, we've finally settled on a way to *guarantee* that we'll have lodging that meets our quality and price expectations: use www.TripAdvisor.com, which ranks lodgings and provides traveler comments by city or town.

If you prefer to stay at B&Bs as we do, go to *Google* and type in "B&Bs (plus city and state)", then look for the TripAdvisor.com listing and/or other listings that have five side-by-side stars.

To select a restaurant, we usually ask the person making the lodging reservation for recommendations and then go online and check out the restaurants and their menus.

So, what should you do for this night on the Oregon coast? We offer three alternatives: 1) stay in the Tillamook area; 2) drive north 13 miles/21 km to Rockaway Beach, 33 miles/53 km) to Arch Cape, or 42 miles/68 km to Cannon Beach; or 3) drive 9 miles/14 km west to a B&B on the ocean, as we did. For alternatives 1 and 2, we recommend that you check out TripAdvisor.com to identify your lodging for the night. For alternative 3, we offer the following:

We wanted to experience a remote ocean environment overnight at a B&B. That led us to the TripAdvisor.com comments for the **Thyme and Tide Bed and Breakfast** at 5015 Grand Ave. in Oceanside 97141, 503-842-5527, www.thyme-and-tide.com. Read some of the 15+ reviews and you, too, may be convinced to spend the night there. Innkeepers Rosemary and Peter recommended Roseanna's for dinner and we were very pleased with the restaurant and the food. Oceanside is a little out of the way, and the small town is a throwback to the way beach towns used to be, but the B&B and beach are great. To get there, head west on Third Street from downtown Tillamook and follow the signs to Oceanside.

Day Two

Today, you'll drive north along the coast to Cannon Beach, explore the town, visit either Ecola State Park or Fort Clatsop, and return to Beaverton by a different route. It is possible to visit both Ecola State Park and Fort Clatsop—and we recommend that you do so—but you'll be pressed for time.

There are 12 small towns on Highway 101 between Tillamook and Cannon Beach. To conserve time for the day's major attractions, we suggest driving straight through. Or stop along the way, briefly, at one or two that catch your attention. Or if this is what you came to Oregon for, blow off our suggested activities and explore the coast.

Cannon Beach

Cannon Beach is often compared to Carmel, California. We can see why: it's a year-around/real town as opposed to a summertime "beach town," with many nice homes and places to stay; the town is upscale, clean and tidy; its one-story shops are mostly a soft gray color and are filled with items that well-off tourists love; and it has very nice galleries and restaurants. It has about 1,700 full time residents.

Assuming that you'll naturally browse the shops that interest you, we'll concentrate here on the gallery/art scene along Hemlock Avenue, and on a few standout restaurants that you can

consider for lunch. We'll also show you an historic beach that's connected with the Lewis and Clark expedition and take you to a beach that showcases the town's signature landmark, Haystack Rock.

But, we're guessing that before you do any of this, you'd like to know where the public bathrooms are, and you'd welcome having a visitor map of Cannon Beach. As luck (or town planning) would have it, the public bathrooms and town Visitor Center are across the street from one another at 2nd and Spruce Streets at the north end of town. This is also a good place to park your car and to start your walking tour of Cannon Beach.

At the Visitor Center, we suggest you pick up several publications that may be of use to you:

- The Cannon Beach Visitor Map
- The Cannon Beach Magazine
- The town's Dining Guide
- The pamphlet titled, "Art: Cannon Beach Gallery Group"
- Both Ecola State Park pamphlets
- The Lewis and Clark National Historical Park pamphlet.

The last two items may be helpful as you try to decide which of those two attractions to visit.

The Visitor Center is open 10-5 daily, is located at 207 N. Spruce St., and can be reached at 503-436-2623, www.cannonbeach.org.

A Whale Tale

While you're so close, we suggest a short walk to Whale Park, which is located at Third and Hemlock. There, you'll find a statue of a whale and a plaque commemorating members of the Lewis & Clark expedition who came to this spot on January 8, 1806 to see a beached whale and to obtain blubber and oil from the Tillamook Indians. Look out to the beach beyond Ecola Creek (Ecola is a Chinook Indian word for "whale") and you'll see the approximate location where the 105-foot blue whale was beached. Want to get closer? Walk or drive to 5th St., turn left, and walk out on the beach at Les Shirley Park.

