

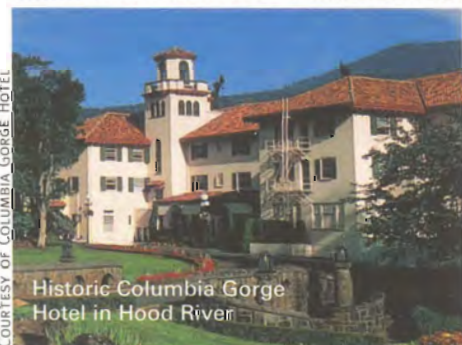
APRÈS SKI

After a great day of slip n' slide at one of Oregon's mountain resorts, here's where to turn when it's time to chill. BY KIMBERLY GADETTE

SCOTT SPIKER

MT. HOOD

[Cooper Spur, Mt. Hood Meadows, Mt. Hood Skibowl, Timberline Lodge Ski Area]



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA GORGE HOTEL

Historic Columbia Gorge Hotel in Hood River

Mt. Hood is home to four ski areas and surrounded by 1.1 million acres of Mt. Hood National Forest—the entire area is a veritable winter wonderland for snow sports. There's plenty to do off the slopes as well.

Government Camp is the heart of Mt. Hood, with lodging available at Collins Lake Resort, Huckleberry Inn and various rentals, including modern homes and cozy cabins. You'll have your pick of restaurants, as well. The Ice Axe Grill serves delicious pub fare and just-brewed beer. Up the mountain at Timberline you can treat yourself to Pacific Northwest culinary delights at the historic lodge's Cascade Dining Room.

West of Government Camp are the **Villages of Mt. Hood**, which include the tiny towns Brightwood, Welches, Zigzag, and Rhododendron. The Resort at the Mountain in Welches is a great option for fine dining, soaking your ski-tired bones and getting a good night's sleep.

For casual dining, as well as some of the wackiest décor on the mountain, check out the family-run ZigZag Inn.

For a whole other perspective on the mountain, glide 40 miles north on the Mt. Hood Scenic Byway (Hwy. 35). And there, bordering the Columbia Gorge, sits **Hood River**. A famous summer windsurfing spot, this charming town caters to the snow crowd in winter months. Here you'll find a good selection of lodging, including Best Western Hood River Inn, the historic Columbia Gorge Hotel and others. Hood River is making a name for itself in the way of fine dining restaurants. Celilo, Brian's Pourhouse, Sixth Street Bistro, and Stonehedge Gardens are all great options. Here you'll also find shopping, art galleries and microbreweries, including Full Sail, whose tasting room and pub offers sweeping views of the Gorge.

➤➤ For Free Travel Guides and information: Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory, 888.622.4822, www.MtHoodTerritory.com; Hood River Country Chamber of Commerce, 800.366.3530, www.HoodRiver.org; Travel Portland, 877.678.5263, www.TravelPortland.com

CENTRAL OREGON

[Mt. Bachelor, Hoodoo Ski Area]

After a day on Mt. Bachelor's slopes you'll have your choice of après ski-fun towns. Bend is 22 miles northeast, while Sunriver is 21 miles southeast.

Bend, the largest city east of the Cascades, has transformed itself from a sleepy mill town to a renaissance of

boutique shopping, art galleries and high-end dining. Here, accommodations are as plentiful as snowflakes in January. Choose from Mt. Bachelor Village Resort, Seventh Mountain Resort, the Riverhouse Resort and so many others.

Bend is home to the famous Deschutes Brewery, a great option for pub grub and freshly brewed beer in downtown Bend. Also in the area are high-end restaurants including Pine Tavern Restaurant, Cork, The Blacksmith Restaurant and many others.

Check out downtown's boutique shops, and take a stroll through nearby Drake Park—Central Oregon averages 300 sunny days a year so the park may be chilly, but the sky will most likely be blue. For name-brand shopping head to the Old Mill District, or the Bend Factory Stores.

Southeast of Mt. Bachelor is the vacation community of **Sunriver**. More than



Bend's Blacksmith Restaurant

ROBBIE McCLARAN

a single resort, Sunriver is made up of a beautiful main lodge and a complex of lodging options: hotel, rental homes, cabins and condos. This premier vacation destination, perfect for groups and families, offers up a veritable snowstorm of adult and kid-friendly activities, including horse-drawn sleigh rides, ice-skating, and gingerbread decorating with Santa during the holidays. The Lodge's Sage Springs Spa offers indulgent ways to relax after a great day on Mt. Bachelor's slopes.

