

RATINGS

The ratings on the following pages are intended to give you further information about the locations discussed in the book and to help you make comparisons and choices when planning your photographic journeys in Oregon. Obviously, the ratings alone don't tell the whole story about a location and should be used only in conjunction with the chapter text.

Using a scale of 1 to 5, the ratings are assigned according to four different criteria: overall interest of a location (based mostly on its value as a scenic attraction), the location's photographic potential (can you make great images there?), and the level of difficulty in getting to the location, either on foot or by vehicle. In many cases, photographic potential and scenic value vary greatly depending on season, and these ratings are based on the best time of the year for the specific location. Keep in mind that the road and trail ratings are based on normal, dry weather conditions; times and difficulty may be very different in winter or before trails (and sometimes roads) are cleared in spring or early summer.

Rather than just give you my own ratings, I've asked a number of knowledgeable friends and photographers to provide their opinions, as well. The assessments are based on the criteria below, and I think you'll find the resulting consensus to be of value in your trip planning.

Rating	Scenic Value
—	Of no particular interest
♥	Mildly interesting, visit if nearby and/or time permitting
♥♥	Scenic location, worthy of a visit
♥♥♥	Very interesting, scenic or original location
♥♥♥♥	Remarkably scenic or rewarding location, a highlight
♥♥♥♥♥	World-class location, absolutely tops

Rating	Photographic Interest
—	Of no particular photographic interest
♦	Worthy of a quick photo
♦♦	Good photo opportunity
♦♦♦	Good photographic potential and scenic subjects
♦♦♦♦	Outstanding photographic potential, highly original or scenic subjects
♦♦♦♦♦	World-class photographic location, "photographer's dream"

Rating	Road Difficulty
—	Paved road, accessible to all normal-size vehicles
▲	Dirt road accessible without difficulty by passenger car (under normal conditions)
▲▲	Minor obstacles, accessible by passenger car with caution (under good conditions)
▲▲▲	High-clearance required, but no major difficulty
▲▲▲▲	High-clearance 4WD required, some obstacles, no real danger
▲▲▲▲▲	High-clearance 4WD required, some risk to vehicle & passengers, experienced drivers only

Rating	Trail Difficulty
—	No or very little walking (close to parking area)
●	Easy short walk (<= 1h rt), for everybody
●●	Moderate hike (1 to 3h rt) with no major difficulty or short hike with some minor difficulties
●●●	Moderate to strenuous (3 to 6h rt) and/or difficulties (elevation gain, difficult terrain, some risks)
●●●●	Strenuous (> 6h rt) and/or globally difficult (elevation gain, difficult off-trail terrain, obstacles, risks)
●●●●●	Backpacking required or for extremely fit dayhikers

Location	Page	Scenic Value	Photogr. Interest	Road Difficulty	Trail Difficulty
3 Northern Oregon Coast					
Astoria Column	43	♥♥	♦	—	—
Fort Clatsop National Historical Memorial	43	♥♥♥	♦	—	♣
Fort Stevens State Park	44	♥	♦	—	♣
Cannon Beach & Ecola State Park	44				
Ecola Point view	44	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	—
Indian Beach	44	♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	♣
Clatsop Loop Trail	45	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Haystack Rock from Cannon Beach-Tolovana Park	48	♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	♣
Oswald West State Park - coast trail	49	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Oswald West State Park - Nehalem Mountain trail	49	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣♣
Cape Meares Lighthouse	50	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Cape Lookout State Park	51	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Whalen Island State Natural Area	51	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Cape Kiwanda and Haystack Rock - Pacific City	51	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣♣
Cascade Head	52	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣♣
Lincoln City - Siletz Bay area	53	♥♥	♦	—	—
Drift Creek Falls	54	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Yaquina Head Lighthouse and tidepools	55	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Yaquina Bay Lighthouse and bridge	56	♥♥	♦	—	—
Oregon Coast Aquarium	56	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Seal Rock and Strawberry Hill State Waysides	56	♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Yachats coast	56	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Cape Perpetua - viewpoint	58	♥♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Cape Perpetua - Devil's Churn area	58	♥♥♥	♦	—	♣
Heceta Head Lighthouse	59	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	♣
4 Southern Oregon Coast					
Oregon Dunes NRA - Dunes Overlook	63	♥♥	♦	—	♣
Oregon Dunes NRA - Umpqua Dunes	63	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣♣
Umpqua River Lighthouse	64	♥	♦	—	—
Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area	66	♥	♦♦	—	—
Sweet Creek waterfalls	66	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Kentucky Falls	67	♥♥♥	♦♦	♣	♣♣
Golden and Silver Falls	68	♥♥	♦♦	♣	♣
Sunset Bay State Park	70	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Shore Acres State Park	71	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Cape Arago State Park	72	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
South Slough Estuarine Reserve	70	♥	♦	—	♣
Bandon - Coquille River Lighthouse	73	♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Bandon Beach sea stacks	73	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦♦	—	♣
Cape Blanco State Park and Lighthouse	77	♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Cape Sebastian - Pistol River State Park	78	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor	79				
Arch Rock	79	♥♥	♦	—	♣
Natural Bridges	79	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Indian Sands	80	♥♥	♦	—	♣
Whaleshead Beach	80	♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Harris Beach State Park	80	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Redwood Nature Trail - Loeb State Park	81	♥	♦	—	♣
Siskiyou Mountains - Quail Prairie Lookout	82	♥	♦	♣	♣
5 Southwest Oregon					
Rough & Ready Botanical Wayside	84	♥	♦	—	♣
Illinois Wild & Scenic River	85	♥♥	♦	♣♣	♣
Siskiyou Mountains - Kalmiopsis Wilderness	85	♥♥♥	♦♦	♣♣	♣♣♣♣
Oregon Caves National Monument	86	♥♥♥	♦	—	♣♣

