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## The Best of Oregon

**Y**ou've probably already heard the jokes: Oregonians have webbed feet and they don't tan, they rust. Even people otherwise unfamiliar with Oregon seem to know that it rains a lot here. There's simply no getting around the fact that few states receive as much rain or cloudy weather as Oregon (except Washington, Oregon's northern neighbor). However, Oregon's rainfall no longer seems to have the effect it once did. Sure, it still keeps the landscape green, but it's no longer keeping people from moving here.

Once, Oregon was the promised land of 19th-century pioneers, and today, it is an amalgam of American life and landscapes. Within its boundaries, the state reflects a part of almost every region of the country. Take a bit of New England's rural beauty, its covered bridges, and its steepled churches. Temper the climate with that of the upper South to avoid harsh winters. Now bring in some low, rolling mountains such as the Appalachians; rugged, glaciated mountains such as the Rockies; and Hawaiian-style volcanoes and lava fields. Add a river as large and important as the Mississippi—complete with paddle wheelers—and a coastline as rugged as California's. Of course, there would have to be sagebrush and cowboys and Indians. You could even throw in the deserts of the Southwest and the wheat fields of the Midwest. A little wine country would be a nice touch, and so would some long, sandy beaches. Finally, you'll need a beautiful city, one whose downtown skyscrapers are framed by high, forested hills and whose gardens are full of roses.

To explore such a diverse state takes quite a bit of planning, and knowing ahead of time the best that the state has to offer can make a visit much more enjoyable. After traveling the length and breadth of the state, I've chosen what I feel are the very best attractions, activities, lodgings, and restaurants. These are the places and experiences you won't want to miss. Most are described in more detail elsewhere in this book, but this chapter will give you an overview and get you started.

### 1 The Best Natural Attractions

- **The Oregon Coast:** Rocky headlands, offshore islands and haystack rocks, natural arches, caves full of sea lions, giant sand dunes, and dozens of state parks make this one of the most spectacular coastlines in the country. The only drawback is that the water is too cold for swimming. See chapter 7.
- **Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area:** Carved by ice-age floodwaters up to 1,200 feet deep, the Columbia Gorge is a unique feature of the Oregon landscape. Waterfalls by the dozen cascade from the basalt cliffs of the gorge, and highways on both the Washington and the Oregon sides of the Columbia River provide countless memorable views. See p. 234.
- **Mount Hood:** As Oregon's tallest mountain and the closest Cascade

peak to Portland, Mount Hood is a recreational mecca par excellence. Hiking trails, lakes and rivers, and year-round skiing make this one of the most appealing natural attractions in the state. See p. 254.

- **Crater Lake National Park:** At 1,932 feet deep, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States, and its sapphire-blue waters are a bewitchingly beautiful sight when seen from the rim of the volcanic caldera that forms the lake. See p. 269.
- **Central Oregon Lava Lands:** Throughout central Oregon and the

central Cascades region, from the lava fields of McKenzie Pass to the obsidian flows of Newberry National Volcanic Monument, you'll find dramatic examples of the volcanic activity that gave rise to the Cascade Range. See chapters 9 and 11.

- **Hells Canyon:** Deeper than the Grand Canyon, this massive gorge along the Oregon-Idaho border is remote and inaccessible, and that is just what makes it fascinating. You can gaze down into it from on high, float its waters, or hike its trails. See p. 344.

## 2 The Best Outdoor Activities

- **Biking the Oregon Coast:** With U.S. 101 clinging to the edge of the continent for much of its route through Oregon, this road has become one of the most popular cycling routes in the Northwest. The entire coast can be done in about a week, but there are also plenty of short sections that make good day trips. See p. 172.
- **Windsurfing at Hood River:** Winds blast through the Columbia Gorge and whip up white-capped standing waves, and they have turned this area into the windsurfing capital of the United States, attracting windsurfers from around the world. See p. 241.
- **Fly-Fishing for Steelhead on the North Umpqua River:** Made famous by Zane Grey, the North Umpqua is the quintessential steelhead river, and for part of its length it's open to fly-fishing only. The river and the elusive steelhead offer a legendary fishing experience. See p. 267.
- **Rafting the Rogue River:** Of all the state's white-water-rafting rivers, none is more famous than the Rogue.

