



FACT SHEET

FOR RELEASE AT WILL

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THE FACTS ABOUT HOOD RIVER

Location:

Located about 60 miles east of downtown Portland, Hood River is nestled between the Columbia River and Mount Hood in the breathtaking Columbia River Gorge. The region's northernmost point sits near sea level along the Columbia River and the Oregon-Washington border. The elevation quickly rises to the south, peaking at 11,235-foot Mount Hood, Oregon's highest point. The region includes Hood River, Cascade Locks, Mosier, Odell, Parkdale, Pine Grove, and Mount Hood.

Population:

The population of the Hood River Micropolitan Statistical Area, which encompasses all of Hood River County, was 23,428 during a 2018 U.S. Census estimate. The population of Hood River, the area's largest city and the county seat of Hood River County, was last estimated at 7,686.

Climate:

With an elevation that rises from 60 feet at its lowest point to 11,235 feet at the peak of Mount Hood, the climate in Hood River County is diverse. The area along the Columbia River Gorge sits in a transition zone that stretches from temperate rainforest to the west to arid desert in the east. Hood River, a port city along the Columbia River that sits at the midway point of the transitional zone, receives about 31 inches of precipitation annually and has an average annual temperature of 51 degrees. Cascade Locks, just to the West, receives about 77 inches and boasts an average temperature of 53 degrees. Mount Hood receive 150 inches of precipitation each year, and offers some of the most reliable ski conditions in the Northwest.

Geography:

Located at the crossroads of the spectacular Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the magnificent Cascade Range, Hood River's geographically diverse region has made it both

an outdoor adventurer's dream as well as an agricultural hub. The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest, and is a central feature of the Hood River region. The steep walls and often dramatic average temperatures of the Columbia River Gorge, federally protected as a National Scenic Area, create reliably strong winds through Hood River. That has made it one of the world's foremost locales for kiteboarding and windsurfing. The Gorge's steep terrain is perfect for mountain bikers, and hikers love the innumerable waterfalls. South of the Columbia River and at a higher elevation rests the Hood River Valley, a fertile region that is home to the famed Hood River County Fruit Loop. Even farther south, the landscape is characterized by a dense coniferous forest and Mount Hood, a dormant volcano that represents the highest peak in Oregon.

How to get here:

Portland International Airport (PDX) is less than 60 miles to Hood River, connected by the scenic drive along the Columbia Gorge Highway on Interstate 84. The Columbia Gorge Express offers daily shuttle service between Portland International, Cascade Locks, and Hood River. Amtrak also serves Hood River through the Bingen, Wash., station, which is 2 miles from Hood River's city center.

Hood River is less than a four-hour drive from Seattle (227 miles), and about a five-hour drive from Spokane, Wash. (300 miles). Oregon Highway 35 runs north-south from the Columbia River to Mount Hood and connects Hood River to Central Oregon, including Bend (144 miles). Boise, Idaho, (370 miles along Interstate 84) is approximately five and a half hours away from Hood River.

Demographics: The median age in the Hood River Micropolitan Statistical Area is 36 years old. Median household income is \$62,935 (2017).

Economy: Agriculture, tourism, and outdoor recreation are the three greatest contributors to Hood River's economy. Once dominated by timber, Hood River's agricultural industry is now focused on fruit, including apples and pears, as well as wineries. In addition, outdoor adventurers flock to the region, supporting a robust support industry. Both agriculture and outdoor recreation also help fuel a tourism industry that generated \$65 million in direct spending in 2015 and has grown each year since.

Fun facts:

- Hood River is the largest city in America that makes its home in a National Scenic Area. No other town outside of Hood River County is set in such a federally designated area.
- The famed Hood River Fruit Loop is home to 32 farms, wineries, and fruit stands.
- Hood River was originally named Dog River when it was established in 1858. The city was later renamed and eventually incorporated in 1895.
- Hood River County is the country's largest supplier of winter pears, and accounts for 50% of the world's supply of Anjou pears.

