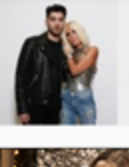


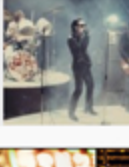
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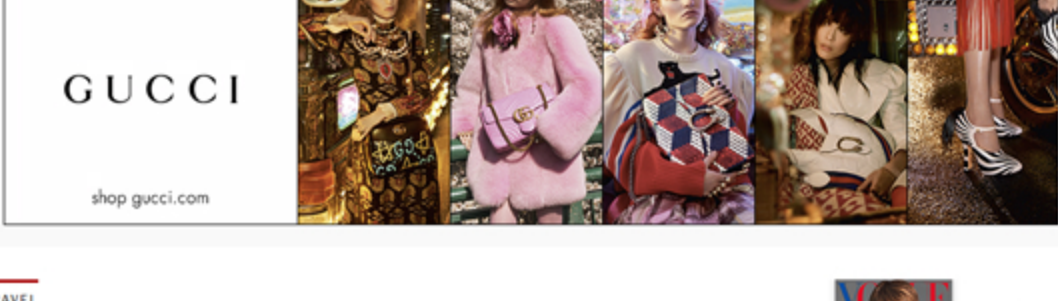
1 First Lady Michelle Obama Just Delivered the Most Powerful Speech of This Election



2 Zayn Malik is Versus Versace's First "Rock Star" Designer, and Donatella Versace Says It's Just the Beginning



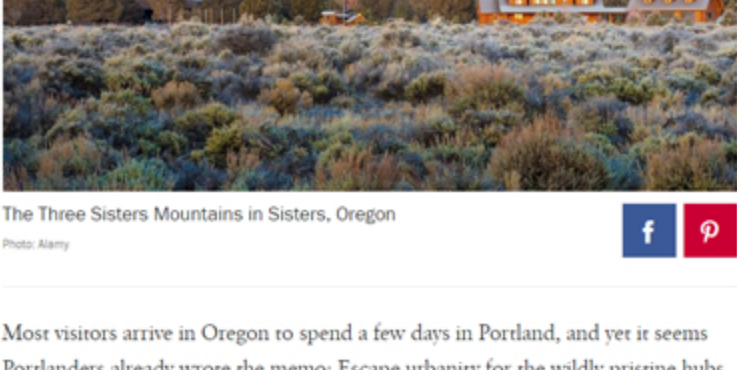
3 Happy Birthday to The Damned's Dave Vanian, Goth Style Icon



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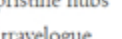
Why You Should Land in Portland and Then Visit Central and Northeast Oregon Instead

OCTOBER 13, 2016 4:26 PM
by KATE DONNELLY



The Three Sisters Mountains in Sisters, Oregon

Photo: Alamy



Most visitors arrive in Oregon to spend a few days in Portland, and yet it seems Portlanders already wrote the memo: Escape urbanity for the wildly pristine hubs of central and northeast Oregon. Along these rarefied roads an ideal travelogue unfolds—high desert; glistening lakes; lush, towering forests; and distant silhouettes of volcanic Cascade mountain peaks.

With such an abundant slice of American wilderness, an ideal *Moonrise Kingdom* adventure awaits thanks to an endless wealth of outdoor activities (skiing, kayaking, paddleboarding, biking, hiking, fly-fishing), locally sourced eats, and highly bespoke drinking (a grand trifecta of beer, cocktails, and coffee).

