

OR

# Oregon

BY THEME



# DAY TRIPS



Stacy McCullough

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The upper Multnomah Falls

**OREGON IS HOME** to hundreds of waterfalls, and waterfall hikes (and photography) are practically a pastime in the state. The waterfalls included here are simply a sampler, and they range from the towering Multnomah Falls, outside Portland, to the diminutive but striking Hug Point Falls, accessible only at low tide.

*Note:* When hiking near waterfalls, keep your surroundings, road conditions, tides, and safety in mind. Optimal waterfall-viewing usually depends on the season and weather—a waterfall that’s in full flow during the spring may slow to a trickle at other times of year—so check conditions before you go.



# WATERFALLS

- 1 Columbia Gorge Waterfalls, *Statewide* . . . . . 12**  
 With more than 40 waterfalls, an up-close look at the area's geology, and beautiful surroundings, there's more than enough to keep you busy on this road trip.
- 2 Drift Creek Falls, *Near Lincoln City* . . . . . 12**  
 This family-friendly hike has a suspension bridge and offers views from every angle.
- 3 Hug Point Falls, *Arch Cape* . . . . . 13**  
 Only a low tide showcases this tiny waterfall surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and a historic cliff.
- 4 Multnomah Falls, *Corbett* . . . . . 13**  
 Located half an hour outside Portland in the Columbia Gorge, these falls tumble for hundreds of feet. If you're up for it, you can hike from the base to the scenic view at the top.
- 5 Munson Creek Falls, *Tillamook* . . . . . 13**  
 This striking falls tumbles for more than 300 feet; at its base, branches coated in moss give the setting an idyllic, otherworldly feel.
- 6 Sahalie and Koosah Falls, *Eugene* . . . . . 14**  
 This pair of waterfalls are found in Willamette National Forest. One is fully accessible from the road; the other requires just a short hike.
- 7 Sweet Creek Falls, *Mapleton* . . . . . 14**  
 A short hike through a wooded area ends with a small, tranquil waterfall.
- 8 Watson Falls, *Idleyld Park* . . . . . 14**  
 Located in Umpqua National Forest, birds, trees, and moss-covered boulders frame this tall waterfall.
- 9 White River Falls, *Near The Dalles* . . . . . 15**  
 At the base of this double waterfall you'll find an abandoned hydroelectric plant.



## 1 Columbia Gorge Waterfalls

Statewide  
[fs.usda.gov/recmain/crgnsa/recreation](https://fs.usda.gov/recmain/crgnsa/recreation)

A massive canyon spanning dozens of miles on the Columbia River, the Columbia Gorge contains dozens of different waterfalls, including plunges, cascades, falls with multiple drops, and more. Because there is so much to see, there are many ways to explore it. To plan your trip, visit the website for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (listed above). The gorge's steep canyon walls formed during the Missoula Floods, when a massive glacial lake scoured out the valleys, leaving behind bare rock and numerous waterfalls. Plan your waterfall hikes based on your ambition and needs: some are ADA accessible, while others are not, and it's easy to string together several fall visits into the same trip. A few notable waterfalls in the Gorge include two-tiered Bridal Veil Falls (in the town of Bridal Veil), with a 118-foot drop and Tunnel Falls (accessible via the Eagle Creek Trailhead), where a tunnel was blasted out behind the falls (though traversing the tunnel can be dangerous, so use caution).

## 2 Drift Creek Falls

**Siuslaw National Forest** Forest Service Road 18, east of Lincoln City;  
 (503) 392-5100  
[tinyurl.com/driftcreekfallsoregon](https://tinyurl.com/driftcreekfallsoregon)

Located about 16 miles east of Lincoln City, at this trailhead you can walk through a slice of Siuslaw National Forest on an easy 1.5-mile path (3 miles round-trip). From the trailhead (see the link above for directions and a brochure), you'll head downhill, crossing two little wooden bridges that bring you over a stream that continues with your stroll. As you keep descending, you'll start to hear the waterfall, and you'll cross another footbridge, where you'll see a big suspension bridge. Continue on the main trail and you'll arrive at a steel suspension bridge and the falls cascading down. From here, you can walk across the suspension bridge and continue to the end of the trail, or you can return to your starting point.



