JULY + AUGUST 2022 PORTLAND, MAINE EXPLORATION **RAILS TO TRAILS CYCLING** AAA TRAVEL DEALS



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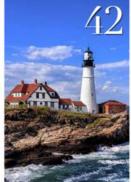
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Wine Touring Guide









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july + august 2022



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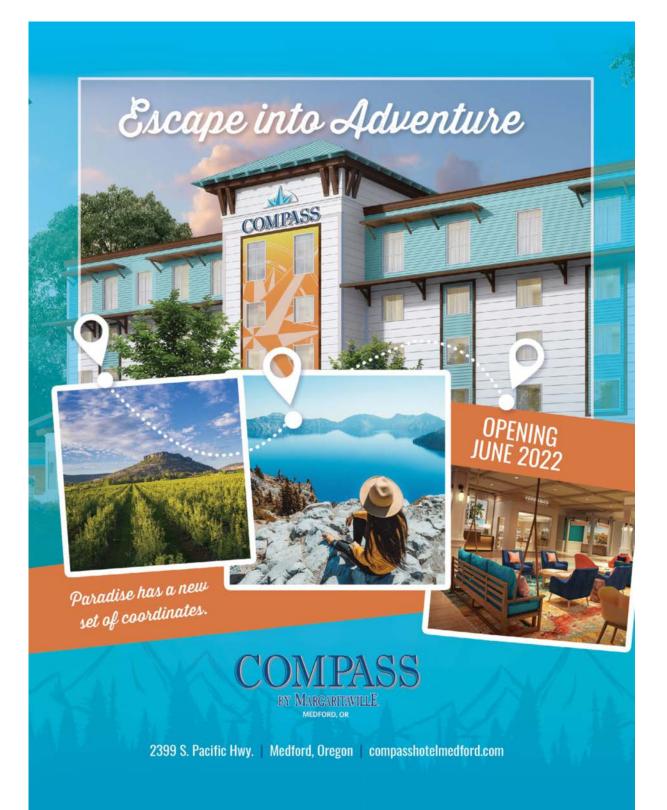
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ON THE COVER A day at Western Pleasure Guest Ranch in Sandpoint, Idaho. Photo Selkirk Rödge Photography





MORE TO SEE. MORE TO DO. MORE TO EXPLORE. It's time to meet me in Klamath. Seriously. Right now.



one-iank one-charge

These days, the high price of fuel is on everyone's mind. According to new AAA research, about 59% of U.S. adults said they would change their driving activity when prices hit \$4, and 75% say they would do so at the \$5 mark.

We re lucky to live in an area where there are countles destinations you can reach with about one tank of gas or one or two charges of your electric vehicle. All offer gorgeous scenery and lots of fun things to do, from hiking, rafting, golf, horseback riding, concerts, and shopping, to checking ou 8 e local cuisine.

Hoad for th e coast – Check out the Spouting Horn in Depoe Bay as you travel along Highway 101. In Southern Oregon, Yachats can be the starting point for many incredible sights including Cook's Chasm, Thor's Well and Spouting Horn. Other stops can include Newport, Lincoln City, Nesk 9 n, Tillamook, Seaside, and Astoria.

Explore Central Oregon - Sisters, Bend, and Sunriver. In Idaho, check out McCall or Sun Valley. All are ideal for family vacations.

Crater Lake - visiting Oregon's national park was on our bucket list. We stayed at the historic Crater Lake Lodge and hiked Plaikni Falls, Pinnacles Trailhead and the Cleetwood Cove Trail. A must do is sitting in the rocking chairs at the lodge taking in the lake view! Book early as the lodg 10 quickly during the summer months. Visit E Dregon – Baker City, Pendleton, or Hells

Canyon Natio 11 reation Area.

Expe rience Twin Fails and its surroundings - Shoshone Falls, Thousand Springs State Park, City of Rocks National Reserve, or Craters of the Moon National Monument. Find the place where sand meets sky at the Bruneau

Dunes State Park and Observatory.

Looking for more great road trip ideas? Check out AAA.com/roadtrips.

6

Download the AAA mobile app at AAA.com/ mobile before you hit the 7 and use the app to easily locate the cheapest fuel and closest charging stations along the way. You can 12 cess the world-famous TripTik Travel Planner to help you choose the best route for your adventure.



Did you know that Shell is a AAA Discounts & Rewards partner? Members who join the Fuel Rewards program can save five cents or more per gallon. To join, please visit AAA.com/shell. There are many ways to stretch the time between charges and fill-ups. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and remove unnecessary items from the trunk and roof rack to improve fuel economy.

If you'd like more ideas, please call or visit one of our AAA Service Centers. At several of our larger locations, you can even charge your EV while you chat with a travel agent. Whether your plans take you across the state or around the world, we're here to help.

Where are you going this summer? Please email me at President@AAAOregonIdaho.com or write to me at 600 SW Market St., Portland, OR 97201 or 7155 W. Denton St., Boise ID 83704.

Your fellow AAA member,

Lin Magn

Tim Morgan, President and CEO



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Doreen 5

HOTO ROBBIE MCCLARAN

- 2022-06-03 10:50

Strike

- Doreen 6
 - 2022-06-03 10:52

replace with - NEW First Paragragh:

The high price of fuel is on everyone's mind. AAA research indicates that 75% of U.S. adults have modified their driving habits due to the high gas prices.

7	Doreen - 2022-06-03 10:59
	replace - New Paragraph:
	We're fortunate to live in an area where there are countless destinations reachable with one tank of gas or one or two charges
	of your electric vehicle. Some of my favorite driving destinations include;
8	Doreen - 2022-06-03 11:00
	Strike
•	Doreen
9	- 2022-06-03 11:00
	Strike
10	Doreen - 2022-06-03 11:01
	Strike
11	Doreen
	- 2022-06-03 11:01
	Strike
12	Doreen
	- 2022-06-03 11:02
	chg world to our - " our famous"
13	Doreen
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$\{SMARTTRAVEL\}$

ROAD TRIP

From single-day adventures to excursions of a week or more, AAA plans and curates a diverse selection of road trips for aspiring travelers. This photo was taken at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, a stop on both of the AAA roadtrips "Utah's National Parks" and "Utah's All-American Scenic Byway 12." No more stress about planning the perfect trip—choose from a journey already crafted with ample detail, mileage and maps. To discover your next adventure, visit AAA.com/roadtrips.

