

Mt. Hood Scenic Byway

On this byway, volcanoes once erupted and mammoth floods scoured deep gorges. Discover geologic wonders, waterfalls, temperate rain forests and wild rivers. Explore pastoral valleys with farm-fresh produce. Experience the formidable last leg of the Oregon Trail, the Barlow Road. Enjoy this bountiful wonderland that the pioneers called "paradise."



Length: 105 miles / 168.0 km

Time to Allow: 3 hours to drive or 8 hours to experience the byway.

Local Information

Hood River Chamber of Commerce
800-366-3530
Send E-mail

Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory - Mt. Hood Visitor Information Center
888-622-3002 Send E-mail

West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce
503-669-7473
Send E-mail

Visitor Services



Accessibility

Many public facilities and attractions have been developed to accommodate disabled travelers at the easiest service level, since disabled travelers require varying levels of special accommodations.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

Bicyclists use the designated paved shoulder where it is available along Highways 26 and 35 and share the travel lane when no shoulders are available along the rural roadways.



Camping

There are places to camp along this byway.



Food

There are places to buy food along this byway.



Gasoline

Gasoline is available.



Information

The portals of Troutdale and Hood River offer visitor information services through their Chamber of Commerce offices. The Sandy Chamber of Commerce provides information, as does the Mt. Hood Visitor Information Center in Welches. The Mt. Hood National Forest Headquarters in Sandy offers Mt. Hood Forest recreation information and sells the necessary permits. Mt. Hood climbing permits and registration is available at Timberline Lodge.



Lodging

There is overnight lodging along this byway.



Phone

Public phones are available along this byway.



Restrooms

There are toilet facilities along this byway.



Retail

There are several places to shop in downtown Troutdale and Hood River.

Restrictions

The route is open year around with winter road maintenance provided by ODOT on Highways 26 and 35. Winter weather conditions may require traction devices and/or snow tires. Some side routes at higher elevations off of Highways 26 and 35 may be closed due to heavy snow pack in the winter.

Seasonal Snow-park permits are required for parking as designated in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Snow-park permits are available at retailers and information centers throughout the area. Wilderness and climbing permits are required to climb Mt. Hood. Other permits are issued by the Forest Service.

While the route does accommodate tour buses and large RVs, caution and a reduced speed is recommended on some narrow sections of the byway. Some points of interest have limited parking for buses and RVs.

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Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The byway is spectacular year-round featuring the natural beauty, but spring through fall provide the greatest accessibility to recreational activities.

High Season

Highway 26 experiences heavy traffic volume on weekends in the winter and summer as recreation enthusiasts return from a weekend of play on Mt. Hood.

Map and Directions



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

- The byway route starts at the west end of the Historic Columbia River Highway/ All-American Road where the Troutdale Bridge crosses the Sandy River and Glenn Otto Park Road. Accessible from Interstate-84 at exit 18, the Byway goes through downtown Troutdale via Glenn Otto Park Road/Historic Columbia River Hwy.
- The route continues (through Wood Village) with a left on Halsey Street followed by a left on 238th Street. The name changes to 242nd street before the route turns left onto Burnside Street in Gresham.
- Heading east on Burnside, the route follows Palmquist Road to the left followed by a quick right turn onto Orient Drive.
- The byway veers left onto Dodge Park Boulevard before turning right on Lusted Road and then left on Ten Eyck Road.
- The route then heads west with a right turn onto Highway 26 in Sandy. A right onto Bluff Road will take visitors to Jonsrud Viewpoint before returning to Highway 26 heading east (left) toward Mt. Hood. Take a short 6-mile side trip on Highway 211 from Sandy to visit Philip Foster Farm in Eagle Creek and return to Sandy.
- Along Highway 26 the route goes through the Villages of Mt. Hood (Brightwood, Welches, Wemme, Zig Zag, and Rhododendron).
- Once on the mountain, the route continues with a left on the Highway 26 business loop through the village of Government Camp and the 6-mile Timberline Road up to Timberline Lodge and Ski Area.
- Continuing east on Highway 26 from Timberline Road, the route follows Highway 35 north toward Hood River, the byway's eastern end.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities

Portland, OR (14 miles / 22.53 km, 32 minutes)

Start: ⊙ Ross Island Bridge eastbound, Portland, OR
N 45.501° W 122.672° [?]

Directions:

- Take Hwy 26 east to the Sandy River.
- Take exit #18 to Sandy River Bridge.
- Turn right across the bridge where the byway begins.

Junction with byway: * Intersection of Powell Blvd and Mt Hood Hwy, Gresham, OR
N 45.493° W 122.405° [?]