Meandering through remote wilderness in the southern part of the state, this river has been popular with anglers since early in the 20th century and attracted Zane Grey with its beauty and great fishing. Today, you can splash through roaring white water by day and spend your nights in remote lodges that are inaccessible by car. See p. 267.

- **Mountain Biking in Bend:** Outside the town of Bend, in central Oregon, dry ponderosa pine forests are laced with trails that are open to mountain bikes. Routes pass by several lakes, and along the way you'll get great views of the Three Sisters, Broken Top, and Mount Bachelor. See p. 321.
- **Skiing Mount Bachelor:** With ski slopes dropping off the very summit of this extinct volcano, Mount Bachelor ski area, in central Oregon, is the state's premier ski area. Seemingly endless runs of all levels of ability make this a magnet for skiers and snowboarders from around the state, and lots of high-speed quad chairs keep people on the snow instead of standing in line. See p. 319.

### 3 The Best Beaches

See chapter 7 for details on the beaches listed below.

- **Cannon Beach/Ecola State Park:** With the massive monolith of Haystack Rock rising up from the low-tide line and the secluded beaches of Ecola State Park just north of town, Cannon Beach offers all the best of the Oregon coast. See p. 175.
- **Oswald West State Park:** At this state park south of Cannon Beach, it's a 15-minute walk through the woods to the beach, which keeps the sand from ever getting too crowded. The crescent-shaped beach is on a secluded cove backed by dense forest. This also happens to be a popular surfing spot. See p. 176.
- **Sunset Bay State Park:** Almost completely surrounded by sandstone cliffs, this little beach near Coos Bay is on a shallow cove. The clear waters

here get a little bit warmer than unprotected waters elsewhere on the coast, so it's sometimes possible to actually go swimming. See p. 216.

- **Bandon:** It's difficult to imagine a more picturesque stretch of coastline than the beach in Bandon. Haystack rocks rise up from sand and sea as if strewn there by some giant hand. Motels and houses front this scenic beach, which ensures its popularity no matter what the weather. See p. 219.
- **The Beaches of Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor:** Some of the prettiest, most secluded, and least visited beaches on the Oregon coast are within this remote south-coast state park. Ringed by rocky headlands, the many little crescents of sand in this park provide an opportunity to find *the* perfect beach. See p. 228.

### 4 The Best Hikes

- **Cape Lookout Trail:** Leading 2.5 miles through dense forests to the tip of this rugged cape on the north Oregon coast, this trail ends high on a cliff above the waters of the Pacific. Far below, gray whales can often be seen lolling in the waves, and the view to the south takes in miles of coastline. See p. 186.
- **John Dellenback Dunes Trail:** If you've ever dreamed of joining the French Foreign Legion or simply want to play at being Lawrence of Arabia, then the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area is the place for you. Within this vast expanse of sand dunes, you'll find the highest dunes on the Oregon coast—some 500 feet tall. See p. 211.
- **Eagle Creek Trail:** This trail in the Columbia Gorge follows the tumbling waters of Eagle Creek and

passes two spectacular waterfalls in the first 2 miles. Along the way, the trail climbs up the steep gorge walls, and in places it is cut right into the basalt cliffs. See p. 237.

