



Travel Oregon WHAT'S NEW



What's New in Oregon – February 2016

The winter doldrums? Not in Oregon. With powder (and more powder) at the ski resorts, great music in town and fun at the Coast, we're in no rush to bid farewell to this inspiring season. The question isn't what will we do, but how can we fit it all in?

Give Back to Oregon

Oregon celebrates its 157th birthday on Feb. 14, and we're taking a different approach to commemorating with a "[Give Back to Oregon](#)" week. Donate a gift to Oregon during its birthday week (Feb. 8-14), or any time of year, and help sustainable tourism development projects in all [seven regions](#) of the state. Individuals and businesses alike can support the [Travel Oregon Forever Fund](#), and proceeds will be divided equally among seven soon-to-be-announced projects for the 2016-17 cycle. Past projects have improved natural environments and preserved local culture, such as developing a [Table Rocks interpretive plan](#) in Southern Oregon and repurposing the [Camas Country Mill and Schoolhouse](#) in the Willamette Valley.

Celebrate with Oregon's National Parks

It's the centennial celebration of the [National Park Service](#), and Oregon's two national parks are getting in on the festivities. Free admission is offered on 16 days in 2016 to all of the 409 parks in the system, including the incomparable [Crater Lake National Park](#) and adventure-laden [Lewis & Clark National Historical Park](#). Fifteen days remain, so mark your calendars for freebies during National Park Week (April 16-24), the park service's birthday weekend (Aug. 25-28), National Public Lands Day (Sept. 24) and Veteran's Day (Nov. 11), and start planning a visit.

A Coltrane Tribute in Portland

This year's [Portland Jazz Festival](#) (Feb. 18-28) offers a musical retrospective of jazz great John Coltrane. "Celebrating John Coltrane at 90" explores many aspects of the musician's career and impact on the genre through a variety of special performances and collaborations. The 10-day festival spans a dozen venues, such as legendary [Jimmy Mak's](#), as well as more than 100 events, including a tribute to Alice Coltrane with a highly anticipated show by Universal Consciousness led by Ravi Coltrane.

Need a Winter Cheer Me Up?

The Emmys of Beer

A veritable mecca for craft beer connoisseurs, Oregon knows how to celebrate its passion for a pint with style. The [Oregon Beer Awards](#) descend on Revolution Hall in Portland on Feb. 23. As the only statewide beer awards ceremony, this event relies on hundreds of industry insiders to make the right calls on top brews in 14 categories as well as additional honors for breweries, bars and festivals. Fab food (Bunk Bar sandwiches), drink (local award-winning beers, of course) and entertainment (brewer band Black Lodge and comedian Amy Miller) make this a night to remember.

Collabofest Returns for a Second Year

[#PDXNOW Presents Base Camp's Collabofest](#) returns with 18 Portland craft breweries and cideries on the docket to collaborate on 18 never-before-sampled concoctions. Hosted by [Base Camp Brewing](#), the event's participants include: Baeric, Breakside, BTU Brasserie, Burnside, Cider Riot!, The Commons, Culmination, Ecliptic, Ex Novo, Fat Head's, Gigantic, Hopworks, Laurelwood, Occidental, Stormbreaker, Reverend Nat's and Widmer Brothers. Limited-edition beers and ciders will be poured at participating taprooms from Jan. 31 to Feb. 29, or until supplies run dry. Collabofest is part of [Portland is Happening Now](#), a campaign offering visitors [great deals](#) when staying overnight in Portland (bookings via [TravelPortland.com](#)) by March 31.

Court Nirvana on the Coast

Pursue a moment of Zen on the Oregon Coast at the [Cannon Beach Yoga Festival](#) (Feb. 26-29). In the shadow of Haystack Rock, novices to long-time yogi learn, meditate and celebrate this ancient discipline. Various passes are available, and don't miss the epic Jai Ho! Bollywood Dance Party. If inner peace is better achieved through an enlightening experience with Oregon wine, the [Newport Seafood & Wine Festival](#) (Feb. 25-28) is just the ticket. A coastal tradition for 38 years, the festival brings together 1,500 Northwest wines, culinary professionals and artisans under one roof in celebration of the local bounty.

Photo credits: Give Back to Oregon, Travel Oregon; Need a Winter Cheer Me Up, Willamette Week; Celebrate with Oregon's National Parks, Chantal Anderson; A Coltrane Tribute in Portland, PDX Jazz Festival; Court Nirvana on the Coast, Cannon Beach Yoga Festival.

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