



Travel Oregon WHAT'S NEW



What's New in Oregon –January 2016

If [heavy December snowfall](#) across the state is any indication of what's in store for the rest of winter, Oregon's mountain regions should offer plenty of powder to play in — and plenty of postcard-perfect scenery to admire. For adventure seekers, we have a variety of snow sports to keep the adrenaline flowing. And for those who prefer a more laid-back approach to winter, we've got you covered too.

Outdoor Adventures for Every Taste

Below are a handful of wintry outdoor activities, ranging from extreme to easy, to get you started.

- **Extreme:** For experienced snow enthusiasts, [snow kiting](#) combines the best of snowboarding and skiing — fresh powder and killer terrain — with the exhilarating speed and acrobatics of kiteboarding. Snow-kiting thrill seekers have been spotted on the peaks of Mt. Hood, Mt. Ashland and even Mt. Defiance.
- **Advanced:** Explore Oregon's backcountry terrain on a hut-to-hut guided or non-guided adventure. Take in the sights of the Three Sisters Wilderness area on a self-guided 22-mile route with [Three Sisters Backcountry](#). Or head out to the Willowa Mountains (named Oregon's Little Switzerland) for a unique backcountry experience in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area with [Willowa Alpine Huts](#).
- **Advanced/Moderate:** Shred it at one of our [12 unique ski areas](#) around the state. [Mt. Bachelor](#) located near the town of Bend is Oregon's largest ski area with the highest skiable elevation in the state. [Mt. Hood](#) is just 90 minutes from Portland and offers the largest [night skiing](#) area in America.
- **Moderate:** Enjoy the beauty of winter on two wheels in Central Oregon. Experience the crisp winter air while [fat biking](#) on designated trails or through a local sno-park, or cruise deeper into backcountry on higher-elevation groomed roads. **Pro tip:** Take a guided fat bike tour with [Cog Wild](#)
- **Easy:** Add some enchantment to your winter season with a [sled dog ride at Mt. Bachelor](#). Stay snug and warm in the sled while the team, along with a professional musher, takes you on an exciting ride. Or, to catch some racing action, head to the flourishing town of Joseph in Eastern Oregon, which welcomes the annual [Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race](#) January 20-23, 2016. Scores of mushers and hundreds of dogs will fill the streets in preparation for the thrilling 62-mile, 100-mile and 200-mile races.

Check Out Warm Oregon Hospitality

While we obviously love playing outside in winter, it's also the perfect season for a cozy indoor getaway. We've got mountain lodges, riverside cabins, charming bed-and-breakfasts and historic hotels. Take a look at some of our favorite indoor winter hideaways [here](#).

You can also taste your way through winter at the charming restaurants in [Oregon's Willamette Valley wine country](#). Sit by a roaring fire at the eclectic [Sybaris Bistro](#), indulge in the mushroom-centric menu at [Joel Palmer House](#), enjoy vineyard views, wood-fired pizza and live music at [Ankeny Vineyards](#), or feast your heart out at [Corvallis Culinary Week](#) (Jan. 17-23, 2016), where top chefs from local restaurants show off their best locally produced specialty plates. Participating restaurants this year include [Cloud & Kelly](#), [Magenta](#), [Luc](#), [FireWorks](#), [Big River](#) and [101](#).

Wild About Truffles

For more than a decade, the [Oregon Truffle Festival](#) has offered a culinary experience that simply cannot be found anywhere else. This international event brings together truffle fanciers and experts from all over the world in three weekends of celebration, dinners and tasting events, educational seminars and hands-on experiences.

Weekend Experiences:

- [The Joriad](#) (Jan. 16-17): The Joriad North American Truffle Dog Championship is back for its second year, with qualifying rounds for a trial in the wild held Jan. 16 and an awards gala slated for Jan. 17 at Willamette Valley Vineyards.
- [Newberg/Yamhill Valley](#) (Jan. 22-24): The festival heads north to Newberg and Yamhill County the following weekend (new in 2016) for a series of classes, demonstrations, lectures and dinners, as well as the Fresh Truffle Marketplace.
- [Eugene](#) (Jan. 29-31): Similar events, with the addition of a growers' forum, truffle dog training and the [Grand Truffle Dinner](#), cap the festival's final weekend in Eugene.

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