

Experience Oregon

Harney County, Oregon's Outback

September 20–23, 2010



Outback means isolated rural country which describes eastern Oregon to a “T”! With the most diverse and unique geologic environment in North America, this fascinating tour highlights the natural history of this beautiful part of Oregon. From start to finish *Al James answers questions and brings to life the interesting sights we see as we travel Oregon's Outback. Among many stops, highlights on this tour include Smith Rock State Park, the Painted Hills Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, The Wild Horse Corral, the unusual Round Barn, Fort Rock, and so much more! In addition to seeing lava and obsidian flows, areas of geologic beauty and important and significant

cultural history, the likeliness of spotting eagles, falcons, pronghorn antelope, wild sheep and a wide variety of other mammals, birds and wildlife is high. Be sure to bring your camera.

Day 1: Monday, September 20

Leaving the lush Willamette Valley behind, we make our way east along the beautiful McKenzie River Highway, over Santiam Pass (elevation 4,817 feet) and into Smith Rock State Park, located in central Oregon's high desert. At this internationally renowned destination for rock climbing, see majestic, multi-colored rock spires that rise above the winding Crooked River. Among the formations watch for golden eagles, prairie falcons and mule deer. Continuing east and after a hearty lunch, stop at the geologically spectacular Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Al's insights make everything much more interesting.

Eugene to John Day



8:00 am	Depart Shopko in Eugene. All other pick-up points accommodate this time.
11:00 am	Arrive Smith Rock
11:45 am	Depart
12:20 pm	Arrive Prineville for lunch
1:45 pm	depart
5:00 pm	Arrive hotel for check-in

Hotel: Best Western John Day **Phone:** 541-575-1700

Lunch included. Added cost: dinner

*Experience Oregon is pleased to have Al James join us on this tour as our step-on guide. With us the entire trip, Al brings his expertise on topics of geology and biology. As a U of O science instructor, a consultant and field trip leader, Al is top-notch at providing an interesting layman's look at the spectacular passing countryside.

Day 2: Tuesday, September 21



John Day to Hines

The town of John Day dates back to the mid-1800s when gold was discovered in nearby Canyon City. The population boomed then, but today this small community supports less than 2,000 people. This morning we learn some of the history of the area, and then stop at the Oxbow Trade Company for a tour of their facility. This company builds and restores unique styles of fine horse-drawn vehicles and has collections and displays of antique sleighs, wagons, guns, etc. Though not Amish himself, Jim, the owner, visits America's Amish country numerous times each year and has honed his craftsman skills by their quality-driven influence.

As we continue south and traverse Divine Ridge Summit, we are driving on the highest elevation road in Oregon, over 5,300 feet. Because of the changing elevations along this route there is an incredible variety of visible plant life to learn about. Near Burns there is an area of dramatic obsidian flow where we stop and learn more of its origin. After lunch, visit the Wild Horse Corral where wild horses have been gathered from the open range and prepared for BLM's Adopt-A-Horse Program. Tour the barn, the corral and talk to BLM employees about the program. Our final stop of the day, before we check into our hotel, is at a large, popular rock shop where we find samples of a wide variety of specimens, Native American blankets, pottery, jewelry and a lot more to shop for and look at. Tonight relax and enjoy a live private performance of the Old-Time Fiddlers right at our hotel.

6:00 am	Continental breakfast service begins
8:45 am	Depart
9:00 am	Arrive at the Oxbow Trade Company
9:50 am	Depart
11:45 am	Arrive Burns for lunch (<i>pre select entrée</i>)
1:15 pm	Depart for Wild Horse Corral
3:00 pm	Depart for the rock shop
4:30 pm	Depart for the hotel
5:00 pm	Arrive hotel
7:15 pm	Private performance with the Old-Time Fiddlers



Hotel: Best Western Rory and Ryan Inn **Phone:** 541-573-5050
Continental breakfast and lunch included. Added cost: dinner

Please pre-select your lunch entrée and advise when making your tour reservation:

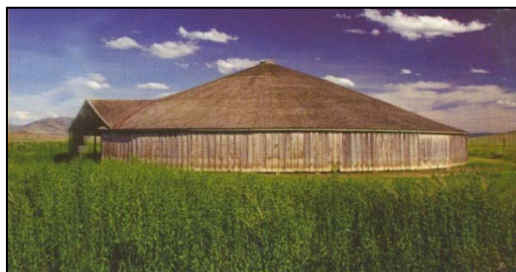
- 1) *Chicken Ranch Wrap*
- 2) *Beef with Brown Mustard Wrap*



Day 3: Wednesday, September 22**Hines to Lakeview**

Today we travel through areas of early ranch settlements in the country south of Hines. Dick Jenkin, a descendent of early pioneers who settled in this area, is proud to share the history and beauty of his family at the historic Pete French Round Barn and Visitor Center/Museum. Built in the late 1870s, the round barn was used for breaking horses during the long eastern Oregon winters. Enjoy a traditional picnic lunch at the historic Frenchglen Hotel located at the base of the Steens Mountains. This is not just any hotel, it's a State Park! The Steens Mountains, off to the east, are fault-block mountains, meaning that some parts of them drop and other parts have been lifted up. Al describes the uniqueness of The Steens Mountains as we travel. Our trek continues south, dipping down into Nevada, then westward toward Lakeview. Be prepared for some gorgeous scenery along the way. We overnight in Lakeview, the "tallest" city in Oregon, sitting at 4,800 feet elevation.