HOTO WWW, BRANDONFLINT, COM

AAA|Via 9

[SMART TRAVEL]



PREPARE FOR HOT SUMMER TRAVELS

Tourism is expected to boom this summer, as people hit the road on vacations that were previously delayed. As drivers prepare for summer road trips and high temperatures, AAA advises getting vehicles road-ready by remembering "B-E-T"-properly inspect your Battery, Engine and Tires before embarking on any excursions. Batteries won't let you know when they need to be replaced, but a battery test will. Through its mobile battery program in select areas, AAA offers complimentary testing of the vehicle's battery and electrical system. Engine cooling issues are more common in vehicles more than ten years old. Check for fluids pooling underneath the vehicle when it's parked, as this can indicate a problem. Tires should be inspected for tread depth and tire pressure. Even if everything looks good, carry a spare tire just in case. See AAA.com/summerprep.

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FIRE SEASON PREPARATION

Advance preparation in the event that a wildfire may strike has become an important consideration for residents of the West. Create a defensible space around your home by clearing out dry and combustible materials within at least 100 feet of your home. Move firewood, grills and anything flammable at least thirty feet away. Create a wildfire action plan and practice it with your family, including pets. Review escape routes, places to meet, contact info and emergency numbers. Share this information with trusted neighbors. Designate certain items in your house of great importance, and only grab them if doing so does not compromise the safety of your plan. Be sure to keep important documents such as passports and birth certificates in fire-proof containers. Have a "go bag" ready. This should contain clothing, toiletries and three days worth of necessities. With a camera, document your possessions to help with insurance claims for destroyed property. Learn more and check your insurance coverage at AAA.com/insurance.



4th OF JULY WEEKEND

As 4th of July celebrations from lake days to barbecues commence all over the nation, AAA urges caution to ensure that this day stays fun for everyone. For water fun, only swim in designated areas and avoid swimming in currents or waves. Everyone should swim with a lifeguard or observer. Always watch kids, and keep them away from pools by using fences, gates and doors, and never swim under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

take care FIREWORK **SAFETY**

Fireworks on the 4th of July cause nearly half the fires reported that day. For safety's sake, AAA recommends watching a community fireworks display. If you do prefer lighting your own fireworks, first check local city or county ordinances to make sure fireworks are allowed, based on current fire risk conditions. Then, follow the fireworks' labeled instructions. To avoid unintentional injuries such as burns as well as accidental fires, keep a fire extinguisher at the ready, only light one firework at a time, and never point or aim any firework at another person.

FOOD PREP

GRILLING 101

Each year, there are nearly 10,000 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues. Hospitals commonly see patients in need of burn treatment, and grill burns account for nearly 8,000 burn-related hospital visits each year. To avoid mishaps, always check to make sure your fuel line, burners and igniter are in good working order. Make sure your propane canister isn't overfilled, and set up the grill in an area that is free of combustible materials such as trees or party decorations. Keep the grill in the shade to avoid heat-related gas leaks, and make sure your area is well ventilated to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

BACKYARD BARBECUE CAUTION

Clean the grill regularly to avoid grease fires, keep the kids away from the grill when operating and don't forget to have a fire extinguisher handy, just in case. Find more tips or check your insurance coverage at AAA.com/insurance.



4 Bob Jacobs

- 2022-06-03 10:32

Pool protection - Apologies for the late comment - is this phrase really actionable? "keep them away from pools by using fences, gates and doors." Could we alternatively just say - "Always watch kids, and never swim under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

{SMART TRAVEL}

FUEL DEALS

Save on Gas

Whenever AAA members fuel up at a participating Shell gas station, they can now save 5¢ per gallon on up to twenty gallons at a time. Thanks to AAA's partnership with the Fuel Rewards® program, members can start racking up the savings and go road tripping for less money. Join the Shell Fuel Rewards program and learn more at AAA.com/shell.



TRAVEL TIP



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PASSPORT PLAN

The U.S. Department of State recommends anyone intending to apply for a new passport or renew an old passport should plan ahead due to longer than normal processing times. AAA members can have their passport photos taken at a local AAA Service Center for just \$5; Premier members recieve complimentary photos. Learn more at AAA.com/passport.



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AAA is a proud sponsor of the Portland Timbers and Portland Thorns FC. Take advantage of a special discount for AAA members only: save 10 percent on regular season tickets, up to six tickets per game with codes 'AAAThorns' and 'AAATimbers.' Witness the Timbers defend their home turf, Providence Park, where they played the championship game in fall of 2021. Visit AAA.com/soccer.

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PHOTO TOP LEFT STOCK, ADOBE, COM/ALEXANDR BLINCV | BOTTOM ISTOCK, COM/MAUDIB



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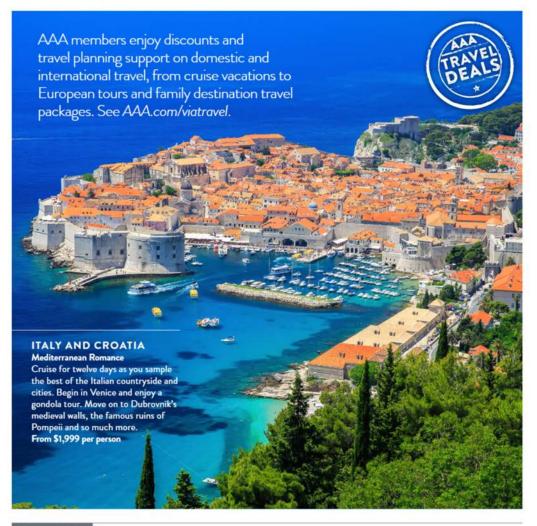
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{SMART TRAVEL}



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1 Bob Jacobs

- 2022-06-02 11:44

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Kim Cooper Findling

- 2022-06-02 11:49

Reply - @Bob Jacobs not too late! @Kelly Alexander

Bob Jacobs - 2022-06-02 11:53 Reply - You'll have it first thing on Friday AM.

Kelly Alexander - 2022-06-02 11:54

Reply - no problem!

{ON THE ROAD}

KITE-FLYING FUN

The skies of Long Beach, Washington fill with color August 15 through 21 for the Washington State International Kite Festival. Organized by the World Kite Museum, this festival draws kite fliers from around the world and thousands of spectators to the shores of Long Beach, off Highway 101 in the southwest corner of Washington. Spectators can expect high-flying action, including contests, kite fighting, workshops and a lighted kite show as part of the festivities. Explore the city of Long Beach and keep the kite-themed fun going with a visit to the World Kite Museum, with exhibits on kite stamps, the business of kites, dime store kites from the 1920s to 1960s and more kite memorabilia. See *kitefestival.com*.



