

Overview Eugene-Springfield, Oregon

Stretching from the scenic shores of the Oregon Coast, through the lush Willamette Valley, to snow-capped Cascade Mountains, Lane County's diverse landscape is a recreation and sightseeing paradise, filled with cultural and historic wonders.

Eugene-Springfield

At the center of Lane County, in the southern portion of the Willamette Valley, is Eugene-Springfield— an inviting metropolitan area with a friendly character, strong academic influence, acclaimed arts community, sustainable consciousness, and passion for sports and outdoors.



One of America's most livable communities, the metro area is a lively blend of arts and culture, numerous parks and gardens, culinary offerings and miles of running and bike trails. The

area's bike bridges that span the Willamette River are more numerous than those for vehicular traffic, making Eugene consistently ranked among the top running and bicycling destination in the country.



Performing arts centers, galleries, music and cultural festivals, museums, as well as the dynamics of the University of Oregon's intellectual and athletic inspiration keep the area thriving with vitality. Many area restaurants specialize in serving up seasonal menus to capitalize on the harvest from the abundance of local organic farms, complimented by local award-winning wines.



From intimate tasting rooms to grand European-style chateaus, residents and visitors like sip and savor their way through Lane County's wine country. In and around the southern Willamette Valley's wine region, dozens of distinct, award-winning wineries are tucked in the area's beautiful, scenic rolling landscape.



With the most covered bridges in the West, the surrounding countryside provides a passage into the past. Farms, ranches, vineyards and artists' studios dot the landscape. Many are open to the public through two innovative tour routes known as Oregon Crafted and Oregon Country Trails.



For more information on Eugene-Springfield and Lane County's local landscape and attractions, contact the Convention & Visitors Association of Lane County Oregon (CVALCO) at (541) 484-5307; (800) 547-5445; or www.VisitLaneCounty.org/media.

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Oregon Coast

About an hour west of Eugene-Springfield, the Oregon Coast offers spectacular ocean vistas and miles of public beaches with easy



access from the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway- designated an All American Road for its scenic and historic features. Near Florence, the century-old Heceta Head Lighthouse still shines from atop rugged coastal cliffs near the entrance of the world's largest sea cave, a mainland home of wild stellar and California sea lions. The 40-mile stretch of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation area, extending from Florence to Coos Bay, is a haven for dune buggy touring, wildlife viewing and sand boarding. Florence is home to the world's first sand boarding park where a four-time hometown champion offers tips and tricks on the towering dunes.



McKenzie River Valley

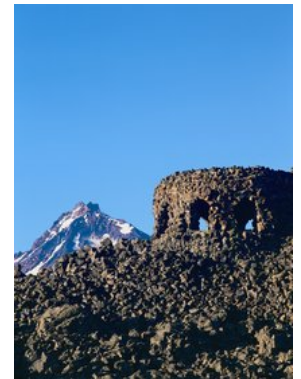
About an hour east of Eugene-Springfield, the McKenzie River Valley is a lush gateway into some of Oregon's most beautiful forest settings. The clean, rushing waters of the scenic McKenzie River, highlighted by towering Douglas-fir trees, waterfalls, covered



bridges and miles of nature trails, provide a riparian paradise. Outdoor enthusiasts are drawn to the area for fly fishing, boating, bird watching, nature photography, camping, whitewater rafting, biking and hiking.

Highway 126 heading east from Springfield follows the winding river leading to the McKenzie Pass-Santiam Pass National Scenic Byway. The scenic roadway meanders through the Cascade Mountain Range leading to the Dee Wright Observatory located in the middle of a massive lava flow offering panoramic views of several mountain peaks

and geologic features.



Cascades



About an hour southeast of Eugene-Springfield, winter skiing makes way for summer sightseeing, hiking and biking in the Oregon Cascades. The Oregon Skyway gondolas at Willamette Pass offer visitors breathtaking views of surrounding mountains and lakes. A mountain biking mecca, bikers are welcome to bring their wheels aboard the Skyway to access the slopes for summer competitions or scenic rides. At the foothills of the Cascades, more than 500 miles of trails continue throughout the town of Oakridge, recognized by *Bike* magazine as one of America's Five Best Mountain Biking Towns.+