5:00 am	Breakfast service begins
9:15 am	Depart hotel
10:30 am	Arrive Round Barn
11:30 am	Depart
12:15 pm	Arrive Frenchglen Hotel for lunch
1:30 pm	Depart
5:30 pm	Arrive hotel
6:30 pm	Depart for dinner



Hotel: Best Western Skyline Inn, Lakeview **Phone:** 541-947-2194
Lunch and dinner included Added cost: breakfast (\$5 discount coupon included)
Please pre-select your dinner entrée and advise when making your tour reservation:
BBQ chicken or 8 oz New York Steak

Day 4: Thursday, September 23**Lakeview to Eugene**

Today's excursion takes us along the Abert Rim, a striking formation, rising 2,000 feet above the surrounding plateau. This vertical fault is the largest fault in North America. Stop at Christmas Valley Lodge for an early lunch then continue to the Fort Rock Historical Museum which showcases what life was like for the courageous men and woman who settled here over a century ago. Be sure to visit the Sunset School with its pure, old-fashioned charm. Then stop at Fort Rock National Natural Landmark which, like a desert mirage, rises huge out of the barren, immense flatness of Oregon's high desert. An enormous near-circle of towering jagged rock walls enabled it to be a fort. With our adventure coming to an end, continue to Highway 58, cross over Willamette Pass (5,128 feet), and from here we're homeward bound.

6:00 am	Continental breakfast service begins
9:00 am	Depart
11:30 am	Arrive Christmas Valley Lodge for lunch
1:00 pm	Depart
1:30 pm	Arrive Fort Rock Historical Museum
2:30 pm	Depart
2:35 pm	Arrive Fort Rock
3:00 pm	Depart
6:15 pm	Arrive Eugene

Continental breakfast and lunch included
No added cost



Experience Oregon Tours PO Box 338, Junction City, Oregon 97448
Phone 541-342-2662 Toll-Free 888-342-2662

The total cost of this trip is only: \$598 per person double occupancy, \$699 for single occupancy, \$557 per person for triple occupancy. Tour includes: three night's accommodations, two Continental breakfasts and one \$5 discount coupon for breakfast, four lunches, one dinner, step-on guide geology teacher for the entire trip, admission to Smith Rock State Park, The Old-Time Fiddlers concert, the Round Barn and Visitor Center, and Fort Rock Historical Society's Homestead Museum, donation to BLM's Wild Horse Corral, all transportation and sightseeing as described, all taxes and gratuities for the above, and services of an Experience Oregon Tour Director throughout. The standard end-of-tour gratuity for the Experience Oregon Tour Director and driver are not included in your tour price and are at your discretion.

Deposit: \$200 per person at time of booking reservation.

Payment/Cancellation Policy: Payment is required in full sixty (60) days prior to tour departure, or no later than **July 20, 2010**. If payment is not received by this time, reservations may be cancelled and any waitlisted passenger would be placed in the vacant seat. Cancellations received after the final payment date are charged \$100 per person cancellation fee plus any irretrievable payments made to vendors. Cancellations made less than seven (7) days prior to departure including no-shows are non-refundable. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended. Call for details.

To best enjoy this tour: Walking is an essential part of this tour. Please wear comfortable walking shoes. We suggest layering your clothes for warmth on chilly mornings. Pack lightly as there is no baggage handling included between the bus and the hotel room each night and morning. There are no elevators at our hotels and some rooms are at the 2nd level. Experience Oregon Tours is not a handicap accessible company.

Meals: Please advise when making your tour reservations with us if you require vegetarian options. We will do our best to accommodate your special needs, but cannot guarantee the restaurants will honor those requests.

Triple accommodations: Please note that the hotels might *not* provide roll-a-ways and triple accommodations could consist of two queen beds.

Baggage Handling: This tour does *not* include roundtrip baggage handling between the bus and the hotel room each night. It is recommended that you pack lightly and bring a suitcase on wheels.

- Trip cancellation insurance is recommended. Call for more information.
- Bring a bathing suit as some hotels have pools.
- Alcoholic beverages are not included in the cost of the meals.
- If travel will require more than two hours, we plan a rest stop.
- While a nametag will be provided to you, wearing the nametag is always optional.
- Please be sure a luggage tag is on your suitcase, as many look alike.
- All times are approximate and subject to change depending on circumstances of the day.
- Seat rotation will take place on a daily basis.
- We try to facilitate room preferences, but we cannot guarantee the hotel will honor those requests.
- Customary end-of-tour gratuity for Experience Oregon escort and driver is not included in your tour price. Gratuities can be extended on a voluntary basis and should be in direct proportion to the professionalism and service extended to you throughout the tour.
- Experience Oregon Tours is not a handicap accessible company.

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