The Art Scene

The following galleries can be visited during a three-block, two-sides-of-the-street walking tour. Some galleries specialize (bronze sculptures, photography, and scenic paintings by the artists-in-residence); most have an eclectic offering of various kinds of artwork by many artists. Hours vary by season and gallery choice; they're generally open 10-5, seven days a week. For more information, see the pamphlet that you picked up at the Visitor Center titled, "Art: Cannon Beach Gallery Group."

Northwest by Northwest Gallery, 232 N. Spruce (diagonally across the street from the Visitor Center).

White Bird Gallery, 251 N. Hemlock

George Vetter Fotoart, 231 N. Hemlock

The Oregon Gallery, 223 N. Hemlock

Haystack Gallery, 183 N. Hemlock

Dragonfire Studio & Gallery, 1st & Hemlock
Steidel Art, West 1st Street
Jeffrey Hull Gallery, 172 N. Hemlock, Suite 24
Primary Elements Gallery, 172 N. Hemlock, Suite 10
Modern Villa Gallery, 224 N. Hemlock, Suite 6
Bronze Coast Gallery, 224 N. Hemlock, Suite 2
Heritage Gallery Fine Art, 224 N. Hemlock, Suite 1

Time for a Time Check

OK, it's time for you to decide what you're going to do with the remainder of this travel day. Working backwards: the drive to Beaverton will take you about 1-1/2 hours from Cannon Beach via Highway 26, which begins about 3-1/2 miles north of Cannon Beach. The drive from Fort Clatsop to Beaverton will take about 1-3/4 hours. We estimate that you'll visit each attraction for 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

That means visiting one attraction, plus the drive to Beaverton, will require about 3 to 3-1/2 hours. To do both will require about 4-1/2 to 5 hours.

You'll want to have lunch (which can be a sandwich to-go from Mariner Market) and probably take a walk on the beach to Haystack Rock.

To make your decision, we suggest that you read the following descriptions of Ecola State Park and Fort Clatsop and look at the pamphlets you picked up at the Visitor Center. We chose to visit both by skipping Haystack Rock, picking up a sandwich at Mariner Market and enjoying a late dinner in Beaverton.

Lunchtime

When you're finished browsing the galleries and shops, you may have time to check out the beach and Haystack Rock...then, have lunch. Here are five good choices:

- **Driftwood Inn**, for seafood and steak, 179 N. Hemlock, 503-436-2439
- **Ecola Seafoods**, for...seafood, 208 N. Spruce, 503-436-9130
- **Mo's at Tolovana**, casual family dining on the oceanfront, seafood-plus, 195 Warren Way (south of town, not too far from Haystack Rock), 503-436-1111
- **The Wayfarer**, fine dining on the oceanfront, seafood-plus, Oceanfront and Gower, 503-436-1108
- **Mariner Market** has readymade roast beef, turkey and chicken sandwiches to go, next to the Post Office at 139 N. Hemlock, 503-436-2442.

Haystack Rock

If you'd like to see Cannon Beach's signature landmark up close, drive south on Hemlock and Highway 101 about three miles (5 km) to Tolovana Wayside, park your car, and walk up the beach to 235-foot-high Haystack Rock...unless the tide is in, in which case you can get to a good vantage point, but not right up to the rock. If the tide is recently out, you may find starfish, sea anemones, crabs and other sea creatures in the tide pools.

Before you leave Cannon Beach, we'd like to answer your question, "How did Cannon Beach get its name?" On September 10, 1846, the wood-hulled U.S. Naval schooner Shark (a warship) sank off the mouth of the Columbia River. Forty-eight years later, in 1894, one of the Shark's cannons was discovered off Arch Cape, just south of Cannon Beach. Soon after, the cannon was installed in the Cannon Beach Museum at 1387 S. Spruce St. (open 1-5 every day but Tuesday).

