



AMERICA'S BYWAYS™

byways.org

Historic Columbia River Highway

Travel to magnificent overlooks that provide views of the Columbia River and five waterfalls, including Multnomah Falls; additional waterfalls are accessible via the many adjacent trails. Throughout the spring see magnificent wildflower displays, including many endemic plants. The Columbia River formed the last leg of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and was part of the early route of the Oregon Trail.



Length:	70 miles / 112.0 km
Time to Allow:	Allow 3 to 5 hours minimum. However, many travelers take a few days to experience all the sights.

Local Information

US Forest Service - Columbia River Gorge Nat'l Scenic Area
541-386-2333
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia>

Mt. Hood National Forest
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/>

The Historic Columbia River Highway
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/HCRH/>

Before You Go

Picnic areas are also located along the Byway. The Wahkeena Falls Picnic Area (near Multnomah Falls) and the Eagle Creek Picnic Area provide picnic shelters and stone fireplaces. Numerous other picnic areas are found in Forest Service and State Park properties. Tour buses drive this route daily. Conventions usually include day trips to the Columbia River Gorge. Bus parking is available at all major attractions.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

You can bike fairly safely on this Highway because of the relatively low volume of automobiles. There are plenty of trails around the Byway on which you can bike. Most notably, portions of the Historic Columbia River Highway that were abandoned during the construction of I-84 are being restored as multi-use trails. The Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail is open between Moffett Creek and Cascade Locks, and between Hood River and Mosier (including the Mosier Twin Tunnels). Numerous other trailheads are located along the Byway as well. These trails have a good range of length and difficulty, ranging from flat, paved trails, to high mountain trails. A bike map of the Columbia River Gorge, including the Historic Columbia River Highway and the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, is now available from the Oregon DOT. Contact <http://www.odot.state.or.us/hcrh/> for more information.



Camping

Camping is available at:

- Ainsworth
- Viento
- Memaloose State Parks

The Forest Service administers camping at:

- Eagle Creek
- Herman Creek (Cascade Locks)
- Wyeth

Private campgrounds are located in:

- Corbett
- Cascade Locks (KOA)



Food

Eateries range from fast-food and delis to luxurious dining within the cities of Troutdale, Cascade Locks, Hood River, and The Dalles. Mosier has an ice cream shop and a cafe, and Multnomah Falls Lodge includes fine dining.



Gasoline

Gas is available in Portland, Troutdale, Cascade Locks, Hood River, Mosier and The Dalles.



Lodging

Lodging is available in Portland, Troutdale, Cascade Locks, Hood River, and The Dalles.

Bed and Breakfasts located in:

- Corbett
- Bridal Veil
- Mosier
- The Dalles



Retail

You can buy gifts at the Vista House, Multnomah Falls, the Twin Tunnels Visitors Station, the Gorge Discovery Center, and in any city along the Byway.



Restrooms

Restrooms are available (from west to east) at:

- Lewis and Clark State Park
- Dabney State Park
- Vista House
- Latourell Falls
- Bridal Veil State Park
- Wahkeena Falls
- Multnomah Falls
- Ainsworth State Park
- Bonneville Dam
- Eagle Creek
- Starvation Creek State Park
- Viento State Park
- Senator Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead
- Senator Mark O. Hatfield East Trailhead
- Gorge Discovery Center
- There is a rest area located on Interstate 84 between Hood River and The Dalles (Memaloose Rest Area).



Information

Year round information services are available at:

- Troutdale Chamber of Commerce
- Multnomah Falls
- Gorge Discovery Center

Summer information services are available at:

- Vista House at Crown Point
- Senator Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead (Twin Tunnels Visitor Station)
- Hood River Chamber of Commerce
- The Dalles Chamber of Commerce

39 interpretive signs can be found along the Historic Columbia River Highway.