- **Timberline Trail:** As the name implies, this trail starts at the timberline, high on the slopes of Mount Hood. Because the route circles Mount Hood, you can start in either direction and make a day, overnight, or multiday hike of it. Paradise Park, its meadows ablaze with wildflowers in July and August, is a favorite for both day hikes and overnight trips. See p. 256.
- **McKenzie River Trail to Tamolitch Pool:** The McKenzie River Trail stretches for 26 miles along the banks of this aquamarine river, but by far the most rewarding stretch of trail is the 2-mile hike to Tamolitch Pool, an astounding pool of turquoise waters

formed as the McKenzie River wells up out of the ground after flowing underground for several miles. The trail leads through rugged, overgrown lava fields. See p. 262.

- **Deschutes River Trail:** The Deschutes River, which flows down from the east

side of the Cascades, passes through an open ponderosa pine forest to the west of Bend. Paralleling the river and passing tumultuous waterfalls along the way, it is an easy trail that's popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and joggers. See p. 320.

## 5 The Best Scenic Drives

- **Gold Beach to Brookings:** No other stretch of U.S. 101 along the Oregon coast is more breathtaking than the segment between Gold Beach and Brookings. This remote coastline is dotted with offshore islands, natural rock arches, sea caves, bluffs, and beaches. Take your time, stop at the many pull-offs, and make this a leisurely all-day drive. See p. 228.
- **Historic Columbia River Highway:** Built between 1914 and 1926 to allow automobiles access to the wonders of the Columbia Gorge, this narrow, winding highway east of Portland climbs up to the top of the gorge for a scenic vista before diving into forests where waterfalls, including the tallest one in the state, pour off of basalt cliffs. See p. 236.
- **The Santiam and McKenzie Passes:** This loop drive, which crosses the

Cascade crest twice, takes in views of half a dozen major Cascade peaks, negotiates a bizarre landscape of lava fields, passes several waterfalls, and skirts aptly named Clear Lake, the source of the McKenzie River. This is one of the best drives in the state for fall color. See p. 261.

- **Crater Lake Rim Drive:** This scenic drive circles the rim of the massive caldera that holds Crater Lake. Along the way are numerous pull-offs where you can admire the sapphire-blue waters and the ever-changing scenery. See p. 270.
- **Cascade Lakes Highway:** This road covers roughly 100 miles as it loops out from Bend along the eastern slope of the Cascades. Views of Broken Top and the Three Sisters are frequent, and along the way are numerous lakes, both large and small. See p. 321.

## 6 The Best Museums

- **Portland Art Museum:** Although the main focus is on bringing blockbuster, touring shows to town, the Portland Art Museum recently added a new wing for contemporary and modern art. The museum also has respectable collections of Native American artifacts and Northwest contemporary art. See p. 98.
- **Evergreen Aviation Museum (McMinnville):** Looking like a cross between a gigantic airplane hangar and a huge barn, this museum is home to Howard Hughes's "Spruce

Goose," the largest wooden plane ever built. There are also plenty of smaller planes on display to provide a little perspective for this behemoth of the air. See p. 133.

- **Jensen Arctic Museum (Monmouth):** This museum is not very big, but it contains an amazingly diverse collection of artifacts from the Arctic. Even more surprising than the thoroughness of the collection is the fact that the museum is here in Oregon, not in Alaska. See p. 146.

- **Columbia River Maritime Museum** (Astoria): Located near the mouth of the Columbia River, this large modern museum has fascinating exhibits on the Coast Guard and the dangerous waters at the mouth of the river. See p. 166.
- **Favell Museum of Western Art and Indian Artifacts** (Klamath Falls): This museum houses an overwhelming assortment of Native American artifacts, including thousands of arrowheads, spear points, and other stone tools. See p. 272.
- **The Museum at Warm Springs** (Warm Springs Reservation): Set in a remote valley in central Oregon, this modern museum houses an outstanding collection of artifacts from the area's Native American tribes. See p. 309.
- **The High Desert Museum** (Bend): With its popular live-animal exhibits, this is more a zoo than a museum, but exhibits also offer glimpses into the history of the vast and little-known high desert that stretches from the Cascades eastward to the Rocky Mountains. See p. 317.
- **National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill** (Baker City): The lives of 19th-century pioneers, who gave up everything to venture overland to the Pacific Northwest, are documented at this evocative museum. Set atop a hill in sagebrush country, the museum overlooks wagon ruts left by pioneers. See p. 334.