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CHALK ART

Streets and sidewalks will be transformed into works of art at the La Strada dei Pastelli Chalk Art Festival, July 16 and 17 in the Cultural Arts District of downtown Hillsboro, Oregon, The art-packed event started in Beaverton in 2019 and moves to Hillsboro this year under a new event organizer, Tualatin Valley Creates. Spectators can watch as emerging and nationally recognized artists carefully produce huge, temporary chalk drawings down the center of downtown streets. Most creations average 10 feet by 10 feet in size. This free event is packed with art beyond the chalk artwork creations—expect live music, local art vendors and hands-on activities for children. See tvcreates.org.

AGRITOURISM SOIL CELEBRATING

Get down and dirty at the Dirt Day Farming Festival, August 13 at SunLife Farm & Ranch in Prineville, Oregon. Learn about the unique high desert soils from experts in the field at this "soilebration," and browse produce and flowers from farming vendors. While you're there, study the production of lavender, honey and hay happening on this property at the foothills of the Ochoco Mountains. See *sunlifefarm.com*.

CULTURE

POWWOW CELEBRATION

Visit Fort Hall Indian Reservation from August 11 to 14 for the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival, a powwow celebration of culture, food and dancing, with a parade, Indian relay racing, and arts and crafts vendors. A tradition since 1964, the festival takes place in Fort Hall, Idaho, twenty minutes north of Pocatello. See shobanfestival.com.



FESTIVAL



THE BASQUE COMMUNITY ON DISPLAY

Bask in the culture of the southwestern European Basques at the annual San Inazio Festival in Boise, Idaho, slated for July 29 to 31. The street festival honors St. Ignatius of Loyala, the patron saint of the Basques, an ethnic group with an estimated presence in Boise of more than 15,000 people. The festival has taken place annually for more than twenty-five years, drawing thousands of attendees from Boise and beyond. See local musicians, dancers and Basque sporting events and visit the Basque Block, a dedicated block of downtown Boise that's home to Basque community and cultural centers, a museum, bar, restaurant and Basque market. See *basquecenter.com*.

AAA | Via 19

[ON THE ROAD]



FLOWER AND FARM

NATURE THE BUTTERFLY HAVEN

Idaho's largest butterfly house opens seasonally each year from mid-spring to mid-fall, inviting the public in to see more than 2,000 butterflies. With dozens of butterfly varieties represented, you can enjoy the magic as they flutter around. The Butterfly Haven in Pingree, Idaho, celebrates four years in operation this August, and is open to visitors through October 2. See thebutterflyhaven.com.



ON THE LAVENDER TRAIL

Fall in love with the lavender blooms of Oregon this July along the Newberg Lavender Trail, a collection of farms and businesses in the Newberg, Oregon area celebrating all things lavender. Visit farms for flower picking and businesses in Newberg offering products such as lavender-infused teas, cocktails, ice creams and body products, and even lavender-themed painting classes. Peak blooms are expected throughout July, including during the Willamette Valley Lavender Festival and Plein Air Art Festival, taking place July 9 and 10 at the Chehalem Cultural Center. The community and local gardeners gather at this free event, with about 150 artists expected to participate in plein air painting during the Oregon Lavender Paint Out. For more lavender love, explore the Southern Oregon Lavender Trail, ongoing from June through August, with a dedicated lavender festival weekend July 15 to 17. See tastenewberg.com and southernoregonlavendertrail.com.

PHOTO TOP BIGSTOCK.COM/ BOTTOM PHOTO BY RON MILLER COURTESY OF TASTE NEWBERG



AAA | Via 21

{ON THE ROAD}







The Banks-Vernonia State Trail (top and above photos) offers a twentyone-mile-long path for cyclists and pedestrians to explore between two rural communities in verdant northwest Oregon.

Some days it's time to get out of the car and onto a bicycle. Even better if your bicycle doesn't have to contend with cars at all. Enjoy a safe, peaceful ride on one of these four family-friendly trails where bicycles are welcome and motorized vehicles are not.

Banks-Vernonia State Trail BANKS TO VERNONIA, OREGON

Escape into the woods west of Portland on this twentyone-mile-long paved path between the communities of Banks and Vernonia. The first rail-to-trail park in the state, the route stretches along an abandoned railroad bed that once served the region's thriving timber industry. The trail, also part of Oregon's longer Tualatin Valley Scenic Bikeway, crosses Buxton Trestle, a 733-foot-long wooden span standing eighty feet high above Mendenhall Creek. Five trailheads and L.L. Stub Stewart State Park allow access along the way. See stateparks.oregon.gov.

Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail HOOD RIVER TO MOSIER, OREGON

The Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail provides panoramic views of the Columbia River Gorge as it follows the original car route through the area, Highway 30. The highway took a back seat when traffic moved to Interstate 84. Much of the historic two-lane road remains but three segments have been converted for car-free hiker-biker use. The most popular may be the easily accessible 4.5-milelong Twin Tunnels segment between the Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead in Hood River and the small town of Mosier to the east. Follow the wide, forested trail through tunnels that were built 100 years ago. Take in sweeping views of the river and watch the landscape change as you go; fir trees dominate west of the tunnels and ponderosa pines appear on the other side. See *stateparks.oregon.gov*.

Boise River Greenbelt BOISE, IDAHO

A network of paths along both sides of the Boise River passes the city center, Boise State University, Zoo Boise, and several local parks known locally as the "Ribbon of Jewels." Cyclists can pedal for as many as twenty-five miles from shaded glen to open countryside, sharing the trail with hikers, joggers, and perhaps a family of ducks waddling up from river's edge. Along the way is the Morrison Knudsen Nature Center, a 4.6-acre facility operated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, where children can watch the wildlife. See cityofboise.org.

Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes PLUMMER TO MULLAN, IDAHO

PHOTO TOP COURTESY TRAVEL OREGON, PHOTO BY KATIE FALKENBERG MIDDLE COURTESY CITY OF BOISE; BOTTOM COURTESY IDAHO TOURISM. Union Pacific Railroad tracks once ran across the Idaho panhandle through the heart of the mining-rich Silver Valley. The tracks are now gone, replaced by the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes from Plummer to Mullan. Seventy-three miles of smooth asphalt are easily accessed via twenty trailheads, with many waysides to relax, picnic, and enjoy the surroundings. Choose a stunning ride across the Chatcolet Lake Bridge near the west end, perhaps, or see wetlands, dense forests, lakes, and rivers elsewhere on the trail. Consider a detour into downtown Wallace, an entire town listed on the National Register of Historic Places. See visitidaho.org. @

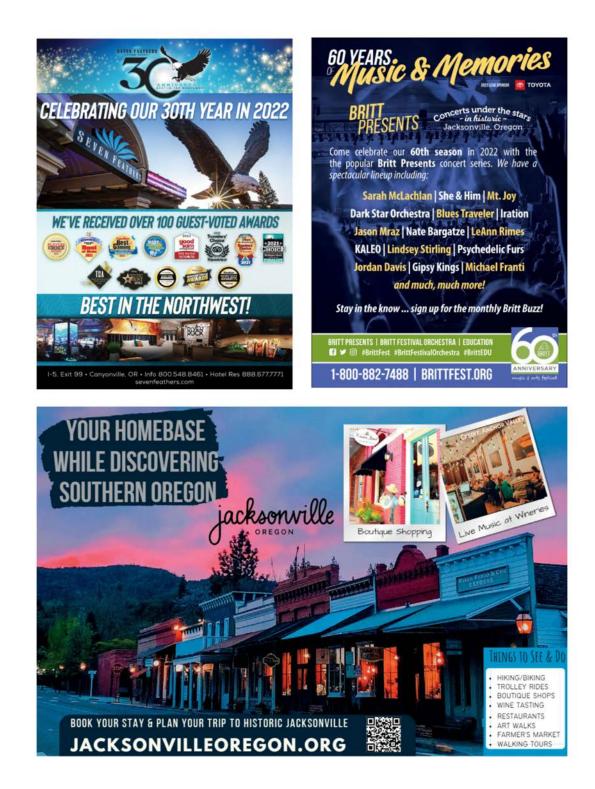






FROM TOP: The century-old Twin Tunnels on the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail; a park-like section of the Boise River Greenbelt; riders take a break on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes.

AAA | Via 23





River's Edge on the

Valley Food Trail

istoric gold mining town meets wine country in Jacksonville, a cozy, charming community in the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon. Gold mining drew the first residents to Jacksonville in the early 1850s and today those same structures built during the mining boom are home to many of the town's best restaurants, shops and lodging options. The entire town is a officially a National Historic Landmark, with Victorian-style homes tucked into neighborhoods near downtown, one of the oldest cemeteries in the state and rich history around every corner. The region's latest boom, however, comes in the form of a growing number of wineries, with dozens of tasting rooms and vineyards located in town or within a short drive. So whether it's the history that inspires a visit, a show at the summertime Britt Music & Arts Festival, a wine tour or just a relaxing weekend away, there's plenty to enjoy on a trip to Jacksonville.

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{WEEKENDER}



Sights

Warm summer nights in Jacksonville tend to be lively as residents and visitors flock to town for an evening at the **Britt Music** & Arts Festival, which showcases national acts, local openers and orchestras each summer. Pack a picnic and head for the hilly festival grounds just a few blocks from downtown. Jacksonville sits in the heart of Southern Oregon's wine country, with vintners drawn to the region's elevation, latitude and weather, and the resulting seven-month growing season. East of downtown is DANCIN Vineyards, offering seven seating areas to enjoy a tasting, artisanal bites and live music. A mile north of downtown is **Rellik Winery**, with vineyards first planted in 1990 and a newly remodeled tasting room, along with patio seating. Say hello to the alpacas before grabbing a tasting flight or some fresh pizza to enjoy. In an 1864 brick building in the core of downtown Jacksonville is the tasting room of **South Stage Cellars**, a pioneer of the local wine industry. Enjoy one of twenty-eight varieties indoors or on the garden patio. Walk a few blocks north of downtown and up a steep driveway to the historic, 32-acre **Jacksonville Cemetery**, one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in Oregon, with early pioneer grave sites dating back to 1859. Editor's note: In this era of the COVID-19 pandemic and frequent wildfires, travel conditions can change quickly. Before you go, please confirm the rood access, open status and hours of any place you plan to visit.

HOTO JAY NEUMAN

Outdoors

Breath in the Southern Oregon outdoors with a walk along the Jacksonville Woodlands Trails, an eighteen-mile-long network of intertwining forest trails easily accessed from the Britt Gardens. On a hike, try to spot local flora including trillium and wild rose flowers. For fresh air and a dose of history, hop on the Jacksonville Trolley, which has offered tours through downtown since the 1980s. Depart from the city's Visitor Information Center for the narrated, 45-minute tour and cruise past Victorianstyle homes, the historic courthouse and jail, while learning more about Jacksonville's history as a gold rush town.

For fine dining in a romantic and cozy space, visit the Jacksonville Inn Restaurant & Lounge for dinner service. The restaurant's Sunday brunch is also a treat, featuring an impressively stocked mimosa cart with an attendant that travels from table to table. Also on the downtown strip, Bella Union Restaurant & Saloon is a local favorite, offering seafood, pasta, pizza and drinks in a casual environment with space for live music. For a deeper dive into the Southern Oregon culinary scene, hop on the Rogue Valley Food Trail, a self-guided culinary journey that encourages visits to local farms, vineyards, restaurants and more, each offering a taste of what the region has to offer. The first stop? Goodbean Coffee in downtown Jacksonville, which serves up locally roasted coffee and tasty pastries.





 $\mathsf{TOP}:$ Narrated history tours on the Jacksonville Trolley take off from downtown.

ABOVE: The Jacksonville Inn Restaurant & Lounge is a romantic dinner spot, with an attached wine shop.

OPPOSITE: Britt Music & Arts Festival offers live music enjoyed on the lawn all summer long.

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{WEEKENDER}

RIGHT Miners' Bazaar is an art boutique and café downtown. FAR RIGHT The McCully House Inn is in the

House Inn is in the historic district of Jacksonville. BELOW

Newly renovated guest rooms at the Jacksonville Inn.





Shops

An attempt at window shopping will quickly lure visitors inside the many unique shops for clothing, gifts, art, antiques and home accessories throughout downtown. **Pot Rack** is one of those jam-packed kitchen stores stocking every piece of dishware and kitchen gadget one could need, and a few items that we didn't even know we needed. On the east end of downtown is **Miners' Bazaar**, an art boutique and café that's worth a visit for art lovers of all ages. Grab something to eat or drink, peruse the art for sale, come for a kids art workshop or bring your own art project to work on at one of the big project tables.