Commence your stay at the small Western-flavored town of Sisters; move on to the culinary, microbrewery-rich land of Bend; and, hours beyond, to the sweet artists' haven of Joseph, where an unlikely poetic sprawl of Swiss-like canyons and prairies kiss the base of the Wallowa Mountains. Below, a guide to three scenic Pacific Northwest towns ripe for ushering in fall days of spectacular bright reds, faded

Sisters

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK AND SHOP

Just three hours from Portland, Sisters, named after a trio of towering Western peaks, rests on the fringe of high desert with a dusty cowboy spread of late-1800s facades. Java enthusiasts line up at Sisters Coffee, a sparsely log cabin, for vegan muffins and frothy lattes. The quaint Cottonwood Café serves a Turkey and Kale Chopped Salad and an open-faced Ocean Melt featuring smoked salmon and albacore tuna. The Open Door whips up delicious roasted cauliflower dip and has a well-rounded wine list. The no-frills '50s roadside landmark Sno Cap Drive In flips greasy-spoon burgers and blends thick milkshakes. For local brews, Three Creeks mimics an Old West livery stable with pub fare and hoppy sips. Healthy treats and on-tap kombucha reside at Melvin's Market. For goods, hat enthusiasts should visit Baldwin's for bespoke cowboy brims spawned from fur felt. And the colorful Blue Burro stocks Guatemalan textiles, leather wares, and peasant blouses.

WHERE TO STAY

Deep in the Deschutes National Forest and under the fragrant canopy of Douglas fir and ponderosa pines, drop your bags at the newly reopened Suttle Lodge (est. 1930s), a mighty two-story timber structure with an elaborate hand-carved front door. Throwback cabins range from "rustic" to "lakeside," and 11 spacious rooms are outfitted with custom Pendleton blankets (and are blissfully sans televisions).

In the morning, cradle a cup of Backporch Coffee on a leisure trail loop or opt for a lake kayak or stand-up paddleboard. Shake off the evening's chill around the roasty fireplace with a Table Sled, made with smoky bourbon, lime, demerara, and pine—compliments of Oregon native Sean Hoard.

And the food? Chef Joshua McFadden's (Ava Gene's) supremely simple fish-shack-meets-diner approach includes golden chips and trout dip, a masterful griddled patty with cheddar (and the fixins'), and an elevated, soul-soothing lake "chowder" loaded with celery, onion, salmon, trout, and a toasted hunk of garlic bread for obligatory dunking. Believe the hype—Instagram moments will be boundless.

WHAT TO DO

Using cedar soaking tubs, the unique Hop In the Spa blends beer-inspired ingredients and minerals to reduce stress and detoxify. Horseback riding among the changing foliage is requisite at Black Butte Ranch, or channel a *River Runs Through It* moment with some fly-fishing. The tranquil Suttle Lake offers hiking, boating, and swimming, and when the cold arrives, the alpine set heads for the snowy slopes at Hoodoo, a ski area of more than 800 acres featuring both finely groomed runs or more challenging powder. Of course, Mr. Bachelor remains an ideal spot for snowboarding and skiing.



Smith Rock State Park in Bend, Oregon

Photo: Alamy



Bend

About a half hour from Sisters, the wildly popular, high-desert town of Bend rests at the foothills of the wide, expansive Cascades. Known for its legendary 300 days of sunshine, this unpretentious town is high on charm, tipsy with microbrews, and big on natural beauty.

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

First things first, quell any coffee craving at Backyard Coffee. The counter at McKay Cottage Restaurant has pecan sticky buns and warm scone cravings covered, while egg specialties, crunchy nut granola, and homemade applesauce rule at Victorian Café. Anything with *craft* or *seasonal* in its title (including stellar wines) resides at Newport Avenue Market. The boutique Foxtrail Bakeshop makes handmade cakes and savory and sweet tarts. Lines form early at the Sparrow Bakery, known for its beloved Ocean Roll, a buttery croissant-esque treat made with caradamom, sugar, and vanilla. Jackson's Corner maintains the farm-to-table ethos with vegetarian pizzas and pastas. The Lot hosts food carts (street tacos, steamed dumplings) and live music. For global comforts, including fried chicken, drop by Spork. The locals' delight 900 Wall reigns for oysters, stone-oven pizzas, and vegetable-heavy sides. Finally, a table at 5 Fusion and Sushi Bar features James Beard-nominated chef Joe Kim's plates of fresh sushi, wagyu beef, and miso-glazed pork.

