

Oregon offers some of the most breathtakingly beautiful places in the nation for biking, and is the only state in the country with official Scenic Bikeways.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is the only state park system in the U.S. with a scenic bikeway program. These routes are the very best of Oregon road cycling, nominated by locals and selected by Oregon State Parks. Routes are tested, signed and mapped. From family-friendly to remote and challenging, everyone can find a ride that fits their style. Riding a Scenic Bikeway is like having a tour guide set up a perfect route for you—all you need is your bicycle, your gear, and your spirit of adventure.



Cascade Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway



A century ride can imply that it can be ridden in one day. This bikeway is not that kind of century. There are plenty of rollers and two big hills with a total elevation gain of about 8,000 feet. The **Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway** is perfect for riders looking for a physical challenge in a remote and beautiful setting. Breathtaking views of the Blue Mountains, well-maintained roads and barely any vehicle traffic make this bikeway a cycling paradise. The 108-mile bikeway is a scenic loop starting and ending in Heppner—a full service community. The route follows Highway 395, climbing 3280 feet followed by an exhilarating downhill to Ukiah, where you can find overnight accommodations, a grocery store and a cafe. Mountain prairies offer a wide array of wildflowers, while the forest is augmented with color in the late summer as the Western Larch trees turn a golden yellow. Forest Service Road 53 is closed in winter due to snow.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available just outside Heppner and Willow Creek Reservoir, and along the route at Cutsforth Park and Coalmine Campground. Lodging options are also available in Heppner and Ukiah.

Distance: 109 miles (Loop) **Level:** Extreme
Best seasons to ride: Early summer and fall.
[RideOregonRide.com/BlueMtn](#)



The **Cascade Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway** incorporates 5,000 feet of steep and winding climbing through oak savannah into fir forests. The bikeway starts in Ashland, famous for theater and fantastic dining, climbing mountainsides with spectacular views of the Bear Creek Valley below and Pilot Rock. In spring, wildflowers cover this savannah ecosystem as red-tailed hawks soar overhead. Above the oak savannah is the Cascades ecosystem, with tall pines and Douglas firs providing welcome shade on the way to Green Springs Summit. Take the 5-mile out-and-back to historic Tub Springs State Wayside and a cold, pure mountain spring. Near Hyatt Reservoir you'll see views of 9,000-foot Mount McLoughlin, with glimpses of osprey and bald eagles nesting. The ride culminates with a 3-mile climb through alpine meadows of Lily Glen and Buck Prairie before a thrilling, winding 13-mile descent back to Ashland.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available along the route at Green Springs, Hyatt Reservoir and Howard Prairie Lake. There are multiple lodging options in Ashland.

Distance: 55 miles (Loop) **Level:** Extreme
Best seasons to ride: Spring through fall.
[RideOregonRide.com/CascadeSiskiyou](#)



The **Cascading Rivers Scenic Bikeway** follows the Clackamas and Breitenbush rivers in a 70-mile link on backroads from Estacada to Detroit. Water is the dominant force sculpting this steep volcanic landscape of the West Cascades. All along this route, water and rock interact to create a place of dramatic beauty and inspiration. The bikeway parallels the nationally designated Wild and Scenic Clackamas River along rocky riffles and quiet pools where native coho, chinook and steelhead seek their ancient spawning beds. Time is forgotten as you look up to the sky through ancient forests that line the bikeway. You may experience glimpses of elk and grouse, or rest along the route to a symphony of forest songbirds, as vistas of Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson smile down. Enjoy a walk through the towns of Estacada and Detroit, which anchor either end of the bikeway.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available in Forest Service campgrounds along the route and at both ends: Milo McIver State Park, outside Estacada, has hiker/biker sites; Detroit Lake State Recreation Area is in Detroit.

Distance: 70 miles (One way) **Level:** Challenging
Best seasons to ride: Late spring through early fall.
[RideOregonRide.com/CascadingRivers](#)



The **Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway** features a fun cycling experience of bridges, lake views, foliage, flowers and an historic downtown. The start of the bikeway is along the Row River Trail, an off-street, paved path which crosses the roads at several points. The return route is on a low traffic scenic road with one very short, yet very steep hill. The Row River Trail runs along the Dorena Lake's north side, passing three of the six covered bridges on the route. All three of these bridges are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A store in the modest community of Dorena provides snacks. The in-town part of the bikeway includes a ride through The Chambers Bridge, and a ride over a swinging footbridge. Cottage Grove is a National Register-listed Downtown Historic District. There are number of coffee shops, restaurants, pubs, and a bike shop on Main Street.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available at Baker Bay Park. There are multiple lodging options in Cottage Grove.