- With 10 breweries in or in close proximity to downtown Hood River, the city has one of the highest concentrations of breweries per capita in the country.
- The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest, the fourth-largest river by volume in the U.S., and the seventh-longest in North America. It also produces more hydroelectric power than any river in North America.
- Hood River, the stream that is the city's namesake, was first discovered in 1805 by the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- The Columbia River Gorge stretches 85 miles and encompasses 295,000 acres. It is home to 75 waterfalls.
- Hood River is at the heart of the Columbia Gorge American Viticultural Area (AVA), which includes 83 vineyards and 36 wineries along a 40-mile stretch.
- The Roy Webster Cross-Channel Swim has taken place in Hood River since 1942, the oldest swimming event on the Columbia River.

ABOUT HOOD RIVER, OREGON:

Located at the crossroads of the spectacular Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the magnificent Cascade Range and just an hour from Portland, Hood River is wildly gorge-ous, offering outdoor recreation, dramatic vistas, historic landmarks, bountiful fruit, and fantastic food, wine, beer, and cider. With accommodations ranging from luxury hotels to historic B&Bs, Hood River is a four-season destination for families, outdoor enthusiasts, weddings, corporate events and more. It was named a Top 10 Wine Destination for 2017 by Wine Enthusiast Magazine, and 2015 Best Adventure Town in the West by Sunset magazine. The Hood River County Chamber of Commerce supports economic development, community development, and destination marketing for Hood River, Cascade Locks, Mosier, Odell, Parkdale, Pine Grove and Mount Hood. For more information, call 800-366-3530 or visit visithoodriver.com.

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AGRITOURISM

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EXPLORING HOOD RIVER'S DEEP AGRICULTURAL ROOTS IS A TRULY FRESH EXPERIENCE FROM FARM TO FORK

(HOOD RIVER, Ore.) — Agriculture plays much more than a supporting role in the Hood River experience. With the boom of agritourism in Hood River, agriculture has become a true star.

The [Hood River Fruit Loop](#) is the main attraction. The 36-stop, 35-mile-long scenic progression of orchards, farm stands, u-pick farms, wineries, and bakeries invites visitors to experience every stage of farm to fork — or grape to glass as the case may be.

But a true exploration of Hood River's agricultural bounty should not be limited to just what can be consumed. It's also about what can be seen. In spring, apple, cherry, and pear blossoms offer an explosion of color. The summer is the berry fields' time in the spotlight, offering a cornucopia of blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries. In fall, the hills are awash in autumn colors, with arguably the most impressive foliage display in the Northwest — and the in-season apples, pears, pumpkins, and u-pick flowers are more than just an added bonus.

Of course, Hood River's abundance of fresh fruit, berries, and vegetables influence the region's cuisine, too. Each season, chefs around the region offer fresh iterations of a true farm-to-table culinary experience.

A more mouth-watering and healthy trip could hardly be found.

A DAY ON THE FRUIT LOOP

The 35-mile scenic drive known as the [Fruit Loop](#) stretches from downtown Hood River to the hills of the Columbia Gorge. The changes in the topography bear different fruit, offering a little something for everyone.

As you cruise the Loop — cars are welcome, of course, but biking or e-biking present an altogether different experience — you'll discover pear, cherry, apple, nectarine, and peach

orchards. Stop at farm stands, wineries, breweries, alpaca ranches, lavender farms, and try the incredible jams, jellies, freshly baked pies, and more.

The experience changes with the season, too. The upper valley offers berries in July and August, and heirloom apples and pears in the fall. April's [Blossom Fest](#) brings a festival of color, and fresh fruit is piled high during the fall harvest season.

Regardless of the season, [Panorama Point](#) is a great place to start. From here on a clear day you'll have unobstructed views of Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams as well as a panoramic view of the Hood River Valley. With the view, you'll get a sense of the breathtaking variety of agriculture in the region.

Along the Fruit Loop journey you'll learn that each stop along the loop offers its own rewards. Some of the most popular stops include:

Gorge White House: The [Gorge White House](#) is a landmark, and it also happens to be a one-stop shop, of sorts. It is a working pear orchard that offers wine tasting from many of the wineries in the region. Sample and purchase local fruit, u-pick berries, and u-pick flowers, too.