Ecola State Park

At Ecola State Park, which is immediately north of Cannon Beach, you'll drive through dense old-growth forest to an ocean overlook that features picturesque rock formations and seals, and then you can hike or drive to a beach that's both picturesque and used extensively by surfers. To get to the park, drive north on Hemlock to just beyond the edge of Cannon Beach, where you'll see the entrance on your left.

If you would like to hike on two beautiful beaches or high above the surf on a loop trail, plan to spend a half-day at this park. The Ecola State Park pamphlets that you picked up in the Cannon Beach Visitor Center contains the trail details.

A more sedate, but no less beautiful, choice is to drive first to Ecola Point, then to Indian Beach. There are parking lots and restrooms at both locations. You'll need to pay a nominal day-use fee at the entrance booth as you approach Ecola Point.

The observation platform at Ecola Point looks down on a gorgeous view of Crescent Beach, offshore rocks, and Haystack Rock in the far background (see the photo on page 1). If you hit the weather just right, you can take home a photograph of the Oregon coast that can be hung on a wall at home. Then, follow the path uphill to the very tip of Ecola Point. More rocks in the water, but with something additional to look at: seals.

There's another beautiful sight ahead for you to enjoy: the view above Indian Beach. To get there, turn left after leaving the Ecola Point parking lot and drive about 1-1/2 miles (2.4 km) to Indian Beach. There, you may wish to hike down to the beach and enjoy walking barefooted in the sand and surf. This and Crescent Beach are known for their tide pools; so if your timing is good—tide recently out—you may find starfish, sea anemones, crabs and other sea creatures in the tide pools.

Also worth checking out: surfers have found that they can get one heckuva ride through the waves at this particular beach. You may see a few of them.

For those who are interested, this is the location of the trailhead for the Clatsop Loop Trail, which is a steep (a gain of 800 feet/244 meters), 2-1/2 mile round trip that follows the course of the Lewis and Clark mission to find the whale. Ocean views abound on the return portion of the trail.

Click on www.oreg.onstateparks.org/park_188.php if you want more information about Ecola State Park.

Fort Clatsop

Fort Clatsop is 23 miles (37 km) north of Cannon Beach and was the 1805-06 winter quarters of the historic Lewis and Clark expedition. To get there, drive 20 miles (32 km) north on

Highway 101 to the Fort Stevens Highway Spur, then right for two miles on the Warrenton-Astoria Highway/US 101 Business, and right on Fort Clatsop Road.

After purchasing a huge swath of land from France for the United States—most of it between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains—President Thomas Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and 31 other members of the Corps of Discovery to map the new territory, find a water route to the Pacific Ocean, and to record details about the animals, plants, Indians and geography along the way. After traveling for 18 months and 3,700 miles from St. Louis, by river and across the Rocky Mountains, the expedition arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River, built Fort Clatsop and encamped there for the winter.

The stories of the Corps' travels and their time at Fort Clatsop are fascinating and can be experienced both tangibly at this replica fort, and vicariously through two films in the Visitor Center: a 35-minute film titled, "The Confluence of Time and Courage," which tells about their struggles and triumphs between St. Louis and Fort Clatsop and a 22-minute film titled, "The Clatsop Winter Story." You can also read about the entire, exciting expedition in Steven Ambrose's excellent book, *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*.

Yes, the fort is a replica, but its construction was based upon a floor plan, with dimensions, that was drawn by William Clark.

Just 250 yards (230 m) downhill from the front gate of the fort, you'll find the explorers' Canoe Landing, as well as a Ponderosa pine dugout canoe.

The fort was named for a local Indian tribe, the Clatsop. The expedition began its return trip in March, 1806. By the way, today you can fly the same route (St. Louis to Portland) in about four hours and drive it in four days.

The Fort Clatsop Visitor Center is open every day of the year, except December 25. The hours are 9-6 from mid-June to early September (Labor Day) and 9-5 the rest of the year. 92343 Fort Clatsop Road, Astoria, OR 97103, 503-861-2471, www.nps.gov/lewi.

