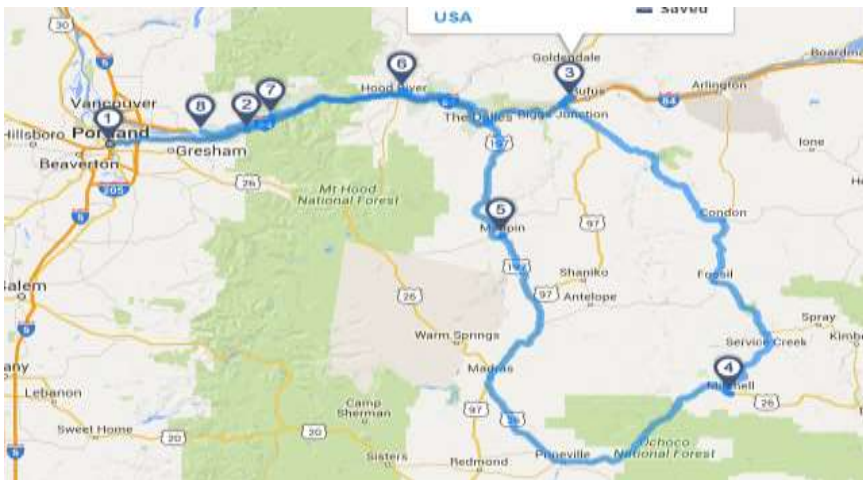




Portland East: The Columbia River and Plateau

Travels along the “River of the West”



HIGHLIGHTS

Explore the heights and depths of the awe-inspiring Columbia River Gorge as you follow the famed “River of the West,” experiencing the powerful geologic forces that shaped the region and people who call this home.

KEY POINTS OF INTEREST

- Two State Parks
- Tribal Culture
- National Monument, National Scenic Area, and National Wildlife Refuge
- Scenic Byways and Bikeways

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Views, Variety, and Adventures in the Columbia River Gorge

Travel Oregon’s [Historic Columbia River Highway](#) through the [Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area](#). Enjoy the waterfalls including the famous Multnomah Falls. Stop for a sweeping view at Rowena Crest and then take in the exhibits at the [Gorge Discovery Center](#) to learn about Native American history, the explorations of Lewis and Clark, and challenges faced by the Oregon Trail pioneers. At Biggs, cross over to the Washington side of the river to visit Stonehenge Memorial at [Maryhill State Park](#). Throughout the Gorge opportunities abound for picnicking, camping, swimming, and hiking. Or learn to windsurf in one of the world’s best windsurfing locales.

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Multnomah Falls,
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
(Jhamil Bader-Jarvis/Share the Experience)

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Wind Surfing,
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
(US Forest Service)

Journey Through Time to the John Day Fossil Beds

Back in Oregon, head south onto the Columbia Plateau. Drive sections of the [Journey Through Time Scenic Byway](#) or cycle the [Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway](#) to [John Day Fossil Beds National Monument](#). The Monument's Sheep Rock, Clarno, and Painted Hills Units each offer unique experiences so be sure to visit all three!

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
(Raquel Muszynski/Share the Experience)



A Legendary River in a High Desert Setting

The route now leads to Maupin where you can access the renowned [Deschutes River](#). Stay at a local guest lodge or go more rustic at one of the riverside campgrounds. Join a whitewater rafting adventure or arrange for a local fly-fishing guide to show you why this river is an on so many angler's bucket list. If you prefer to keep your feet planted on the ground, drive or bike the [Deschutes River Backcountry Byway](#) and hike some of the side trails.



Rafting on the Lower Deschutes River,
(Bureau of Land Management)



Fly Fishing on the Lower Deschutes River,
(Bureau of Land Management)

Explore the Washington Side of the Gorge

Back in The Dalles, once again cross the Columbia River for a taste of the Gorge's north side on your return to Portland. First stop is the [Wild and Scenic White Salmon River](#) for whitewater rafting, kayaking, and picnicking. Then on to [Beacon Rock State Park](#) where you can hike to the top of this prominent landmark for a postcard view. Finish your journey at the [Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#) for a river's eye view of birds, passing river traffic, and the Gorge's soaring basalt rock walls.



Trail at Beacon Rock State Park
(Washington State Parks)



Bird Watching along the Columbia River
(US Fish and Wildlife Service)