Cideries: Hood River has become a mecca for hard cider, and the Hood River Valley knows a few things about traditional, non-pasteurized cider, too. The Fruit Loop and its many hundreds of orchards give a close view as to why. Amid the orchards you'll find some of the area's finest cideries, including [Fox Tail Cider](#) and [Mt. View Orchards Cider](#).

Something sweet: With all the fresh fruit and berries on the Fruit Loop, you may be in the mood for a special treat. [Packer's Orchards & Bakery](#) and [Apple Valley Country Store & Bakery](#) are perfect stops for fruits in season, jams, jellies, preserves, pies and pie fillings, ice cream, and more. And u-pick at [Draper Girls Country Farm](#), where you can find anything from antiques to non-pasteurized cider.

Wine tasting: Of course, the Fruit Loop is dotted with tasting rooms, some with incredible mountain views. [Columbia Gorge Wines](#) is a great place to plan your route, but [Hood Crest Winery & Vineyards](#), [Phelps Creek Vineyards](#), [Marchesi Vineyards and Winery](#), [Cathedral Ridge](#), and [Hood River Vineyards & Winery](#) all make the Fruit Loop home.

Lavender: The region's lavender farms typically offer u-pick lavender from June through October. The color of lavender in-season is joy enough. But [Hood River Lavender Farm](#) and [Lavender Valley Farm](#) offer plenty more.

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ABOUT HOOD RIVER, OREGON:

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ANNUAL EVENTS

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CELEBRATE THE VERY BEST OF HOOD RIVER WITH THESE ANNUAL EVENTS, FESTIVALS, AND CELEBRATIONS

(HOOD RIVER, Ore.) — When it comes to celebrating the history, seasons, culture, and bounty of the Columbia River Gorge, Hood River’s calendar of events offers no shortage of enticements. From music to locally sourced food, from cider to beer, and from harvest season to the Columbia River’s oldest open water swimming competition, the Hood River events calendar is packed with annual events, festivals, and celebrations that appeal to locals and visitors alike.

Not that anyone needs another excuse to visit Hood River, an all-season destination nestled at the crossroads of the spectacular Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and breathtaking Cascade Range. But Hood River’s robust and diverse calendar serves as a reminder why the region has become such a unique and beloved destination in the first place.

“Whether one seeks outdoor recreation, breathtaking scenery, arts and culture, locally grown fruit, a taste of farm-to-table fare, a sip of finely crafted wine, beer, and cider, or a bit of it all, Hood River offers something for everybody,” Ashley Huckaby May, executive director of Visit Hood River. “We love to show that off. And each major event on the calendar highlights the best of what makes the region such a wonderful place to visit throughout the year.”

While a complete list of events can be found on the [Hood River Events Calendar](#), some of the town’s most celebrated annual events include:

Hood River Foodie February (Throughout February)

A month-long celebration of Hood River’s innovative, regionally inspired culinary scene, Hood River Foodie February is filled with special menus and fun events throughout the month. Foodie February showcases a rich food culture that holds on to the region’s agricultural roots and small-town charms, yet rivals cities much larger. No wonder February has become a favorite tradition in just a few short years.

[Hood River Music Month](#) (Throughout March)

Hood River's vibrant cultural scene is brought into focus every March during Hood River Music Month. With performances held at several venues throughout town, the multi-week celebration of the region's diverse music scene includes classical, jazz, indie, rock, bluegrass, and more — as well as musicals and film. And with many venues welcoming music lovers of all ages, the event is meant to be shared with friends and family alike.

[Hood River Valley Blossom Time](#) (Throughout April)

Blossom Time, a month-long festival of the season, offers family-friendly farm events, craft shows, culinary treats, and wine and cider tastings. Each April, cherry, apple, and pear trees begin releasing vibrant pink and white flowers, first at lower elevations, then working their way up the valley in a gorgeous display of color. The 35-mile drive along the [Hood River County Fruit Loop](#) is particularly bountiful during Blossom Time. And the ever-popular [Hood River Hard-Pressed Cider Fest](#) is a siren song for those who want to taste the creations of the region's 11 cideries.

