2012 AHSGR CONVENTION in PORTLAND, OREGON

“GETTING HERE IS HALF THE FUN”

From Jean A. Roth, Certified Travel Counselor (retired) and President of the Greater Seattle Chapter of AHSGR: Getting to Portland for the AHSGR Convention brings you through some of the Pacific Northwest’s most interesting scenic areas. Here are a few of my favorite tips, travel stops, scenic highlights and main tour routes to get to Portland. We encourage you to take time to experience our beautiful part of the country.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT OREGON

Population: About 3,500,000, Portland’s city population is about 568,380
Capital: Salem in Central Oregon along the I-5 corridor
Time Zone: Pacific Daylight Time during the Convention
Highest Point: Mt. Hood at 11,239 feet
Lowest Point: Sea level at the Pacific Ocean. Portland’s elevation is 77 feet
Weather: Our weather is usually pretty mild. In June, the average high temperature is 73 and low is 53. We have ordered nice weather – but sometimes it rains lightly.
Minimum Age: Minimum age for drinking and gambling is 21
Apparel: People in the Pacific Northwest usually dress comfortably and casual. Because temperatures can vary- most natives dress layered so we can adjust by putting on or taking off a sweater or sweatshirt. A light jacket is also useful. Convention sessions are in different campus buildings, though all close by – so comfortable shoes are a must. If you are taking any of our tours up into the mountains – we suggest warmer clothing and sturdier foot wear such as sneakers or tennis shoes.
Binoculars: The sightseeing is spectacular – so don’t forget this item

RESTRICTIONS

Cell phones: All drivers are prohibited from text messaging and using hand held cell phones. Drivers under 18 are prohibited from any cell phone use.
Seatbelts: Seat belts required for all passengers. Children must be restrained in a booster seat or child safety seat
Helmets: required for bicycles and motorcycles
Radar Detectors are permitted
Move Over law: Drivers are required to move over for emergency vehicles
Speed Limits: Limits are posted and highways vary from 55 to 70 mph.
Taxes: There is no statewide sales tax in Oregon so shopping can be a bargain. There are taxes on lodging which vary by locality.
Special Regulation: Motorists are not allowed to pump their own gas at service stations in Oregon. Gas prices are comparable to the rest of the Nation.

TRAVEL WEBSITES: Several free website are good for vacation planning
TRIP ADVISOR: rates attractions and accommodations www.tripadvisor.com
ALL-OREGON SITE MAP: This site features Oregon attractions, events, shopping, cities and towns. www.all-oregon.com
PORTLAND
“IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD”

Portland is the “City of Roses” and the “City of Bridges.” It is also known for its outstanding parks and extensive 44-mile light rail system. Concordia University, site of the 2012 AHSGR Convention, is located east of the city, near the Portland Airport.

PORTLAND’S NEIGHBORHOODS

Portland is a city of 95 official, neighborhoods and with sites on the National Register of Historic Places. Northwest Portland includes the Pearl District, and most of Old Town Chinatown. The Pearl District is a former warehouse area just north of downtown. Many of the warehouses have been converted into lofts, and the increasing density has attracted a mix of restaurants, brewpubs, shops, and art galleries. Inner Northeast includes several shopping areas, such as the Lloyd District, Alberta Arts District and Hollywood. Straddling the base of the borders of North and Northeast is the Rose Quarter. At the base of Northeast an area near the Burnside Bridge has been redeveloped into a bustling nightlife and entertainment district. Southeast Portland includes the Hawthorne district which is known for its hippie/radical crowd and small subculture-oriented shops.

Albina Neighborhood: The oldest Volga German settlement in Oregon is in the Northeastern part of Portland in what is known as the Albina neighborhood. The settlement dates to 1882. In the 1930's this settlement numbered about 500 families. The neighborhood was concentrated in an area generally bounded by NE Alberta on the North, NE 15th on the East, NE Russell on the South, and NE Mississippi and NE Albina on the West. This area was known as "Rooshian Town" or "Little Russia" by the locals and appears to have been the general area of residence for most families until well into the 1930's. It is near Concordia University. Steve Schrieber will be explaining the impact of this neighborhood at the convention and showing a documentary. Visit his website “Germans from Russia in Portland, Oregon” www.volgagermans.net/portland

PORTLAND’S GARDENS

Washington Park: This extensive park features six special attractions including Hoyt Arboretum, Oregon Zoo, Children’s Museum, International Rose Test Garden, Portland Japanese Garden, and the World Forestry Discovery Center.

- Portland Japanese Garden: This is viewed as the most authentic Japanese garden outside of Japan. Its serene beauty features traditional landscaping and architecture.

- International Rose Test Garden: Portland is the “City of Roses” and this garden includes more than 8,000 bushes and over 400 varieties. Peak blooms are in June.