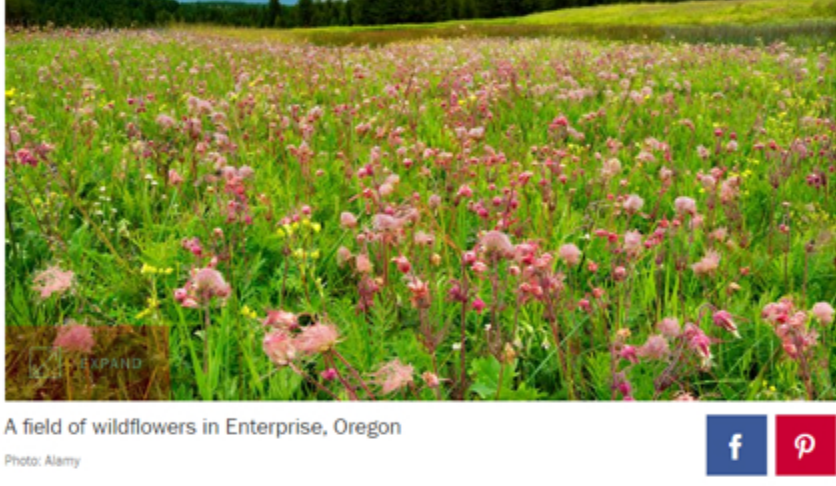
For a nightcap, Dogwood Cocktail Cabin serves a Rye-An Gosling, with rye whiskey, mint, Gosling Ginger Beer, and bitters. The hip Velvet lounge assembles yerba maté drinks with vodka and infused fruits. For stiff, end-of-the-evening libations and snacks, visit the dive-y D&D Bar and Grill. Steady crowds converge at Deschutes Brewery, while most Bendites gravitate to less-traversed venues like Bend Brewing Company for elevated pub food and the Ale Apothecary for a unique, year-round table sour. The casual GoodLife Brewing and the edgy, no-frills Boneyard Beer (which sells mesh trucker hats) are both easy pit stops. From Bendistillery, the award-winning Crater Lake Spirits produces small batches of vodka and spicy gin, perfect for martinis overlooking Mirror Pond. For coveted picnic tables, handsome flannels, and dog-friendly patio vibes, the Cruz Fermentation Project grants stellar views of the Cascades—especially at sunset.

WHERE TO STAY

Rest your head at the upscale Tetherow, a 50-room resort with views of the majestic Cascades. Handsome clubby rooms feature fireplaces and balconies. Golfing? There's an 18-hole course (with local beer on tap in the club shop). On the outskirts of town, the stately timber Pronghorn Resort is surrounded by steep canyons, juniper trees, and copious wildlife, including the namesake pronghorn, which translates to an "antelope goat." For upscale unplugging about 25 minutes from Bend, Panacea at the Canyon (a "signal-free sanctuary") offers seven luxe Stargazer tents (with en suite bathrooms) alongside spa services and healthy, farm-to-table campsite classics.

WHAT TO DO

The Tower Theatre, built in 1940, hosts rotating jazz concerts and, yes, movies. For staggering, awe-inspiring beauty, point your compass to Smith Rock State Park. If abundant rock climbing isn't your forte, arrange a leisurely horseback ride into the canyons and winding along the Crooked River meadow—a magical mix of high desert, prairie grass, and dramatic spires of red and volcanic rock. In the warmer months, get wet with Sun Country Tours's whitewater rafting down the Deschutes River "Big Eddy Thriller," a three-mile adrenaline jolt in between invigorating douses of cool water. Come winter, Bend transforms into a skiing base—with Mr. Bachelor offering deeply fine powder for snowshoeing or gliding on cross-country skis.



A field of wildflowers in Enterprise, Oregon

Photo: Alamy



Joseph and Enterprise

Aptly titled "Little Switzerland of America" and situated at the base of the Wallowa Mountains, the remote, sleepy artists' enclave of Joseph (pop.: 1,054) could also be mistaken as the Marfa of the Pacific Northwest—thanks to its minimalist trimmings and unlikely focus on bronze art. And just down the road, Enterprise, a tiny town of grassy meadows and wildflowers, looks like it was plucked from the *Sound of Music* set.

