



Portland South: A Taste of Oregon's Cascades

Volcanic Landscapes, Rushing Rivers, and Native American Culture



HIGHLIGHTS

Explore the Cascade Range, the volcanic backbone that divides Oregon's western temperate rain forests and high desert plateaus.

KEY POINTS OF INTEREST

- Oregon's famed Mt. Hood
- Warm Springs Tribal Museum
- Three Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Rock Climbing at Smith Rock State Park
- Scenic Byways
- Swimming, Boating, and Fishing at Detroit Lake

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Iconic Mt. Hood and Timberline Lodge

From Portland, Mt. Hood beckons. Respond to its call by heading east on the [Mt. Hood Loop National Scenic Byway](#) (State Route 26). Stop at [Wildwood Recreation Area](#) and the Cascade Streamwatch Trail to view wild salmon in season from the unique underwater viewing site before climbing to Government Camp and on to the famed [Timberline Lodge](#) to drink in the mountain views. Timberline, [Mt. Hood Meadows](#), and [Skibow! Ski Areas](#) all offer year-round recreation opportunities on Oregon's tallest peak.



Cascade Streamwatch Fish Viewing, Wildwood Recreation Area (BLM)



Timberline Lodge and Mt. Hood Summit, Mt. Hood National Forest (US Forest Service)

Warm Springs Reservation and Crooked River Country
Leaving Mt. Hood, travel over the crest of the Cascades to the dry side of the mountains. Explore the deep roots the Warm Springs Tribe has in these lands at the [Warm Springs Museum](#). Then continue on to the Central Oregon town of Prineville and take in the [Wild and Scenic Crooked River](#) along the Crooked River Back Country Byway.

Wild and Scenic Lower Crooked River (BLM)



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Climbing, Fly Fishing, and Scenic Byways

Next stop is [Smith Rock State Park](#), one of Oregon's "Seven Wonders." Take a rock climbing class or simply enjoy a hike among the pinnacles. Continue west along the [McKenzie Pass/Santiam Pass National Scenic Byway](#) to the beautiful Metolius Wild and Scenic River where you can cast a line along this world class fly fishing destination set among soaring, old growth Ponderosa pines.



Smith Rock State Park
(Oregon State Parks)

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Wild and Scenic Metolius River,
Deschutes National Forest (US Forest Service)

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It's all about the water!

Your route returns to the temperate rain forest of the West Cascades and the shores of [Detroit Lake](#). There's plenty of opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking, and if you decide to stay the night, set up camp at the [Detroit Lake State Recreation Area](#). For the adventurous, jump on a bicycle and return to Portland via the [Cascading Rivers State Scenic Bikeway](#) or simply enjoy beauty of the region from your car window along the [West Cascades National Scenic Byway](#).



Detroit Lake State Recreation Lake
(US Army Corps of Engineers/Oregon State Parks)

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Cascading Rivers State Scenic Bikeway
(Oregon State Parks)

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