



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Brochures, maps, and information detailing additional driving routes as well as lodging, dining and recreational opportunities are available from the visitor associations listed in this brochure. Please call, write, or stop by if you need information or assistance.

Albany Visitors Association

Two Rivers Market
300 Second Ave. SW, Albany, OR 97321
(503) 928-0911
1-800-526-2256

Corvallis Convention & Visitors Bureau

420 NW 2nd St., Corvallis, OR 97330
(503) 757-1544
1-800-334-8118

Convention & Visitors Association of Lane County, Oregon

305 West 7th, Eugene, OR 97401
(503) 484-5307
1-800-547-5445 Nationwide & Canada

Salem Convention & Visitors Association

1313 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR 97301
(503) 581-4325
1-800-874-7012

The Willamette Valley Scenic Loop brochure was produced through the concerted efforts of the Albany Visitors Association, Corvallis Convention & Visitors Bureau, Convention & Visitors Association of Lane County, Oregon, and the Salem Convention & Visitors Association. All photographs are courtesy of these Associations and Dennis Wolverton. Design by The Paperworks, Corvallis.

© August 1994/50M

The WILLAMETTE VALLEY Scenic Loop



WELCOME TO OREGON

The Willamette Valley Scenic Loop is a 195 mile driving and bicycling tour that winds its way through some of Oregon's most beautiful scenery.

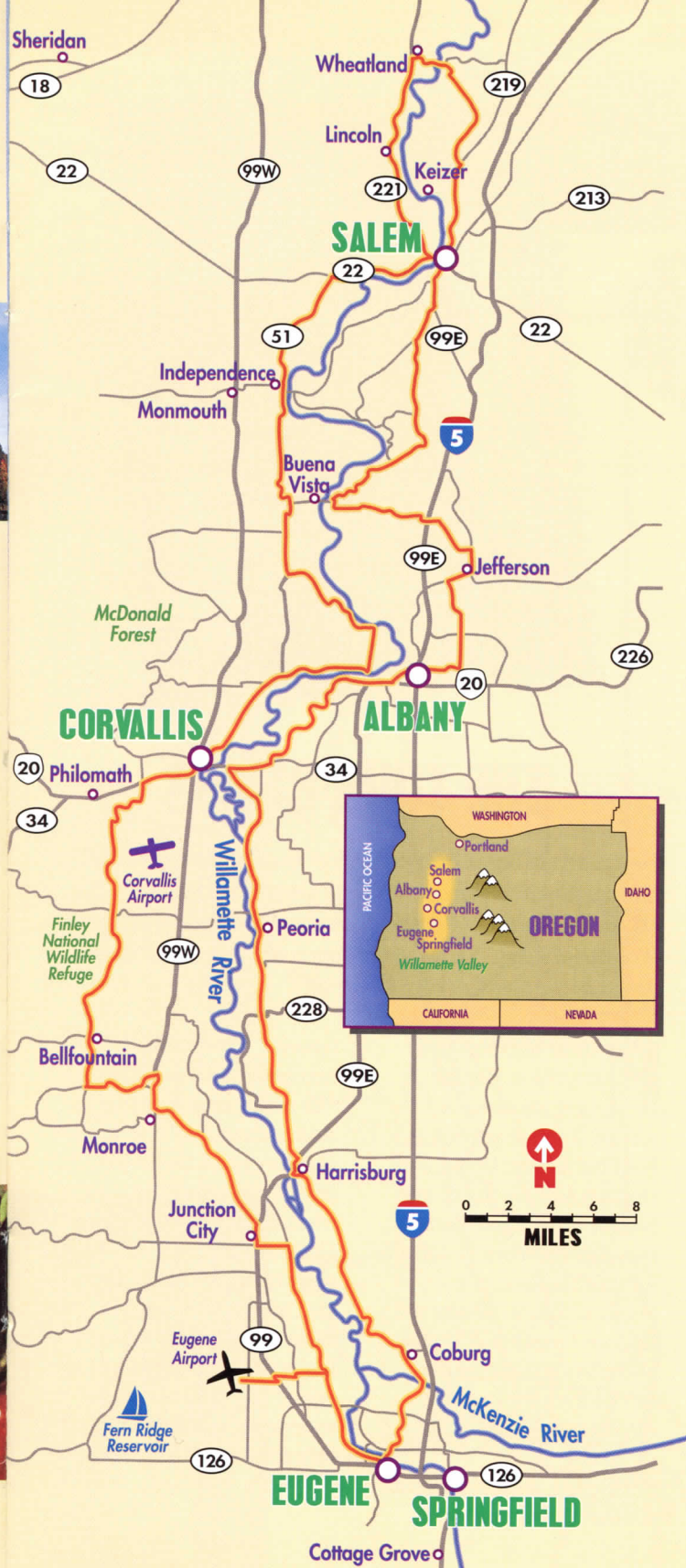
You'll witness expansive fields, towering firs, meandering streams and diverse wildlife as you travel on uncongested roadways through Oregon's prime farmland, forests, and wine country. Much of the loop skirts the Willamette River as it flows north to join the majestic Columbia River. Experience this diverse countryside by auto or by bicycle.