Distance: 38 miles (Loop) **Level:** Mild
Best seasons to ride: Year-round.
[RideOregonRide.com/CoveredBridges](#)

Visit [RideOregonRide.com/Bikeways](#) for:

- Detailed, downloadable route maps
- Scenic videos
- GPS
- Guiding and shuttle companies
- Cycling events
- Bike Friendly lodging, dining, breweries and more



Be sure to look for businesses with these signs. They provide a warm welcome and various services for cyclists.



Madras Mountain Views Scenic Bikeway



Pointed Hills Scenic Bikeway



Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway



Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway



Here's a rugged piece of the Old West you can check out by bike—the **Old West Scenic Bikeway** offers a wide variety of terrain and scenery, from rushing rivers to views of the Strawberry Mountains to fossil beds, plus some climbs that will get your attention. Start in John Day with a tour of Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, once a general store for Chinese immigrants in the late 19th century. Then roll east on Highway 26 through picturesque Prairie City, and on to the turnout at Austin Junction. Leave the highway for truly rural back roads and ride along the Upper Middle Fork of the John Day River, where the distances spread out and the sky gets even bigger. Ride through rugged terrain that still looks like what the area's early settlers discovered. You'll pass through tiny, friendly towns as you ride to the John Day Fossil Beds, then reconnect with Highway 26 back to John Day. This ride is for serious touring cyclists—it works well as a multi-day trip, but be sure to plan carefully; there is no water available between Bates State Park and Long Creek.

Camping and lodging: Campgrounds with hiker/biker sites are available at Clyde Holiday State Park and Bates State Park. Several other campgrounds are along the route, most without water. There is one bike hostel along the route in Mitchell, and lodging is available in John Day, Dayville and Long Creek.

Distance: 175 miles (Loop) **Level:** Challenging
Best seasons to ride: Late spring through fall.
[RideOregonRide.com/OldWest](#)



The **Oregon Outback Scenic Bikeway** offers an immersion in a part of Oregon too few people visit and enjoy. For the hardy rider, it's a chance to take in panoramic views, revel in quiet solitude, and traverse rugged and challenging terrain. The remote route is nestled in the untrammeled Warner Mountains, where the forested Cascades meet the high-desert basin and range. The "lollipop" configuration starts and ends in Lakeview, which sits at nearly a mile in elevation. Start with a stout 10-mile climb up to Warner Canyon Ski Area; after riding high for another 20 miles, glide down 1,300 feet to the friendly community of Plush. From there, rolling landscape passes near Hart Lake and skirts Crump Lake as you share wide-open terrain with sandhill cranes, sage grouse, wetland birds, pronghorn and even bighorn sheep. At 59 miles, a narrow canyon squeezes you past Deep Creek Falls, where you might see cliff swallows, eagles and falcons in the skies above before you climb back up to the ski area and drop back down into Lakeview. This ride is best in spring and fall; mating season brings out antelope and mule deer, amid quaking aspen in brilliant yellow.

Camping and lodging: There are several camping options on the route, including Mud Creek campground and Drake Peak Lookout, which are near (but not on) the route. Dispersed camping on BLM land is allowed near Priddy Reservoir. None of these options have water. There are lodging and camping options in Lakeview and Plush.

Distance: 90 miles (modified loop) **Level:** Extreme
Best seasons to ride: Year-round (spring and fall are best).
[RideOregonRide.com/Outback](#)



Wild Rivers Coast Scenic Bikeway

Safety Tips

Please be aware that the Bikeway information here is advisory only. You assume all risks as far as the quality and accuracy of the information; in other words, you're agreeing to use it at your own risk. Scenic Bikeway routes include roads with car and truck traffic, and are for cyclists that are comfortable riding in some amount of traffic. Cyclists must obey the rules of the road. For car-free riding, check out the Banks-Vernonia State Trail on the Tualatin Valley Bikeway and the Row River Trail section of the Covered Bridges Bikeway.

A must-know: In Oregon, a bicycle is legally considered a vehicle (and the same laws apply). Riding with the direction of traffic is the law; it's also the best way to be seen by motorists.