Location	Page	Scenic Value	Photogr. Interest	Road Difficulty	Trail Difficulty
Ashland - Lithia Park	87	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Jacksonville	88	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Table Rocks	88	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Lower Rogue River	92	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Umpqua Valley vineyards	95	♥♥	♦	—	—
Wildlife Safari	95	♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Douglas County covered bridges	95	♥♥	♦	—	—
Oakland historic district	95	♥	♦	—	—
Klamath Marsh NWR	96	♥♥	♦♦	♣	♣
Upper Klamath Lake	96	♥♥	♦	—	—
Lower Klamath NWR	96	♥♥	♦♦♦	♣	—
Tule Lake NWR	97	♥♥	♦♦	♣	—
Lava Beds National Monument	98	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
6 Southern Oregon Cascades					
Mill Creek and Barr Creek Falls	101	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Upper Rogue River - Natural Bridge	102	♥♥♥	♦	—	♣
Upper Rogue River - Rogue Gorge	103	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
National Creek Falls	103	♥♥	♦♦	♣	♣
Diamond Lake	104	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Crater Lake	105				
Rim Village View	108	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Discovery Point Trail	109	♥♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦♦	—	♣♣
Watchman Peak	110	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Wizard Island viewpoints	110	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦♦	—	♣
Cleethood Cove Trail & Boat Tour	110	♥♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Mount Scott Trail	111	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣♣♣
The Pinnacles	111	♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Sun Notch - Phantom Ship viewpoint	111	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Vidae Falls	112	♥♥	♦	—	—
Castle Crest Trail	112	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Garfield Peak Trail	112	♥♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	♣♣♣
Annie Creek Canyon	112	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
South Umpqua River waterfalls	113	♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Rhododendron Ridge	114	♥♥	♦♦	♣	—
North Umpqua River	115				
Colliding Rivers	115	♥	—	—	—
Deadline Falls	115	♥♥	♦	—	—
Susan Creek Falls	116	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Fall Creek Falls	116	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Ticketee Falls	116	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Watson Falls	117	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Whitehorse and Clearwater Falls	118	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
7 Willamette Valley & Portland					
Mount Pisgah Arboretum	121	♥♥	♦	—	♣
Fern Ridge Reservoir	122	♥	♦	—	—
Lorane Valley	122	♥♥	♦	—	—
Peavy Arboretum	123	♥♥	♦	—	♣
Albany Historic District	123	♥♥	♦	—	—
Finley, Baskett Slough and Ankeny NWRs	123	♥♥	♦♦	♣	♣
Bush Park & Deepwood Estates Park	125	♥	♦	—	♣
Oregon Garden	125	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Covered Bridges	126	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Silver Falls State Park	128				
South Falls	129	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Lower North Falls	129	♥♥	♦	—	♣♣