- World Forestry Discovery Center: Interactive exhibits about the forests of the world and sights such as a canopy view of the trees and smoke jumpers equipment.
- **Oregon Zoo**: Wonderful exhibits include a Great Northwest Exhibit, and a special world-known elephant breeding program.

- **The Portland Children's Museum**: The Portland Children's Museum is a museum specifically geared for early childhood development.

- **Hoyt Arboretum**: 187-acre arboretum with 12 miles of trails.

**Peninsula Rose Garden**: One of the largest sunken rose gardens in America, this Elizabethan garden blooms from late May to October.

**Lan Su Chinese Garden**: Designed in the style of 15th century Ming Dynasty, this traditional garden was built by artisans from Portland’s Sister City, Suzhou, China

**The Grotto**: The National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother is a 62-acre Catholic shrine designed reflection in an outdoor cathedral and gardens. www.thegrotto.org

**PORTLAND’S ATTRACTIONS**

**Pittock Mansion**: This French Renaissance chateau is filled with antiques. Located nearly 1,000 feet above Portland – it offers spectacular views of the city and mountains.

**Portland Underground Tours**: Visit Portland’s shady past with the Shanghai tunnels under the waterfront streets where unsuspecting men were “shanghaied” and sold to sea captains. Other ghost tours are also featured.

**Powell’s City of Books**: The largest book store in the world, this Portland institution covers an entire city block. It’s fun to browse through the million of new and used books. You can even browse on line at www.powells.com

**Breweries**: Portland has become the microbrewery capital of the United States. Our Convention tours include visits to local brew pubs.

**PORTLAND MUSEUMS**

**Oregon Museum of Science and Industry**: OMSI consists of five main halls - Earth Science Hall, Life Science Hall, Turbine Hall, Science Playground, and Featured Exhibit Hall. OMSI has many other unique attractions, such as the **USS Blueback (SS-581)**, the OMNIMAX Dome Theater, and OMSI's Kendall Planetarium. OMSI is built right up next to the river. www.omsi.edu
**Portland Art Museum:** The Portland Art Museum owns the city's largest art collection and presents a variety of touring exhibitions each year and with the recent addition of the Modern and Contemporary Art wing it became one of the United States' twenty-five largest art museums.

**Oregon History Museum:** The Oregon History Museum was founded in 1898. It has a variety of books, film, pictures, artifacts, and maps dating back throughout Oregon's history. The museum has one of the most extensive collections of state history materials in the USA. [www.ohs.org](http://www.ohs.org)

*Side trip: Cross the Columbia River to the neighboring city of Vancouver, Washington*

**VANCOUVER**

**Fort Vancouver National Historic Site:** This was a 19th century fur trading outpost along the Columbia River that served as the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company in the company's Columbia District (which covered the northern half of the region known to Americans as the Oregon Country). Named for Captain George Vancouver, the fort was located on the northern bank of the Columbia River in present-day Vancouver, Washington, near Portland, Oregon. Today, a full-scale replica of the fort, with internal buildings, has been constructed. The subsequent U.S. Army post at the site - known as Columbia Barracks, Fort Vancouver, or Vancouver Barracks depending on the era - was equally surprising. Its goal was to provide for peaceful American settlement of the Oregon Country, yet it did so, in part, by battling and dispossessing the Native American Indian inhabitants. During this time the Indian Wars were happening in the west and famous military men such as Ulysses S. Grant, Philip Henry Sheridan, Arthur MacArthur, Jr., and George Crook were stationed at the fort at various times. It also incarcerated American Indian families and Italian prisoners of war. [www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova)

| OREGON COAST – U.S. 101 from the South to the North Coast  
Pacific Coast Scenic Byway |
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<td>This major route from California to the Portland Convention features a spectacular drive from the California border to the Columbia River paralleling the magnificent Pacific Ocean with its dramatic rugged headlands and long stretches of pristine sandy beaches. Each of the coastal towns has its own enchanting personality and a rich history</td>
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**BROOKINGS:** Brookings is located in the southwest corner of Oregon just 6 miles from California at the junction of the Chetco River and the Pacific Ocean. Brookings Oregon is northwest of the river, while Harbor lies to the southeast. Brookings-Harbor Oregon is a fisherman’s paradise. It has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

**GOLD BEACH:** Gold Beach is home to several Jet Boat companies which make an exciting journey on the Rogue River into the wilderness area.
Cape Sebastian Overlook: The very name invokes images of early Spanish explorers and long journeys. The most striking features of this park are its two parking vistas. The parking lots are over 200 feet above sea level. At the south parking vista, you can see up to 43 miles to the north with Humbug Mountain filling the view. Looking south, you can see nearly 50 miles toward Crescent City, California and Point Saint George Lighthouse.

PORT ORFORD: Westernmost incorporated city in the contiguous United States.