Restaurant tip: Rather than hurry back to Beaverton for dinner, you may want to stop at a unique place that's highly recommended by locals: Camp 18 Restaurant. It's located east of Highway 101 on Highway 26 at mile-post 18. It's a very large log cabin with an 85-foot ridge pole, front doors that are 4-1/2 inches thick and weigh 500 pounds each, and is adjoined by an outdoor logging museum. The food is good, too.

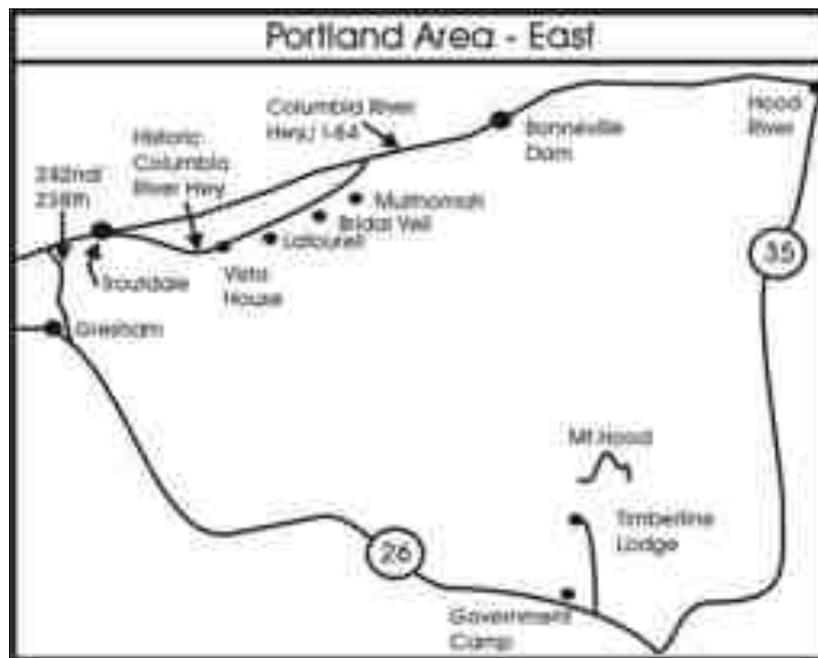
Day Three

Today, you'll get a good look at the expansive Columbia River Gorge and some of its waterfalls, visit Bonneville Dam and see its fish ladders and hatchery, drive some of Oregon's "Fruit Loop," have lunch at Timberline Lodge on the south face of Mt. Hood, and generally enjoy a very pleasant drive through the green, green, green countryside of northwest Oregon. At a little under 200 miles, you may consider this to be too long a driving day; if so, we recommend that you head back on Interstate 84 after visiting Bonneville Dam. But do read on, to learn what you could enjoy if you drive the full route as we planned it.

We also suggest—if you don't plan to have lunch at Timberline Lodge—that you carry along a picnic lunch. If you're staying at the Cornerstone B&B, the Meyerings can prepare a reasonably-priced picnic lunch for you, with advance notice. Another option is to stop in Hood River for lunch. TripAdvisor.com contributors recommend: **Sixth Street Bistro & Loft** at 509 Cascade Ave. 541-386-5737; **Celilo Restaurant & Bar** at 16 Oak St., 541-386-5710; and **Riverside** restaurant at 1108 E. Marina Way, 541-386-4410. A third option is to stop at the **Packer Family Orchards and Bakery**, eight miles south of Hood River on Highway 35, for a pastry and a piece of fruit; they grow 13 kinds of pears, 23 kinds of apples, 10 kinds of cherries, and three kinds of peaches and berries.

Now for the day's tour: Using the maps on page 2 and below, work your way 39 miles (63 km) to Vista House in the Columbia River Gorge, as follows:

- Scholls Ferry Road to Highway 217
- 217 southwest to Highway 99W
- 99W northeast to Interstate 5
- I-5 north to Interstate 84
- I-84 east to Troutdale, Exit 17; after exiting, look for signs that read, Oregon Scenic Byway and Historic Route/US 30
- Troutdale to Vista House via the *Historic Columbia River Highway*, which runs parallel to Interstate 84/the Columbia River Highway.



Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway

This historic highway was built between 1913 and 1922, during the advent of auto-touring, when Americans became passionate about driving to previously difficult-to-reach beauty spots throughout the country. It is the first planned scenic highway in the United States. It has been designated a National Scenic Byway by the U.S. Department of Transportation, and is one

of 31 All-American Roads. The criterion for the latter designation is: “They have features that do not exist elsewhere in the U.S. and are scenic enough to be destinations unto themselves.”

Columbia River Gorge

After you’ve stepped out of your car at Vista House, the following explanation will help you better understand what you’re seeing: You’re looking at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Overall, it’s 80 miles (129 km) long, three miles wide (4.8 km), runs east to west in the Gorge, and serves as the border between the states of Oregon and Washington until it turns north. The Gorge got this wide as Ice Age floods tore through the canyon on their way to the Willamette Valley. You are standing 733 feet (223 m) above the river on Crown Point Overlook, a bluff that’s the remains of an ancient lava flow. Some of the walls in the Gorge rise 1,500 to 3,000 feet (457-914 m).

The river itself is 1,232 miles long and starts in Canada’s British Columbia. It’s the second largest river in the U.S. (by volume), behind the Mississippi. It averages one mile in width and is popular for all kinds of water sports and activities, such as scenic cruises on sternwheelers during the summer. And, because of its strong winds, the Gorge is a Mecca for windsurfers and kite boarders. There are 75 waterfalls in the Gorge that are fed by snowfields and glaciers in the Cascade Range; you’ll have the opportunity to see some of the waterfalls shortly.

You’ll remember that the Lewis and Clark expedition traveled along this river in the fall of 1805 on their way to the coast, and in the spring of 1806 during their return trip.

Octagonal-shaped **Vista House** was built in 1918 as a memorial to the pioneers who came west via the Oregon Trail. Think about that for a moment: Between 1843 and 1860, some 800,000 pioneers drove their oxen, Conestoga wagons and cattle for four to six months and 1,500 miles (2,415 km) from Independence, Missouri in order to start new lives in Oregon. Early on, some of them floated their wagons down the Columbia, but it was too dangerous and costly. So, Sam Barlow and Philip Foster built a road which began at The Dalles, a town on the river about 70 miles east of here. From there, it headed southwest and around the southern shoulder of Mt. Hood, and went over the perilous Cascades to Oregon City south of present-day Portland. You’ll drive part of the Barlow Road route this afternoon—along Highway 26—while heading back to Beaverton.

Vista House was built as a viewing point and comfort station for people who would be traveling the Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway. In addition to rest rooms, Vista House offers travelers an upstairs observatory, an interesting museum, interpretive displays and a gift shop. Open daily 9-6 April-October and 10-4 Saturday and Sunday November-March; 503-695-2230, www.vistahouse.com.

From Vista House, continue east on the Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway for 2-1/2 miles (4 km) to **Latourell Falls**, a beautiful water scene that you can reach via a short paved path. Two miles beyond Latourell, you’ll come upon **Bridal Veil**, and four miles farther you’ll arrive at the *piece de resistance*, **Multnomah Falls**.

More than two million people visit this 620-foot-high falls every year. With its upper and lower falls, crossed by the 45-foot-long Benson Footbridge, this second-tallest year-around falls in the United States is a crowd pleaser. Photographers also love it; see our photo on page one.

You can get to the bridge, and beyond, via a footpath which you'll find to the right of the viewing platform.

There are a couple more falls beyond Multnomah—**Oneonta Gorge** and **Horsetail**—but if you're going to visit Bonneville Dam and drive the Mt. Hood Loop, you may want to skip them.

Bonneville Dam and Lock

Four miles beyond Multnomah Falls, the historic road merges with modern Interstate 84, and 4-1/2 miles farther, you'll come to Exit 40 for Bonneville Dam. Follow the signs, and cross the first large powerhouse, to the Bradford Island Visitor Center.

