

# Historic Columbia River Highway

Travel to magnificent overlooks that provide views of the Columbia River and waterfalls, including Multnomah Falls. Springtime has magnificent wildflower displays, including many endemic plants. The Columbia River formed the last leg of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and was part of the early route of the Oregon Trail.

Length: 70 miles / 112.0 km

Time Take two hours to drive or to three to five days to enjoy

Allow: this byway.



## Local Information

**Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area**

541-308-1700

## Visitor Services



### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

You can bike fairly safely on the byway because of the relatively low volume of automobiles. There are plenty of trails around the byway on which you can bike. Most notably, portions of the byway that were abandoned during the construction of I-84 are being restored as multi-use trails. The Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail is open between Moffett Creek and Cascade Locks, and between Hood River and Mosier (including the Mosier Twin Tunnels). Numerous other trailheads are located along the byway as well. These trails have a good range of length and difficulty, ranging from flat, paved trails, to high mountain trails. A bike map of the Columbia River Gorge, including the Historic Columbia River Highway and the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, is now available from the Oregon DOT. Contact the [Oregon Department of Transportation](<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/HCRH/>) for more information.



## Camping

Camping is available at: \* Ainsworth \* Viento \* Memaloose State Parks The Forest Service administers camping at: \* Eagle Creek \* Herman Creek (Cascade Locks) \* Wyeth Private campgrounds are located in: \* Corbett \* Cascade Locks (KOA) To reserve a campground, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) and enter the name of the campground and the state.



## Food

Eateries range from fast-food and delis to luxurious dining within the cities of Troutdale, Cascade Locks, Hood River, and The Dalles. Mosier has an ice cream shop and a cafe, and Multnomah Falls Lodge includes fine dining.



## Gasoline

Gas is available in Portland, Troutdale, Cascade Locks, Hood River, Mosier and The Dalles.



## Information

Year-round information services are available at: \* Troutdale Chamber of Commerce \* Multnomah Falls \* Gorge Discovery Center Summer information services are available at: \* Vista House at Crown Point \* Senator Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead (Twin Tunnels Visitor Station) \* Hood River Chamber of Commerce \* The Dalles Chamber of Commerce There are 39 interpretive signs along the byway.



## Lodging

Lodging is available in Portland, Troutdale, Cascade Locks, Hood River, and The Dalles. Bed and Breakfasts located in: \* Corbett \* Bridal Veil \* Mosier \* The Dalles



## Restrooms

Restrooms are available (from west to east) at: \* Lewis and Clark State Park \* Dabney State Park \* Vista House \* Latourell Falls \* Bridal Veil State Park \* Wahkeena Falls \* Multnomah Falls \* Ainsworth State Park \* Bonneville Dam \* Eagle Creek \* Starvation Creek State Park \* Viento State Park \* Senator Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead \* Senator Mark O. Hatfield East Trailhead \* Gorge Discovery Center \* Memaloose Rest Area (on Interstate 84 between Hood River and The Dalles) However, some of these may be closed during the off-season.



## Retail

You can buy gifts at the Vista House, Multnomah Falls, the Twin Tunnels Visitors Station, the Gorge Discovery Center, and in any city along the Historic Columbia River Highway.

## Special Considerations

Some attractions are closed during the winter months. Also, the byway is narrow and winding, so you may want to consider traveling in a car rather than in an RV.

## Restrictions

The Multnomah Falls Lodge is open daily throughout the year. Also, the Vista House is open from April through September.

## Seasons

### Best Time to Drive

Mid-week has the fewest crowds along the byway.

### Fall

Fall has the best weather.