Prehistoric Gardens: Prehistoric Gardens is an amazing tourist attraction. A mysterious path, lined with 23 life-sized dinosaurs, some towering over 40 feet, gives you a picture of what the ancient beasts would have looked like in their own environment.

West Coast Game Park: A 21-acre “walk through” game park seven miles south of Bandon where visitor wander through exhibits and meet the more than 450 exotic animals. This is America’s largest wild animal petting park. www.gameparksafari.com

BANDON: A cute town with a rich and colorful history, See historic Old Town Bandon with its colorful shops. The 5 mile drive starts by traveling along the Coquille River to the Coquille River Museum located in the historic Coast Guard building. The South Jetty County Park is along the route for picnicking, with easy access points to the beach and a lighthouse. The route returns to Highway 101 via Face Rock Viewpoint State Park.

COOS BAY: Coos Bay, Oregon one of the world's major log and wood product seaports, the Pacific Ocean, and a multitude of streams, sloughs and lakes bring commerce and fun to residents and visitors. The communities of Coos Bay Oregon, North Bend and Charleston are tied together by a common bond of commercial and recreational activity.

REEDSPORT: Surrounded by rivers, lakes and the ocean

Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area: Over 440 acres of pasture and bottomland where you can view Roosevelt Elk and other wildlife.

Oregon Dunes National Recreational Area: Just south of Florence is over 42 miles of towering coastal sand dunes are sculpted by the sea winds and winter storms rise up to 500 feet above sea level. You can take a dune buggy ride or just view from the tower.

FLORENCE: Historic Old Town Florence is one of the most charming of the Oregon coast cities. Located on the waterfront below Highway 101's Siuslaw River Bridge, this historic district is the perfect place to spend time exploring art galleries, antique stores, gift and specialty shops, wine tasting and restaurants serving regional foods and wines.

Heceta Head Lighthouse: This famous lighthouse is located on a breathtaking bluff 150 feet above the sea. It is one of the most visited lighthouses in the U. S. drawing thousands of visitors to sense its history, romantic aura, and spectacular view. Construction of the lighthouse began in 1892. The most powerful light along the Oregon coast, the light can be seen 21 miles out to sea and is only stopped by the curvature of the earth."
Sea Lion Caves: 11 miles north of Florence, this world-known commercial attraction descends in an elevator to the caverns to observe wild Stellar sea lions in a natural amphitheater. www.sealioncaves.com

YACHATS: nestled by Cape Perpetua, this small village has excellent beaches. See the Devil’s Churn, Cook’s Chasm and Spouting Horn

WALPORT: More than 5,000 fishing vessels visit Alsea Bay and River every year to catch Dungeness crab or Chinook salmon.

NEWPORT: Newport Oregon has been a playground for visitors since the late 1800's. In fact, it's impossible to experience it all in one day with scenic excursions, the historic bay front and fishing fleet, aquariums, historical museums and lighthouses.

Oregon Coast Aquarium: This is an excellent internationally-known aquarium which includes “Passages of the Deep” a 200 foot undersea tunnel with 1.32 million gallons of water running through three ocean habitats. Here the giant pacific octopus lurks and watch the beauty of the moon jellies and the delightful sea otters. See tufted puffins frolic in one of the largest outdoor seabird aviaries in the world. This is the former home of Keiko the whale from the “Free Willie” movie. www.aquarium.org

Yaquina Bay Lighthouse: This two-story clapboard structure is located on a hill overlooking the northern side of the entrance to Yaquina Bay. It was deserted three years after its light was first lit in 1871, and ever since has been the scene for many a ghostly tale. The story of the lighthouse began in 1871 when Yaquina Bay was a bustling port, the most populated along the West Coast between San Francisco and the Puget Sound.

Yaquina Head Lighthouse: This lighthouse which dates from 1873 can be a spooky place on a dark, cold, windy night. Ghosts lurking, ship compasses not working. The tower was made from 370,000 bricks from San Francisco.

Nye Beach: Fun and funky shops and restaurants

DEPOT BAY: This is the smallest navigable harbor in the world. From March to December – try whale watching.

Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint: Boiler Bay is a great place to watch wild surf action on the rocky spurs. This splendid panoramic viewpoint presents a good opportunity to see migrating and resident gray whales. This is one of the best sites in Oregon to see ocean-going birds (like shearwaters, jaegers, albatrosses, grebes, pelicans, loons, oystercatchers and murrelets. A short, rough trail takes you to some of Oregon’s richest tide pools

LINCOLN CITY: Commercial seaside resort with many motels and seaside gift shops. It is nicknames the “kite capital of the world.”
Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge: known for its egrets, herons, seagulls, and harbor seals basking on Salishan spit.

“D” River: See the shortest river in the world

Chinook Winds Casino: is open 24 hours a day

From Lincoln City you can turn inland on Highway 18 for a short cut to the City of Portland via McMinnville and the wine country around Dundee or continue north on Highway 101.