Location	Page	Scenic Value	Photogr. Interest	Road Difficulty	Trail Difficulty
Middle North Falls	132	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Winter Falls	132	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
North Falls	132	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Upper North Falls	132	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Tulip and Iris Festivals	134	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	♣
Wine Country	135	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Portland	136				
Washington Park city & Mt. Hood view	138	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Washington Park Rose Garden	138	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Japanese Garden	139	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	♣
Oregon Zoo	139	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Hoyt Arboretum	139	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Forest Park	140	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Classical Chinese Garden	140	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Sauvie Island	141	♥♥	♦	—	—
8 Columbia River Gorge & Hood River					
Women's Forum Park view	145	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	—
Crown Point & Vista House	145	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Latourel Falls	147	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Shepherd's Dell	147	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Bridal Veil Falls	147	♥♥	♦	—	♣
Wahkeena Creek and Falls	148	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Multnomah Falls	148	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣
Horsetail Falls	151	♥♥	♦	—	—
Oneonta Gorge falls	151	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣♣
Elowah Falls	151	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Wahclella Falls	152	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣♣
Eagle Creek - Metlako Falls - Punchbowl Falls	153	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣♣
Tom McCall Preserve - Rowena Plateau	156	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	♣
Dog Mountain	158	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣♣♣
Catherine Creek	159	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Dalles Mountain Road	159	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	♣	♣
Hood River Valley - Panorama Point lookout	161	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Hood River Valley - apple & pear orchards in bloom	161	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Lost Lake and Mount Hood view	163	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	♣
9 Northern Oregon Cascades					
Wildwood Recreation Site	167	♥♥	♦	—	♣
Oregon Trail sites	168	♥	♦	—	♣
Lolo Pass	169	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	♣	♣♣
Top Spur Trail - Bald Mountain	169	♥♥♥	♦♦	♣	♣♣
Ramona Falls Trail	170	♥♥♥	♦♦	♣	♣♣♣
Mirror Lake	171	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Tom Dick & Harry Mountain Trail	171	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	♣♣♣
Timberline Lodge	172	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Paradise Park Trail	173	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣♣♣
Mount Hood Meadows wildflowers	173	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣
Sahalie Falls	174	♥♥	♦	—	—
Tamanawas Falls	175	♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Cooper Spur	178	♥♥♥	♦♦	♣♣	♣
Trillium Lake	178	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Skyline Road - West Cascades Scenic Byway	179	♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Otalie Lakes Recreation Area	180	♥♥	♦♦	♣	—
Mount Jefferson Wilderness	182	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	♣	♣♣♣♣
Lower McKenzie River	186	♥♥	♦	—	♣

Location	Page	Scenic Value	Photogr. Interest	Road Difficulty	Trail Difficulty
10 Central Western Cascades					
Delta Old-Growth Forest Trail	188	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	▲
Lookout Creek Old-Growth Forest Trail	188	♥♥	♦♦	▲	▲▲
Upper McKenzie River	189	♥♥♥	♦	—	▲
Koosah Falls & Sahalie Falls	190	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	▲
Iron Mountain	191	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	▲▲
Santiam Pass winter scenics	193	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Big Lake and Mount Washington view	193	♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Old McKenzie Pass Highway	194	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Scott Lake	198	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲	▲
Proxy Falls	199	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	▲▲
Audreheide Drive - West Cascades Scenic Byway	202	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Willamette Pass Highway - Fall color	204	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Diamond Drive	205	♥♥	♦♦	▲	—
Salt Creek Falls	206	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	▲
Waldo Lake	207	♥♥	♦♦	—	▲
Willamette Pass winter scenics	208	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
11 Central Oregon					
Canyon Creek Meadows	210	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲▲	▲▲▲
Metolius River	211	♥♥♥	♦	—	▲
Three Creek Lake - Tam McArthur Rim	212	♥♥	♦♦	▲▲	▲▲
Smith Rock State Park	216	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	▲▲
Lower Crooked River	217	♥♥	♦♦	▲	▲
Bend Badlands Wilderness	218	♥♥	♦♦	▲	▲▲
Tumalo Falls	220	♥♥	♦♦	▲	▲
Cascade Lakes Highway	221				
Todd Lake Trail	221	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲	▲▲
Sparks Lake - Ray Atkeson Memorial Trail	223	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	▲	▲
Three Sisters Wilderness - Green Lakes Trail	224	♥♥♥♥	♦♦	—	▲▲▲▲
Devils Lake - Elk Lake - Hosmer Lake	224	♥♥♥♥	♦♦	▲	—
Lava Lake	225	♥♥♥	♦♦	▲	—
Crane Prairie Reservoir	226	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Twin Lakes	227	♥♥	♦	—	▲
Wickiup Reservoir - Cultus Lake - Davis Lake	227	♥♥	♦	—	—
Deschutes River - Benham Falls	228	♥♥	♦	▲	▲
High Desert Museum	229	♥♥	♦	—	—
Newberry National Volcanic Monument	230				
Lava Lands Visitor Center - Lava Butte	230	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	▲
Lava Cast Forest	231	♥♥	♦	▲	▲
Paulina Peak viewpoint	231	♥♥♥	♦♦	▲▲	▲
Big Obsidian Flow Trail	231	♥♥♥	♦	—	▲▲
Paulina Creek Falls	232	♥♥	♦	—	▲
12 Southeast Oregon					
Fort Rock	235	♥♥♥	♦♦	▲	—
Hole-In-The-Ground	236	♥	—	▲	—
Christmas Valley Sand Dunes - Lost Forest	236	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲▲▲	▲
Crack-In-The-Ground	238	♥	♦	▲	▲
Summer Lake	238	♥	♦	—	—
Abert Rim and Abert Lake	239	♥♥	♦	—	—
Warner Mountains	239	♥	♦	▲	—
Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge	239	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲▲	▲
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge	242	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲▲	▲
Diamond Craters	244	♥	♦	▲	▲
Steens Mountain	244	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲▲▲	▲