## 7 The Best Family Attractions

- **Oregon Museum of Science and Industry** (Portland): With an OMNIMAX theater, a planetarium, a submarine, and loads of hands-on exhibits, this Portland museum is fun for kids and adults alike. See p. 98.
- **Oregon Coast Aquarium** (Newport): This modern aquarium is the biggest attraction on the coast. Tufted puffins and sea otters are always entertaining, while tide pools, jellyfish tanks, sharks, and a giant octopus also contribute to the appeal of this very realistically designed public aquarium. See p. 199.
- **Sea Lion Caves** (north of Florence): This massive cave, the largest sea cave in the country, is home to hundreds of Steller's sea lions that lounge on the rocks beneath busy U.S. 101. See p. 208.
- **West Coast Game Park** (Bandon): The opportunity to pet baby wild animals, including leopards and bears, doesn't come often, so it's hard to pass up this roadside attraction on the southern Oregon coast. See p. 221.
- **Wildlife Safari** (Winston): Giraffes peer in your window and rhinoceroses thunder past your car doors as you drive the family through this expansive wildlife park. The savanna-like setting is reminiscent of the African plains. See p. 302.

## 8 The Best Historical Sites

- **Lewis and Clark National Historical Park** (Astoria): This new national park comprises numerous historic sites that explorers Lewis and Clark utilized during the winter of 1805–06. The sites are located around the mouth of the Columbia River. During the summer, costumed interpreters bring the history of the fort to life. See p. 166.
- **Jacksonville**: With more than 80 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this 19th-century gold-mining town is the best-preserved historic community in Oregon. Here you'll also find two

inns housed in buildings constructed in 1861, which makes these Oregon's oldest buildings being used as inns. See p. 287.

- **Oregon Trail Wagon Ruts** (Baker City): It's hard to believe that something as seemingly ephemeral as a wagon rut can last more than 150 years, but the path made by the thousands of pioneers who followed the Oregon Trail cut deep into the land. One place you can see ruts is near

Baker City's National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. See p. 334.

- **Kam Wah Chung & Co. Museum** (John Day): This unusual little museum is way off the beaten path but is well worth a visit if you're anywhere in the vicinity. The museum preserves the home, office, and apothecary of a Chinese doctor who ministered to the local Chinese community in the early part of the 20th century. See p. 339.

## 9 The Best Hotels for Families

- **Embassy Suites** (Portland; ☎ 800/EMBASSY or 503/279-9000): Unlike most other Embassy Suites, this is a historic hotel, but it still has those spacious suites that are great for families. Plus, there's a pool and video arcade down in the basement. See p. 76.
- **Hallmark Resort** (Cannon Beach; ☎ 888/448-4449 or 503/436-1566): Set on a bluff with a great view of Cannon Beach's famous Haystack Rock, this is just about the most family-oriented hotel in town. There are two indoor pools. See p. 178.
- **Lake of the Woods** (Klamath Falls; ☎ 866/201-4194 or 541/949-8300): This old-fashioned lakefront lodge in the southern Oregon Cascades is a bit like a summer camp for the whole family. There's great swimming and you can rent boats and mountain bikes. See p. 273.
- **Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino** (Warm Springs; ☎ 800/554-4786 or 541/553-1112): This remote resort is centered around a huge warm-springs-fed swimming pool that is a major magnet for vacationing families. You can also

go rafting and horseback riding. See p. 311.