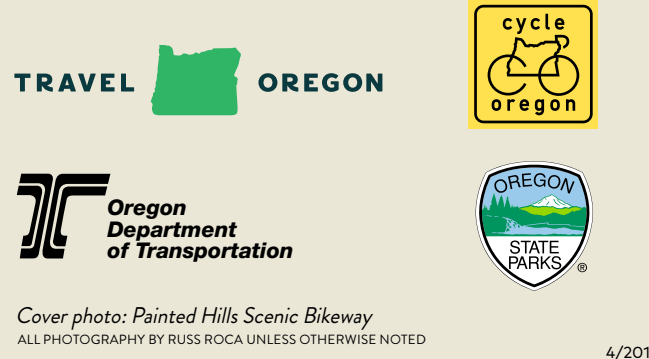
To demonstrate the best riding etiquette and promote good relations with motorists, please ride single-file. Riding side-by-side is legal, but only if doing so does not impede traffic. Be aware that many rural roads are used daily for commerce; there's a good chance you'll encounter large trucks carrying oversized loads.

Never forget about drivers' blind spots—especially when the vehicle is turning right. If you're going straight at an intersection with stopped vehicles, pull in behind the first stopped vehicle in the lane and wait your turn to go, as if you were a motorist.

All bicycle riders in Oregon under 16 must wear a helmet. Oregon law also requires that bicycle riders have a white light in front and a rear red light or reflector during night or limited visibility.

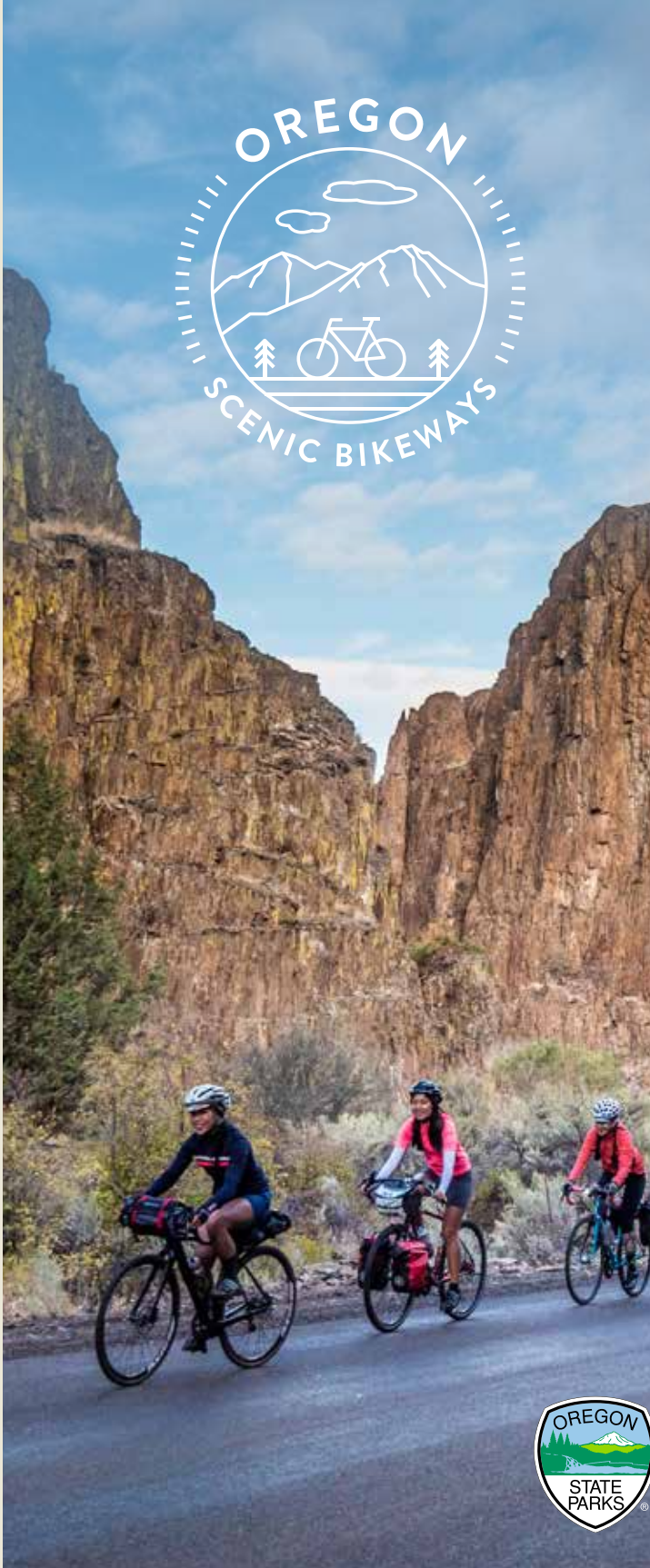
For more information on riding safely and legally in Oregon, go to: [oregon.gov/odot/hwy/bikeped](#)

Please check [RideOregonRide.com/Bikeways](#) for new routes.