PACIFIC CITY & OCEANSIDE: See dramatic Cape Kiwanda and the Three Capes scenic loop. The small community of Oceanside overlooks the beach and Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge where hundreds of sea lions and seals inhabit the rocks.

TILLAMOOK: Located at the end of Tillamook Bay – the area is famous for its dairy production, cheese and butter making, fishing and timber.

Tillamook Air Museum: One mile south of Tillamook. Set inside a rare WWII Blimp hanger – the largest wooden structure in the world. See one of America’s finest collection of over 30 war birds. Explore the exhibits which include pieces of the German airship “Hindenburg” and a WWII Luftwaffe fight jacket. www.tillamookair.com

Blue Heron French Cheese Factory: One mile north of Tillamook is this small gift shop with its trademark brie cheese, and extensive wine selection. The gift shop features a deli and children will enjoy the petting zoo. www.blueheronoregon.com

The Tillamook Cheese Factory: Take the self-guiding tour and find out how world-famous Tillamook Cheese is made and enjoy tasting free samples. Visit the gift and gourmet shop. The ice cream is delicious. www.tillamook.com/cheesefactory

GARIBALDI: Quaint port town on the shores of Tillamook Bay which is home to the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad Steam Train. www.ocsr.net

CANNON BEACH: Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Coast Mountain Range, rests upscale Cannon Beach, famed for its forested headlands, towering monoliths and miles of pristine, sandy beaches. Haystack Rock is the area’s famous landmark with its tide pools and bird rookeries. At 235 feet it is the third largest coastal monolith in the world. Other attractions include Ecola State Park, Indian and Crescent Beaches, the Bird Rocks and Silver Point. “Terrible Tilly” Tillamook Rock lighthouse is visible out to sea, amidst vistas of waves and seasonal populations of birds. The attractive business district provides shops, art galleries and gift shops with delightful “bling at the beach.” Don’t miss Bruce's Candy Kitchen for many varieties of delicious homemade salt water taffy.

SEASIDE: Situated 17 miles south of the Washington border in northwest Oregon, Seaside is nestled alongside the Pacific Ocean on a wide and sandy beach north of
Tillamook Head. Seaside Oregon is the oldest beach resort on the coast. For over 100 years, folks have flocked to stroll the boardwalk and carnival-like shops and fun arcades. Seaside is the official end of the historic Lewis and Clark Trail.

**Lewis & Clark Salt Cairn:** The explorers came to Seaside to obtain salt for use at Fort Clatsop and the return journey back to S. Louis. The ruins are easily visible.

**Seaside Aquarium:** This is a somewhat dreary old aquarium built in the 1920’s but the captive breeding program of “feed me” seals are a hoot and have made people laugh for generations. Buy some fish snacks and watch them vie for your attention with their hysterical antics.  [www.seasideaquarium.com](http://www.seasideaquarium.com)

**WARRENTON:** The Columbia River is known as the “Graveyard of the Pacific” – with more than 200 major wrecks that have occurred near the mouth of the river. Here at Fort Steven’s State Park you can still see a few remnants of the schooner “Peter Iredale” on the beach that went aground in 1906. The South Jetty Viewing platform gives excellent views at Ft. Stevens which was built during the Civil War.

**ASTORIA:** Astoria is the most northerly town on the route just inland from the ocean. Located at the mouth of the Columbia River was the first American settlement west of the Rocky Mountains, founded as a fur trading center by John Jacob Astor I. It is known as the “little San Francisco of the Pacific Northwest” with its charming Victorian homes clinging to the hillside. Watch ships traveling up and down the river to inland ports.

**Fort Clatsop:** Fort Clatsop – Lewis and Clark National Historical Park commemorates the winter encampment for the Corps of Discovery from December 1805 to March 1806. The visitor center includes a replica of Fort Clatsop similar to the one built by the explorers, an interpretive center offering an exhibit hall, gift shop and two films. The center features ranger-led programs, costumed rangers in the fort and trailheads for the Fort To Sea and Netul River Trails.  [www.nps.gov/lewi/planyourvisit/fortclatsop.htm](http://www.nps.gov/lewi/planyourvisit/fortclatsop.htm)

**Astoria Column:** This 125 foot high column on top of Coxcomb Hill has fantastic panoramic views of Mt. St. Helens, the Pacific Ocean, the Columbia River and the historic town below. Historic frescoes are on the column.