[Roy Webster Cross-Channel Swim](#) (Labor Day Weekend)

At dawn on Labor Day each year, hearty souls take on the mighty Columbia River with a 1.1-mile open water swim that starts in Washington and ends in Oregon at the Port of Cascade Locks. The event has been held since 1942, making it the oldest swimming event on the Columbia River, and draws hundreds of swimmers every year.

[Hood River Hops Fest](#) (September)

One of the most highly regarded beer festivals in Oregon, the Hood River Hops Fest features the debuts of seasonal fresh-hop beers from breweries from across the Northwest, including Hood River favorites such as pFriem Family Brewers, Double Mountain Brewery, Full Sail Brewing, and Ferment Brewing Co. With dozens of breweries attending every year, the Hood River Hops Fest is one of the largest collections of fresh-hop beers offered in the U.S.

[Hood River Valley Harvest Fest](#) (October)

Set along the scenic Hood River waterfront on the banks of the mighty Columbia River, the Hood River Valley Harvest Fest immerses attendees in the region's deep and diverse agricultural roots. From locally grown produce and the freshest of food to arts and crafts and wine, cider, and beer, vendors from around the region come together to celebrate and share the bounty of the season. Live events and entertainment, including the main stage featuring performances by popular local musicians, bring extra fun.

[Hood River Holidays](#) (November and December)

Hood River offers an escape from the bustle of the holiday season with an idyllic, small-town holiday season filled with lights, cheer, and special events. The fun begins in November with an invitation to shop local at the Holiday Open House and Small Business Saturday. Then the festivities heat up with the Hood River Holiday Kick-off Party and Parade in downtown Hood

River, culminating with the annual city tree lighting, caroling, and a visit from Santa. Throughout the season, from Thanksgiving through the New Year, Hood River entices revelers from near and far with food, wine tasting, theater performances, and more.

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ABOUT HOOD RIVER, OREGON:

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FOUR SEASONS

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HOOD RIVER A DESTINATION FOR ALL SEASONS

(HOOD RIVER, Ore.) — A hike through the spectacular Columbia River Gorge. A windswept thrill ride along the Columbia River. An immersion in color through the pink and white flower blossoms of spring or the foliage of fall. The bite of an apple or pear fresh off the tree. Or a powdery ski, snowboard, or sled ride down Oregon's most famous peak. Hood River always offers so much to see and do, no matter the time of year.

While Hood River is a four-season destination, and arguably the only one to lay claim to providing a unique mountain beachtown experience — just what to do so often depends on the season. Set at the crossroads of the scenic Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the awe-inspiring Cascade Range, the elevation changes from near sea level to the 11,250-foot summit of Mt. Hood foster incredibly diverse microclimates.

As a result, every season in Hood River brings its own treasures, whether you're an outdoor adventurer, a foodie in search of fare from the freshest of sources, or a wine, beer, or cider enthusiast yearning to explore the seasonal variations of each. Even the experiences that can be had during any season, such as mountain biking or hiking, can differ depending on the season.

In Hood River, each season has its own greeting:

SPRING

No season showcases the beauty of the region and the diversity of Hood River's geography quite like spring. April brings high temperatures that average in the 60s, and with that milder weather comes [Hood River Valley Blossom Time](#), which is celebrated throughout April, and includes family-friendly farm events, craft shows, and beer, cider and wine tasting. Spring is also a gorgeous time to tour the [Hood River County Fruit Loop](#), a scenic 35-mile drive that wends through orchards, wineries and farms. Mount Hood Meadows doesn't slow until May, offering endless bluebird days to finish the ski season with a flourish.