Natural beauty is not the only attraction that the Willamette Valley Scenic Loop offers the traveler. Historical sites and museums, concerts, public markets, antique shops, festivals, fairs, picnics, parks and gardens, covered bridges, golf courses, white water rafting, and wineries. It's all waiting for you in Oregon's Willamette Valley.



Our goal is to introduce Oregon's Willamette Valley and provide you with a memorable experience. We hope your visit will acquaint you with a heritage we are proud to share: A love and respect of the natural resources with which our state is endowed.





THE TOUR BEGINS

Your tour will begin 7 miles north of Eugene/Springfield at the Eugene Airport and winds through Oregon's "greenbelt", the Willamette Valley. At the northernmost point of the loop is the Wheatland Ferry. The loop heading south is as beautiful and varied as the first half of the journey.

For those who plan to fly into Oregon, Eugene Airport has direct air service. If you're arriving at Portland Airport, United and Horizon Air have flights into Eugene Airport and PacificAir provides air service to Corvallis. Amtrak has stations in Portland, Salem, Albany, and Eugene. Hut Airport Shuttle also offers ground shuttle service from the Portland Airport to Salem.

For cyclists, most of the route is a moderately easy ride;

however, if you feel up to it, numerous trails and alternate side routes provide the serious rider with an inspiring display of nature and a challenging level of cycling well-worth the effort. Keep your eyes open along the entire Loop for the more than 30 wineries sprinkled across the Valley. The Willamette Valley is Oregon's major wine region and a brief stop at any of these premier wineries can provide a pleasurable reward for an active day.

Each section of this guide includes a mileage log that details directional changes to help keep you on course.

MILEAGE LOG

Leaving the Eugene Airport take Greenhill Rd. north to Awbrey Rd. and turn right. Take Awbrey across Hwy 99W to Prairie. Left on Prairie, then a quick right on Beacon. Beacon to River Rd., left on River Rd. and continue into Junction City. If you are driving, just turn left when you reach Hwy. 99W.



YOUR FIRST DESTINATION CORVALLIS

As you travel north along Bellfountain Road, take your time to stop at the Finley National Wildlife Refuge. The entrance is clearly marked. Migratory birds use the refuge as a stopover on their annual migrations. Canadian geese and many species of hawks, ducks, and songbirds stop to rest in these beautifully preserved wetlands.

Corvallis was designated in the "Rating Guide to Life in America's Small Cities" as the second most livable city in America. Take your time and explore the variety that Corvallis presents the visitor.

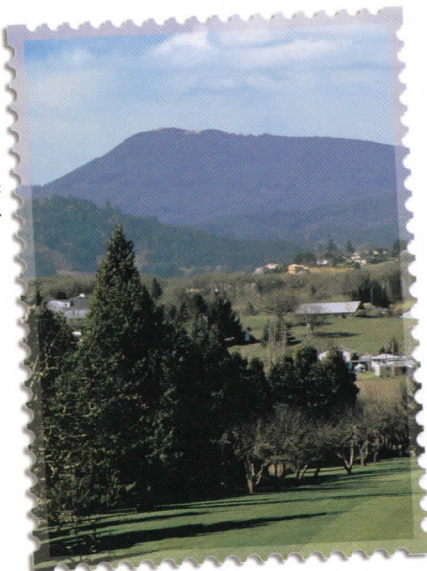
Recreational and historic sites are an easy distance from the main loop. The route flows through Oregon State University, Oregon's oldest state supported education facility. The beauty of the campus invites you to rest under a spreading Elm. On the route you'll see Benton County's Courthouse. Built in 1888, it is the oldest in the state still in active use.

A diversion west of town on Harrison Blvd. takes you to McDonald State Forest. Miles of improved gravel roads provide some of the most scenic and exciting mountain-biking in Oregon. Also try the old-growth hiking trail.

A must for summer visitors in July is da Vinci Days: A celebration of art, science, and

technology. World renowned explorers, scientists, artists and musical performers pay homage to Leonardo and make this one of Oregon's most diverse and exciting events.