- **Black Butte Ranch** (Sisters; ☎ 800/452-7455 or 541/595-6211): With stunning views of the Three Sisters peaks, this central Oregon resort has a solid feel of being in the mountains. Four pools, a kayaking lake, horseback riding stables, and bike paths provide plenty of options for keeping the kids entertained. See p. 314.
- **Seventh Mountain Resort** (☎ 800/452-6810 or 541/382-8711): Although this resort is close to the Mount Bachelor ski area and has an ice-skating rink in the winter, it is most popular with families in the summer, when kids flock to the pools, the miniature golf course, the playground, and the basketball court. See p. 324.
- **Sunriver Lodge & Resort** (Sunriver; ☎ 800/801-8765 or 541/593-1000): This resort south of Bend in Oregon's high desert is popular with families for its many miles of bike trails that meander through pine forests. There are also riding stables and canoes and kayaks for rent on the gentle waters of the Deschutes River. See p. 324.

## 10 The Best B&Bs

- **Heron Haus** (Portland; ☎ 503/274-1846): Located in one of Portland's prettiest neighborhoods, this

elegant old mansion is surrounded by lush grounds and has a view over the city. If you want to sample the

epitome of bathroom luxury around 1920, ask for the room with the multiple-head shower. See p. 77.

- **Springbrook Hazelnut Farm** (Newberg; ☎ 800/793-8528 or 503/538-4606): Set in the midst of the Yamhill County wine country, this working hazelnut farm captures the essence of rural Oregon and distills it into a tranquil and restorative retreat. You can opt to stay in the carriage house or a cottage. See p. 135.
- **Black Walnut Inn** (Dundee; ☎ 866/429-4114 or 503/429-4114): Set high in the hills above Dundee, this inn is designed to resemble a Tuscan villa and is a luxurious retreat amid wine-country vineyards. See p. 135.
- **Willamette Gables Riverside Estate** (Newberg; ☎ 503/678-2195): Designed as a replica of a Natchez, Mississippi, plantation home, this modern B&B is set on the banks of the Willamette River and will have you dreaming of Scarlet O'Hara and Rhett Butler. See p. 135.
- **The Secret Garden** (Eugene; ☎ 888/484-6755 or 541/484-6755): Housed in what was once a sorority house and before that the home of one of Eugene's founding families, this very elegant inn is utterly tasteful. The garden has some very interesting secrets. See p. 160.
- **Arch Cape House** (Cannon Beach; ☎ 800/436-2848 or 503/436-2800): Patterned after a French château, this mansion-size B&B may seem oddly out of place on the Oregon coast, but no one staying here seems to mind. It could be the huge guest rooms and
- castlelike ambience, or it could be the abundance of European antiques and original art. See p. 177.
- **Channel House** (Depoe Bay; ☎ 800/447-2140 or 541/765-2140): Situated on the cliff above the narrow channel into tiny Depoe Bay, this B&B offers one of the most striking settings on the Oregon coast. The contemporary design includes guest rooms made for romance—a hot tub on the balcony, a fireplace, and an unsurpassed view out the windows. See p. 197.
- **Newport Belle Bed & Breakfast** (Newport; ☎ 800/348-1922 or 541/867-6290): The rooms at this B&B may not be the most luxurious or the largest, but the fact that they are on a replica paddle wheeler moored in Yaquina Bay near the Oregon Coast Aquarium certainly makes them some of the most unusual. See p. 202.
- **Heceta Head Lightstation** (Yachats; ☎ 541/547-3696): Ever dreamed of staying at a lighthouse? Well, on the Oregon coast, your dream can come true at this former lighthouse keeper's home. The Victorian B&B, which claims one of the most spectacular locations on the entire coast, is set high on a hill above the crashing waves. See p. 208.
- **Chetco River Inn & Lavender Farm** (Brookings; ☎ 541/251-0087): Want to get away from it all without sacrificing luxury and great food? Book a room at this remote B&B on the crystal-clear Chetco River. The setting—in the middle of a national forest—is as tranquil as you could want. See p. 231.