Spring is also a good time to walk or bike the [5-mile trail section](#) of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, which is closed to vehicles, and features amazing views of the Gorge and two tunnels. Hikers will find particular joy in [lower-elevation hikes](#). From March through May, as well as balsamroot and other wildflowers in bloom along the [Mosier Plateau Trail](#). And spring runoff makes the many waterfalls of the Columbia River Gorge — home to the highest concentration of waterfalls in North America — particularly impressive.

SUMMER

Though the outdoors are always top of mind in Hood River, regardless of season, outdoor adventurers flock to the region in summer. The region has become a hub of adventure, beloved for its mountain biking, cycling, whitewater kayaking, standup paddle boarding, hiking, and more.

For mountain biking, the Knebal Springs/Eightmile Trails figure-eight loop (about 15 miles), is a good place to start. And many of the best trails are found south of Hood River off Oregon Highway 35, on the northern and eastern sides of Mount Hood. Hikers will discover plenty of friendly trailheads, too, including [Hood River Meadows Trailhead](#), which offers an easy 4.6-mile round-trip hike to [Umbrella Falls](#).

The consistent summer winds of the Columbia River Gorge transform Hood River into a mecca for windsurfers and kiteboarders. Wind junkies from all over the world have learned this fact, but others can join in the fun, too. In Hood River, learning to ride the wind is just a good instructor away, and lessons can be found at [Big Winds](#), [Gorge Surf Shop](#), or [Hood River WaterPlay](#). But no need to do it yourself to enjoy the fun. Just relax by the shore at [Hood River Waterfront Park](#) and be mesmerized by the boarders crisscrossing the Columbia at breathtaking speeds.

The swimming beach at Hood River Waterfront Park is a great place to spend a summer day. Another option, the Hood River Marina Beach, offers a long, safe stretch of shallow water for playing. Or, take a side trip to Cascade Locks' newly improved swimming beach, kiteboarding, and windsurfing launch. Alternatively, fish, raft, kayak, or stand-up paddle on the region's numerous world-class rivers.

Summer is also a great time to take in the Hood River County Fruit Loop, passing through countless orchards and farms. In June, strawberries are in-season, or pick flowers at one of the numerous u-pick farms. And there is no better season to go wine or cider tasting, pet alpacas, or to stock up on fruit jam.

Hood River is home to numerous summer races and festivals, including the [Hood 2 River Relay](#), 4th of July parade and fireworks display, [Roy Webster Cross-Channel Swim](#) and dozens more. Or linger downtown for live music in many of the local bars, hotels, and wineries.

FALL

Summer may be the most popular time of the year for Hood River, but locals will tell you that fall is prime time. The hills around the region are set ablaze with fall foliage. And u-pick orchards, unique festivals, and seasonal beers, wines, and ciders, make fall prime for agri-tourists on the Hood River County Fruit Loop.

Fall is harvest time for much of Hood River's bounty, including for many varieties of apples and pears, which are celebrated annually at the [Hood River Valley Harvest Fest](#). Fall is also a time for fresh hard cider, and the [Gorge Cider Route](#) offers nearly a dozen cideries to visit. Lastly, fall is also fresh hop time for the region's many breweries, and the [Hood River Hops Fest](#) features one of the nation's largest fresh-hop beer selections in one place. And the region's wineries celebrate the fall harvest over Thanksgiving weekend.

Hood River and the Columbia River Gorge provide some of the most spectacular fall scenery in the Pacific Northwest. [Umbrella Falls](#) trailhead offers close access to a jaw-dropping waterfall while soaking up the spectacular red and gold of fall. Or bike or hike the kid-friendly Twin Tunnels, or challenge yourself at the [Columbia Gorge Marathon and Half Marathon](#).

Cruise the Columbia on an authentic [sternwheeler](#), or use downtown Hood River's eclectic mix of locally owned specialty stores to start your holiday shopping.

WINTER

Not many mountain towns are nestled on a beach, but Hood River is the rare exception. In winter, that means unique opportunities found few places else. With Mount Hood Meadows and its 1,700 vertical feet of terrain for skiers and snowboards, and the family-friendly Copper Spur Mountain Resort both less than an hour away, Hood River makes for a perfect basecamp for downhill and Nordic skiers, snowboarders, snowshoers, and sledgers. It is also an excellent time to view bald eagles, which feed on salmon along the tributaries of the Columbia River Gorge.