Special Considerations

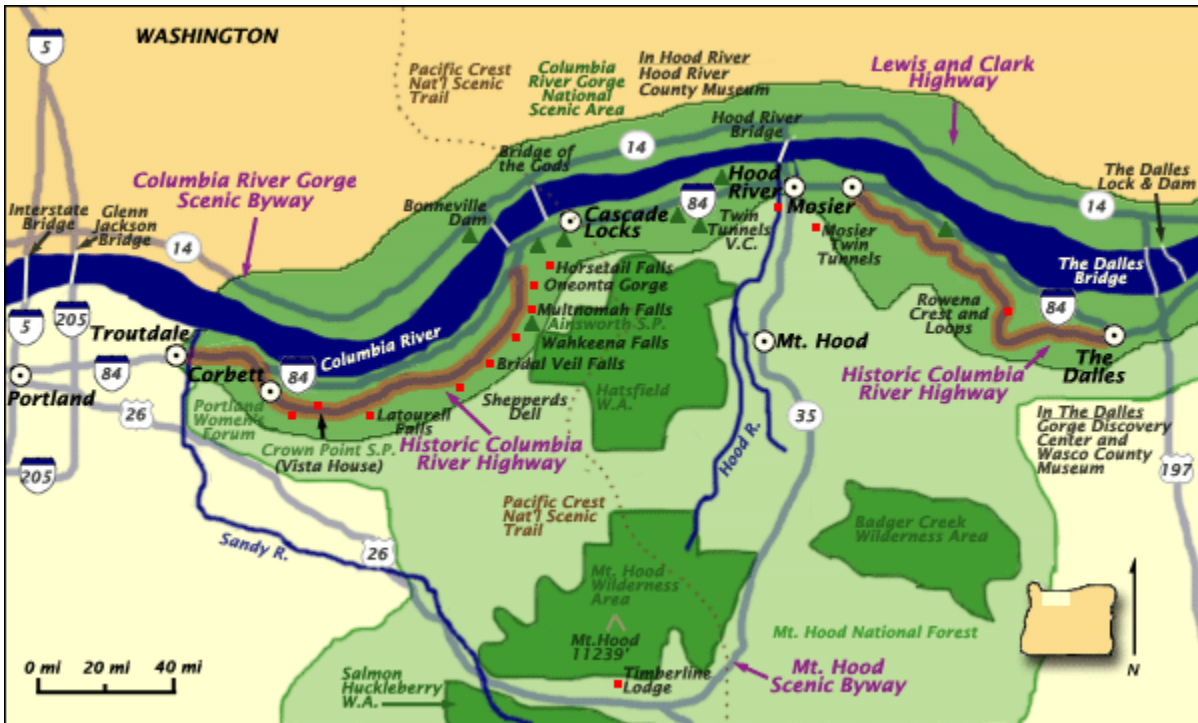
Some attractions are closed during the winter months. Also, the Byway is narrow and winding, so you may want to consider traveling in a car rather than in an RV.

Restrictions

The Multnomah Falls Lodge is open daily throughout the year. Also, the Vista House is open from April through September.

Map and Directions

Historic Columbia River Highway Features Map



■ Point of Interest	○ City	— Water
▲ Campground	⊙ Capital	— Roads
⚓ Mountain	89 U.S. Highway	— Scenic Byway
⌋ Pass	5 Interstate	— All-American Road or National Scenic Byway
	16 State Highway	— Unpaved Road

Driving Directions

In order to travel the Byway itself, follow the keystone signs from Troutdale to Dodson and from Mosier to The Dalles. To get to the Byway from Portland, follow Interstate 84 east to the Sandy River in Troutdale. Take exit 18 and travel south along the Sandy River to the Sandy River Bridge. Follow the keystone-shaped signs through Springdale, Corbett, and the waterfall area to the junction with Interstate 84. Continue east on Interstate 84 to Mosier (exit 69). Follow the keystone signs through Mosier to Rowena Crest, and then to Chenoweth Creek, located just west of The Dalles.

-- Please note that the eastern part of the Byway is US 30, but the western part is not.

Places to Visit

Ainsworth State Park, OR

Nestled in the awe-inspiring Columbia River Gorge, Ainsworth is equal parts waterfall wonderland, hiker's playground and camper's delight.

Location: 17 miles E of Troutdale at Exit 35 off I 84.

Benson State Recreation Area, OR

Simon Benson was a lumber magnate, philanthropist, and one of the principal promoters of the Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway. Located one mile west of Multnomah, this park draws picnickers and has a disc golf course and a reservable shelter.

To directions: From Troutdale, follow I-84 east to milepost 30.

Location: 30 miles east of Portland, Oregon.



Bonneville Lock and Dam, OR

The first dam on the Columbia River is a National Historic Landmark. Two visitor centers tell the story of the dam and electricity generation. The nearby fish hatchery has fish viewing areas.

To directions: Interstate 84 from Portland to exit 40, or Washington State highway 14 from Vancouver to milepost 40.

Location: At milepost 40 on state highway 14.



Bridal Veil Falls, OR

These falls are worth the short, verdant walk from the car. The trail to the falls will also take you, shortly, to an overlook of the river.

To directions: A few miles east of Crown Point and Vista House.



Bridge of the Gods, OR

The bridge plays a major role in the Pacific Crest Trail by linking Oregon and Washington states.

To directions: On the border of Oregon (Cascade Locks) and Washington.