During the first week in August, Corvallis hosts the Benton County Fair: Top musical performers, jugglers, amusement rides, an NPR Rodeo, BBQs, sheepdog trials, animals, food, and fun. In late September the Corvallis Fall Festival opens in Central Park. Arts & crafts, food booths, live music, and fun. This festival has been a Corvallis mainstay for more than 20 years.



MILEAGE LOG

North on Hwy 99W to Monroe. 1 mi. past Monroe, turn left on Alpine Rd. to Bellfountain Rd., turn right. Take Bellfountain to Plymouth Rd., turn right. Plymouth Rd. to 53rd. St., turn left. 53rd. St. north until you come to Country Club Drive. By car, turn right on Country Club, left on 35th, right on Western Blvd., and left on 15th St. For bicyclists, turn right on the bike path just the other side of Country Club Dr. You'll pass Starker Arts Park and travel alongside Hwy 34 to Corvallis. At 15th St. you will leave the bike path and turn left across Hwy 34.

Take 15th through the University to Monroe Ave., right on Monroe to 5th St., turn left on 5th to Tyler. At Tyler Ave. turn right. Tyler to 2nd St. (Hwy 20).

Turn left on 2nd St., north to Spring Hill Rd., left on Spring Hill to Buena Vista Rd. Right on Buena Vista to Corvallis Rd. Head North on Corvallis Rd. towards Salem.

CORVALLIS AREA EVENTS

- MAY** Winery Open Houses
- JUNE** Oregon Folklife Festival
- JULY** da Vinci Days
- AUG** Benton County Fair
- SEPT** Fall Festival
- OCT** Vistas & Vineyards



Mile 12 to 50



EXPLORE SALEM

Traveling north along Hwy. 221 on your way to the turn-around that will start you heading south into Salem, you'll experience lush fields, open pastures, and manicured orchards. Once you reach Wheatland, take the ferry across the Willamette River to continue your journey. This ferry, in operation since 1844, takes you not only across the river but back in time as it peacefully motors across the Willamette.

In 1859, Oregon became the 33rd state with Salem sanctioned as the official capital. Throughout Salem, quaint one-of-a-kind shops, antique stores and major department stores are part of this city's special personality. Step back in time as you visit Mission Mill Village, an historic woolen mill museum with pioneer homes, specialty shops and the Salem Visitor Center on the grounds. Salem's history is told through tours of Bush House and Historic Deepwood Estate. Be part of Salem's growing art scene - visit a gallery, meet the artist, see a play, enjoy a concert.

For unparalleled scenic beauty select a route (Hwy. 213 - Silverton Rd.) through Salem's countryside. The area is home to brilliant iris fields. Hike through the grandeur of Silver

Falls State Park, where 10 waterfalls, some over 170 feet high, cascade down to Silver Creek. Pick seasonal berries by the quart. And for a taste of vintage Salem tour area award winning wineries.

What goes on in Salem? The Oregon State Fair held eleven days prior to Labor Day; The Salem Art Fair & Festival featuring Northwest artists; Summer in the City Festival and the West Salem Water Front Festival. Holidays in Salem bring festive celebrations. The Festival of Lights Parade, open houses and year round gallery tours make the season come alive. When it is time to move on, head south on Liberty Road and through Talbot, Jefferson and into Albany.

MILEAGE LOG

Corvallis Rd. becomes Main St. entering Independence. Main St. becomes Hwy 51 leaving Independence. Follow signs north toward Salem. Turn right on Hwy 22. Continue east and take the West Salem exit (Edgewater). Travel along Edgewater; it will make a hard left at Wallace Rd. (Hwy 221). North on Hwy 221 through Lincoln. Follow the signs directing you to the Wheatland Ferry.

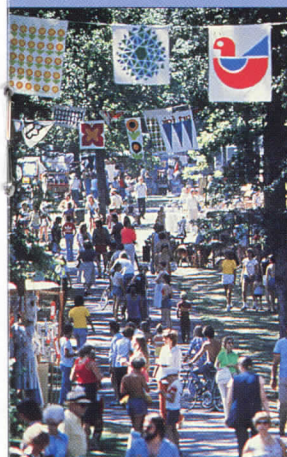
Once across the Willamette River turn right on Wheatland Rd. South on Wheatland Rd. into Keizer. Turn right on Hwy 219 (River Road). Follow River Road - it will branch, take the branch to the right. River Road becomes Commercial St. as you enter into Salem. Take Commercial St. south until it branches to the right at Liberty Rd. Take Liberty Rd. south. You're on your way to Albany.