### High Season

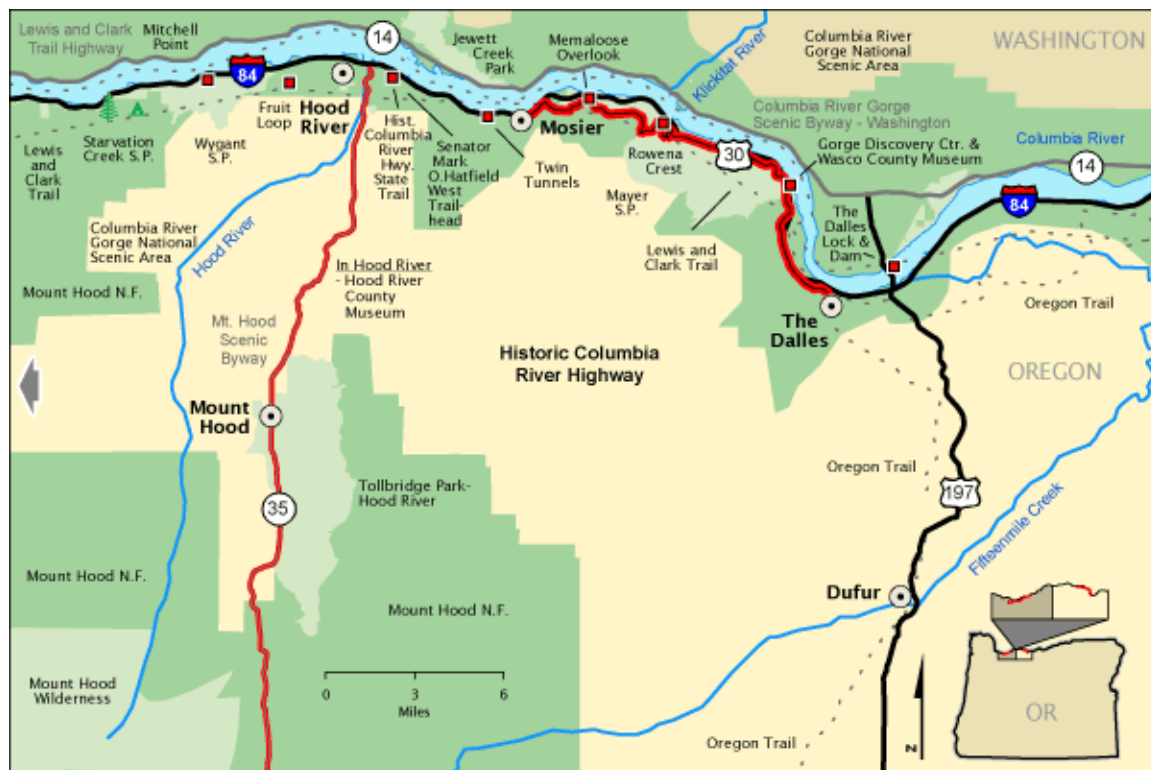
April through September are the busiest months on the byway.

### Spring

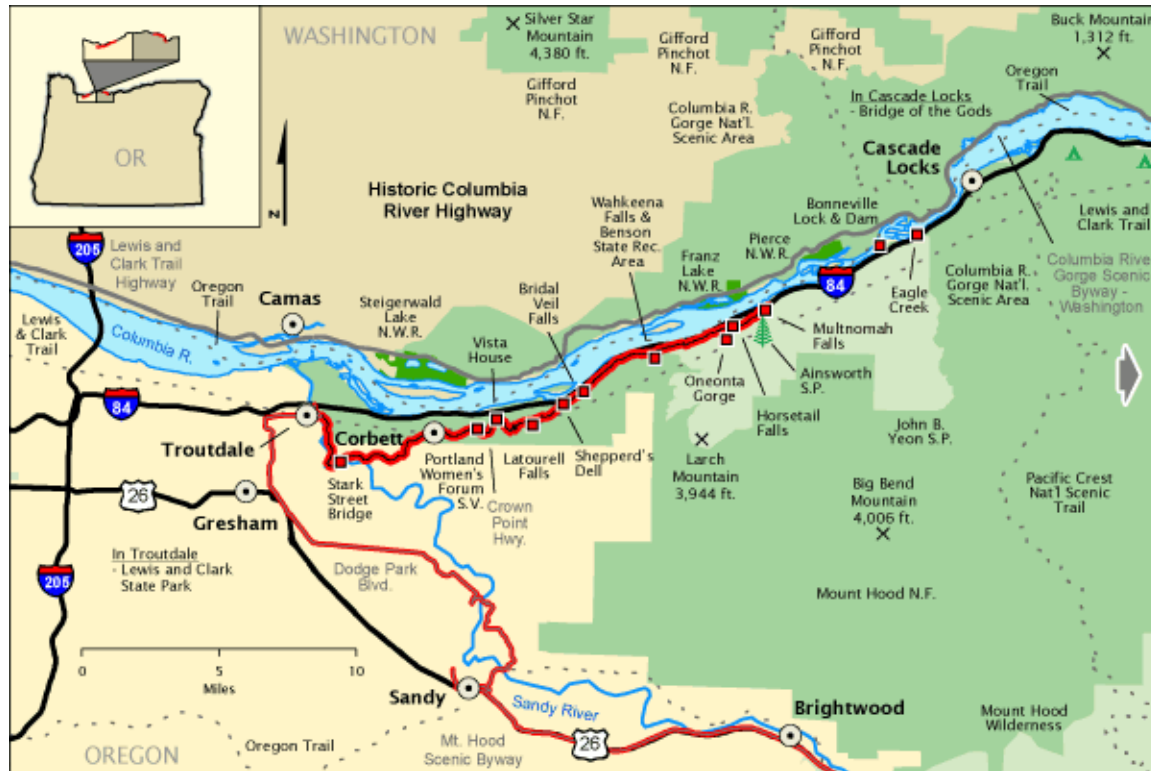
Spring provides the best time to view the waterfalls.