Location: Near Cascade Locks.



Cascade Locks, OR

This town is named for the series of locks built near it in 1896. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail passes through here (via the famous Bridge of the Gods). Cascade Locks is a friendly community and has everything you'll need.

To directions: I-84 exit 45

Location: Just off I-84.



Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, OR

The magnificent natural wonder we call the Columbia River Gorge was created over millions of years as a result of a series of natural land upheavals, volcanic action and catastrophic floods.

To directions: Most of the Historic Columbia River Highway is within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The Scenic Area includes both Oregon and Washington for a stretch of about 80 miles along the Columbia River.

Location: The Byway is encompassed by the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.



Eagle Creek, OR

Eagle Creek Recreation Area contains the first campground in a National Forest, established in 1915.

To directions: Interstate 84 exit 41

Fruit Loop, OR

Hood River Valley is one of the most prolific fruit producing valleys in the world.

To directions: Hood Valley - Oregon state routes 282, 281 and 35 travel through famous apple, pear and cherry groves, with views of Mt. Hood.



Gorge Discovery Center and Wasco County Museum, OR

The Gorge Discovery Center and Wasco County Museum opened in May 1997 and provide interactive exhibits, living history exhibits and movies about the human and natural history of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Wasco County.

To directions: The Gorge Discovery Center is located at Crate`s Point, just west of The Dalles on the Historic Columbia River Highway. When traveling eastbound, it can be reached by exiting to the Historic Columbia River Highway from I-84 at Rowena.

Location: The Dalles



Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, OR

This Millennium Legacy Trail and National Recreation Trail is based on pieces of the Historic Columbia River Highway that were abandoned with construction of Bonneville Dam in 1936.

Location: ble



Hood River, OR

The city boasts fantastic views of the Columbia River and Mount Hood. It is known as the 'windsurfing capital of the world.' The fishing, hiking, and skiing are also excellent. Hood River is one of Oregon's major apple-growing areas.

To directions: I-84 exits 63, 64 and 65.

Hood River County Museum, OR

The Hood River County Museum leads the visitor through the time of the area's earliest inhabitants to white settlement in 1854 to the development of the valley as a world-famous fruit center.

To directions: Take Exit 64 off Interstate 84. Follow the signs to Port Marina Park.

Location: Hood River



Horsetail Falls, OR

Horsetail Falls is immediately adjacent to the Historic Columbia River Highway. The Forest Service maintains a parking lot accessing this site.

To directions: Historic Columbia River Highway between historic mile posts 34 and 35.



Latourell Falls, OR

These beautiful falls, hidden in the forest's deep green, are just a short hike from the road.

To directions: The trailhead is just east of Crown Point and the Vista House.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, OR

In 1805, and again in 1806, the Corps of Discovery lead by Lewis and Clark traveled through the Columbia River Gorge. Several important sites mentioned in the Journals of Lewis and Clark can still be seen in this area.

To directions: The Lewis and Clark Trail extends from St. Lewis, Missouri to Fort Clatsop, near Astoria, Oregon. The Columbia River is the route through this area.

Location: 1



Lewis and Clark State Park, OR

Named after the famous explorers who traveled this region, Lewis and Clark State Park is situated at the western end of the Byway near the mouth of the Sandy River and offers a variety of recreational opportunities.

Location: Off I-84, near the Sandy River in Troutdale, and about 16 miles east of Portland.



Memaloose Overlook, OR

From this overlook visitors can see Memaloose Island. Named for the Chinook word for "to die," the island once served as a burial ground for Native Americans. Now it only holds the grave of one white man who asked to be layed to rest "among honest men."

Location: Between Mosier and Rowena along Highway 30.

Mitchell Point, OR

Visitors will find opportunities for hiking, interpretive signs, and gorgeous views of the Columbia River from Mitchell Point.

Location: Just east of Starvation Creek State Park.



Mosier, OR

Mosier is the gateway to the Mosier Twin Tunnels and the eastern loop of the Historic Columbia River Highway.

To directions: Exit 69 from Interstate 84 to the Historic Columbia River Highway.



Mt. Hood Loop, OR

This famous drive 'around the mountain' connects with the HCRH in Hood River. It travels up the Hood River Valley, around Mt. Hood, and back to the Portland metropolitan area.

To directions: Exit I-84 at Hood River onto Highway 35. Travel Highway 35 to Highway 26 to Government Camp (with access to Timberline Lodge) and on to Sandy and Portland.