Road Trip: Mt. Hood Splendor and Birds of Wonder

Departure: Wildwood Recreation Site - Cascade Streamwatch, Oregon

Destination: Hood River, Oregon

Time to allow: 1 day

The byway rises from the Columbia River through pastoral lands and primeval forests, through the lush National Forest up to Mt. Hood, and down the "dry side" to the fertile agricultural landscape of the Hood River Valley. It combines some of the best of the region's birding with legendary Oregon scenery. Raptors and waterfowl inhabit the river areas; valleys and higher elevation forests feature unique sites for viewing forest birds, songbirds, raptor, migratory and nesting species.

Day 1

- **Start: Wildwood Recreation Site - Cascade Streamwatch**

A popular recreation area bordering the Salmon River with mixed conifer and hardwood forest, freshwater wetland and riparian forest. Wetland boardwalk trails and Cascade Streamwatch trails offers opportunities to view many species of waterfowl, forest species and nesting species.



- **Stop 1: Lost Creek Campground/ Nature Trail & Old Maid Flats**

From previous stop: 20 minutes / 7 mi (11.2 km)

Directions: Continue east along Hwy 26 through Welches to Zig Zag. Turn left onto Lolo Pass Road. After 4 miles, turn right onto Forest Road 1828 and go .6 miles and bear right across bridge on Forest Road 1825. Continue until road ends at campground.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Old Maid Flats was formed by a mudflow off the west flank of Mt. Hood 250 years ago, and is now an open stand of lodgepole pine with pockets of huckleberry, moss and ferns. Lost Creek Campground has paved, accessible trail along creek through dense mature mixed conifer forest. Includes populations of forest breeding species, nesting and waterfowl.

- **Stop 2: Timberline Lodge and Ski Area**



From previous stop: 45 minutes / 22.5 mi (36.0 km)

Directions: Return to Hwy 26 and continue east. Turn left onto Timberline Road in Government Camp and travel 6 miles to Timberline Lodge.

Suggested time at this stop: 4 hours

Rich, historic site providing an opportunity to drive to an alpine area on a paved road. Take chair-lift ride to explore higher elevation slopes and bird species on edge of snowfields. Many species can be seen from inside the lodge windows with Mt. Hood in background.

- **Stop 3: Trillium Lake/Summit Meadow**



From previous stop: 25 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Directions: Return back down Timberline Road and continue east on Hwy 26 for 2 miles. Turn right onto Forest Road 2650, signed to Trillium Lake and travel 2 miles to the lake.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Trillium Lake, a summer and winter recreation mecca, offers a stunning and picturesque view of Mt. Hood. There are trails with boardwalks around the lake. The best birding is at the north end of the lake where trail meanders through forest and wetlands. Look for forest and wetland species, waterfowl, bald eagle, and osprey on the lake.

- **Stop 4: Sahalie Falls**



From previous stop: 20 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Directions: Return back to Hwy 26 and continue east to intersection of Hwy 35. Travel 8 miles to left on Forest Road 3545, which is marked with Hood River Meadows and Sahalie Falls directional sign.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Sahalie Falls is a perennial horsetail waterfall fed by the Newton Clark Glacier and flows into the east fork of the Hood River. Sahalie Falls Loop is a portion of the historic Mt. Hood Loop Hwy completed in 1924. There is an old stone bridge below falls with a beautiful view. The high elevation and mixed conifer forest with its wet brushy meadow provide excellent viewing forest species in the area.

- **Stop 5: Tamanawas Falls Trail**

From previous stop: 15 minutes / 7 mi (11.2 km)

Directions: Continue north along Hwy 35. Turn on Forest Road 44, which is marked with sign to Tamanawas Falls for the 1.5 miles to trailhead.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Tamanawas Falls is 100 feet high and 40 feet wide, and can be accessed by hiking the 2-mile trail. Riparian habitat and mature mixed-conifer forest along trail to falls. A stretch of river hosts nesting waterfowl, songbirds, and migratory species.

- **Stop 6: Toll Bridge County Park**

From previous stop: 20 minutes / 12 mi (19.2 km)

Directions: Return to Hwy 35 and continue north. Turn left on Toll Bridge Road and travel .5 miles to the park.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

This riparian forest features large conifers and cottonwood trees along the East Fork of Hood River and is good for spring migrant songbirds and waterfowl.

- **End: Hood River**



From previous stop: 20 minutes / 13 mi (20.8 km)

Directions: Continue north along Hwy 35 to the junction of Hwy 30. Take a left onto Hwy 30, go over the bridge to 2nd Street and take a right. Go over the freeway and take a right towards the visitor center and park. Explore the area with the pedestrian bridge access.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

The sand/gravel bar at the mouth of the Hood River is a migration stop for shorebirds and a concentration point for waterfowl and raptors. Downstream from the mouth of Hood River, "The Hook" is a land peninsula that surrounds a backwater slough of the Columbia River. It is surrounded by cottonwood trees and good viewing for wintering waterfowl and bald eagle.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 81.5 miles / 130.4 km

Total Travel Time: 2 hours 45 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 16 hours