

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.

Oregon State Parks leads the way as the only state park system in the U.S. with staff dedicated to bicycle recreation. 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.

- 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



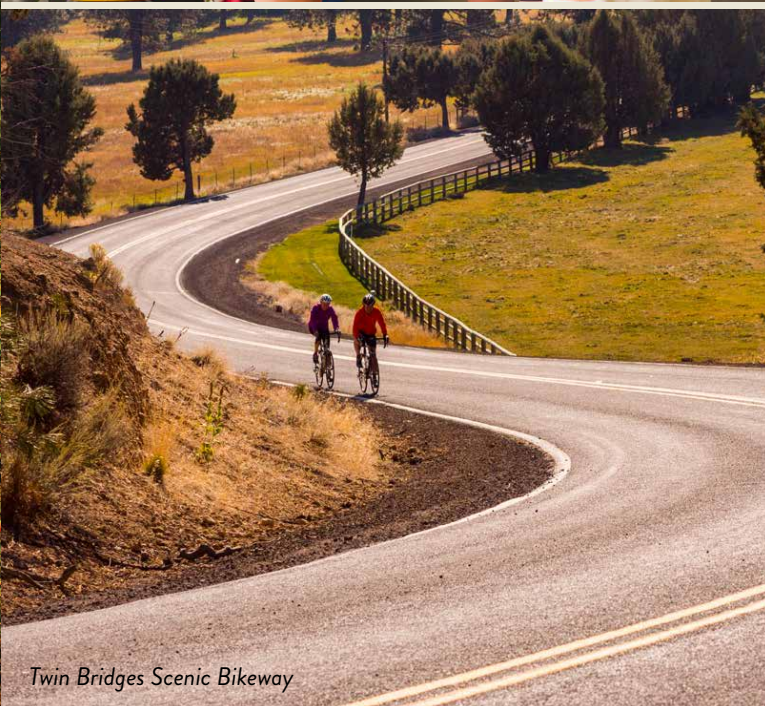
Be sure to look for businesses with these signs. They provide a warm welcome and various services for cyclists.



Cascading Rivers Scenic Bikeway



Tualatin Valley Scenic Bikeway



Twin Bridges Scenic Bikeway



Covered Bridges 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. In spring, the green rolling hills ripen to a golden glow throughout the late summer months. 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 at Willow Creek Reservoir, and along the route at Cutsforth Park and Coalmine Campground. There are limited lodging options in Heppner and Ukiah.

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



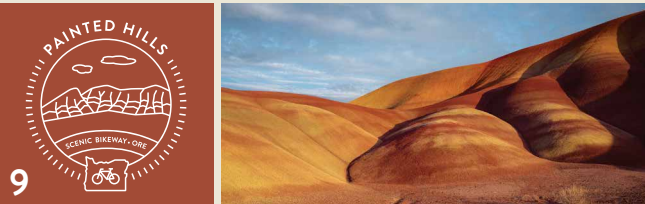
Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway



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 turnoff 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 Holliday State Park and Bates State Park. Several other campgrounds are along the route, most without water. There are also two bike hostels along the route, and lodging in John Day and Dayville.

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



The **Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway** is located in an area of the state many native Oregonians have never been to or even heard of. You can discover the multi-colored John Day Fossil Beds on 130 miles that connect the small communities of Fossil, Service Creek, Spray, Kimberly, Mitchell and the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Viewed from your bicycle seat, you can see millions of years of history revealed in the layers of earth, one color at a time. The hills get their name from the delicately colored stratifications in the soil—ribbons of yellows, golds, blacks, and reds formed millions of years ago by shifting volcanic islands. The ancient plant and wood fossils found here reveal 50 million years of evolution. You'll ride through land where early cousins of elephants and rhinos once roamed. The Bikeway is a loop made up of a series of hilly, remote out-and-back rides through high desert. One stretch runs along 20 miles of the John Day River, and another treats you



The **Cascade Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway** incorporates 5,000 feet of steep and winding climbing through oak savannah into fir forests, showcasing an ecosystem so diverse that 62,000 acres is designated as the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The bikeway starts in Ashland, famous for theater and fantastic dining, climbing oak-dotted mountainsides with spectacular views of the Bear Creek Valley below and Pilot Rock, a 25-million-year-old volcanic plug, standing sentinel over the valley. 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 that emigrants traveling the Applegate Trail enjoyed in the 1800s. 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 the wildflower-covered alpine meadows of Lily Glen and Buck Prairie before a thrilling, winding 13-mile descent back to Ashland. A popular locals' variation is to ride the 3,000 feet up to Green Springs Inn for brunch, returning to the town the same way, making it only a 35-mile ride.

