



Eastern Oregon

Includes →

| | |
|--|-----|
| Pendleton | 347 |
| La Grande | 351 |
| Enterprise..... | 352 |
| Joseph..... | 354 |
| Wallowa Mountains | 355 |
| Hells Canyon | 357 |
| Halfway..... | 358 |
| Baker City..... | 358 |
| John Day..... | 360 |
| John Day Fossil Beds National Monument..... | 362 |
| Ontario | 364 |
| Burns | 365 |
| Steens Mountain..... | 367 |

Best Places to Eat

- Coco's Grill (p355)
- Vali's Alpine Restaurant (p356)
- Terminal Gravity Brewing (p353)
- Snaffle Bit (p362)

Best Places to Stay

- Enterprise House B&B (p353)
- Bronze Antler B&B (p354)
- Pine Valley Lodge (p358)
- Hotel Prairie (p361)

Why Go?

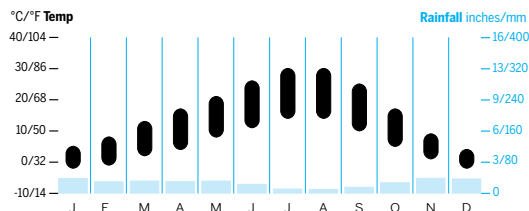
Eastern Oregon is sure to amaze. Among its extensive farmlands and desert plateaus are stunning attractions: the gorgeous snowy peaks of the Wallowa Mountains; Hells Canyon, which dips deeper than the Grand Canyon; the John Day Fossil Beds, with their eerily colorful hills and rock formations; and the incredible glacier-carved valleys of the Steens Mountain range.

This slice of Oregon was the last arduous passage the pioneers traversed on their journey west; in some places you can see where their wagon ruts carved out the Oregon Trail. Gold was discovered in the region in the 1860s – making and breaking dozens of towns and cities – and there's also rich Native American history in towns like Joseph.

With a rodeo in every town and the Old West still palpable in spots, visiting eastern Oregon is like a trip back in time – but forget the covered wagons and bring the digital camera instead.

When to Go

Pendleton



Jul–Oct Drive the stunning Steens Mountain Loop or hike in high Wallowas.

Spring or Fall Avoid the high-summer heat, and yell 'giddyup' at Pendleton's Round-Up.

Nov–Mar Colder weather makes hot springs more decadent, and there are ski resorts too.

Pendleton

POP 17,000

Eastern Oregon's largest city, 'wild and woolly' Pendleton is a handsome old town famous for its wool shirts and big-name rodeo. It has managed to retain a glint of its old-time atmosphere and cow-poking past, and nestles between steep hills along the Umatilla River.

All around are farms and ranchlands, though in the last few years a microbrewery has popped up as a sign of the times, along with a million-dollar steakhouse complex. With its art galleries, antique shops, fancy Western-ware stores and budding music scene, Pendleton has become one of eastern Oregon's most popular destinations.

Sights

The paved River Walk, atop a levee, follows the Umatilla for 2.8 miles and is a great place for a stroll; keep an eye out for herons and other water birds.

Umatilla County Historical Museum

MUSEUM

(☎541-276-0012; www.heritagestationmuseum.org; 108 SW Frazer Ave; adult/family \$5/10; ☀10am-4pm Tue-Sat) The worthwhile Umatilla County Historical Museum is in Pendleton's old railroad station. There are pioneer exhibits and Native American artifacts; check out the caboose and one-room schoolhouse.

Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute

MUSEUM

(☎541-996-9748; www.tamastslíkt.org; 47106 Wild Horse Blvd; adult/child \$8/6; ☀9am-5pm, closed Sun Oct-Mar) Witness Oregon's past from a Native American perspective at the spacious Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, east of Pendleton off I-84 exit 216. State-of-the-art ex-

hibits weave voices, memories and artifacts through an evolving history of the region. There's a cafe on the premises.

Round-Up Hall of Fame

MUSEUM

(☎541-278-0815; 1114 SW Court Ave; adult/child 10yr & under \$5/2; ☀10am-4pm Mon-Sat) If you miss the Pendleton Round-Up, visit the Round-Up Hall of Fame. Here you can see the excitement of past round-ups via photographs, saddles won in competitions and other memorabilia.

Tours

Pendleton Underground Tours

SIGHTSEEING TOUR

(☎800-226-6398, 541-276-0730; www.pendletonundergroundtours.org; 37 SW Emigrant Ave; tours per person \$15; ☀closed Tue & Sun) At the end of the 19th century, a shady network of businesses boomed beneath Pendleton's storefronts, driven underground by Prohibition and social tensions. Saloons, Chinese laundries, opium dens, card rooms and other questionable businesses found cozy tunnels in which to operate. Pendleton Underground Tours lets you explore the town's infamous underground past, as well as an above-ground early-1900s brothel. Tours last 1½ hours; reservations required. Children under six are not allowed.

Pendleton Woolen Mills

MILL TOUR

(☎541-276-6911; www.pendleton-usa.com; 1307 SE Court Pl; ☀8am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm Sun) World-famous Pendleton Woolen Mills has been weaving blankets for more than one hundred years, and is especially known for Native American designs. Free, short factory tours are given at 9am, 11am, 1:30pm and 3pm Monday to Friday year-round.

Sleeping

There are several chain motels and hotels off I-84 and on Dorion Ave.

Rugged Country Lodge

MOTEL \$

(☎541-966-6800, 877-778-4433; www.rugged-countrylodge.com; 1807 SE Court Ave; d \$60-65; 🍷🍷🍷) On the eastern edge of town is this out-of-the-ordinary, great-deal motel featuring stylish rooms with personal touches such as down pillows, quality linens and Pendleton blankets. Most rooms line inside hallways, making them quiet and giving them a homelike quality. A good breakfast and homemade cookies are included.

ROUND UP FOR THE RODEO

The rowdy **Pendleton Round-Up** (☎800-457-6336; www.pendleton-roundup.com; 1205 SW Court Ave), called 'the USA's best rodeo,' is an all-out Dionysian celebration featuring cowboy breakfasts, dances, bull riding and an Indian Pageant. There's also a big-name music concert. Reserve tickets and lodging way in advance. It's held the second full week in September.