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK, AND SHOP

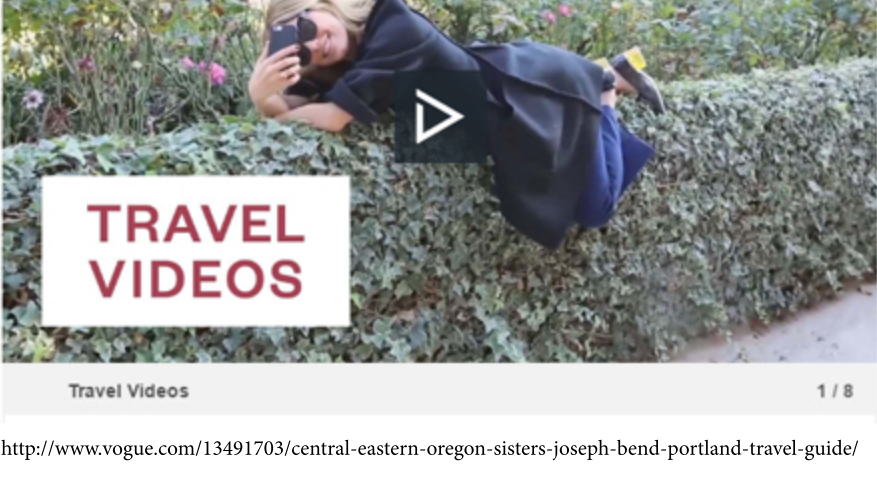
For Stumptown coffee and handcrafted chocolates, the family-owned Arrowhead Chocolates whips up hot chili truffles and savory biscuits, while Red Hilly Coffee Traders roasts its beans on-site. Cocktails and cordials at Stein Distillery get their handcrafted spirits from locally grown grains in a magnificent copper still. Nab a picnic table by the creek at Terminal Gravity Brewing for beers, steamer clams, and a grass-fed Corriente burger on a Tuscan roll. With a Hungarian aesthetic, Vali's Alpine Restaurant is revered for its homemade donuts (try the chocolate Bavarian cream). In neighboring Enterprise, Wild Carrot Herbs carries sumptuously healing native botanical oils. After a hike, reward yourself at Dandelion Wines with regional wines. And don't miss the short drive to craftsman Tyler Hays's century-old mercantile store M. Crow and Company (also with a New York City outpost). A visual wonderland of local produce and wine sits alongside made-in-the-USA provisions like tomahawks, Douglas fir plywood speakers, denim, and stoneware mugs.

WHERE TO STAY

Check into Jennings Horel, another century-old, refurbished landmark smack in the center of Main Street. With only five rooms, owner Greg Hennes enlisted his friends as guest designers (many of whom serve as artists in residence). There's a decidedly sparse Nordic bent with clean, white walls and light ponderosa pine flooring. Bathrooms are stocked with Juniper Ridge soap and native Beecrowbee hair products (which are available at a nearby brick-and-mortar shop). And, surprisingly, a starkly simple Finnish wet-dry sauna dressed in white tile and a custom redwood bench offers a steamy detox refuge. For more rustic outdoor lodging on the edge of Joseph Creek Canyon, the RimRock Inn leans heavily on the glamping-teepee-vintage trailer trio concept, marked with incredible views.

WHAT TO DO

Known for its bronze artistry employing a lost wax method, the Joseph Artwalk reveals a surprising series of handsome, towering outdoor, Western-themed sculptures along Main Street. For the road less traveled, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area is best for slow, scenic drives of panoramic vistas along with hiking, rafting, and countless all-terrain activities. Inhale sweeping views of the untouched Oregon "Alps" from inside the four-person gondolas climbing along the Wallowa Lake Tramway. Early-morning hikers will revel in the secluded Swiss mise-en-scène of Eagle Cap Wilderness, where calm alpine waters, flowery meadows, and autumn colors make for serene tranquility.



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1 / 8