## 11 The Best Small Inns

- **Cannery Pier Hotel** (Astoria; ☎ 888/325-4996 or 503/325-4996): Located on a pier 600 feet out in the Columbia River, this new luxury hotel fits in perfectly on the Astoria waterfront and looks as if it could have been a cannery at one time. See p. 169.
- **Stephanie Inn** (Cannon Beach; ☎ 800/633-3466 or 503/436-2221):

Combining the look of a mountain lodge with a beachfront setting in Oregon's most artistic town, the Stephanie Inn is a romantic retreat that surrounds its guests with unpretentious luxury. See p. 178.

- **Coast Cabins** (Manzanita; ☎ 503/368-7113): Although not actually an inn or a lodge, this collection of five modern cottages is so thoroughly enchanting that I had to include it here. Beautiful perennial gardens surround the cottages. See p. 182.
- **Sylvia Beach Hotel** (Newport; ☎ 888/795-8422 or 541/265-5428): Taking literature as its theme and decorating its rooms to evoke authors—from Edgar Allan Poe to Dr. Seuss—the Sylvia Beach Hotel is the most original small inn in the Northwest. The fact that it's only a block from the beach is just icing on the cake. See p. 203.
- **Tu Tu Tun Lodge** (Gold Beach; ☎ 800/864-6357 or 541/247-6664): Though some might think of this as a fishing lodge, it's far too luxurious for anglers to keep to themselves. A secluded setting on the lower Rogue River guarantees tranquility, and

choice guest rooms provide the perfect setting for forgetting about your everyday stresses. See p. 229.

- **Steamboat Inn** (Steamboat; ☎ 800/840-8825 or 541/498-2230): Oregon's North Umpqua River is legendary for its steelhead fishing, and this is where you stay if you want to return to elegance and comfort after a day on the water. However, many guests show up with no intention of casting a fly into the river's waters. See p. 268.
- **The Winchester Inn** (Ashland; ☎ 800/972-4991 or 541/488-1113): Located only 2 blocks from the theaters of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, this place has the feel of a country inn although it's located right in town. Rooms are in three different buildings, including a modern Victorian cottage. See p. 283.
- **Pine Ridge Inn** (Bend; ☎ 800/600-4095 or 541/389-6137): This luxurious inn is located on the outskirts of Bend on a bluff overlooking the Deschutes River. With its spacious rooms and suites, antiques, and regional art, it provides both elegance and a Northwest flavor. See p. 322.

## 12 The Best Historic Hotels & Lodges

- **The Benson** (Portland; ☎ 888/523-6766 or 503/228-2000): With its crystal chandeliers, walnut paneling, and ornate plasterwork ceiling in the lobby, this 1912 vintage hotel is Portland's most elegant lodging. See p. 76.
- **Hotel Elliott** (Astoria; ☎ 877/EST-1924 or 503/325-2222): Originally opened in 1924, this hotel retains much of its original character, but now features lots of modern touches and contemporary styling. When it's time to relax, you'll have to choose between the roof-top garden and the cellar wine bar. See p. 169.
- **Columbia Gorge Hotel** (Hood River; ☎ 800/345-1921 or 541/386-5566): Opened in 1921 to handle the first automobile traffic up the Columbia Gorge, this Mission-style hotel commands a stunning view across the gorge and is surrounded by colorful gardens. See p. 245.
- **Timberline Lodge** (Mount Hood; ☎ 800/547-1406 or 503/622-7979): Built by the WPA during the Great Depression, this stately mountain lodge with grand stone fireplace, exposed beams, and wide-plank floors showcases the skills of the craftspeople who created it. See p. 259.



- **Crater Lake Lodge** (Crater Lake National Park; ☎ 541/830-8700): Perched on the rim of the caldera (not crater) that holds the blue waters of Crater Lake, this mountain lodge isn't actually a historic hotel, but it incorporates details from the original lodge that used to stand on this same site. The setting is breathtaking. See p. 270.
- **Ashland Springs Hotel** (Ashland; ☎ 888/795-4545 or 541/488-1700): This historic high-rise hotel was originally built to cash in on Ashland's

mineral springs, but today it is, instead, a superb choice for anyone attending the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. See p. 281.