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

to views of the Sutton Mountain Wilderness Study Area. You can start and end your ride in any of the communities on the Bikeway—each has amenities and supplies. Many parks and interpretive areas along the route have restrooms and drinking water. The moment you leave town, you'll savor the solitude—it's just you, your bicycle and the glorious views.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available at Shelton County Wayside Park, between Fossil and Service Creek. There are limited lodging options in Fossil, Mitchell, Service Creek, Spray and Kimberly.

Distance: Various **Level:** Extreme
Best seasons to ride: Late spring through fall.
RideOregonRide.com/PaintedHills



The **Sisters to Smith Rock Scenic Bikeway** provides riders with stunning views of the spectacular Cascade Mountains. Start in downtown Sisters and roll by fertile pastures before dropping into a quiet canyon far from towns and highways. Cross the tranquil Deschutes River at Lower Bridge, and then wind your way through the town of Terrebonne and on to the end of the route at the dramatic walls of Smith Rock, where multicolored formations tower above the aptly named Crooked River. Hike along the river, watch rock climbers from all over the world scale the famous Monkey Face, or bike up Misery Ridge for close-up views of rock formations outlined by the Cascades in the distance. This ride is generally downhill from Sisters with some rolling hills; ride it starting from Smith Rock State Park to make it a bit more challenging. It's perfect for a single-day, point-to-point ride; cyclists can also make a round-trip of it in a single day, taking in the great views from both directions.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available in Sisters, which also has multiple lodging options. Bivouac camping is at Smith Rock State Park.

Distance: 37 miles (One way) **Level:** Moderate
Best seasons to ride: Spring through fall.
RideOregonRide.com/SistersToSmithRock



Sisters to Smith Rock Scenic Bikeway

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



Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway



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. Four bathroom stops, seven parking areas and three picnic areas along this part of the route provide many rest opportunities and a chance to get off the bike and enjoy the scenery. A store in the modest community of Dorena provides snacks. The in-town part of the bikeway includes a ride through The Chambers Bridge, the only covered railroad bridge west of the Mississippi that also listed in the National Register, 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



Starting at the edge of an urban setting, quickly escape to gently undulating roads in the lush Tualatin River basin, dotted with wetlands, small forests and views of the Coast Range, farms and natural areas. 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



Twin Bridges Scenic Bikeway



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.

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 Rowe 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.

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: Wild Rivers Coast Scenic Bikeway
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the bucolic countryside on a smoothly paved road in the midst of an expansive sage-and-juniper ecosystem. As you pedal through the small communities of Culver and Metolius, you'll roll past an agricultural bounty of mixed crops, including grass, onion and carrot seed; garlic, potatoes, wheat and alfalfa; and lavender and mint. Basalt palisades loom above the meandering Deschutes and Crooked rivers, and scenic overlooks of The Cove Palisades State Park and Lake Billy Chinook offer stunning photo opportunities. You may not encounter a passing car for miles while you take in views of the singular silhouettes of Mount Jefferson, the Three Sisters, Mount Hood, Broken Top and Three-Fingered Jack. This relatively flat 30-mile loop is ideal for any cyclist capable of riding for 2 to 3 hours.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available at The Cove Palisades State Park. Multiple lodging options in Madras.

Distance: 30 miles (Loop) **Level:** Moderate
Best seasons to ride: Year-round.
RideOregonRide.com/Madras



McKenzie Pass Scenic Bikeway is simply one of the most spectacular routes in the country, an over-the-top ride both literally and figuratively. This route is best started in the Old West town of Sisters. Ride out of town through the ponderosa pines of the east slopes of the Cascades, rise up through a steady, extended climb, and emerge into a lava-rock moonscape at the top—the result of multiple ancient volcanic events. It's unlike anything you've ever seen. Don't miss the lava-rock-constructed Dee Wright Observatory at the top. Spin down the west slope through Douglas fir forest to the soothing waters of Belknap Hot Springs on the Wild and Scenic McKenzie River, or turn back toward Sisters. This ride is strenuous and appropriate only for seasoned riders. Most of Oregon Route 242 is closed during winter months, but accessible to bicycles in the spring before it re-opens to cars, providing traffic-free road riding on the top sections. Check www.tripcheck.com for current road closures. Always be sure to share the road, and remember that even when the road is closed to vehicular traffic, bicyclists are riding the route in both directions and need to follow traffic laws.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available at either end, in Sisters and Belknap Hot Springs. There are campsites along the route, but they don't have water. There are multiple lodging options along the McKenzie River and in Sisters.