Sleeps

There are no big chain hotels in Jacksonville, and they wouldn't fit in with the town's historic, quaint vibe. Instead, lodging options are rich with character, such as the Jacksonville Inn, which in addition to offering a restaurant and wine shop downstairs, also boasts an eight-room boutique hotel upstairs. The 1861 structure was built of locally quarried sandstone, and specs of gold are still visible in the structure, which housed a mercantile, gift shops and attorneys offices at different times before becoming the Jacksonville Inn in the 1960s. A new group of local owners took over the inn in 2021, modernizing

INN

240

HOUSE

MCCULLY

of local owners took over the inn in 2021, modernizing and remodeling the rooms (there are also four standalone cottages two blocks away) and breathing fresh life into the longstanding Jacksonville business. Other nearby lodging options include the **TouVelle House**, a bed and breakfast inside a 1916 Craftsman-style home two blocks from downtown, or the **McCully House Inn** downtown, the oldest home in Oregon currently operating as an inn. **9**

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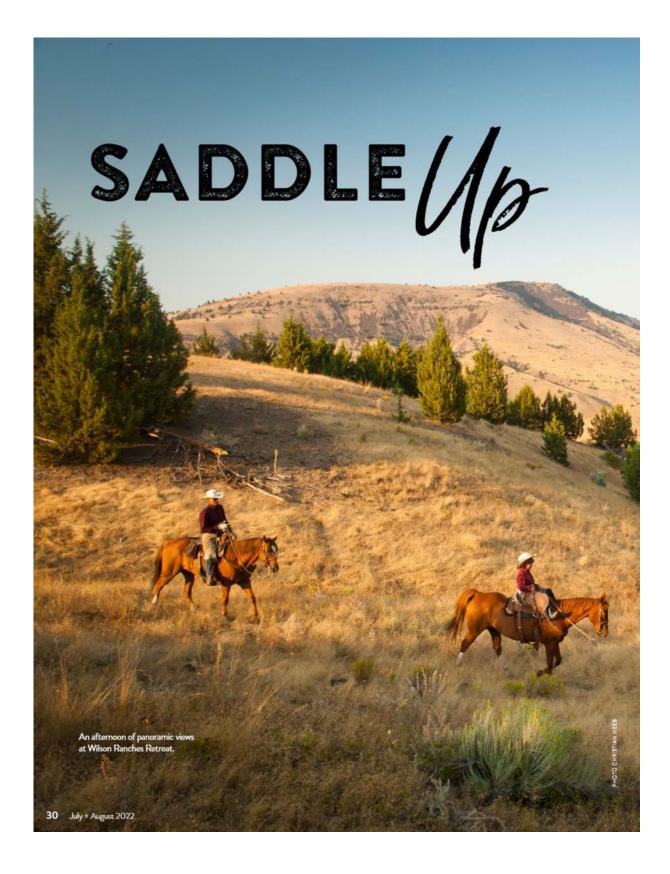
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DESTINATION RANCHES DELIVER A TASTE OF OLD WEST HOSPITALITY

WRITTEN BY KATRYNA VECELLA

y husband and I arrived at Wilson Ranches Retreat, a working ranch that sits three miles west of the small town of Fossil, Oregon, early on a spring Saturday morning. We had just enough time to find our room, introduce ourselves over a warm cup of coffee, and find cowboy boots with the perfect fit. Soon after we met our hosts, we were out the door and I was introduced to Blueberry, a Blue Roan American Quarter Horse, and my assigned steed for the day.





I warned Brian and Brett, members of the Wilson family that would guide us that day, that the only horse knowledge I had was from my latest binge of "Yellowstone," the Paramount Network television drama starring Kevin Costner as the rancher John Dutton. Their immediate reassurance in my abilities—or more likely their trust in Blueberry–gave me the feeling I may just be cut out for ranch life after all.

We headed straight into the high desert hills to herd cattle, searching through pastures to locate a couple of month-old calves that needed to be checked. After that task, we trotted throughout the rocky basin, taking in panoramic views and the diverse flora and fauna of the high desert. As we rode we learned about the pioneer history of the ranch, which began when Wilson ancestors arrived in Eastern Oregon's Butte Creek Valley from the Oregon Trail in the mid-1800s. Brian and Brett provided no shortage of wisecracks, keeping us thoroughly entertained while sharing their passion for long days of work caring for the livestock and tending to the land and property. Before I knew it, our two-hour ride was over. After giving Blueberry a sweet goodbye, Brian pulled out a map to set us up with a day trip loop of Wheeler County's best sights.

Our car's first stop was in Kimberly, where Brian said it was imperative we stop at Apricot Apiaries stand to buy local honey. We put our cash in a relic of the past, an honesty box, and ate honey straight from the jar as we arrived at Blue Basin, in the Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. We hiked the 3.25-mile overlook trail to view the brightly-colored blue badlands, the result of 29-million-year-old volcanic ash.

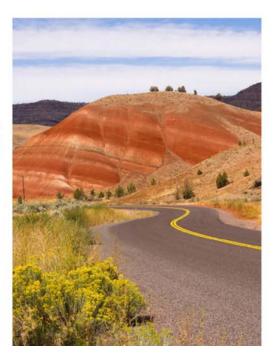


PHOTO TOP COURTESY WILSON RANCH, JUSTIN MYERS BOTTOM ALAMY.COM/

Next, we headed to Dayville to fill our stomachs at the Dayville Mercantile. The journey, following the John Day River, was spectacular, showcasing the beauty of the John Day Canyon with rimrock towers all around. We arrived at a rich-colored landscape we'd only yet seen in photographs-the Painted Hills. Distinct layers of red, tan, orange, purple and black on the hillside paint a sequence of different geological eras from river floodplains over 35 million years ago, to a tropical rainforest to finally the desert we see today. We picked up our jaws and returned to Mitchell, where we completed the full day over burgers at the gem destination, Tiger Town Brewing. The star-lit sky guided us down the empty road, home to the ranch.

The following morning after a hard slumber, we woke up to the smell of bacon. Kara and Katelynn had a farmstyle meal set up with all the fixings. With a big smile, Kara exclaimed the table was full of nine guests for the first time since COVID changed the ranch's operations, and she couldn't have been happier. After a long conversation with Kara and Katelynn, we packed up and headed home content with full bellies and grateful there are still places like Wilson Ranches Retreat in this world.

Triangle X

MOOSE, WYOMING

Located in Jackson Hole, the fourth-generation outfitter Triangle X sits in the heart of Grand Teton National Park. Enjoy riding while surrounded by vistas of the Teton Range and Snake River Valley through sagebrush flats, wildflower-covered foothill meadows, and along rugged mountains. Other activities include cookouts, square dancing, hiking, swimming, trout fishing, and scenic float trips. Triangle X also offers riding programs for kids and teens, pack trips, and big game hunting packages. Stay in one of twenty log cabins constructed by the Turner family with a story of its own, unmatched views of the Tetons and porches with Adirondack chairs. See trianglex.com.