**Columbia River Maritime Museum:** This excellent museum on the Columbia River features a history of the River and Marine transportation from dugout canoes to present day ships. Board the Lightship *Columbia* which once guided ships to safety at the mouth of the Columbia River across the treacherous Columbia Bar.  [www.crmm.org](http://www.crmm.org)

**Astoria-Megler Bridge:** spanning the Columbia River from Oregon to Washington, this bridge has a main span of 1,232 feet in length – the longest “continuous truss” in the world. Built in 1966 – it is the final link in the Mexico-Canada highway system. Across the river into Washington is the Long Beach Peninsula and historic towns such as Oysterville. At Ocean Park – visit Jack’s Country Store, established about 1885, which maintains traditions of rural America and over 200,000 different items.
ASHLAND: Home of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and numerous cultural activities, Nestled among clear lakes and rivers in the foothills of the majestic Siskiyou mountains, Ashland is a sports enthusiast’s and nature lover’s dream. It’s a place to walk, bike, browse and enjoy. Stroll through the 100 acres of celebrated Lithia Park, sip coffee at our many cafes, or shop in a unique selection of bookstores, galleries and boutiques.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival: One of the oldest and largest repertory theaters in the nation. Annually presents classic and modern productions in three theaters including the outdoor Elizabethan stage. Information available at www.osfashland.org

MEDFORD/CENTRAL POINT: Medford is known throughout the United States for its varieties of pears and the city is surrounded by orchards.

Harry & David Gourmet Gifts: Famed Harry & David was founded in Medford and to this day is Southern Oregon's largest employer. The most visible landmark is the 1937 art deco packing house, a local attraction prominently located along the main highway. The campus includes a candy kitchen and bakery complex, and a fruit & gift basket outlet.

Short detour west to the historic town of Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE: The Gold Rush town of Jacksonville has been designated as a National Historic Landmark Community. Located in the foothills of the Siskiyou Mountains, this old west town has over 90 original brick and wooden buildings that date back to the 1850s. Using the 100 year old photographs of pioneer Peter Britt, many have been restored to their original state. Strolling by the historic buildings on Oregon and California Streets will take you back to the frontier days of this mining town.

The Jacksonville Museum: This brick and stone Italianate building built in 1883 and formerly served as the courthouse, until the county seat was moved to Medford. There are exhibits on the history of the Oregon and California Railroad in the Rogue Valley, mining, the Chinese, and Jacksonville history in general.

The Children’s Museum: Housed in the 1910 Jackson County Jail, its exhibits include old fashioned toys, walk-through exhibits for a pioneer jail, kitchen and tepee and a collection of Vance Colvig memorabilia and cartoons. Vance ("Pinto") Colvig was the voice for many Walt Disney characters, including Goofy, Grumpy (in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs), and Pluto. The Jacksonville native was also the first Bozo the Clown.

The Beekman Bank: The Beekman Bank, established in 1863, has many of the original furnishings, including a collection of Wells Fargo memorabilia.

Detour east to Crater Lake National Park located 57 miles northeast of Klamath Falls on Highway US 97, OR 62
CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK: One of America’s scenic wonders, beautiful Crater Lake’s deep blue waters lie in the caldera of an ancient volcano, Mt Mazama. Over 7,000 years ago a mighty blast collapsed the mountain and formed the deepest lake in the United States. The Rim Drive offers spectacular scenery. www.nps.gov/crla

Return to Interstate 5 to Portland

GRANTS PASS: Come visit Grants Pass, Oregon "Where the Rogue River Runs." Experience the ambience that makes Grants Pass Oregon a special river town that comes alive. Enjoy rafting, fishing or a jet boat tour of the Rogue River. Grants Pass” historic downtown offers an abundance of antique and specialty shops.

WINSTON: Just a short drive west from the Freeway takes you to Winston and their wonderful wildlife park.

Wildlife Safari: This 600-acre drive-through wildlife park features many animals from Africa, Asia, and the Americas roaming freely in natural surroundings. The walk-through Safari Village has a petting zoo. www.wildlifedafari.net

EUGENE: Eugene is Oregon's second largest city and is home to the Hult Center, one of the finest performing arts centers on the West Coast, home of the University of Oregon.

CORVALLIS: Corvallis is the Benton Co. seat and home of Oregon State University.

ALBANY: Albany is located in the heart of the Willamette Valley, with the Willamette River bordering the community.

SALEM: Salem, the state capital city, is Oregon's third largest city and is located in the center of the Willamette Valley...one of the most fertile and agriculturally productive regions of the world. It also has one of the largest food processing centers in the U.S.

MT. ANGEL: Located 18 miles northeast of Salem on Highway 214. Founded in the late 1800s by German settlers, this tiny town has an Old World flavor with its many Bavarian-style storefronts. Mt. Angel Abbey sits high above Mt. Angel on a 300 foot bluff. This century-old Benedictine monastic community was built in 1883 by Swiss Benedictine monks. Views include Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams, as well as the lush Willamette Valley farmland. The beautiful library stores a priceless collection of illuminated manuscripts, and features a display of rare, hand-printed books.

