



Ashland & Southern Oregon

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ New Sammy's Cowboy Bistro (p329)
- ➔ Crater Lake Lodge Dining Room (p341)
- ➔ Steamboat Inn (p338)
- ➔ Morning Glory (p328)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Crater Lake Lodge (p341)
- ➔ Wolf Creek Inn (p333)
- ➔ Country Willows (p328)
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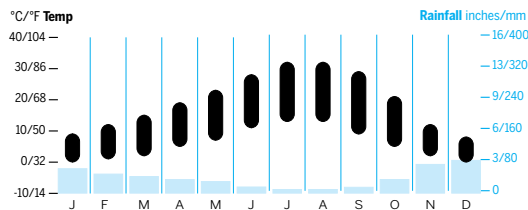
Why Go?

With a warm, sunny and dry climate that belongs in nearby California, Southern Oregon, the state's 'banana belt,' is an exciting place to visit. Rugged and remote landscapes are entwined with a number of designated 'wild and scenic' rivers, which are famous for their challenging white-water rafting, world-class fly-fishing and excellent hiking. There's good birding in the area – especially for bald eagles – and exceptional lakes to visit, including spectacular Crater Lake.

Gold and timber originally brought pioneers to Southern Oregon cities, and today the migration continues with families and retirees seeking affordable housing. Downtowns have been revitalized, and there's plenty of culture: Ashland is home to the renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival, while nearby Jacksonville hosts the music-lovers' Britt Festival. Located between Seattle and San Francisco, Southern Oregon is certainly worth more than a gas break if you're cruising the I-5.

When to Go

Ashland



Jan Spot bald eagles (and other birds) at the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges.

Jul–Sep Crater Lake at her best, when you can drive all the way around the rim.

Jun–Sep Prime summer months for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Britt Festival.

Ashland

POP 21,000

This pretty city is the cultural center of Southern Oregon thanks to its internationally renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF), which runs for nine months of the year and attracts hundreds of thousands of theatergoers from all over the world. The festival is so popular that it's Ashland's main attraction, packing it out in summer and bringing in steady cash flows for the many fancy hotels, upscale B&Bs and fine restaurants in town. Even without the OSF, however, Ashland is still a pleasant place where trendy downtown streets buzz with well-heeled shoppers and youthful bohemians. In late fall and early winter – those few months when the festival doesn't run – folks come to ski at nearby Mt Ashland. And wine-lovers take note – the area has several good wineries worth seeking out, exploring and tasting, of course.

Sights & Activities

Schneider Museum of Art

MUSEUM

(☎ 541-552-6245; www.sou.edu/sma; 1250 Siskiyou Blvd; suggested donation \$5; ☉ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat) Ashland's culture extends beyond the OSF; if you like contemporary art, check out this Southern Oregon University museum. The university also puts on theater performances of its own, along with classical concerts and opera performances.

Scienceworks

MUSEUM

(☎ 541-482-6767; www.scienceworksmuseum.org; 1500 E Main St; adult/child 2-12yr \$9/7; ☉ 10am-6pm; 🚶) Families with children shouldn't miss this hands-on interactive museum. It has plenty of fun science-oriented exhibits like a bubble room, hall of optical illusions and shadow wall that captures your silhouette. Free admission first Wednesday of each month.

Lithia Artisans Market

MARKET

If you're in town on a weekend between April and mid-November, catch this crafty market behind the plaza.

Jackson Wellsprings

SPA

(☎ 541-482-3776; www.jacksonwellsprings.com; 2253 Hwy 99; ☉ 8am-midnight, shorter hours winter) For a good soak check out this casual, New Age-style place, which boasts a mineral-fed swimming pool, private soaking tubs, saunas and steam rooms. There's also yoga,

massages and spa services, plus camping. It's 1 mile north of town.

Kokopelli

RAFTING

(☎ 866-723-8874; www.kokopelliriverguides.com; 2475 Siskiyou Blvd) Rafting trips on the Rogue River.

Mt Ashland Ski Resort

SKIING

(☎ 541-482-2897; www.mtashland.com; lift passes adult/child 7-12yr \$43/33) Powdery snow is abundant at this resort 16 miles southwest of town on 7533ft Mt Ashland.

Siskiyou Cyclery

CYCLING

(☎ 541-482-1997; www.siskiyoucyclery.com; 1729 Siskiyou Blvd; ☉ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, 11am-4pm Sun) Rent a bike and explore the countryside on Bear Creek Greenway.

Lithia Park

ICE-SKATING

You can ice-skate at lovely, 93-acre Lithia Park, which winds along Ashland Creek above the center of town (in summer it offers live concerts, duck ponds and picnic tables).

Sleeping

From May to October, try to arrive with reservations. Rooms are cheaper in Medford (p330), 12 miles north of Ashland. There's camping, RV sites and tipis at Jackson Wellsprings (p326).

Ashland Hostel

HOSTEL \$

(☎ 541-482-9217; www.theashlandhostel.com; 150 N Main St; dm \$28, d \$45-94; 🚶🚿) Central and somewhat upscale hostel (shoes off inside!). Most private rooms share bathrooms; some are connected to dorms. Hangout spaces include the cozy basement living room and shady front porch. No alcohol or smoking on the premises; call ahead as reception times are limited.

Ashland Motel

MOTEL \$

(☎ 541-482-2561; www.ashlandmotel.com; 1145 Siskiyou Blvd; d \$95-110; 🚶🚿🚿) The Ashland Motel might look like the same old thing from the outside, but remodeled rooms here are surprisingly hip and contemporary with a simple, industrial look. There's a swimming pool too.

Manor Motel

MOTEL \$

(☎ 541-482-2246; www.manormotel.net; 476 N Main St; d \$87-129; 🚶🚿🚿) Cute motel with 12 pleasant rooms and one- and two-bedroom units near downtown; kitchenettes available. The Garden Suite has its own private garden.