McGarry Ranches REXBURG, IDAHO

Located ninety miles west of Jackson Hole in southeastern Idaho along the Snake River, McGarry Ranches is a fourth-generation working cattle ranch in a diverse landscape-high elevation, green pastures, OPPOSITE: TOP: A cattle roundup at the Wilson Ranches Retreat in Eastern Oregon. OPPOSITE: BOTTOM: The Painted Hills of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument are an hour drive from Wilson Ranches Retreat. THIS PAGE: A horseback ride at Triangle X Ranch takes in the grandeur of the Teton Range and Snake River Valley.





 $\ensuremath{\mbox{TOP}}$. Fishing by horseback is just another day at Western Pleasure Guest Ranch in Idaho.

 ${\tt BOTTOM}{:}\ K$ Diamond K Guest Ranch in northern Washington state offers dude ranch visits year-round.



mountain peaks, and dense forests with clear river water full of trout. Prepare for the day's work with an early Western-style hearty breakfast. Perform ranch work from a Quarter horse and enjoy lunch in the mountains. Wind down the day with a homemade dinner, stories around the campfire and a log cabin stay. McGarry Ranch touts a return rate of 75 percent—come as a guest and leave as family. See mcgarryranches.com.

Western Pleasure Guest Ranch sandpoint, idaho

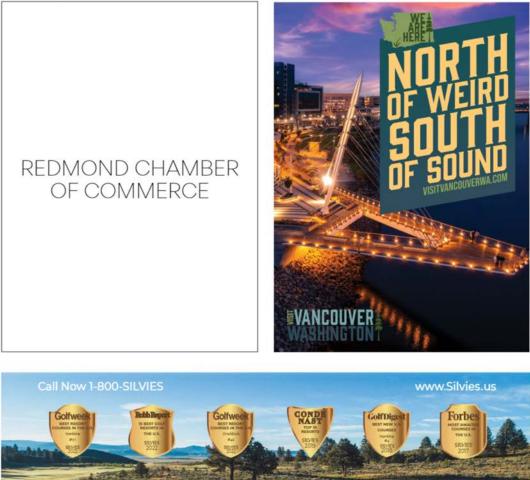
Placed on 1,100 acres in Idaho's scenic panhandle, Western Pleasure Guest Ranch is a Pacific Northwest mountain hideaway. An all-inclusive stay at the fifth-generation cattle ranch in a lodge room or log cabin includes a weeklong itinerary, although shorter stays are also available. Activities surrounding daily horseback rides include archery, clay pigeon shooting, movies on the lawn, huckleberry picking, cattle sorting competitions, hikes, canoe trips, mountain biking and wagon rides. After a day of activity, a soak in the hot tub is a great way to unwind. Evenings include happy hours, dutch-oven dinners and entertainment around the campfire. See westernpleasureranch.com.

K Diamond K Guest Ranch

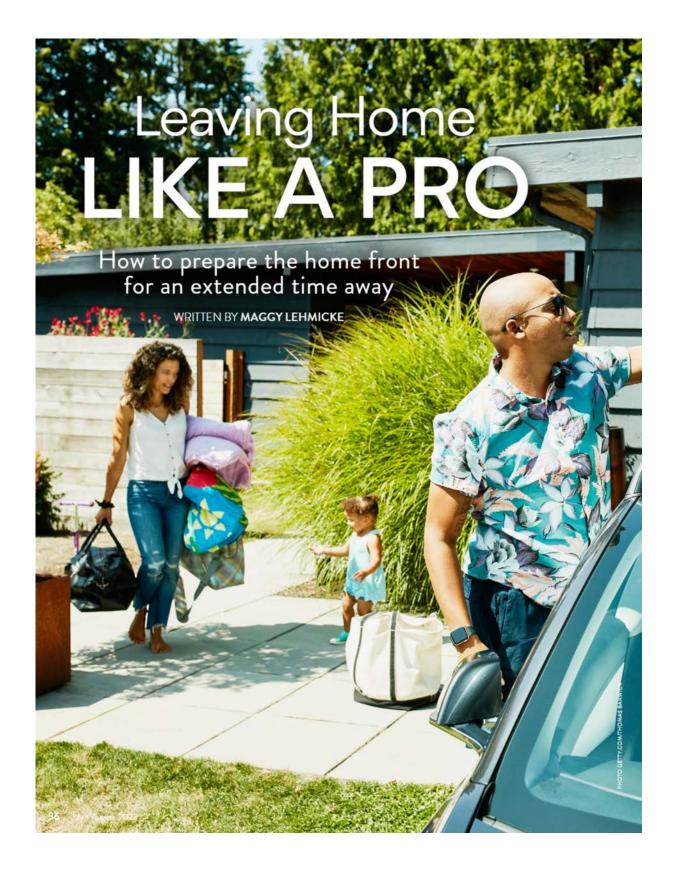
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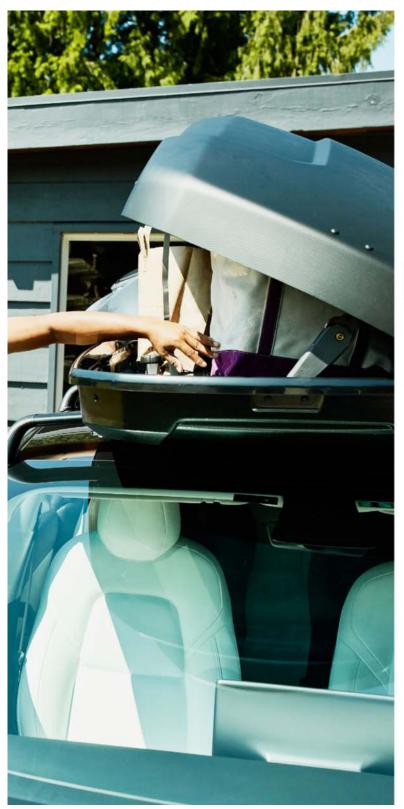
Near the Canadian border in Eastern Washington, K Diamond K Guest Ranch is a 1,600-acre guest dude ranch that offers year-round activities with four distinct seasons. While on a horseback ride, look out for the abundant wildlife, including elk, deer, moose, and bears. Other activities include fly-fishing in nearby lakes and streams, hunting, trapshooting, winter snow activities, mountain biking or floating the river. Guests stay in a handmade log lodge with twelve guest rooms, complete with a game room, hot tub and saloon. See kdiamondk.com. •

Katryna Vecella is the Marketing and Project Manager at Oregon Media. She lives in Central Oregon, a launching point for the outdoor explorations and interactions that inspire her stories.









et's face the facts-when you're planning a long travel trip, there's inevitably something you're going to forget. Maybe it's toothpaste or travel-size shampoo. Other times it's something more substantial, such as to make kennel reservations for your dog or renew your passport or an important prescription. Whatever it may be, forgetting something adds stress to an otherwise exciting time.