Distance: 36 miles (One way) **Level:** Extreme
Best seasons to ride: Summer and fall.
RideOregonRide.com/McKenziePass



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 from many of its 200 wineries. Between the winery views, you'll pass through a series of enchanting small towns and cities along the way. The **Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway** starts at historic Champagoo State Heritage Area. The route follows its namesake river as it winds through the Willamette Valley, shaped by the Coast Range to the west and the towering Cascade Mountains to the east. 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 can easily be split up into short segments, and it has very little climbing.

Camping and lodging: Camping is available at both ends, at Champagoo 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.

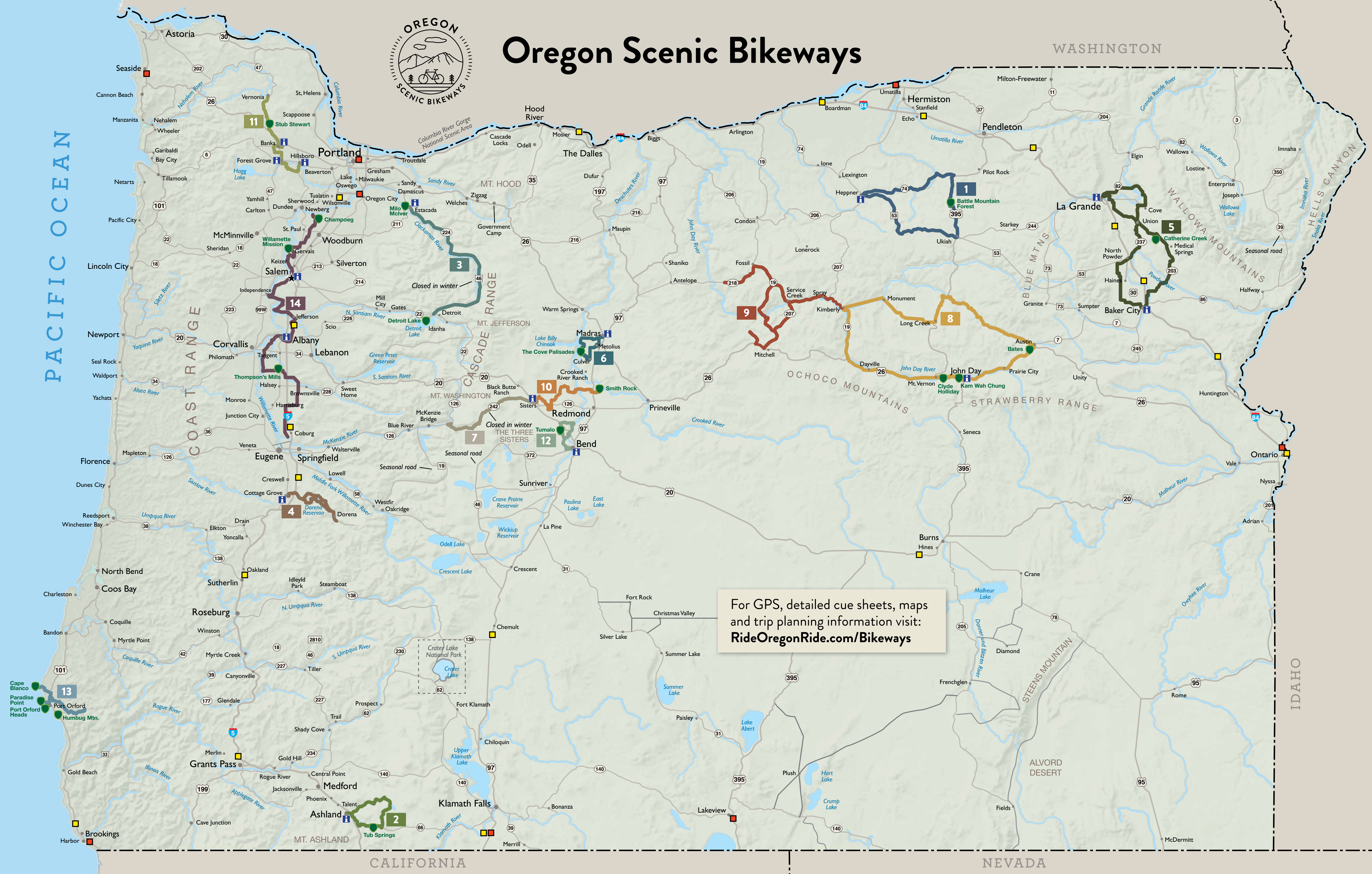
Distance: 132 miles (One way) **Level:** Moderate
Best seasons to ride: Year-round.
RideOregonRide.com/Willamette



Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway



Oregon Scenic Bikeways



For GPS, detailed cue sheets, maps
and trip planning information visit:
RideOregonRide.com/Bikeways

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Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway



Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway



Tualatin Valley Scenic Bikeway



Old West Scenic Bikeway