Welcome to one of America’s most beautiful and majestic treasures, the Columbia River Gorge. Congress designated the Columbia River Gorge as a National Scenic Area in 1986, to preserve and enhance its scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources.

There is no better way to experience the Gorge than on bicycle. From breathtaking views at Crown Point to one of the most spectacular waterfalls found in North America-Multnomah Falls, the Gorge has it all. Join people from all over the world who travel to the Gorge to experience some of the best scenery and hospitality the Northwest has to offer.
While bicycling in the Gorge, you will have the choice of three different routes to view the spectacular scenery the Gorge offers: 1) the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH) in Oregon, 2) State Route 14 (SR-14) in Washington and 3) Interstate 84 (I-84) in Oregon. Each will provide a different experience and take you to different destinations.

**State Route 14** is a major east-west highway in southern Washington, providing for both through trips and local access. It is often two lanes with limited or no shoulders. Seven tunnels are located in the middle section of the route. Traffic volumes are moderate; however, many trucks use this route.

**Interstate 84** is built to freeway standards. It is basically flat and has a wide, eight to ten foot paved shoulder, except at most bridge locations. The Toothrock Tunnel is located at approximately milepost 41 eastbound; bicyclists should avoid this tunnel by using the adjacent HCRH State Trail, accessed at exit 40; volumes are high, with large numbers of trucks.

This route takes you to six waterfalls, including Multnomah Falls, the most visited natural site in Oregon. It also takes you to magnificent viewpoints overlooking the Gorge, including Portland Women’s Forum Scenic Viewpoint, Vista House at Crown Point and Rowena Crest. The majority of visitors begin at the city of Troutdale and travel east on the HCRH. Follow the keystone signs along the HCRH.

The Historic Columbia River Highway was constructed between 1913 and 1922 and is the first scenic highway in the country. It is now recognized as an All-American Road, National Scenic Byway, National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, and a National Historic Landmark.

On certain sections (between Troutdale and Dodson and between Mosier and The Dalles) bicyclists share the roadway with motor vehicles. Shoulder widths vary from zero to five feet. Traffic volumes are generally light, with the heaviest traffic along the Sandy River to Corbett section. Grades are moderate. Other portions are closed to motor vehicles.

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Portland provides access to the Columbia River Gorge from routes US-30 and US-26 from the Oregon coast, and I-5 from Washington and California. Inbound visitors also access the Portland Airport and Union Station, Portland's train depot. People traveling from east of Portland can ride the Marine Drive bike path. If you have a bike-on-bus pass, you can use MAX light rail from downtown Portland, Gresham or Hillsboro. Hayward Street provides bike lanes and a direct connection to the Historic Columbia River Highway in Troutdale. State Route 14 is the major route east from Vancouver, Washington.
From Troutdale, bikers ride the Historic Columbia River Highway for a gradual climb from the Sandy River to Portland Women’s Forum State Scenic Viewpoint, the most photographed view of the Gorge. The Historic Columbia River Highway provides access to Vista House on Crown Point, Latourell Falls, Shepperd’s Dell, Bridal Veil Falls, Wahkeena Falls, Multnomah Falls and Lodge, Oneonta Gorge and Horsetail Falls. I-84 provides access to Rooster Rock State Park and Benson State Park. State Route 14 provides access to Cape Horn and Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge.
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You can continue on the lightly-traveled HCRH to Rowena Crest, the Gorge Discovery Center and The Dalles or change to I-84 at interchanges in Mosier and Rowena. Hood River Bridge and The Dalles Bridge provide access between Oregon and Washington. SR-14 has two narrow tunnels in this section, with “bikes in tunnel” signal lights to warn vehicles of your presence. Just west of the town of Lytle, WA, Lyle White Salmon Road, a great bike loop route featuring spectacular elevated views of the Columbia Gorge.
TIPS FOR A SAFE RIDE
• Wear a helmet if you ride on busy roads.
• Wear reflective clothing.
• Use lights on your bike.
• Use hand signals when turning.
• Keep a safe distance from other riders.
• Stay aware of your surroundings.
• Check your bike's brakes and gears regularly.

FUTURE
• Plan your route carefully.
• Have a backup plan in case of weather changes.
• Bring a map and a compass.
• Know where to get help if you need it.

RIDE SMART!
• Adjust your speed based on the road conditions.
• Use common sense when riding.
• Listen to your body.
• Have fun.

BICYCLE LOOP ROUTES
Several loop routes are possible. Portland residents often use the western section of the HCRH as a half-day training ride, beginning and ending in Troutdale. Some travel both directions on the HCRH, while others begin on the HCRH and return on I-84. A day ride could incorporate the western section of the HCRH-I-84 from Dodson to Cascade Locks, travel over the Bridge of the Gods to SR-14 for the return trip to the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area via the I-25 byepath over the Glen Jean Bridge. Loops are also possible on the eastern sections. (The Dalles to McMinville or Hood River and return; Cascade Locks to The Dalles Bridge to Skamania to the Bridge of the Gods).

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www.gorgebus.com
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For Oregon highway and weather conditions phone: 800-977-6168 or 541-889-3999
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drinking fountains are scarce, particularly in the east. During the fall, wet leaves on the Cascades often reach over 100° F (38˚C). Be sure to carry sufficient water - public restaurants and bars are usually crowded, particularly at the crest of the Cascade Mountains, just west of Cascade Locks. Ice is available in Oregon at Ainsworth, Viento and Memaloose state parks; Eagle Creek, Herman Creek and Wyeth Forest Service facilities; Carveth RV Park and Cascade Locks KOA, in Washington. Beaver Rock and Horsethief Lake state parks.

MUSEUMS ALONG THE GORGE
• Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center — 990 SW Rock Creek Dr, Stevenson (509) 427-8211/800) 991-2318. Extensive natural and cultural history interpretive center. Hours: Open daily 10am–5pm. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

Weather in the Columbia Gorge varies tremendously from west to east. Rain is most prevalent at the crest of the Cascade Mountains, just west of Cascade Locks. In the east, snow is common throughout the year, especially in January and February, occasionally resulting in road closures. Spring rains are common. Summer temperatures east of the Cascades often reach over 100° F (38˚C). To be sure to carry sufficient water - public drinking fountains are scarce, particularly in the east. During the fall, wet leaves on the Cascades often reach over 100° F (38˚C). Be sure to carry sufficient water - public restaurants and bars are usually crowded, particularly at the crest of the Cascade Mountains, just west of Cascade Locks. Ice is available in Oregon at Ainsworth, Viento and Memaloose state parks; Eagle Creek, Herman Creek and Wyeth Forest Service facilities; Carveth RV Park and Cascade Locks KOA, in Washington. Beaver Rock and Horsethief Lake state parks.

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