Cover photo: Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway
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Starting at the edge of an urban setting, the **Tualatin Valley Scenic Bikeway** lets you quickly escape to gently undulating roads in the lush Tualatin River basin, dotted with wetlands, small forests and views of the Coast Range. A zig-zag route takes you past produce stands, a farmers' market and a winery, and through the quaint communities of Forest Grove and Banks. In Banks you connect to the splendid Banks-Vernonia State Trail, a paved path constructed on a scenic old railroad bed. The trail climbs slightly and then more significantly, but the generally gentle rail bed never gets too steep. The trail starts amid hay fields and pastures and transitions to deep forest, featuring a spectacular curving trestle and multiple rest areas. Head all the way to revitalized Vernonia or turn around at any point.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available at L.L. Stub Stewart State Park. There are multiple lodging options in Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Vernonia.

Distance: 50 miles (One way) **Level:** Moderate
Best seasons to ride: Year-round.
[RideOregonRide.com/TualatinValley](#)



The **Twin Bridges Scenic Bikeway** shows you some of the most sublime scenery in Central Oregon: snow-capped mountains, rimrock canyons, high-desert rangeland and the Deschutes River. The ride starts in bustling downtown Bend, Central Oregon's outdoor adventure capital. Start at Drake Park, where the Deschutes is slow enough to form jewel-like Mirror Pond. Roll out of town using wide bike lanes, into the pine-scented high desert, crossing Tumalo Creek as you descend into the natural beauty of Shevlin Park at a horseshoe bend. Climb back up and pass horse pastures, llama farms and cattle ranches, enjoying a continuing dance with the Deschutes as you skirt rugged canyon edges above it and then drop down to cross it multiple times; take a few minutes to soak your feet in the river during a stop at gorgeous Tumalo State Park. This route definitely has some up-and-down, but there are no steep, extended climbs, and it's a great way to enjoy a pleasant few hours meandering through the spectacular setting on a bike.

Camping and lodging: Camping, with hiker/biker sites, is available at Tumalo State Park, at mile 27. There are multiple lodging options in Bend.

Distance: 36 miles (Loop) **Level:** Moderate
Best seasons to ride: Spring through fall.
[RideOregonRide.com/TwinBridges](#)



A wild and scenic river, lush cranberry bogs, towering basalt sea stacks and vast ocean views await riders on the **Wild Rivers Coast Scenic Bikeway**. The 61-mile route is anchored in the fishing hamlet of Port Orford, the oldest town on the Oregon coast. You can complete the route in one day or take your time with several out-and-back rides. A perfect start point is at historic Battle Rock Park in Port Orford, with views of Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve. A 17-mile stretch in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest follows the Wild and Scenic Elk River, through an old-growth forest and past pools teeming with native salmon and trout. Visit the Elk River Fish Hatchery or cool off at one of many swimming holes. A steady, gentle climb brings you to Cape Blanco State Park, on the westernmost point of Oregon and home to Cape Blanco Lighthouse, the state's oldest working lighthouse, built in 1870. Another out-and-back ride just a few easy miles from Port Orford leads to Paradise Point State Recreation Site, where you can pedal up to a sandy beach for perfect sunset views.

Camping and lodging: Camping, with hiker/biker sites, is available at Cape Blanco State Park and at Humburg Mountain State Park. There are two Forest Service campgrounds on River Road, but they don't have water. Lodging in Port Orford.

Distance: 61 miles (Out-and-Back) **Level:** Moderate
Best seasons to ride: Year-round.
[RideOregonRide.com/WildRiversCoast](#)



The original Oregon Scenic Bikeway, this route showcases one of the most productive—and beautiful—agricultural valleys in the world, known for world-class pinot noir. Between the winery views, you'll pass through a series of enchanting small towns along the way. The **Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway** starts at historic Champcoog State Heritage Area. The route follows its namesake river as it winds through the Willamette Valley. You'll pass an amazing bounty of crops, from flowers to hops and nuts to berries. This route is ideal for almost any rider; it has very little climbing.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available at both ends, at Champcoog State Park at the north end and Armitage County Park at the south end. In Brownsville camping is available at Pioneer City Park, while hiker/biker camping can be found at Willamette Mission State Park. There are multiple lodging options in several towns along the route, including Keizer, Salem, Independence, Albany and Eugene.

Distance: 132 miles (One way) **Level:** Moderate
Best seasons to ride: Year-round.
[RideOregonRide.com/Willamette](#)