Whether it's your first extended vacation or you simply need a refresher after spending the past couple of years at home, it's good to brush up on the numerous factors and preparations to consider before you leave on an extended vacation.

SO, WHAT CONSTITUTES A "LONG TRIP?"

"If you're going to be gone longer than a week, start to consider longterm prepping," said AAA Oregon Vice President of Insurance Jim Ignozzitto. "It's best to start by thinking about what should be done that homeowners often forget."

According to Ignozzitto, these are some of the common mistakes homeowners make before they skip town.

DON'T POST TRAVEL PLANS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. "Just don't do it," Ignozzitto said. While it's important that a few family members or friends know where you'll be and when, it's best to keep your trip plans off public forums.



DON'T HIDE HOUSE KEYS.

According to Ignozzitto, trying to conceal your house keys in a publicly accessible place is never a good idea. "Thieves know where to look and will find them," he says. Consider leaving a spare key with a friend, neighbor or family member instead.



DON'T OVERLOOK THE

YARD. An overgrown yard is a dead giveaway that you're out of town, lgnozzitto says. If you're going to be gone for more than three weeks, having someone look after your lawn and garden not only makes it look lived-in, but gives you one less thing to worry about when you return.

BEFORE YOU GO

Reservations are made, bags are packed, and you're ready to hit the road. While you might not have to tackle all suggested preparations if you're gone only a week or two, Ignozzitto said, it's good to have a comprehensive list to consider. Here is what to think about:

PLACE YOUR VALUABLES IN

A SAFE. Even if you have a friend or neighbor checking in, it's a good idea to place some of your most valuable belongings in a fireproof safe. This could include anything from your passport (if you don't need it) and important legal documents to expensive jewelry and family heirlooms.

2. UNPLUG APPLIANCES. While this isn't always a necessity, unplugging your small appliances—such as toasters and microwaves—helps save electricity and increases the longevity of the appliances themselves.











3. TAKE OUT THE TRASH AND CLEAN OUT THE FRIDGE.

If you're going to be gone for an extended time, take out the trash and clean out your fridge to prevent food from going bad. Consider cleaning your garbage disposal with a mixture of vinegar and water as well.

4. PLACE YOUR LIGHTS ON

A TIMER. While this isn't an absolute must, having lights turn on for short periods of time will create the impression that someone is home.

5. TURN OFF YOUR WATER.

In order to avoid burst pipes, water heater leaks and carpet replacements, turning off your water is an essential step before you hit the road. If it's an option, you can also switch your water heater to vacation mode.

6. SET THE TEMPERATURE.

For the majority of the year, it's best to set your indoor temperature to something relatively close to the outdoor temperature while you're gone. If you're traveling during the winter, however, make sure you properly winterize your home.

CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS AND HOUSE

ALARM. In case of a fire or break-in, it's important to have both your alarm and smoke detectors working properly. It's also a good idea to notify your home security company that you'll be out of town.

8. CONTACT YOUR CREDIT

CARD COMPANY. In most cases, notifying your credit card companies that you'll be traveling is a good idea in order to avoid purchases being flagged as unauthorized. This can often be done by phone, in person, or even online.



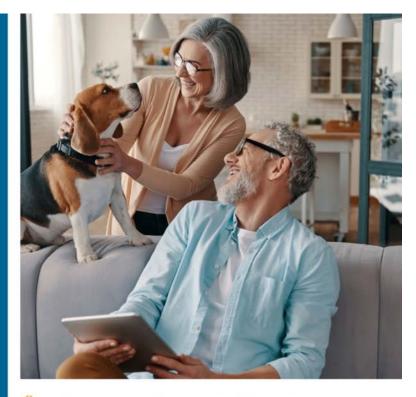
Insurance

Travel insurance isn't the only thing to keep in mind when you're taking off on a trip. Ignozzitto says it's extremely important to check that your home and auto insurance are up-to-date before you leave.

"Making sure the insurance premium is updated ensures it won't cancel due to a missed payment while you're out," he says.

If you're going to be gone for longer than six months and your car is unlikely to be driven, it may be worth canceling auto liability coverage while maintaining comprehensive coverage. "This protects the vehicle in case of a fire, theft or vandalism," he says. "However, I recommend discussing the pros and cons with your agent, as you may lose out on discounts, and it's sometimes more expensive to reinstate when you get back."

Learn more at AAA.com/insurance.



7. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

FOR ANY PETS. No matter how self-sufficient your pet is, it's best to leave animals in a kennel or find someone who can look after them while you're away.

10. PUT YOUR CAR ON A TRICKLE CHARGER. Unless

someone is going to be driving your car while you're gone, a trickle charger is the best way to keep your vehicle's battery from being depleted. Note that this is only necessary if you're going to be gone for months at a time.

II. LET A NEIGHBOR KNOW YOU'RE AWAY. If you have a

nearby friend or neighbor that you trust, consider asking them to swing by your house every few days to check on the home and collect mail and packages. Hiring a house sitter is a good alternative. Alternately, put a hold on your mail services.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

As COVID-19 cases ease and people become more comfortable hitting the road again, last-minute weekend getaways are likely to be replaced by longer, planned trips. While it may be easy to get overwhelmed by all the preparations, it's time to bring that planner out of retirement, find someone to look after your house, and take that big trip you've been dreaming about.

Maggy Lehmicke is a Washingtonbased writer who covers food, travel, and active lifestyle throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. She currently resides in North Bend with her husband and two small dogs who often accompany her on adventures.

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Sea kayaking, lobster rolls and breweries a-plenty in Portland, Maine

WRITTEN BY TERESA RISTOW



Pull up a chair on the deck of a weathered wooden pier in Portland, Maine, and listen to the squawks and cries of the thousands of seagulls welcoming you to their historic seaside city. Satisfy your tastebuds with a fresh lobster roll and locally made craft beer while feeling the salty breezes of Casco Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Watch as the fisherman unload their daily catches at this working waterfront and get ready to explore Portland, a one-of-a-kind city by the sea.

ON THE WATER

The waterfront community of Portland is rich with sea-to-table cuisine, plentiful breweries and breathtaking views of vast blue waters. While there's plenty to do in Portland proper, kick off a trip by exploring Casco Bay to revel in scenery, adventure and exercise, and gather great stories to reminisce about while relaxing in town afterward. For the adventurous, Casco Bay and its many islands are best explored by sea kayak, a truly unique experience suitable for even novice kayakers.