After a day on the slopes, return to Hood River for an apres ski experience like few others, with some of the best breweries, wineries, and cideries in the Pacific Northwest and a farm-to-table culinary scene that could hardly be fresher.

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FOOD AND DRINK

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EXPLORE HOOD RIVER THROUGH ITS FARM-TO-TABLE CULINARY SCENE AND LOCALLY CRAFTED BEER, WINE, CIDER, AND SPIRITS

(HOOD RIVER, Ore.) — Farm-to-fork was a way of life in Hood River long before it ever became a culinary trend. With diverse agricultural roots that still run deep, and an outdoors-oriented culture that has inspired generations of talented restaurateurs, chefs, winemakers, distillers, brewers, and coffee roasters, every savory bite and smooth-drinking sip truly takes a village.

No day goes by without a reminder of Hood River's relationship with its own land. It's in the beer you drink, made by more than a dozen local breweries and includes some of the Northwest's best-known and most respected. It's in the meal you eat at one of downtown Hood River's eateries, sourced with fruit, berries, and vegetables grown by Hood River farmers or foraged from the surrounding forests. It's in the wine and cider you taste, each made from fruit grown in this fertile region that includes more than 440 local orchardists and 45 vineyards, and crafted by a dozen cideries and more than 30 wineries. And it's in the locally crafted spirits and locally roasted coffee you sip.

While every day may be a culinary celebration, the liveliness of Hood River's food and beverage scene is put on display with special events, too. The region celebrates its unique culinary scene with [Foodie February](#). In April, [Hood River Hard-Pressed Cider Fest](#) draws hundreds of orchardists for a one-of-a-kind event, and September's [Hood River Hops Fest](#) is one of the most highly regarded beer festivals in Oregon. In October, [Hood River Valley Harvest Fest](#) offers an exploration into what farm-to-table really means.

DINING

The region's culinary scene is centered in and around downtown, but it truly encompasses the work of the entire region. In fact, Hood River County has all the best aspects of the Pacific Northwest food culture, including local sourcing of fresh ingredients.

The fresh ingredients particularly influence the region's culinary scene. Surrounded by an abundance of local berry farms, orchards, vineyards, and vegetables, Hood River's chefs tend to let the local bounty dictate the dishes. With so much to work with, the region's cuisine is diverse: From the refined farm-to-table dining of [Celilo Restaurant & Bar](#), to the almost entirely locally sourced experience at [Hiyu Wine Farm](#), to the authentic flavors of [Lake Taco](#), to the Nordic-inspired cuisine of [Broder Øst](#), the beloved pizza of [Solstice Wood Fire Cafe & Bar](#), to the pub fare served by the region's local breweries, and just about everything in between.

BEER

Outdoor adventure and craft beer go together like, well, Hood River and world-class breweries. Hood River brewers are no doubt inspired by the region's outdoor playground, and the result is a beer culture that works hand-in-hand with that lifestyle. Of course, none of this would matter if the breweries in and around Hood River didn't churn out some of the Northwest's best beer. And they most certainly do that, too. Most of the breweries in the region can be found on the [Gorge brewery passport map](#). Some of the local favorites include Hood River breweries [Big Horse Brew Pub](#), [Double Mountain Brewery](#), [Ferment](#), [Full Sail Brewing](#), [pFriem](#), and [Thunder Island Brewing Company](#) in nearby Cascade Locks.

CIDER

Hood River isn't merely a participant in the hard cider boom — it is a pioneer. With more than 440 orchardists in one of the most prolific fruit-producing regions in the world, it certainly makes sense that the region would find itself at the forefront of the national hard-cider movement. The Gorge Cider Society's [Cider Route](#) is a good place to start your cidery exploration. Among the cideries you'll find is [Crush Cider Cafe](#), [Double Mountain Brewery](#), [Fox-Tail Cider](#), [The Gorge White House](#), [Hood Valley Hard Cider](#), [Rack & Cloth](#), [Runcible Cider](#), [Golden Row Cider](#), and [Slopeswell Cider](#).

