

# **Seven Wonders of Oregon**

# 7 days/6 nights

#### Portland – Pendleton – Baker City – Bend – Medford – Eugene – Newport

There are Seven Wonders of the World, and (surprisingly) not a single one is in Oregon. Explore majestic Mt. Hood and the grandeur of the Colombia River Gorge. Experience the picture-perfect Oregon Coast, exposed earth of the Painted Hills, towers of volcanic ash at Smith Rock State Park, and alpine peaks of the Wallowas. Enjoy the views at Crater Lake, the deepest lake in America. So we see your Wonders, world. And we raise you seven of our own!

Note: The following itinerary is designed to be customized. Accommodations and other inclusions will be recommended after learning about budget, traveler preferences, and special considerations.

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#### **Day 1: Portland to Pendleton** 209 Miles/336 Kilometers

Welcome to Portland, a city that blooms not only with roses - which inspired its nicknamed City of Roses - but with world-class culture, cuisine, and attractions. Drive east from Portland to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, where verdant mountainsides and waterfalls meet the Columbia River, one of the West's largest rivers that flows to the Pacific Ocean. The scenic area is filled with hiking trails, picnic spots and viewpoints.

Stop at Hood River, a town famous for its strong winds - which give kiteboarders and windsurfers some real thrills - and easy access to outdoor adventures in the Mt. Hood area. Don't miss the galleries, restaurants and breweries in Hood River's historic downtown. Continue east to the more arid climes of Eastern Oregon. Your final stop of the day is Pendleton, home of the annual Pendleton Roundup rodeo, one of the largest and oldest rodeos in the world. You can feel the town's Old West roots while sauntering through Pendleton's saloons and steakhouses. Overnight in Pendleton.



#### **Day 2: Pendleton to Baker City** 228 Miles/366 Kilometers

Today you'll discover stunning waters and untouched vistas. Take the highway to Wallowa Lake, a deep, clear, glaciercarved lake surrounded by the dramatic peaks of the Wallowa Mountains. During the summer, the lake is a popular place to swim, boat, and have beach picnics. So stunning in its beauty, many artists have found the Wallowa Mountain scenery inspiring and have chosen to live and work in the nearby town of Joseph. Stop by to check out their creations at numerous bronze foundries and galleries, which sell locally made jewelry, metalwork, paintings, and sculptures.

Take in the arid forests and mountain views as you make your way on the scenic drive to Baker City - a former gold rush boomtown. Just outside of town, the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center helps visitors imagine walking the Oregon Trail, a 2,000-mile pioneer route, through an extensive collection of artwork and exhibits. Overnight in Baker City.

# Day 3: Baker City to Bend 230 Miles/370 Kilometers

Head west on Oregon Highway 7 and you'll find yourself in the town of John Day, a former gold rush town that had one of the largest Chinatowns in the West. The Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site provides a vivid portrait of many Chinese immigrant lives. The 1870s building was once a Chinese apothecary, grocery store, and trading post. Sealed for decades, the building was reopened and the original artifacts were perfectly preserved.

Keep heading west to the Painted Hills, where barren hillsides look brushed with eye-catching hues, from ochre and blazing yellow to green, if you catch them in the right light. On the way to the outdoor mecca of Bend, stop at Smith Rock State Park, a destination for rock climbers who arrive ready to conquer the 800-foot cliffs rising above the lazy Crooked River. Nearby Bend is perfectly situated near world-class skiing, fly-fishing hot spots, kayaking rapids, rockclimbing routes, mountain-biking trails and golf courses. Discover Bend's booming beer scene on the Bend Ale Trail, which includes 19 breweries.

End your day at nearby Sunriver Resort, where vacation properties are interspersed with 63 holes of championship golf, a spa, tennis courts, swimming pools, 35 miles of bike paths and a marina on the Deschutes River. Overnight in Sunriver.