- **Geiser Grand Hotel** (Baker City; ☎ 888/434-7374 or 541/523-1889): Originally opened in 1889 at the height of the Blue Mountains gold rush, this Baker City grand dame has been completely renovated and succeeds in capturing the feel of a Wild West luxury hotel without sacrificing any modern conveniences. See p. 337.

### 13 The Best Dining with a View

- **Chart House** (Portland; 503/246-6963): Perched high on a hillside, this restaurant boasts the best view of any restaurant in Portland. The Willamette River is directly below and off in the distance stand Mount Hood and Mount St. Helens. See p. 89.
- **Roseanna's Oceanside Café** (Oceanside; ☎ 503/842-7351): You can expect a long wait to get a table here on a summer weekend, but the view of the haystack rocks just offshore makes this place an absolute legend on the Three Capes Scenic Loop. See p. 187.
- **Pelican Pub & Brewery** (Pacific City; ☎ 503/965-7007): Cheap pub food and good microbrews are usually enough to keep an Oregon brewpub packed, but this one also has a head-on view of Haystack Rock and is right on the beach. See p. 187.
- **Tidal Raves** (Depoe Bay; ☎ 541/765-2995): When the surf's up, you can practically forget about getting a table at this oceanfront restaurant. The windows overlook a rugged

shoreline known for putting on some of the coast's best displays of crashing waves. See p. 198.

- **Saffron Salmon** (Newport; ☎ 541/265-8921): As you dine at this restaurant at the end of a pier on the Newport bayfront, keep an eye out for sea lions and fishermen unloading their catch. See p. 204.
- **Lord Bennett's Restaurant and Lounge** (Bandon; ☎ 541/347-3663): The beach in Bandon is strewn with dozens of huge monoliths that make this one of the most impressive stretches of shoreline in the state, and this restaurant has the perfect view for enjoying sunset over the sand, surf, and giant rocks. See p. 223.
- **Multnomah Falls Lodge** (Columbia Gorge; ☎ 503/695-2376): This historic lodge is at the base of Oregon's tallest waterfall, and although not every table has a view of the waterfall, there are plenty that do, especially in the summer when there is outside seating. See p. 240.

### 14 The Best Off-the-Beaten-Path Restaurants

- **The Joel Palmer House** (Dayton; ☎ 503/864-2995): Mushrooms are the chef's obsession at this wine-country restaurant, and you'll find

them in almost every dish on the menu. The restaurant is quite formal, housed in an immaculately restored old home. See p. 138.

- **Cascade Dining Room** (Mount Hood; ☎ 503/622-0700): Located inside the historic Timberline Lodge, the Cascade Dining Room is Oregon's premier mountain-lodge restaurant and has long kept skiers and other hotel guests happy. See p. 260.
- **Log Cabin Inn** (McKenzie Bridge; ☎ 800/355-3432 or 541/822-3432): This place is an Oregon classic and in the past has served the likes of Clark Gable and President Herbert Hoover. Try the venison medallions. See p. 263.
- **Steamboat Inn** (Steamboat; ☎ 800/840-8825 or 541/498-2230): Set on the banks of the North Umpqua River, this is ostensibly a fishing-lodge dining room, but the multicourse gourmet meals served here have become the stuff of legends. See p. 268.
- **Kokanee Café** (Camp Sherman; ☎ 541/595-6420): Located amid the ponderosa pines on the banks of the Metolius River near the Western theme town of Sisters, this rustic restaurant has the look of an upscale fishing lodge, but its clientele is much broader than just the foolish fly anglers who come to test the waters of the Metolius. The trout is, of course, always a good bet. See p. 316.