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EXPLORE YOUR AMERICA

Spend the Night in a National Forest Cabin or Fire Lookout as You Explore America's Great Outdoors

Historic Cabins and Lookouts Offer Travelers Unique Lodging Choices

Looking for **rustic and affordable** accommodations that fall somewhere between a tent and a grand lodge? Want to get a taste of what it was like to be a Forest Ranger? Consider renting a national forest cabin or fire lookout as part of your quest to explore America's Great Outdoors.

Our National Forest System is more than one hundred years old. In the early days, cabins were built to house local Forest Rangers. Fire lookouts soon dotted the peaks. Today, many of these **historic structures** are no longer needed for their original uses. Instead, they have been converted into rustic rentals where visitors can **spend the night close to nature** but with a roof over their heads and a stove to cook on. Here are a few of our favorites within easy driving distance from major airports. With several hundred located across the country, there are plenty of options. Visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) for information and to make your reservation.



Garnet Mountain Lookout (Chris Kamman/Share the Experience)

Discover

Just a two hour drive from Seattle, Washington, the [American River Guard Station](#) showcases the "dry" side of the Cascade Mountains and is not far from the northern entrance to [Mt. Rainier National Park](#).

Head one hour east of Portland, Oregon, and settle in for a night at the [Clackamas Lake Historic Cabin](#). This cabin is

strategically located to further explore the southern flanks of Oregon's famed Mt. Hood.

Should your travels take you to the four-season destination of Bend, Oregon, then the [Green Ridge Lookout](#) might be just the special experience you are seeking.

If sunny California is calling, head a few hours northeast of Sacramento to discover historic gold country and the [Harvey West Cabin](#).