Location		Page	Scenic Value	Photogr. Interest	Road Difficulty	Trail Difficulty
Alvord Desert		247	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲	▲
Pillars of Rome		249	♥	♦	▲	—
Owyhee River		249	♥	♦	▲▲	▲▲
Leslie Gulch		250	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲▲	▲
Succor Creek State Park		251	♥♥	♦	▲▲	▲
Lake Owyhee State Park		251	♥♥♥	♦♦	▲▲▲	▲▲
13 Northeast Oregon						
Lower Deschutes River		257	♥♥	♦	—	▲
White River Falls		258	♥♥	♦♦	—	▲
Columbia Plateau wheat country		259	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Shaniko		259	♥	♦	—	—
John Day Fossil Beds		260				
Painted Hills Unit - Overlook Trail		260	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	▲	▲
Painted Hills Unit - Carroll Rim Trail		260	♥♥♥	♦♦	▲	▲▲
Painted Hills Unit - Painted Cove Trail		260	♥♥♥	♦♦	▲	▲
Painted Hills Unit - Leaf Hill Trail		260	♥♥	—	▲	▲
Clarno Unit		264	♥♥	♦	—	▲
Sheep Rock Unit		266	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	▲
Elkhorn and Blue Mountains Scenic Byways		268	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	▲	—
Sumpter - Granite gold rush towns		269	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill		271	♥♥	♦	—	—
Oregon Trail Blue Mountain Crossing		271	♥♥	♦	▲	▲
Wallowa Valley and Wallowa Lake		272	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Zumwalt Prairie		274	♥♥	♦♦	▲▲	▲
Wallowa Mountains - Eagle Cap Wilderness		274				
Mirror Lake		276	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	▲	▲▲▲▲
Ice Lake		276	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	▲▲▲▲
Maxwell Lake		276	♥♥♥	♦♦	▲	▲▲▲
Lostine River Trail		276	♥♥♥	♦♦	▲	▲▲
Hells Canyon		277				
Hells Canyon Dam		277	♥♥	♦	▲	▲
Hat Point Lookout		278	♥♥♥♥	♦♦	▲▲	▲
Hells Canyon Overlook		279	♥♥	♦	—	—

Warning: Road Difficulty ratings are for normal, dry conditions. Driving conditions can change dramatically during or after a rain or a snowstorm. Some forest and desert roads have deep mud holes in winter and spring, and roads with a lot of clay in the soil can instantly turn to slime with a little precipitation. As an example, getting into Leslie Gulch after a rain can be very dicey, even with 4WD. When a road was last maintained also has a huge impact on its condition; a washboard gravel forest road can be torture on driver and vehicle and can really slow you down. Always check current road conditions with local authorities before you leave. In my experience, the high school girl at the local fast food shop hasn't been down the road you need to know about, but the folks at the local BLM and USFS ranger stations have good information and are happy to share it.