AURORA: Antique Capital of Oregon” Oregon’s first national historic district dates to 1856 when Wilhelm Keil brought his followers over the Oregon Trail from Missouri. A Christian utopian society where property was owned jointly, the “colony” flourished and eventually totaled 18,000 acres with a New England-looking village, nearly all in white, surrounded by abundant farm lands. The history and artifacts of the Aurora Colony are on display at the Old Aurora Colony Museum, located in the center of the historic downtown. The town is an international destination for antiques and vintage goods.
OREGON CITY: It was established in 1829 by Hudson’s Bay factor John McLoughlin, called “the Father of Oregon” and was the first state capital of Oregon. Oregon City was the end of the historic Oregon Trail Oregon City. Many early pioneers settled in Oregon City where the Willamette River was a source of trade and commerce.

Detour west to McMinnville for a special visit to the Aviation Museum

MCMINNVILLE: McMinnville Oregon is surrounded by Yamhill County's nearly 100 vineyards and 40 wineries, more than in any other county in the state. Yamhill County's wine makers consistently produce wines which receive high honors in many American and international wine competitions. Most of the areas wineries, located on picturesque hillsides, have tasting rooms open to the public.

Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum: With displays ranging from the elegant aeronautic designs of two unknown bike mechanics – Orville and Wilbur Wright – to an actual Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird that can fly at speeds of over 2,000 miles per hour. The highlight exhibit is Howard Hughes’ original “Spruce Goose.” Built entirely of wood due to wartime restrictions on metals, this massive airplane stands as a symbol of American industry during World War II. The exhibits celebrate the lives of innovators, pilots, and veterans who courageously pioneered flight in these remarkable machines. Step into the largest IMAX theater in the Northwest for a full-throttle cinematic experience. Museum and Wings & Waves Water Park are located 3.5 miles southeast of McMinnville, Oregon, on Highway 18. www.evergreenmuseum.org

EASTERN OREGON from the South to the North
Highway 30 and Interstate 84

This route enters Oregon from the southern Idaho border. It follows the last leg of the historic Oregon Trail. During eight decades in the 1800s the Oregon Trail served as a natural corridor as the United States moved from the eastern half of the continent toward the west coast. It was the completion of America’s “Manifest Destiny” and settlers now inhabited the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. The Oregon Trail ran approximately 2,000 miles west from Missouri toward the Rocky Mountains to the Willamette Valley. The “Great Migration” brought 300,000 pioneers who sought a new life and opportunity. It was similar to the year-long journey our Germans from Russia made from Germany to the Volga River region in the 1760’s.

ONTARIO: This area is very popular with rock hounds where quests for agates, jasper, thunder eggs, fossils and petrified wood can be made.

Farewell Bend: Famous site on the Oregon Trail. Here pioneers heading toward the Willamette Valley left the Snake River and made their way toward the infamous Blue Mountains enroute to the Columbia River.

BAKER CITY: Historic Baker City and surprising local museums make this part of Eastern Oregon unique.
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center: Living history presentations and multi-media displays at the summit of Flagstaff Hill. It overlooks nearly seven miles of original Oregon Trail ruts. www.nps.gov/oreg/planyourvisit/site10.htm

LA GRANDE: Nestled at the feet of the Blue Mountains on the edge of the fertile Grande Ronde Valley, La Grande is a pretty town. The historic Elgin Opera House, the beautiful Oregon Trail Interpretive Park at Blue Mountain Crossing, and the Union County Museum with a new “Cowboys Then & Now” exhibit.

Detour east to Highway 82 to Joseph and Hells Canyon for spectacular views. (some unimproved roads – allow a day and overnight in Joseph)

PENDLETON: Located on the old Oregon Trail, Pendleton is a trading center for the extensive agricultural produce production. It is famous for its annual rodeo.

Pendleton Woolen Mills: Guided tours available for the famous woolen mill and outlet store. www.pendleton-usa.com

Tamastslikt Cultural Institute, and the Wild Horse Gaming Center: Tamastslikt Cultural Institute is a world-class museum and was conceived in the early 1990's when Oregon was planning for the sesquicentennial of the Oregon Trail. While the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation - the Walla Walla, Umatilla and Cayuse - have little reason to celebrate the Oregon Trail: it led to war and to a huge loss of land and people for the Tribes; nonetheless they felt it was important for their view of the Oregon Trail story to be told. www.tamastslikt.org

Detour to Highway 11 for a side trip to Walla Walla, Washington.

WALLA WALLA: This was one of the first settlements in the west and on the route traveled by explorers Lewis and Clark. It has become the heart of a large region of wineries. The first settlement of Germans from Russia in Washington Territory came here by wagon train in 1882 from Nebraska.

Whitman Mission: The Whitman Mission National Historic Site commemorates the Mission established by medical missionary Dr Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa, in 1836. It was a detour stopover on the earliest Oregon Trail journeys until the Whitman couples and others were massacred by a Native American attack in 1847. The museum features exhibits and cultural demonstrations.

