

WHAT'S NEW *in* OREGON

Spring 2025

Photo: Clayton Cottrell

Spring in Oregon is the start of adventure season with longer days, warmer weather, frequent sunshine and refreshing rains that bring vibrant greenery and blooming flowers. For outdoor enthusiasts, there are high-desert havens for stargazing and new cycling routes that border pristine wilderness. Movie fans will want to cruise along an expanding trail dedicated to films made in Oregon. For remarkable bites and flights, check out upcoming culinary festivals and the state's champion sparkling-wine producers.

STARGAZING ADVENTURES AROUND THE STATE

Stargazing is a magical way to connect with nature. It's why astrotourism — travel centered around the night sky and celestial events — is booming, and Oregon is uniquely suited to admiring the cosmos. The state is home to numerous dark-sky areas designated by **DarkSky International**, a nonprofit working to reduce light pollution.

The areas include **Oregon Caves National Monument** in Southern Oregon; the cities of **Antelope** and **Sisters**, as well as **Prineville Reservoir State Park** in Central Oregon; and Eastern Oregon's **Cottonwood Canyon State Park**. To experience the largest dark-sky sanctuary in the world — an astounding 2.5 million acres — head to Lake County in Southern Oregon, home to the **Oregon Outback International Dark Sky Sanctuary**.

Check in to the recently restored **Neon Cowboy Roadhouse + Hot Springs** in Lakeview (population 2,400), where you can also see the state's only geyser. For memorable stargazing closer to Portland, **NW Jet Boat Charter** offers a sunset ride on the Willamette River followed by an overview of constellations with a local astronomer.

SCENIC BIKEWAYS AND COASTAL PLAYGROUNDS

Cycling enthusiasts are celebrating the addition of **Aufderheide Drive** as the 18th official **State Scenic Bikeway**, the first new designation since 2017. The spectacular 60-mile route through Lane County passes by old-growth forests, pristine rivers and hot springs. Non-profit **Cycle Oregon** continues

to spread the joy of riding bikes in the state's most beautiful places. Epic rides this year include **GRAVEL** (Tillamook State Forest, June 6-8), **Joyride** (Tygh Valley, July 18-20) and **Rally** (Crater Lake National Park, September 7-12).

Lincoln City recently debuted the first inclusive and accessible playground on the Oregon Coast. On over 6 acres near Siletz Bay at **Schooner Creek Discovery Park**, the newly constructed playground's inclusive equipment includes nonverbal communication boards along with an accessible merry-go-round and swing options. You'll also find seamless surfacing and paths and companion seats for people in wheelchairs.

Easily reach the wonders of Oregon's rugged South Coast with an **expanded season** of direct flights offered by United. Through 2025 the airline will provide daily nonstop service between Denver International Airport (DEN) and Southwest Oregon Regional Airport (OTH) in North Bend. When you land, expect towering sand dunes and coastal evergreens in this area known as the gateway to **Oregon's Adventure Coast**.



Aufderheide Scenic Bikeway

CELEBRATING SPARKLING WINE AND MULTICULTURAL FOOD

Oregon’s sparkling-wine renaissance is soaring. Wine Enthusiast’s list of the **100 best wines of 2024** starred four Willamette Valley wines, including the No. 1 spot, which went to **RMS Brut 10-Year Delayed Disgorgement** from **ROCO Winery**. Other bubbly producers clinching top accolades include **CHO Wines**, **Corollary Wines** and **Domaine Serene. Irvine & Roberts Vineyards**, from Southern Oregon’s Rogue Valley, also made the list.

One of the state’s leading culinary events returns for the third year May 17-18, 2025. **Oregon’s AAPI Food & Wine Fest** brings two days packed with delicious bites and flights from AAPI-owned restaurants and wineries. Co-founded by Lois Cho of the phenomenal **CHO Wines**, guest chefs this year hail from culinary hot spots that include **Magna Kusina**, **Mémoire Cà Phê**, **Jeju**, **Obon Shokudo** and **Toya Ramen**.

Portland has a smattering of new AAPI-owned eateries including the gluten-free bakery **Kirari West**, **Dodo Dumpling** and **Jade Rabbit** — a destination for vegan dim sum. For more ideas on where to eat next, check out **The Korean Mama**, the celebrity TikTok account from a mother-son duo who share their favorite restaurants in Portland, Beaverton and Hillsboro.

Indigenous cuisine is also on the rise. Chef Jack Strong, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and executive chef at **The Allison Inn & Spa**, just debuted a nine-course tasting menu centered around Native foods with dishes like squash soup and wild-salmon crudo. On the wine list, look for bottles by **Greywing Cellars**, recognized by Wine Enthusiast as one of the world’s **most influential** Indigenous-owned wineries.

In Portland chef Alexa Numkena-Anderson is leading the city’s first Indigenous restaurant at **Javelina**, serving comfort fare like fry-bread tacos and bison meatloaf. On weekend nights, she’s added a six-course tasting menu called **Inísha**, which translates to “my daughter” in the Yakama tribal language.

Javelina



Warner Valley Overlook



AAPI Wine Festival



OREGON FILM FESTIVITIES

Plan a road trip around the **Oregon Film Trail**, the state’s official network of trail markers highlighting iconic filming locations across Oregon. The route spans over 42 film spots and includes adventure dramas from “Free Willy” to “Wild” and classics like “Stand By Me.” Learn more about the **history of Oregon filmmaking**, and track recent and current productions on **Oregon Film**.

Two of the most famous movies filmed in Oregon celebrate anniversaries this year. “**One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest**” recently turned 50, and the Academy Award-winning film has been screening at theaters across the state. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of “The Goonies,” Steven Spielberg’s coming-of-age classic. An entire **Goonies Weekend** bash is set for the weekend of June 5-8, 2025, in Astoria, one of the towns in which it was filmed.



MEDIA CONTACT

Allison Keeney, allison@traveloregon.com