### **Day 4: Bend to Medford** 173 Miles/278 Kilometers

Follow the Cascades Mountains as you head toward Crater Lake National Park. The lake was formed 7,700 years ago, when a volcanic peak erupted then collapsed. The remaining caldera filled with water, creating the deep azure-blue lake you see today. Rim Drive offers dozens of lake viewpoints, and the grand 1915 Crater Lake Lodge offers another spectacular scene. Head through the lush Applegate Valley, a collection of rolling hills outside Medford. The valley has become yet another burgeoning Oregon wine region that's producing cabernet sauvignon, merlot and chardonnay. Nearly 20 top-notch wineries - many with tasting rooms - are scattered among farm stands, creameries, lavender farms and hiking trails.

In the former gold rush town of Jacksonville, many original buildings from the 1880s still line the historic main street. These days the tiny downtown holds art galleries, boutiques and winetasting rooms. Just south of Medford is the cultural center of Ashland, home of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Every year the theater draws nearly half a million theatergoers to the 11 plays it produces. On summer nights, the outdoor Elizabethan Stage crackles with some of Shakespeare's finest works. End your day in Medford, one of the largest cities in Southern Oregon. Overnight in Medford.

## **Day 5: Medford to Eugene** 166 Miles/267 Kilometers

Head north to the Willamette Valley through Grants Pass, the starting point for adventures on the Rogue. The Rogue River is a wild and scenic source that runs from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Popular for jet boating, white-water rafting and fishing, the river is home to bald eagles, salmon, river otters, and black bears. As you near the town of Eugene, stop at numerous award-winning wineries, where pinot noir and pinot gris vines cover Oregon's cool hills. From the wineries' tasting rooms, you'll begin to understand the region's distinct terroir. Make your way to Eugene, a vibrant college town that's home to the University of Oregon. The town feels connected to the outdoors thanks to numerous parks and pathways, and a vibrant culinary scene features top-notch restaurants and a dedication to local wines. Overnight in Eugene.





### **Day 6: Eugene to Newport** 111 Miles/178 Kilometers

Head as far west as you can go, to the Oregon Coast, and then north. In Florence, a serene town where the Siuslaw River meets the sea, the beach can be cloaked in mist or gleaming with sunshine. The nearby historic Heceta Head Lighthouse is a good place to spot sea lions and migrating whales.

Drive north along a stunning stretch of coastline to Newport, an active commercial fishing hub with a waterfront area lined with shops, restaurants, and barking sea lions. The historic bayfront is a great place to eat locally caught seafood and watch the fishing boats come and go. Climb aboard a boat for a bay and ocean tour from Marine Discovery Tours in Newport. Naturalist guides educate landlubbers about wildlife spotted during the cruise - which hopefully includes a whale sighting. Leave the bayfront area and cross the 1930s Yaquina Bay Bridge to reach the world-class Oregon Coast Aquarium, where you can watch sea otters crack open mollusks and a giant octopus unfurl its arms. Overnight in Newport.

### **Day 7: Newport to Portland** 149 Miles/239 Kilometers

Head north to the Depoe Bay Whale Watching Center, another great place to see one of the thousands of whales that pass by each year. Then stop in Lincoln City, where you can learn to blow glass at the Jennifer Sears Glass Art Studio or enjoy a game at the casino. Drive through Willamette Valley Wine Country with a stop at Sokol Blosser winery in Dayton where you will experience Oregon's world-class pinot noir. Continue north for an afternoon of tax-free shopping at Woodburn Premium Outlets before arriving back in Portland.

\*Extend your time in Portland and experience the legendary food carts, Chinese Gardens, Japanese Gardens, Powell's Book Store, and more!

#### Inclusions

- 6 nights of hotel accommodations
- Daily breakfast buffet
- Transport by private A/C vehicle
- O Local English-speaking guides and entrance fees
- Vehicle and fuel surcharges
- O Hotel taxes

#### **Exclusions**

- International Airfare
- Any items of a personal nature
- Ø Gratuities
- Ø Travel Insurance
- Ø Passport and Visa Fees