What does Explore Oregon mean to you?

Picture this: Pacific Ocean-sculpted coastline, dotted with magnificent state parks and villages; acclaimed wine country in the Willamette and Columbia River Valleys . . . the Cascade Mountains – home to pristine rivers, waterfalls, and spruce forests; the High Desert’s Old West vibe . . . and the one-of-a-kind Columbia River and Gorge – featuring places of understated historical importance (like The Dalles), the wines of “Sam Hill Country,” and Mount Hood’s Depression-era crafts masterpiece, the Timberline Lodge . . .

The amazing thing is, one doesn’t have to drive huge distances to explore that rich smorgasbord of unique places. It can be found in a triangle of northwest Oregon.

So, what’s our plan? Let’s gather a small group of OLLI explorers, and head west for this Pacific Northwest adventure . . . sipping wines, staying in the hearts of pretty towns, seeking out the best short hikes – a passageway to some of Oregon’s prettiest natural scenes and settings; meet-ups with local experts on everything from pioneer history, to the art and architecture we’ll uncover along our routes, to local specialties and Oregon’s headliner lifestyle.

**Trip Features**

- A travel group size of 14 - 20 people
- Transportation by private, chartered coach
- Lovely hotels: emblematic of Oregon lifestyle, and located in the heart of scenic regions
- Delicious dining and tasting: sample great local fare and visit some of the Northwest's best wineries
- An emphasis on the details around us: drives will be scenic and relatively short, with a blend of group experiences and opportunities to explore on your own
- Discover Oregon's over-the-top combination of history, natural places, and lifestyle

This trip will be led by Chumley Cope and Kingsley Martin, known by many OLLI travelers, through Upstate travel company Explore Up Close.
Trip Itinerary

Friday, September 22
We depart from GSP on our flight to Portland. We arrive by 1:00 pm (local time), then begin our drive through lush surroundings to Oregon’s magical coast. The seaside town of Cannon Beach will be our home for two nights. After hotel check-in, enjoy time to walk, relax and soak in the Pacific vibe. Dinner and overnight, Cannon Beach.

Saturday, September 23
After a delicious breakfast, we’ll explore Oregon Route 101 – driving north along the coast, to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Site, and other sites near the mouth of the mighty Columbia River. We’ll visit the town of Astoria — named for 19th-century fur magnate, John Jacob Astor; and Fort Stevens, that strategically guarded the approach to the Columbia. We’ll lunch in the pretty town of Seaside. This afternoon, we’ll explore beautiful Ecola State Park, featuring stunning views across the Pacific (from Ecola Point), beaches and tidal pools to explore (Indian Beach), and short rewarding hikes. Dinner and overnight, Cannon Beach.

Sunday, September 24
Depart Cannon Beach, driving south along the coast to Cape Meares, where we’ll drive the Three Capes Scenic Loop (with stops). We’ll enjoy lunch in nearby Tillamook. In the afternoon, we’ll drive to the scenic and historic Willamette Valley – home of some of Oregon’s best wines. We’ll make our home for the night in the center of funky McMinnville, at the upscale and much ballyhooed Atticus Hotel.

Monday, September 25
Spend the day exploring the beautiful Willamette Valley. We’ll taste wine at some of the world’s best wineries, including game-changer Eyrie Vineyards, and Domaine Drouhin. We’ll also relax and spend down time in charming villages, and encounter old settler cemeteries, and signs of Oregon’s pioneer past. Dinner and overnight, McMinnville.

Tuesday, September 26
We’ll depart the Willamette, driving up and over the high Cascades. We’ll make lovely stops en route, including the Marion Forks Fish Hatchery, and a picnic (and a great short hike) at Sahalie Falls. We’ll arrive in the lovely “western town” of Sisters, Oregon, where we’ll move into our “uptown” quarters for the next two nights – the Left Coast Lodge. Dinner and overnight in Sisters.

Wednesday, September 27
This morning, we’ll enjoy a visit to the acclaimed High Desert Museum. We’ll then visit the one-time capital of all “most-livable place” conversations – the city of Bend, Oregon, on the lovely Deschutes River. We’ll tour the city and include “down time” to explore as you may wish: from the beautiful riverwalk along the Deschutes, to Main Street – excellent options abound. We’ll return to Sisters for dinner and our overnight.

Thursday, September 28
Depart Sisters, driving north to the historic Timberline Lodge, mid-way up on majestic Mt. Hood. Lunch at the Timberline, followed by a guided tour the rich WPA-era artwork that adorns the inn. We’ll descend the mountain to the town of Hood River, at the head of the scenic Columbia River Gorge. From Hood River, drive upstream (east) to one of the West’s most historic places: The Dalles on the Columbia River. Dinner and overnight, The Dalles.

Friday, September 29
Today, we’ll explore stories connected to The Dalles – once the preeminent trade center of the Native Northwest. Visit sites will include the Fort Dalles Museum. We’ll enjoy lunch and wines across the river in Washington, at the Maryhill Winery. We’ll also visit one of our country’s most unique decorative arts museums, also at Maryhill. We’ll return to The Dalles for dinner and our overnight.

Saturday, September 30
This morning, descend the valley of the great Columbia, making a short stop at Multnomah Falls, en route to the airport and our flights home.
Trip Price

$4,476 / person (double occupancy; single room supplement, $1,260)

What's included? Comfortable chartered coach transportation in Oregon, accommodation for eight (8) nights, 4 lunches and 4 dinners, all group activities, admissions, and experiences per the itinerary, guide and concierge service throughout the trip.

Price does not include flight from GSP to Portland, alcohol, other meals (including some breakfasts), or optional trip insurance.

Featured Lodging

The Inn at Cannon Beach, Cannon Beach, OR
https://innatcannonbeach.com/

The Atticus Hotel, McMinnville, OR
https://atticushotel.com/

Left Coast Lodge, Sisters, OR
https://leftcoastlodge.com/

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