WINE

The [Columbia Gorge AVA](#) encompasses more than 186,610 acres and about 300 square miles, and more 30 wineries and 45 vineyards call the Columbia Gorge winegrowing region home. The region's wines are as diverse as the geography and climate of the Gorge itself, and that is no coincidence. The myriad growing conditions produce more than 50 grape varieties along the AVA's 40-mile stretch.

Wine Enthusiast named Hood River a [Best Wine Destination](#) in 2017, and its wine-tasting experience is a big reason why. [Downtown Hood River](#) is a great place to find a collection of tasting rooms all within walking distance. Or dive deeper into the region's many [estate wineries and tasting rooms](#).

SPIRITS

Hood River's tradition of making craft spirits dates back to the end of Prohibition (and rumor has it, before that). In fact, [Hood River Distillers](#) received Oregon's first distiller's license in

1934, and today is the largest, oldest, and most-respected distiller in the Northwest. Hood River Distillers' downtown tasting room is a must-visit, and a tour of its production facility is a favorite for locals and visitors, alike.

Hood River also spawned a culture of craft spirits along the way. Whether in the mood for a tasting experience, a distillery tour, or just to be on the lookout around town for a craft cocktail built around a finely made spirit, Hood River has plenty to offer. Its list of distilleries also includes: [Camp 1805 Distillery & Bar](#), [Fox Tail Cider & Distillery](#), [Clear Creek Distillery](#), and [Hood Crest Winery & Distillers](#).

COFFEE

A great cup of coffee is part of the Hood River experience. In fact, many of the region's local coffee shops feature locally roasted coffees of the highest quality. That includes coffee shops that roast their own, including [Ground](#), [Stoked](#), and [10 Speed](#). And it also includes [Pacific Rim](#) and [Hood River Coffee](#), high-quality roasters whose passion for coffee roasting can be sipped and savored in cups all over the region.

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OUTDOOR RECREATION

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HOOD RIVER: SO MUCH TO EXPLORE OUTDOORS

(HOOD RIVER, Ore.) — Hood River is hardly a secret among outdoor adventurers, and for good reason. Here, kiteboarding, windsurfing, mountain biking, hiking, standup-paddleboarding, whitewater kayaking, skiing, snowboarding, and more are all in a day's play.

Blessed by geography that gives it the unique classification of being a mountain-beach town, the diversity of Hood River's outdoor offerings is incomparable. Set in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Hood River is the largest city in the U.S. set in a federally designated national scenic area.

The region stretches from the banks of the Columbia River, near sea level, to the cliffs of the Gorge, to the highest peak in Oregon, the 11,250-foot summit of Mt. Hood. Nature abounds here, from the Mount Hood National Forest, which encompasses 1.1 million acres, to the Columbia River Gorge, which is home to 75 waterfalls, stretches 85 miles, and encompasses 295,000 acres.

That leaves a seemingly infinite landscape to explore.

The culture of Hood River is centered around the outdoors, too, with many of its residents among the finest outdoor athletes in the country. But one need not be a pro to join in on the fun. Kiteboarding and windsurfing instructors, mountain bike guides and rental shops, whitewater kayaking experts, and more have all set up shop in Hood River to offer visitors a chance at a new adventure.

Here are a few of Hood River's most beloved outdoor adventures:

Hike the Gorge

With the highest concentration of waterfalls in North America, breathtaking natural wonders, abundant wildflowers each spring, fall foliage every autumn, and an almost infinite number of trails, The Columbia River Gorge is a hiker's dream throughout the year. Some of the most popular hikes include the 2-mile round-trip trek to [Wahclella Falls](#) and the 8.6-mile round-trip [hike to Dry Creek Falls](#). Spring wildflower hikes include the [Mosier Plateau Trail](#) and [Catherine Creek Labyrinth](#), while fall foliage seekers will love hikes along [Elk Cove](#), [Punchbowl Falls](#), and the [Surveyor's Ridge](#) Trail. Or hike without leaving town on the [Indian Creek](#) and [Hood River Waterfront](#) trails.