The first powerhouse is on the Oregon side of the river and was completed in 1937; the second powerhouse is on the Washington side and was completed in 1981. Together, they supply the power needs of 500,000 homes. An additional purpose of the first powerhouse was to provide construction jobs for the unemployed during the Great Depression. The powerhouses and adjoining fish hatchery were built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The fish hatchery—which we recommend you visit if you have time—is operated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

What is there to do here? Three things: 1) read the visitor center displays to learn more about the purpose and building of the dam and lock; 2) take a 45-minute guided tour of the powerhouse; 3) see the fish ladder and observe fish swimming by the underground viewing windows. The best time to see salmon steelhead and other fish swim by during their upstream migration is July through September. Interestingly, dam employees have been counting fish through the windows since 1938, to help scientists gauge increases or decreases in fish runs.

The dam and lock have been designated as a National Historic Landmark. The Bradford Island Visitor Center is open daily, except major holidays, from 9 to 5; P.O. Box 150 Cascade Locks 97014, 541-374-8820, www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/b.

Is Driving to Timberline Lodge Worth It?

As we said earlier, this is a long touring day if you take in both the Columbia River Gorge and the Mt. Hood Loop. Here are a couple of reasons to *not* tour the Mt. Hood Loop and visit Timberline Lodge: it will take about five hours to get back to Beaverton, especially if you have lunch at the lodge; and the day is cloudy and you won't be able to see Mt. Hood or the Cascades to the south. Here are several reasons to *do* it: you've got the time; the sky is reasonably clear; the drive and views are beautiful; and Timberline Lodge is worth seeing and the food is good.

The Mount Hood Highway

Oh, good; you've decided to come along.

After driving 24 miles east on I-84, you'll find three Hood River exits. Take the third one, Exit 64, and head south on Highway 35. *Here's a heads-up: After exiting, you will not find a sign pointing you to Highway 35. Turn right onto Button Bridge Rd. and you'll be on the Mt. Hood Scenic Byway (Hwy.35).*

For the next 35 miles, you'll be driving south past orchards and through the hilly Hood River Valley, also affectionately known as part of the "Fruit Loop." Weather permitting, you'll see Mt. Hood, in all its glory, getting larger and larger as you approach its east and south sides.

Here are some facts that you won't glean by just driving by the orchards, but should interest you: The Hood River Valley has one third of Oregon's fruit tree acreage (2.4 million fruit trees growing on 13,800 acres). Two-thirds of the state's pears are grown here and this is the nation's largest pear-growing region. In addition to pears, the valley is famous for its apples and cherries. And there are many other kinds of fruit trees and berry bushes, from which more than 70 kinds of jams, jellies and syrups are made. Many of the farms are family owned and were started in the mid-1800s when some of the pioneers settled here. And many farms encourage picking by the public (for a fee, of course).

A brief stop at the **Packer Family Orchards and Bakery**, eight miles south of Hood River, might just satisfy your hunger, sweet tooth, and curiosity about what such a farm produces.

Speaking of curiosity, let's satisfy yours about what those animals are in some of the fields—the ones that look like small llamas. They're alpacas, in the llama family, raised for their soft coats that make wonderfully warm sweaters, scarves and other items of clothing.

Mount Hood and Timberline Lodge

About 2-1/2 miles after Highway 35 merges into Highway 26, you'll find the road to Timberline Lodge. After five miles of beautiful uphill driving, you'll come to the lodge itself.

From the lodge's parking lot, you can look up the south face of Mt. Hood. Don't let this startle you, but Mt. Hood is a volcano—one of 42 dormant volcanoes in Oregon. The last (minor) eruptive activity of Mt. Hood occurred in 1907. These volcanoes are part of the "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped area surrounding the Pacific Ocean that's home to more than 75% of the world's volcanoes and 90% of the world's earthquakes.

At 11,239 feet (3,425 m) in elevation, Mt. Hood is the highest point in Oregon. The mountain is snowcapped year-round, because it gets 500 to 600 inches (1,270-1,524 cm) of the white stuff annually and has 12 glaciers. It has the longest ski season in North America.