PHOTO OPOSITE PAGE RYAN ZIPP THIS PAGE COURTESY OF PORTLAND PADDLE

The Casco Bay kayaking season is compact, with multi-day kayaking trips typically scheduled for mid-June through mid-September for ideal weather. Booking with an experienced outfitter such as Portland Paddle offers kayakers a planned itinerary with kayaks, meals and other equipment included, as well as the peace of mind of exploring with a guide. Meet at Portland's East End Beach to pick out kayaks, paddles and PFDs before playing a game of packing Tetris-fitting tents, food and water into the compact nooks and crannies of each tandem sea kayak. After a briefing on paddling techniques, the group's kayaks take off together from the busy Portland harbor area. Paddle into waters that quickly feel wild and remote-traversing through open ocean and more protected estuaries. Multi-day trips along the Maine Island Trail allow for exploration of the bay at a steady pace with overnight stays at primitive campsites on some of the bay's many islands. Settle in for a night at the 221-acre, uninhabited Jewell Island. After setting up camp, guides will begin dinner prep while kayakers are free to explore the island, covered in a network of hiking trails with access to secluded beaches. Climb the stairs inside one of the concrete observation towers, once used as military lookouts during World War II, for 360-degree views of the bay. Along the trail, learn about the flora and fauna, which includes towering spruce trees and wildflowers such as violets and rugosa roses, also known as beach roses. Back at camp, enjoy dinner over the campfire and sunset views before heading to bed, falling asleep to the sound of

RIGHT Peaks Island is located offshore from Portland in Casco Bay. BELOW The Wabanaki ferry boat runs between Portland Harbor and Peaks Island.





waves lapping against the island shore, resting up before venturing back out on the bay in the morning.

These multi-day excursions require some kayaking experience, so it's recommended that beginners sign up for a lesson or half-day trip on Casco Bay first to get their sea legs. Try Portland Paddle's three-hour trip to Fort Gorges, a mid-nineteenth century granite fort surrounded by water just off the shore of Portland.

For those who prefer their adventures remain on firmer ground, experience the bay by taking a short ferry ride from Portland to Peaks Island, one of the many landforms in the bay visible from the Portland shoreline. The island offers a quaint coastline and a small-town feel, and is easily explored on foot, by bicycle or through a guided golf cart tour from Peaks Island Tours. Visit the many shops and restaurants, try one of Lisa's famous cinnamon buns from Peaks Café and stop by the Umbrella Cover Museum, a quirky destination featuring hundreds of umbrella covers from around the world.

IN THE CITY

Back in town, set up a home base somewhere in Portland's vibrant core. Younger groups will feel at home at the Black Elephant Hostel, a hip centrally located lodging experience. With private and shared

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rooms, and a communal kitchen, it's one of the most budget-friendly options in town. For a more traditional hotel experience in the heart of the city, The Press Hotel offers a dose of history in a trendy, modern space. The historic location of the *Portland Press Herald* has been redeveloped as a boutique hotel with newsy touches, like a letterpress art wall, a two-story vintage typewriter installation and Inkwell, a daytime coffee bar and nighttime drink bar.

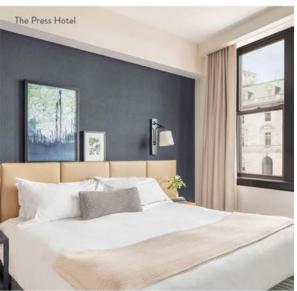
After getting settled, it's time to indulge in the food and drink Portland is known for: lobster and craft beer. You can't go wrong with a lobster roll from The Highroller Lobster Co., a light and bright diner-style establishment serving up fresh Maine lobster on brioche rolls with more than fifteen sauce options including charred pineapple mayo or lobster ghee.

With more breweries per capita than anywhere in the country (about twenty in a city of 66,000 people) a trip to Portland isn't complete with enjoying a few good brews. An appropriate stop after a kayaking tour, Rising Tide Brewing Company offers beers including the Chebeague Island (India pale ale), Back Cove (pilsner) and the Main Island Trail Ale. For fermented farmhouse ales, check out Oxbow Blending & Bottling, a beer production facility for Oxbow Brewing Co. (based in Newcastle, fifty miles north).

HISTORICAL TRIVIA Fort Gorges

Beneath modern day Portland's seafood eats and barrels of craft beer is a rich history of military activity, with many World War II era landmarks still standing today. The islands of Casco Bay were used as lookout points, for forts, artillery storage and other uses in the early 1940s. One of the largest ruins from that time is Fort Gorges, at the center of Portland Harbor. Built in the 1860s to protect the harbor from foreign naval threats, it's a massive, D-shaped, two-story enclosed fortress, constructed with granite. Because of technological advances, the fortress was deemed obsolete by the time construction was completed in 1864, but today it still stands, overgrown with vegetation. Pass by the fort on coastline boat tours, or see Fort Gorges by kayaking right to the shore and exploring on foot.





TOP Oxbow Blending & Bottling is the Portland outpost of Oxbow Brewing Co. BELOW A tour guide at work inside the Portland Museum of Art.



The 10,000-square-foot Portland outpost houses more than 200 oak barrels used for aging and conditioning of fermented "sour" beers and is also a community hub and event space that shares an outdoor patio with Duckfat, a European-style sandwich shop known for its duck fat Belgian fries and milkshakes.

For a bit of cultural exploration, walk the streets of the Portland Arts District, home to several theaters, museums, galleries and schools within a few square blocks of Portland. See art from the past 300 years on display at the Portland Museum of Art, experience the hands-on exhibits at the family-friendly Children's Museum and Theater of Maine or for something a bit more unusual, visit the International Cryptozoology Museum for exhibits on Bigfoot, yeti, sea monsters and other specimens.

Cap off a trip to the greater Portland area with a visit to the Portland Head

Light, the oldest and most visited lighthouse in the country, and arguably the most photographed. It's located south of Portland in Cape Elizabeth and is adjacent to Fort Williams Park, offering ninety acres of walking trails, picnic areas and gorgeous ocean views. It's a picturesque end for a memorable trip to Portland. Ø

Teresa Ristow is the Managing Editor of Oregon Media. She lives in Bend, Oregon, and loves exploring the Pacific Northwest and beyond with her terrier, Henry.

PLAN A TRIP Discover trips to Portland, Maine at clubadventures.com, or contact your AAA Travel Agent at 1-800-529-3222. PHOTO LEFT COURTEXY OF OXBOW BREWING CO. BELOW COURTESY OF PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART, MAINE





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