



Photo: Cody Roux / Travel Southern Oregon

WHAT'S NEW *in* OREGON

Summer 2025

If roaring waterfalls, pristine lakes and starry skies top your summer list, then a trip to Oregon is in order. For wellness seekers, there's saunas and hot springs galore. How about car-free travel? Hop on a new city-to-coast eco-shuttle. Starstruck by cool new campgrounds and piano in the wild? We've got that magic too.

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK BOAT TOURS AND CAMPING NEAR WATERFALLS

Cool off at **Crater Lake National Park**, one of the world's natural wonders, on seasonal **boat tours**. A two-hour cruise glides around the deepest lake in the U.S. with views of Phantom Ship and Wizard Island. Go this summer before the boat tours and **Cleetwood Cove Trail**, the only access point to the lake's shore, closes for renovations in 2026.

The enchanting **Silver Falls State Park** east of Salem — known for abundant waterfalls and mossy trails — unveils exciting new upgrades this summer. The state's largest park debuted a new shop stocked with hiking essentials, revamped cafe and multiple accessible campground sites. You'll also find cabins and ranches at the newly reopened **Smith Creek Village** in the park's backcountry.

NEW COASTAL LODGING AND DAYTON'S WINE-COUNTRY INN

Two new boutique accommodations just opened in Newport, along the Central Oregon Coast. For rock-'n'-roll vibes, check into **The Louie Motel**. Each suite is a tribute to musical legends, featuring turntables and Tivoli radios in every room. The nearby **Allred** is a revived property with luxe ocean-view rooms, private balconies and a lobby restaurant (**Bites + Bar**) with craft cocktails.

For a wine-country getaway, check out **The Inn at Dayton**, a new Willamette Valley retreat set in historic downtown Dayton. Its 12 elegant rooms and serene courtyard surrounded by retail and dining make for a perfect small town stay.

CAREFREE TRAVEL TO THE COAST AND COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

Head to the Coast this summer with the **North Coast Express**, a new eco-friendly shuttle that provides hop-on, hop-off transportation from the Portland metro area to the North Coast. Stops include Astoria, Seaside, Cannon Beach, Rockaway and Tillamook. Yes, you can bring your surfboard!

Experience the **Columbia River Gorge** car-free with multiple **shuttle options** from Portland to Hood River. Enjoy the area's magnificent river views on Bike the Gorge's **guided e-bike tour** through **Mitchell Point Tunnel**, the newest pedestrian and bike-only segment of the **Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail**.

SUMMER STARGAZING AND DARK-SKY CELEBRATIONS

Take your stargazing to the next level this summer. Join **NW Jet Boat Charter** for a sunset cruise on the Willamette River with a local astronomer. Soak up stars in the Oregon Outback, the largest contiguous dark-sky shed in the U.S., or head to Central Oregon, where one of many stargazing options at **Wanderlust Tours** includes an a cappella performance at **Smith Rock State Park**.



The Louie Motel

Classical pianist Hunter Noack, famous for his concerts set in wild landscapes, has two dark-sky performances for this season's **IN A LANDSCAPE** tour at **Summer Lake Hot Springs** and **Sunriver**. For more starry-night experiences, visit **DarkSky Oregon**.

CIDER PUBS, RIVER BARS AND COMMUNITY HUBS

Apple Outlaw, one of the **Applegate Valley**'s most popular craft cideries, just opened a new taproom in historic Jacksonville. Pair cider flights with snacky bites in an expansive outdoor courtyard with community fire pits, a bar and a stage for live music.

In the Bend Central District, east of downtown, head to **Dogwood at the Pine Shed** for music and mingling. This new woodsy-chic venue pairs craft cocktails with live DJs and dance parties. You'll also find a rotating selection of food trucks and events.

After exploring the spectacular **John Day Fossil Beds National Monument**, swing by **Ben's Place**, a secret bar set in a single grain silo in the Eastern Oregon town of Spray. This watering hole hosts live music and stellar sunsets on the remote banks of the John Day River.

SAUNAS, SALT THERAPY AND HOT SPRINGS

Hydrothermal therapy is on the rise in some of Oregon's most scenic places. In Bend **Gather Sauna House** has new digs at the **Hanai Foundation**, enhancing sauna sessions with leaf whisking and herbal rituals. Other options include **ChillWell**'s sensory-deprivation float in a giant ovoid pod and **Flux Thermal Lounge**, featuring contrast therapy of hot sauna and cold plunge.

In Ashland **SOMA Wellness** brings serenity through salt therapy, sound baths and more. In the Eastern Oregon outpost of La Grande, check into the historic **Lodge at Hot Lake Springs**, home to one of the largest springs in the Northwest, and enjoy their newly added cold plunge pool.

Ben's Place



82 Acres



Heather Amistad

Smith Creek Village



Oregon State Parks

FANTASTIC FARM-TO-TABLE IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

At **Tributary Hotel**, Oregon's first and only Relais & Châteaux property in downtown McMinnville, **Okta Farm and Kitchen** has reopened with a new vision. Led by chef Christy Smith, the revamped menu still highlights seasonal ingredients from the restaurant's nearby farm but with a focused four-course prix fixe menu.

Renowned for pushing the boundaries of zero-waste cooking, Kari Shaughnessy, the chef-owner of **Hayward**, can add 2025 James Beard semifinalist for "Best Chef: Northwest & Pacific" to her accolades. She just moved her beloved restaurant to Carlton, which was recognized by USA Today as a **2025 Restaurant of the Year**.

Experience farm-to-table full circle by spending the night in a fancy grain silo at the idyllic **Abbey Road Farm** in Carlton, then heading to **82 Acres**, the farm's Portland restaurant led by culinary mastermind Will Preisch.

TRAVEL OREGON

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