A B-25 Mitchell Bomber at the Evergreen Aviation Museum

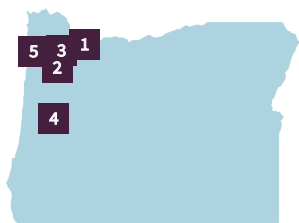
**WHETHER YOU WANT** to see vintage fighter jets, check out an SR-71 Blackbird spy plane, or take a flight to do some sightseeing, Oregon is a great place for aviation buffs to visit.



# AIRPLANES & AVIATION

- 1 Envi Adventures, Troutdale** .....24  
 With affordable flights, this Portland-based outfit provides air tours of Portland, nearby waterfalls, and the wider region.
- 2 Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, McMinnville** .....24  
 Learn about the history of aviation and space flight at this museum, which is home to an SR-71 Blackbird spy plane, World War II aircraft, and the positively massive *Spruce Goose*.
- 3 Jetliner Home in the Woods, Hillsboro** .....25  
 Hidden in the Oregon woods is something you'd never expect: a Boeing 727 that has been upcycled into a home by one inspired man.
- 4 Oregon Air and Space Museum, Eugene** .....25  
 With real fighter jets and displays about space, aviation, and military history, this is a great place for plane junkies to visit.
- 5 Tillamook Air Museum, Tillamook** .....25  
 Home to more than 20 aircraft, historic fire trucks and vehicles, and even a locomotive, you can literally see planes, trains, and automobiles here.





## 1 Envi Adventures

1350 NW Perimeter Way, Troutdale 97060; (855) 236-8466  
[enviadventures.com](http://enviadventures.com)

When you book a tour with Envi Adventures, you've got options. Perhaps you want to see Portland from the air on the Stumptown tour, or perhaps a waterfall tour is more your thing. Soar over Mount Hood and Sandy River to view quicksand from the only safe angle. If you want a longer tour, you can fly past Mount Hood and its adjacent national forest. If you think Oregon's wonders are gorgeous from the ground, just wait until you see them from the air.

## 2 Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum

500 NE Captain Michael King Smith Way, McMinnville 97128; (503) 434-4180  
[evergreenmuseum.org](http://evergreenmuseum.org)

During World War II, metal was rationed for military use, and Liberty ships bringing arms and supplies to Europe were hunted by German submarines. Henry Kaiser was the most prominent ship builder of his day and knew all too well how perilous life in Liberty ships could be. He suggested that a lightweight but massive airplane could counter the submarine threat. Famed airplane developer Howard Hughes soon took on the job, and he crafted the *Spruce Goose* almost entirely out of birch (despite its nickname). In the end, its wingspan was 320 feet long; it took to the skies once, flying for about a mile. The historic airplane is one of the many highlights at this museum, which offers tours of the famous plane. This museum is also home to an SR-71 Blackbird (the world's fastest air-breathing plane); helicopters; and an entire building dedicated to the history of space exploration, with rocket engines, replicas of the Apollo command module and lunar module, and even a replica lunar rover. The museum also has a flight simulator; cafés; and movies about space flight, aviation, and the military.





Coquille River Lighthouse

**WITH ITS ROCKY CLIFFS,** powerful currents, hidden reefs, and treacherous tides, it's probably not surprising that Oregon's coast is the final resting place of many shipwrecks, most of which foundered before the advent of modern technology. Oregonians responded by building a number of lighthouses; today there are 11 in all still standing on the coasts. Here are a few of the more accessible and well-known.



# LIGHTHOUSES

- 1 Cape Blanco State Park, Port Orford** . . . . . 46  
 The site of many shipwrecks, this is the oldest lighthouse still standing on Oregon's coast.
- 2 Cape Meares Lighthouse, Tillamook** . . . . . 46  
 Surrounded by Sitka spruce, the lighthouse is perched 200 feet above the sea.
- 3 Coquille River Lighthouse, Bandon** . . . . . 47  
 This picturesque lighthouse has a striking red-and-white exterior.
- 4 Tillamook Rock Lighthouse, Cannon Beach** . . . . . 47  
 Located a mile offshore, this abandoned lighthouse has a long, strange history.
- 5 Umpqua Lighthouse, Winchester Bay** . . . . . 48  
 Located next to a U.S. Coast Guard base, this lighthouse was built in 1894.
- 6 Yaquina Head & Yaquina Bay Lighthouses, Newport** . . . . . 48  
 Just miles apart, these two lighthouses couldn't look more different, but both are quite photogenic.