There are three things to do at the lodge: 1) If you haven't already eaten, enjoy a buffet lunch in the Cascade Room or a sandwich in the second-floor Rams Head Bar and Mezzanine; 2) take a look around this National Historic Landmark hotel, which was constructed from wood and stone as a Works Progress Administration project and was finished in 1937; and 3) enjoy the magnificent view of the Cascade Mountains to the south. The lodge can be contacted at 503-272-3311, www.timberlinelodge.com.

The mountains can be viewed from many places in the lodge and from the parking lot. As you'll see, the Cascades are heavily treed and several tall mountains stand out from the rest: Mt. Hood, of course; **Mt. Jefferson** (46 miles/74 km as the crow flies), and the tops of the **Three Sisters** (85 miles/137 km); all are above 10,000 feet (3,050 m) in elevation. The Cascade Range extends from southern British Columbia in Canada, through the states of Washington and Oregon, to Mt. Lassen in Northern California.

Return to the Portland Area

We have just a few notes to share with you about the drive ahead:

Shortly after you turn right onto Highway 26, you'll see signs to Government Camp. This is Mt. Hood's alpine village.

As we mentioned when you were on the north side of Mt. Hood, the Oregon Trail Immigrants passed this way on the Barlow Road as they worked their way through the Cascades to the Willamette Valley. So, imagine dense forests and rough terrain, instead of a smooth highway, and you may get a feel for what the pioneers faced on this last leg of their cross-country trip.

Together, the string of unincorporated towns with the unusual names—Rhododendron, Zigzag, Welches, Wemme and Brightwood—make up a quasi-governmental entity called Villages at Mt. Hood. They have a total of 3,300 residents.

As you approach downtown Gresham, look for 242nd St. and turn north. 242nd will become 238th which will take you to I-84, a much faster route than continuing on Highway 26 through Gresham.

Additional Attractions

If you plan to spend more than three days in the area, here are some other sites and activities to consider. The following books contain good information about them: *Portland*, by Moon Handbooks and *Frommer's Portable Portland*.

Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, in McMinnville (wine country); Spruce Goose, many other historic aircraft, Imax theater; open 9-5 every day; 500 NE Captain Michael King Smith Way, 503-434-4180, www.evergreenmuseum.org.

The following are all in Portland.

Lan Su Chinese Garden; small classical garden; hours 10-5; 3rd and Everett; 503-228-8131, www.portlandchinesegarden.org.

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry; planetarium, Omnimax Theater, submarine, many science exhibits; hours Tues.-Sun. 9:30-5:30; 1945 SE Water St., 503-797-6674, www.oms.edu.

Pioneer Courthouse Square; downtown outdoor venue for 300+ public events per year, plus a weather machine; open all hours; 702 SW Sixth Ave., 503-223-1613, www.pioneercourhousesquare.org.

Pittock Mansion; early 1900s chateau of Oregonian newspaper owner Henry Pittock and his wife Georgiana, near Japanese and Rose gardens; hours generally 11-4; 3229 NW Pittock Dr., 503-823-3623, www.pittockmansion.org.

Portland Art Museum; 40,000+ works of art; closed Mon., hours vary by day of the week; 1219 SE Park Ave., 503-226-4842, www.pam.org.

Portland Saturday (and Sunday) Market, a weekly arts and crafts fair on the Willamette River, open Saturdays 10-5, Sundays 11-4:30; 108 W. Burnside, 503-222-6072, www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com.

Powell's City of Books; largest new and used bookstore in the world; hours generally 9-8:30; 1005 W. Burnside St., 503-228-4651, www.powells.com

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Bill and Celia Ginnodo are residents of Arlington Heights, Illinois. They have lived and traveled extensively in the American West, including Oregon. They are the authors of *Seven Perfect Days in Northern California: A Guided Driving Tour*, *Seven Perfect Days in Colorado: A Guided Driving Tour*, and *Seven Perfect Days in Arizona: A Guided Driving Tour*, which can be seen at www.pridepublications.com and www.amazon.com (enter keyword Ginnodo).

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Next Issue: "Phoenix and Scottsdale"