The Western-flavored town of **Sisters** is 22 miles southeast of Hoodoo Ski Area, Central Oregon's other alpine resort. Visitors rave about the latest hot spot on the block, the upscale FivePine Lodge, replete with its wood and rock Shibui Spa. Even closer to Hoodoo is **Black Butte Ranch**, a resort community that offers cabin rentals and fine-dining restaurants. Enjoy a cozy evening by a crackling fire.

>> For Free Travel Guides and information: Central Oregon Visitors Association, 800.809.8955, www.VisitCentralOregon.com

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

[Willamette Pass Ski Resort]



Odell Lake Resort

Willamette Pass Ski Resort is located less than 70 miles from both **Eugene** and **Bend**, though a variety of inns stand just a snowball's throw away: Odell Lake Resort, Crescent Creek Cottages and the Willamette Pass Inn. For bodies aching for some slope relief, McCredie Hot Springs (16 miles up the road, about halfway to the mountain biking town of Oakridge) is just the ski ticket for literally letting off some steam.

>> For Free Travel Guides and information: Willamette Valley Visitors Association, 866.548.5018, www.OregonWineCountry.org

SOUTHERN OREGON

[Mt. Ashland, Cat Ski Mt. Bailey, Warner Canyon]

Sixteen miles from Mt. Ashland Ski Area is the town of the same name. Famous for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (which runs February through October), **Ashland** also has thriving culinary, arts and shopping scenes. And the historic Ashland Springs Hotel makes for a night of luxury accommodations. Spas proliferate in Ashland: soak it all in at Blue Giraffe Day Spa, Waterstone, Phoenix Day Spa and/or Chozu Bath.

Closer to the ski area atop Siskiyou Mountain Pass is the newly reopened Callahan's Restaurant and Lodge, which offers luxury rooms with Jacuzzi tubs and fireplaces. Live music nightly accompanies the Northwest/Rogue Valley-centered menu at the Lodge.

Diamond Lake Resort is the home base for Cat Ski Mt. Bailey. Built in the 1920s as a fishing lodge, the resort is now a year-round, full-service lodge with room for 91 guests, including a network of 42 cabins. Guests can snowmobile, cross-country ski, snowshoe, slide on the tubing hill and, of course, Cat Ski on Mt. Bailey.

Warner Canyon's closest town is **Lakeview**, the "tallest town in Oregon" that is known for its July festival of free flight that features hang gliders and paragliders from all over the nation. It also enjoys easy access to Klamath Basin birding trails, and is home to Old Perpetual Geiser, the only hot water geyser in the Pacific Northwest, which spouts hot water some 60 feet in the air every 30 seconds.

>> For Free Travel Guides and information: Southern Oregon Visitors Association, 800.448.4856, www.SouthernOregon.org



Ashland Springs Hotel

The Rainbow Café
in Pendleton



NORTHEAST OREGON

[Spout Springs, Ski Anthony Lakes]

Spout Springs, close to the Oregon/Washington border, is remote. The only nearby lodging is the four-room Tamarack Inn. You'll find more choices in **Pendleton** (45 miles to the south), a town with a raucous history of cattle rustlers, bars and brothels.

Today, the town is famous for its Pendleton Woolen Mills, and the annual Pendleton Round-Up rodeo. There is a selection of familiar hotels and motels in the city center, while the Wildhorse Resort & Casino offers fine digs just to the east of town. Upscale dining options include Raphael's, which specializes in all things huckleberry. For local flavor, try Hamley's Steak House, the Betty Boop-themed Main Street Diner and The Rainbow Café, the quintessential rodeo-ridin' cowboy bar.

Ski Anthony Lakes, with its proximity to both La Grande and Baker City, offers up a flurry of possibilities. In **La Grande**, Foley Station's dinner menu offers delicious Northwest cuisine, while 10 Depot Street serves up microbrews and music.

There are plenty of lodging options as well, including the Georgian mansion turned B&B Starge Manor and the nearby, can't-miss Historic Union Hotel.

Baker City, a gold rush town that was once the largest hub between Salt Lake City and Portland, is encircled by the snowy Blue Mountains. You can't miss the Geiser Grand, an Italianate Renaissance Revival hotel made with gold rush money in 1889 and revived to its original opulence in 1998. It's worth the trip just to see the stained glass ceiling that hovers above the hotel's Palm Court restaurant. From the sublime to the delicious, walk two blocks north to the lively Barley Brown's, serving up its award-winning brews and the occasional alligator burger.

>> For Free Travel Guides and information: Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, 800.332.1843, www.eova.com