## 1 Cape Blanco State Park

91100 Cape Blanco Road, Port Orford 97465; (541) 332-6774  
[tinyurl.com/capeblancostatepark](http://tinyurl.com/capeblancostatepark)

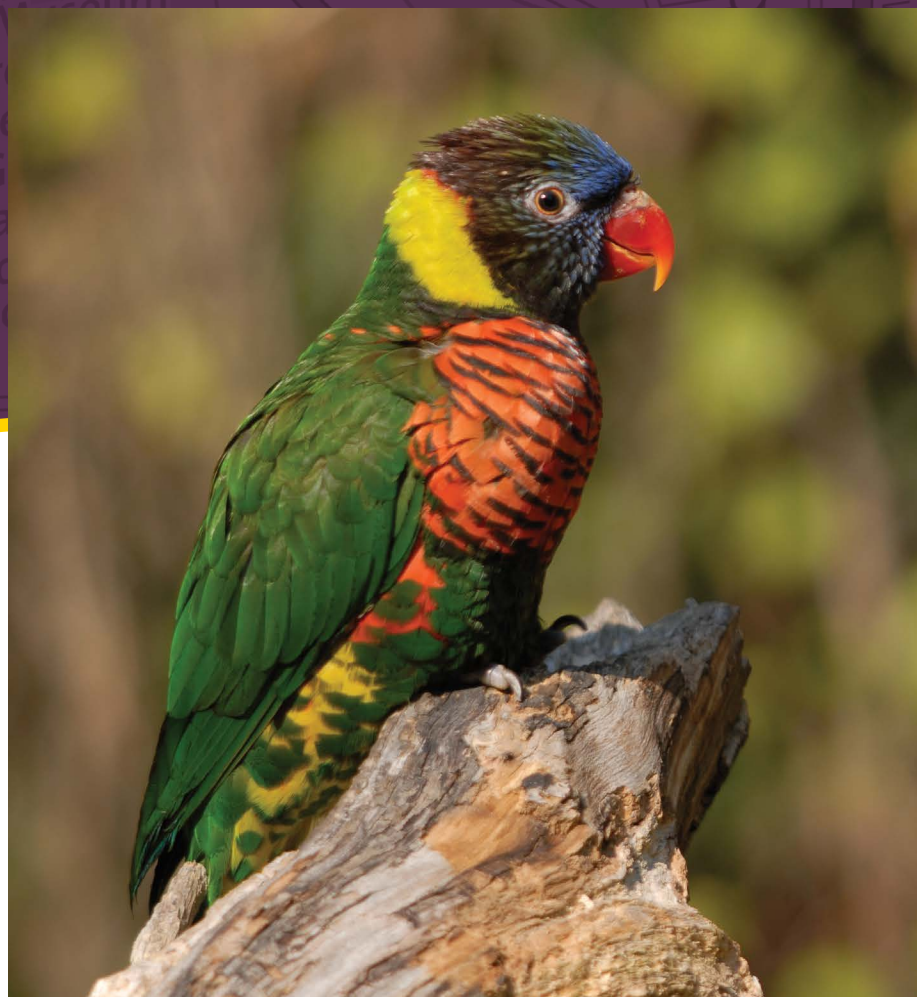
Built in 1870, Cape Blanco was built because the cape's high winds, dangerous reefs, and often-foul weather provided a real threat to shipping. In fact, a shipwreck occurred here during the construction of the lighthouse—a vessel carrying supplies for the lighthouse sank and had to be replaced before the site was complete. As the westernmost place in Oregon, and the second-westernmost place in the continental U.S. (after Cape Alava, Washington), it was a difficult place to work and live. But it was important for shipping, and it still operates today as a working lighthouse. Today, Cape Blanco is perhaps best known for its pretty staggering scenery (the lighthouse towers over the sea), as well as a historic Victorian home built by a farmer that is now open for tours. After your tour, you can hike down to the beach, fish, or camp.

*Note:* Check the website for tour schedules (which are seasonal) and rates.