Location: travels up the Hood River Valley, around Mt. Hood, and back to the Portland metropolitan area

Mt. Hood National Forest, OR

The Mt. Hood National Forest extends south from the strikingly beautiful Columbia River Gorge across more than sixty miles of forested mountains, lakes and streams to Olallie Scenic Area, a high lake basin under the slopes of Mt. Jefferson.

Location: Northern Oregon



Multnomah Falls, OR

The tallest and most visited waterfall on the byway, this beautiful cascade falls more than 600 feet in the upper falls, and about 50 feet in the lower falls. Visitors can hike up to Benson Bridge to get a closer view, or visit historic Multnomah Lodge.

Location: Twenty minutes east of Troutdale.



Oneonta Gorge, OR

Oneonta Gorge is a botanical treasure; over 50 species of plants reside in this perpetually-cool and moist shelter.

To directions: Located near mile post 34.

Oregon National Historic Trail, OR

The Oregon Trail followed along much of the same route as the Historic Columbia River Highway. Today the trail corridor contains some 300 miles of discernible ruts and 125 historic sites.

To directions: The travelers on the Oregon Trail floated down the Columbia River from The Dalles to reach Oregon City, prior to the construction of the Barlow Road around Mt. Hood.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, OR

Zigzagging from the Mexican border to Canada, the Pacific Crest Trail passes through six different ecozones. From scorching desert valleys in Southern California to rain forests in the Pacific Northwest, the PCT offers hikers a unique, varied experience.

To directions: The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail crosses the Historic Columbia River Highway near Hood River.

Location: Follows the Pacific Crest from the Mexican border near Campo, California through California, Oregon and Washington, to Manning Park, Canada.



Portland, OR

Portland has long been a popular metropolis. It's a gorgeous city; almost 40,000 acres of park space are interspersed throughout stunning buildings. The city is abuzz with its 1.7 million inhabitants (within the area), museums, gardens, and zoos.

To directions: It is on the western end of the byway. Downtown Portland includes the interchange of I-5 and I-84.

Location: In Oregon



Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint, OR

Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint (Chanticleer Point) is a scenic stop with a magnificent view.

To directions: A quarter mile north of the highway, between historic mile posts 22 and 23, at Portland Women's Forum State Park..

Location: East of Portland



Rowena Crest, OR

The Rowena Crest Viewpoint at Mayer State Park is the eastern companion to the Crown Point Overlook. The dramatic views of the Rowena Loops and the dry eastern landscape are not to be missed.

To directions: In Mayer State Park.



Shepperd's Dell, OR

This small falls is a treat at the end of a short, verdant hike from the byway.

To directions: It's a few miles east of Crown Point and Vista House.



Stark Street Bridge, OR

One of two western entrances the Historic Columbia River Highway, the Stark Street Bridge was constructed from 1913-1915 under the supervision of Samuel Lancaster. 277 feet long, this steel truss bridge spans the Sandy River.

Location: 1.9 miles from the intersection of Stark Street and Troutdale Road.

Starvation Creek State Park, OR

Starvation Creek State Park may be small, but visitors can enjoy the day-use park's elegant waterfall, or the many hiking trails that spread out from it.

To directions: From Dodson, follow I-84 east to exit 54.

Location: 10 miles west of Hood River, Oregon.



The Dalles, OR

This is the largest city in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Recreation here includes windsurfing, white-water rafting, fishing, and camping. Much of the town's past remains in its 19th-century churches and homes.

To directions: It's on the eastern end of the byway.

Location: The Dalles

The Dalles Lock and Dam, OR

The project consists of a navigation lock, spillway, powerhouse, and fish passage facilities.

To directions: 192 miles upstream from the mouth of the Columbia River, two miles east of the city of The Dalles, Oregon.



Troutdale, OR

Troutdale incorporates both a small-town atmosphere and the amenities typical to a metropolis. This city has a historic downtown with antique shops, an art gallery, a quilt store, two historic museums, and many other specialty shops.

To directions: I-84 exit 17. It's just east of Portland.

Location: In Troutdale.



Vista House, OR

Vista House is a pioneer memorial and one of the most photographed areas along the byway.

Location: 40700 E. Historic Columbia River Highway, 25 miles east of Portland.



Wahkeena Falls, OR

There is a trail and a stone bridge that goes across the water. There are also picnic tables and a stone and wood pavilion.

To directions: Located near mile post 31.



Skamania Lodge, WA

The Skamania Lodge hosts a US Forest Service Information Center in its lobby and three nearby walking trails wind through lovely scenery.

To directions: From Bridge of the Gods cross the Columbia River to Highway 14. Travel Highway 14 northeast to Skamania Lodge.

Location: Just west of Stevenson, Washington along Highway 14.