Return to the Columbia River on Highway 12 to Lake Wallula on the mighty Columbia River. Continue along Highway 730 to McNary Dam and Boardman. Here we join the route taken in 1804 to 1806 by explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark with their “Corps of Discovery.” The famed expedition was sent by President Thomas Jefferson after the Louisiana Purchase to explore and map the lands west of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. It was the first transcontinental expedition. Their objectives were both scientific and commercial – to study the area’s plants, animal life, and geography, and to learn how the region could be exploited economically.
COLUMBIA RIVER from the East to the West  
Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area stretches 85 miles on both sides of one of the largest waterways on the continent. Protected by the National Scenic Act in 1986, the region is home to an incredible combination of spectacular landscapes, rare plants, wildlife, recreational opportunities, farmland, ancient Indian rock art, and other cultural and historic sites. It is recognized internationally as a destination for exploring the natural beauty and cultural richness of the Pacific Northwest.

At Biggs – take a short detour across the Columbia River into Washington and visit the Maryhill Art Museum.

Maryhill Museum: This art museum, was built by entrepreneur Samuel Hill of the Great Northern Railway. Its eclectic collection features Rodin sculptures, royal art and furniture from Queen Marie of Romania, 18th century Russian icons, Native American artifacts, over 100 unique chess sets, French stage sets and mannequins. www.maryhillmuseum.org

Stonehenge: Overlooking the Columbia River, this concrete replica of England’s 4,000 year-old Stonehenge is a war memorial to the men of Klickitat County killed in WWI. It was erected by the pacifist Quaker, Samuel Hill, who is also buried here.

Return to the Oregon side of the River

THE DALLES: This historic small city was the terminus of the Oregon Trail and pioneers had to travel downstream from here by raft until 1845 when a wagon road to Oregon City was built.

Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum: The official interpretive center of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, this excellent museum features interactive displays, great views, a raptor program and walking trails. www.gorgediscovery.org

HOOD RIVER: Hood River, Oregon has been compared to New England. Bountiful orchard and vineyard harvests will curb your appetite and quench your thirst. Hood River is known as “the windsurfing capitol of the U.S.A.” – go down to the river and watch this exciting sport.

Mt Hood Railroad: Scenic themed train rides in the Columbia River Gorge that climb up to the foothills of Mt. Hood. www.mthoodrr.com

CASCADE LOCKS: The city took its name from a set of locks built in the 1870’s to 1890’s to improve navigation past the Cascades Rapids of the Columbia River. The locks were subsequently submerged in 1938 and replaced by Bonneville Lock and Dam
Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler: Historic transportation on the Columbia River was by many riverboats. Take a riverboat scenic cruise for unique views of the Gorge on an authentic triple-deck paddle wheeler. www.portlandspirit.com/sternwheeler.php

Bonneville Dam: Stop to visit Bonneville Dam, where you may see migrating adult Northwest salmon through the fish-viewing windows and in the fish ladders.

Historic Columbia River Highway This “Old Scenic Highway” was the first mountain highway of the west. Narrow and curvy, the drive is beautiful. One of the largest concentrations of high waterfalls in the nation spills forth from the cliffs. The highest of these is Multnomah Falls - Oregon’s most famous and tallest waterfall at 620 feet.

Mt Hood: Mt. Hood, the tallest of Oregon's Cascade peaks, with its 12 glaciers stands over the awe-inspiring Columbia River Gorge from a height of 11,239 feet. It is part of the “Pacific Rim of Fire” volcanoes. Run-off from its volcanic slopes enriches soil in the valleys and are famous for the production of pears, peaches, cherries, apricots and apples.

Crown Point: A 307-acre park with its 725 foot high point and the Vista House offer spectacular views of the Columbia River Gorge.

WASHINGTON STATE from East to West
From Interstate 90

From the Northeast Canada & Montana enter Washington State via Interstate 90. Bypassing the city of Spokane, you enter Eastern Washington’s agricultural lands. This is wheat farming country. Many of the small towns were settled by the first Germans from Russia who came here when Washington was still a territory. Generations of our people have continued the farming traditions.

ODESSA: This sleepy farm town (a detour north from Ritzville) comes alive the third weekend in September during Deutschesfest which is the Northwest’s premier heritage festival. About 80 % of Odessa’s inhabitants are of German Russian descent. They have maintained much of the culture of their forebears, which includes not only an appreciation of food but also a love for music and entertainment at the biergarten. Deutschesfest annually draws up to 20,000 visitors. www.deutschesfest.com

RITZVILLE: Ritzville, WA, 60 miles west of Spokane is located in Washington State’s Palouse Country. Grain is the major product grown in the local economy. In 1881 the Northern Pacific Railroad arrived giving Ritzville the transportation it needed to get its grain to market. Early in the 1900’s, Ritzville was the largest inland exporter of wheat in the world. Ritzville has a large population of Germans from Russia. A sculpture by the Depot Museum by Lamar Thiel depicts the famous 1882 wagon train migration from Nebraska whose Volga German families settled in Ritzville.