Biking Hood River

Hood River is a magnet for both mountain bikers and cyclists, and even e-bikers, of all abilities. Cruise the pavement on some of the most scenic roadways in the Northwest and challenge the miles of singletrack all in one weekend. Cyclists are drawn to the [Mosier Twin Tunnels Trail](#) and the ride on the [Historic Columbia River Highway](#) to the scenic overlook at Rowena Crest. Mountain bikers love the [Sexy Surfer Loop](#), [Post Canyon Shuttle Route](#), and the [Post Canyon Hot Lap](#).

Ride the Columbia River

It only takes a quick glimpse at the Columbia River during the summer months to learn why Hood River is known as the "Windsurfing Capital of the World." Typically launching from the Hood River Sandbar, kiteboarders and windsurfers criss-cross the Columbia River in an incredible display of athleticism. What makes Hood River a mecca for the two sports is the reliable winds and the relatively easy access to the river. Not surprisingly, Hood River is also home to one of the greatest concentrations of professional windsurfing and kiteboarding instructors in the world, many of whom are headquartered within steps of The Sandbar.

Play in the snow

Majestic Mt. Hood towers over Hood River, and that has made it a hub for alpine and nordic skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers. Just 30 minutes from downtown Hood River, [Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort](#) offers some of the best ski and snowboard terrain anywhere. [Cooper Spur Mountain Resort](#) offers a family-friendly experience even closer to town, with affordable downhill skiing, nordic trails, snowboarding, and tubing for families. Sno-parks are spread throughout [Mount Hood National Forest](#), so an unforgettable adventure is never hard to find — whether you are a snowmobiler, musher, cross-country skier, or snowshoer.

Rafting, Kayaking & SUP

Whether in the mood to tame some whitewater or for a more leisurely still water experience, a day on the water around Hood River is always a welcome idea. Regardless of the adventure you choose, Hood River's [watercraft outfitters](#) have you covered. Local professionals who know every inch of water in this water-rich region can help with standup paddleboarding (SUP), guided rafting trips, whitewater kayak lessons and instruction, and even raft-guide school.

Rock climbing

The Columbia River Gorge is a hub of rock climbing, too, with local crags and routes located just minutes away from downtown Hood River. [French's Dome](#), [Bulo Point](#), and [Pete's Pile](#) are some of the best-known climbs in the Mount Hood National Forest, drawing climbers from around the Northwest and well beyond.

Fishing

With the Columbia, Deschutes, Hood, John Day, Klickitat, Sandy, White Salmon, and Wind rivers, as well as an abundance of lakes, the fishing opportunities are abundant. Ancient sturgeons, trophy walleyes, spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and wild trout, just to name a few species, can all be found in the waters in the region around Hood River. And Hood River has plenty of [local shops, guides and outfitters](#) to make sure you have a fishing trip to remember.

For more information, call 800-366-3530 or visit visithoodriver.com.

ABOUT HOOD RIVER, OREGON:

Located at the crossroads of the spectacular Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the magnificent Cascade Range and just an hour from Portland, Hood River is wildly gorge-ous, offering outdoor recreation, dramatic vistas, historic landmarks, bountiful fruit, and fantastic food, wine, beer, and cider. With accommodations ranging from luxury hotels to historic B&Bs, Hood River is a four-season destination for families, outdoor enthusiasts, weddings, corporate events and more. It was named a Top 10 Wine Destination for 2017 by Wine Enthusiast Magazine, and 2015 Best Adventure Town in the West by Sunset magazine. The Hood River County Chamber of Commerce supports economic development, community development, and destination marketing for Hood River, Cascade Locks, Mosier, Odell, Parkdale, Pine Grove and Mount Hood. For more information, call 800-366-3530 or visit visithoodriver.com.

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