SALEM AREA EVENTS

- JULY** Salem Art Fair & Festival
Summer in the City
- AUG** West Salem Waterfront Festival
- SEPT** Oregon State Fair
- DEC** Festival of Lights Parade



Mile 50 to 98



VISIT HISTORIC ALBANY

Albany, a friendly, thriving community of 34,500, was voted All American City in 1985. It is a beautiful marriage of historic and contemporary images; of modern growth and rural friendliness; of rare metals and rare covered bridges.

Like all of the cities along our driving and bicycle loop, Albany is situated in a beautiful green valley; close to the ocean, close to the mountains. The history of Oregon is well preserved here.

With nearly 500 historic homes, shops, and churches, Albany contains Oregon's largest array of past architectural styles. The home of Albany's founding fathers, Walter and Thomas Monteith, is beautifully preserved. Built in 1849, the house is now a museum and one of the most authentic restoration projects in Oregon. Eight nearby covered bridges are accessible on paved, country roads. A detailed guide to these bridges is available at the Albany Visitors Association. Albany is home of the world renowned Timber Carnival, an annual timber sports spectacular held each July 4th weekend. This event draws thousands of participants and visitors, so be sure to attend if you're in Oregon on Independence Day.

Also in July is Victorian Days, a

festival of Albany's living history featuring historic home and covered bridge tours; and the Great Balloon Escape & Wine Fest. Breathtaking to watch or join in a flight.

While here, you may want to do nothing more than lie in the grass and enjoy live music featuring nationally known bands on the riverfront during River Rhythms - a concert series with performances each Thursday evening in July and August.

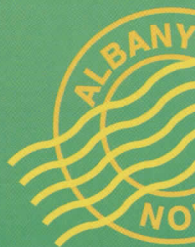
Shopping, sightseeing, and dinner at one of Albany's numerous restaurants are perfect ways to end your day of touring.



MILEAGE LOG

Proceed south on Liberty Rd. Just before the Buena Vista ferry, turn left on Talbot Rd. Proceed through the town of Talbot over the freeway (I-5) towards Jefferson. Turn right on Jefferson Hwy. and ride through Jefferson. Left on Scravel Hill Rd. to Knox Butte Rd., turn right. Travel Knox Butte Rd. under I-5 to Waverly Dr., turn right and proceed to Old Salem Rd., turn left. From Old Salem Rd. turn right on Main St., left at First Ave., right on Montgomery, Left on Water Ave., left on Washington St., right on 9th Ave., left on Broadway to Queen Ave., right on Queen Ave., which will turn into Riverside Dr. Continue south on Riverside Dr. until you reach Hwy. 34, turn right.

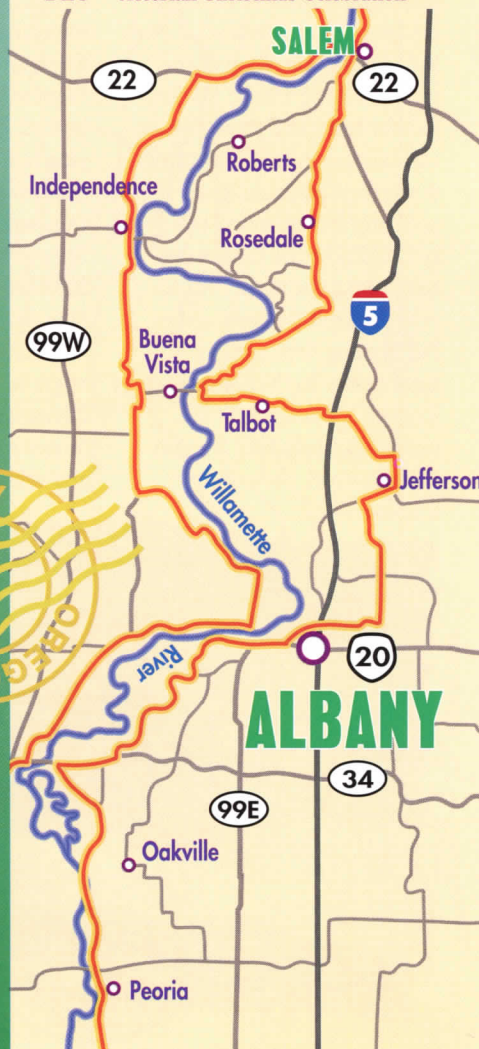
Travel west on Hwy. 34 until you come to the stoplight at Peoria Rd., turn left and follow the signs to Peoria.



For lodging, choose from an historic Bed and Breakfast or a modern motel.