Turn south via Highway 395 to Pasco and Highway 82 to McNary Dam. See route along the Columbia River to get to Portland.
Or – continue west on Interstate 90 into Central Washington

**VANTAGE:** This crossing on the Columbia River was occupied by Native Americans since prehistory. A number of well-preserved rock-paintings have been found on the cliff walls. They also used the abundant petrified wood in the area for arrowheads and other tools. The site where the petroglyphs were found was inundated by the rising waters of Wanapum Dam in the 1960s. About 60 of the more than 300 carvings were cut from the basalt cliff face and saved. The site is one of the most unusual fossil forests in the world, and was designated a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service in 1965.

Turn south on Interstate 82 just before Ellensburg to Yakima

**YAKIMA:** There were many Germans from Russia who settled in the Yakima Valley or came here for seasonal work in the beet fields, hop yards, orchards, and factories. The Central Washington Chapter of AHSGR published a book with biographies of over 450 of our people: “Germans from Russia in the Yakima Valley Prior to 1940.” It is available in digital form at [www.odessa3.org/collections/towns/link/yak90.txt](http://www.odessa3.org/collections/towns/link/yak90.txt)

**TOPPENISH:** Ensconced in the heart of the Yakima Valley’s famed fruit and wine country, the city lies inside the boundaries of the Yakama Nation's Reservation. Toppenish features a rich assortment of museums, Native American and Western traditions, cultural diversity and famous display of murals.

**Yakama Nation Museum:** This is one of the oldest Native American Museums in the United States. You will encounter the 'Yakama Experience' and 'The Challenge of Spilyay.' The museum features life-sized dwellings of the Plateau People, unique dioramas and exhibits that tell the story of the Yakama people, special sound effects, narratives and music and the mannequin exhibit 'The Great Native American Leaders'

**American Hop Museum:** The Yakima Valley is one of the biggest hop producers in the world. This obscure perennial vine is vital to the brewing industry and our first and second generation Germans from Russia were actively involved as pickers in the early part of the 20th century. The Museum features striking exhibitions and intriguing displays, and a unique gift shop highlighting an array of items devoted to the history and future of hop cultivation.

**Historic Murals:** The little own of Toppenish is widely known for its colorful murals painted on the outside walls of buildings around town. At least one new painting is added every year and now there are about 73 murals around town, The historically accurate murals must meet high artistic standards and must fit the time from 1850 to 1950 in the valley. Many of the country's best mural painters have left their marks in Toppenish.

Turn south via scenic Highway 97 to Goldendale and Maryhill Cross the Columbia River to Biggs and follow Interstate 84 to Portland along the Columbia.
WASHINGTON STATE
Interstate 5 Corridor from North to South

BLAINE: On the border between the United States and Canada is the little town of Blaine, Washington. The International Peace Arch is a monument situated on the Canada – United States border between the communities of Blaine, Washington and Surrey, British Columbia. The Peace Arch, which stands 67 feet tall, commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814. The Peace Arch has the flags of the U.S. and Canada mounted on its crown, and two inscriptions on both sides of its frieze. The inscription on the U.S. side of the Peace Arch reads "Children of a common mother", and the words on the Canadian side read "Brethren dwelling together in unity". Within the arch, each side has an iron gate hinged on either side of the border with an inscription above reading "May these gates never be closed".

Follow the I-5 Freeway through the cities of Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Centralia, Chehalis, to Longview, Kalama, Woodland, and Vancouver. There are two routes south into Portland: Interstate 5 and Interstate 205. Concordia University is in between the two highways. If you are staying at the Concordia Dorms – take Interstate 5. If you are staying at one of the Convention hotels near the Portland International Airport – take Interstate 205.

If you have some extra time – you can visit two National Parks just off Interstate 5

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

MOUNT ST HELEN’S NATIONAL VOLCANIC PARK

A VERY SPECIAL SIDE TRIP
Leavenworth, Washington

It’s out of the way for Portland but it makes a delightful side trip. The Bavarian-themed town of Leavenworth Washington is really worth a visit for a day or two. It is Leavenworth located on Highway 2 between Seattle and Spokane. You can then reach Portland via Highway 97 to Yakima and on to the Columbia River.

LEAVENWORTH: Everybody loves an escape to Leavenworth. The entire town center is like a Bavarian Village. This year-round tourist destination is nestled in the foot hills of the Cascade Mountains. Its Alpine architecture and flowering baskets make even German tourists think they are still in Europe. One summer highlight is performances of the Rogers and Hammerstein musical “Sound of Music” set in the outdoor hillside theatre. The hills are truly alive! Great German restaurants, gift and craft shops, and museums give it an old world charm. www.leavenworth.org