## Map and Directions

### Standard Map - East Section



Standard Map - West Section



Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

This linear byway has two sections, from Troutdale to the junction with I-84, and from Mosier to I-84 near the Dalles.

Troutdale to Bonneville Dam Section

- The byway begins on Jordan Road, northeast of Troutdale, OR.
- Travel south on Jordan Road and continue on Crown Point Hwy.
- Continue on to Historic Columbia River Highway.
- Follow the keystone-shaped signs through Springdale, Corbett, and the waterfall area to the junction with Interstate 84 (near Bonneville Dam), where the byway ends.
- Proceed east on I-84 to Mosier.



## Road Trip: A Half-Day Historic Walking Tour with Wildflowers

**Departure:** Portland, Oregon

**Destination:** Portland, Oregon

**Time to allow:** 1 day

In Portland with a free afternoon? Try this itinerary which fills up half a day on the Historic Columbia River Highway's nearby historic spots, and wildflower havens--with a little bit of hiking to stretch your legs. Then return to Portland more than ready to dine out in one of its fabulous restaurants.

### Day 1

- **Start: Portland**



- **Stop 1: Troutdale**



**From previous stop:** 20 minutes / 15 mi (24.0 km)

**Directions:** Take I-84 east to the Troutdale exit and turn south.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

With a historic downtown boasting antique shops and two historical museums, Troutdale is a splendid start to your afternoon on the Byway.

- **Stop 2: Lewis and Clark State Park**



**From previous stop:** 3 minutes / 2 mi (3.2 km)

**Suggested time at this stop:** 30 minutes

After you cross the Sandy River, turn left into Lewis and Clark State Park. This park honors the legendary explorers who camped and explored here in November of 1805. In their journal, they even wrote about a brief tussle with some Sandy River quicksand. Find and read the interpretive marker for details on this remarkable encounter.

Afterwards, take the short interpretive trail and learn about the local wildflowers and other plants which Lewis and Clark recorded at this location.

- **Stop 3: Vista House**



**From previous stop:** 15 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

**Directions:** Continue east on the Highway, passing Corbett and Women's Forum State Park.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 30 minutes

Vista House is one of the most photographed areas along the Byway. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is a memorial to the Oregon Pioneers, an observatory and gift shop. Stop here. Take in the wonderful view up the river. Examine the remarkable architecture, both inside and out. Chat with the museum and gift shop staff. There is no other place like this on the Historic Columbia River Highway.

- **Stop 4: Multnomah Falls**



**From previous stop:** 30 minutes / 20 mi (32.0 km)

**stop:**

**Directions:** Continue on Historic Columbia River Highway to the Falls. Parking is immediately adjacent to the highway.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

The tallest and most visited waterfall on the Byway, this beautiful cascade falls more than 600 feet in the upper falls, and about 50 feet in the lower falls. Hike the verdant trail up to Benson Bridge to get a closer view of the Falls. Be sure to look for wildflowers and other interesting plants along the way. Afterwards, visit historic Multnomah Lodge and enjoy a bite at its full-service restaurant.

- **Stop 5: Oneonta Gorge**



**From previous stop:** 3 minutes / 2 mi (3.2 km)

**stop:**

**stop:**

**Directions:** Leaving the Multnomah Falls parking area by the east exit, proceed just a mile or two, and park in the small parking area provided by the Gorge.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

**stop:**

**stop:**

The last stop on your half-day tour, Oneonta Gorge is a botanical treasure; over 50 species of plants reside in this perpetually-cool and moist shelter. What you will find here will depend on the time of year. Hanging gardens, hidden wildflower havens, late summer blooms--all await the intrepid hiker. Beware--the hike is moderately difficult. To reach to the end with its reward of a lovely waterfall and rare plants, you may have to clamber over a huge logjam and swim through waist-high water!

<

p>Don't worry. If you don't feel up to a swim or a climb, you can explore the early section of the Gorge and find wildflowers and rare plants enough to fill out your afternoon on the Columbia River.

- **End: Portland**



**From previous stop:** 50 minutes / 40 mi (64.0 km)

**Directions:** Continue east on the Byway until the junction with I-84. Get on I-84 westbound.

After the wildflowers and history of the Columbia River Gorge, an evening at one of Portland's many cultural venues would round your day off nicely.

**Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 89 miles / 142.4 km

**Total Travel Time:** 2 hours 1 minute

**Total Stopping Time:** 4 hours