## 2 Cape Meares Lighthouse

**Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint** 2375 Cape Meares Loop, Tillamook 97141; (503) 842-3182

The view from Cape Meares is flat-out staggering. The lighthouse here was built in 1889, and unlike many other lighthouses, it's not especially tall. On the contrary, it's an oddity, as it's "only" 38 feet tall. Then again, perched on a cliff that is more than 200 feet above the water, it didn't need to be especially tall. Tours of the lighthouse are free, but check the website for seasonal information and weather info. The area is also great for viewing wildlife: whales can be spotted at various times in the year (migration seasons are December and January, March and April, and during summer). Seabirds, especially common murres and cormorants, are a common sight from spring into summer, and there are several short hiking trails and interpretive displays. One popular landmark is the Octopus Tree, a sprawling spruce that makes for a great photo op. While you're in the



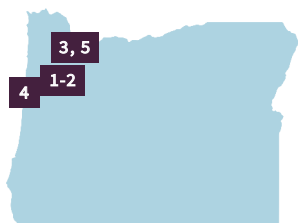
A Rainbow Lorakeet at the Portland Zoo

**GATHER THE FAMILY** to explore everything the Beaver State has to offer, from historic amusement parks and water parks to wild-animal sanctuaries, enchanted forests, and aquariums and zoos.



# FAMILY DAY

- 1 **Enchanted Forest, Turner** .....52  
Fairy Tales come to life at this immersive amusement park with shows, rides, and more.
- 2 **The Gilbert House Children’s Museum, Salem** .....52  
Named in honor of A. C. Gilbert, the inventor of the Erector Set, this children’s museum’s mantra is “learning through creative play.”
- 3 **Oaks Amusement Park, Portland** .....52  
With rides, miniature golf, games, and year-round roller-skating, Oaks Amusement Park has been a family tradition in Oregon for more than a century.
- 4 **Oregon Coast Aquarium, Newport** .....53  
Give a fist bump to an octopus, touch a sea jelly, or sleep “under the sea” at this world-class aquarium.
- 5 **Oregon Zoo, Portland** .....54  
With exhibits modeled after habitats from around the world, you can spot tigers, elephants, California condors, and other creatures.
- 6 **Tillamook Creamery, Tillamook** .....54  
Love cheese? Visit the Tillamook Creamery to get an up-close glimpse of how it’s made. Best of all, there are samples!
- 7 **Wildlife Safari, Winston** .....55  
Go on safari in Oregon and see elephants, lions, and giraffes from the safety of your car; the site also offers up-close-and-personal encounters with some of the site’s animals.
- 8 **Wings & Waves Waterpark, McMinnville** .....55  
This aviation-themed waterpark has a real Boeing 747 on its roof; in fact, several of the waterslides start inside the fuselage.



## 1 Enchanted Forest

8462 Enchanted Way SE, Turner 97392; (503) 371-4242  
enchantedforest.com

Nursery rhymes come to life at this delightful theme park. The brain-child of Robert Tofte, Enchanted Forest is a life-size introduction to famous children's stories, the Wild West, and more. It all started with Storybook Lane, which Tofte built by hand. There, you'll find Humpty Dumpty; you can also walk through a castle and climb through the rabbit hole from *Alice in Wonderland*. There's also a Wild West Town, rides, animatronic animals, whimsical statues, and more. An area tradition for families of little ones for generations, Enchanted Forest has an endearingly quirky charm.

## 2 The Gilbert House Children's Museum

116 Marion St. NE, Salem 97301; (503) 371-3631  
acgilbert.org

This children's museum is dedicated to "learning through creative play," and appropriately enough, it's named after A. C. Gilbert, a native of Salem and the inventor of the Erector Set, who was well-known for his popular line of chemistry sets (some of which contained actual radioactive materials), magic kits, and more. The Gilbert House mirrors the hands-on approach found in Gilbert's toys and includes immersive exhibits where kids can play and learn about farming and food production, medicine, the arts, and engineering. There's a television studio with a real green screen, a veterinarian's office, and a massive outdoor play space, among many other fun attractions. The Gilbert House Children's Museum is recommended for kids ages 2–10, though older siblings and parents often have as much fun as the little ones.

## 3 Oaks Amusement Park

7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland 97202; (503) 233-5777  
oakspark.com

For over a century, Oaks Amusement Park has offered Oregonians a place to escape. Originally a "trolley park" that opened in 1905 to entertain streetcar riders, it originally featured rides, fireworks, and

## ***YOUR ALL-IN-ONE GUIDE TO OREGON'S BEST OUTINGS***

Discover hundreds of unique attractions around the Beaver State. This comprehensive guide is jam-packed with Oregon's top spots for fun and entertainment. Take a simple day trip, or string together a longer vacation of activities that appeal to you. Useful for singles, couples, and families—visitors and residents alike—this guide encompasses a wide range of interests.



Llama decked out for Portland's Grand Floral Parade

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- Handy size that's perfect for traveling

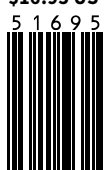
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