ALBANY AREA EVENTS

- JULY** Timber Carnival
River Rhythms
Interior Home Tour
Great Balloon Escape & Wine Fest
- AUG** River Rhythms
- DEC** Victorian Christmas Celebration



VISIT EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD

The last leg of the Willamette Valley Loop takes you to Eugene/Springfield. Located at the junction of the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, it is Oregon's second largest metropolitan area and home of the University of Oregon.

Eugene is proud of its commitment to bicyclists and of the facilities provided for them. It was rated by *Bicycling* magazine as one of the top 10 cycling communities in the country.

Eugene/Springfield offers abundant leisure opportunities to explore the countryside, photograph historic covered bridges, sail or windsurf at Fern Ridge Reservoir, shop in the unique 5th St. Public Market, fish for trout and steelhead, or experience whitewater rafting down the McKenzie River. If you long for the sound of a symphony or the beauty of a ballet, take the night off and visit the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, a major cultural center in the Northwest. Eugene is the home of the nationally acclaimed Oregon Bach Festival, the exciting Eugene

Festival of Musical Theatre and the new Oregon Festival of American Music.

In August the heritage and culture of Scandinavia comes alive at the Scandinavian Festival in nearby Junction City. The festive Lane County Fair is also in full swing at this time.

In late September, the downtown area is cordoned off and Eugene throws a party: The Eugene Celebration - you're invited. The biggest bash of the year is a melting pot of music, gastronomic delights, and Oregon-made arts and crafts. Shopping is advised. Springfield is east of Eugene along the McKenzie Highway. Nearby, the McKenzie River recreation area offers white-water rafting, golf, camping, fishing, sailing, skiing or just a beautiful place to stop and relax.



MILEAGE LOG

The town of Peoria is 10 miles away. Ride past Peoria through Harrisburg. At the end of Harrisburg, turn left on LaSalle. Take LaSalle to 6th St. and turn right. 6th becomes Coburg Rd. Ride through the town of Coburg. Continue south on Coburg Rd. past Armitage Park, a great stopping place, and enter Eugene. Continue on Coburg Rd. across the Willamette River. Follow the signs to 6th Ave. This takes you through Eugene, on to 99W, and back to the Eugene Airport. If you are on your bicycle, turn right onto the bike path immediately after crossing the Willamette River. Enjoy the beautiful scenery along the river. The bike path breaks at Stults Road (not marked) and continues on the other side of Stults. The path ends at Copping St. Turn left at Howard and right at River Rd. Ride north on River Rd. to Beacon Dr. and turn left. Beacon to Prairie, turn left. Prairie to Awbrey, turn right. Continue on Awbrey across Hwy 99W back to the Eugene Airport.

Summer visitors to Springfield can celebrate the festive atmosphere and marvelous food during the annual Springfield Filbert Festival - enjoyed by the entire community.

EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD AREA EVENTS

- JUNE** Summer Music Festivals
- JULY** Oakridge Fat Tire Festival
- AUG** Scandinavian Festival
Springfield Filbert Festival
- SEPT** Eugene Celebration



Mile 150 to 195





We sincerely hope you enjoy the spectacular beauty and open spaces of Oregon's Willamette Valley. There is, however, much more to Oregon's heartland than first meets the eye. The Valley is the agricultural center of Oregon. Along the entire scenic loop are many roadside stands, small shops, and family owned U-pick farms filled with Oregon-grown foods and products:

Fresh fruits, nuts, vegetables, juices, honey, confections, wines, breads, and berries of all varieties are available.

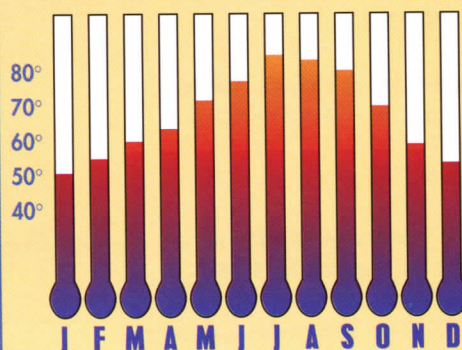


ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations along the entire Willamette Valley Loop are numerous and varied. Choose from historic Bed and Breakfast Inns, scenic, comfortable campgrounds, full service modern hotels, or convenient motels. For details on where to stay during your visit, contact one of the visitor associations listed in this brochure.



AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURES



Contrary to popular belief, the weather in Oregon is generally mild throughout the year. Yes, it does rain so plan accordingly.

**COME
BACK
SOON**

OREGON.
Things Look Different Here