Emigrant Trails Scenic Byway

The Emigrant Trails Scenic Byway is a route that is rich in history and full of unique highlights. Highlights and points of interest along the route are many and varied.

In some locations actual remnants of historic trails can be seen. Geology includes high mountain peaks, canyons, farmland, lava flows from ancient volcanoes and wide-open water areas. The rock formations are breathtaking and truly spectacular.

You will find many friendly people and businesses along your route so please take your time and get to know the area and the people. We are certain that you will truly enjoy following some of the same paths that the early emigrants took and you will soon find out why they chose this route.

Other Scenic Byways:

Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway

Oregon Outback National Scenic Byway

Ring-Umpqua National Scenic Byway

Lava Beds Legacy Scenic Byway

All American Road

Be sure to ask for local road conditions before traveling during late fall, spring and winter months.

Applegate Trail

An offshoot history of the on the Oregon Trail. A side route of the Oregon Trail, the Applegate opened in 1846 after being blazed by Colonel Linsey and June Applegate and a group of Willamette Valley trailblazers that sought to find an alternate route in order to avoid the perilous Columbia River. Visitors can follow the trail to explore other segments near Grants Lake. A marker at a highway pullout near the Oregon-California border marks the trail.

Captain Jack’s Stronghold

Imagine this, a 4,210-acre glass flow created by an ancient eruption of the Lava Beds. Here they guarded their homeland during a six-month battle that resulted in more US soldier casualties than the Spanish-American War and the death of the only U.S. Army general, General Canby, during the Indian War.

Glass Mountain

Covering this area, an obsidian glass flow 12,000 feet high. The rocks are unique to this area.

Lassen Volcanic National Forest

Explore the maze of nooks, crannies and passageways that make up this national forest. Disenfranchised with life on the Klamath Indian Reservation, in 1872 a band of Modoc Indians led by their chief, Capt. Jack, returned to the volcanic wilds of the Lava Beds. Here they valiantly defended their homeland during a six-month battle that resulted in more US soldier casualties than the Spanish-American War and the death of the only US Army general, General Canby, during the Indian War.

Lassen Peak

Imagine this, a 4,210-acre glass flow created when glacial debris and pyroclastic debris flowed from the same vent without mixing. Nearby, erupt an obsidian glass flow that covers 12,000 acres. It was a source of obsidian for stone tools made by Native Americans.

Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges

The Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges of this region’s wetlands, marshes and open waters can be seen. Geology includes high mountains, waterless deserts. To cross 1,000 foot deep Goose Lake State Park in Oregon, you would have to cut through dense forest and across vast waterless desert. Today, the highway is greatly improved since 1849. The road was cut through a mountain range and a group of Willamette Valley trailblazers that sought to find an alternate route in order to avoid the perilous Columbia River. Visitors can follow the trail to explore other segments near Grants Lake. A marker at a highway pullout near the Oregon-California border marks the trail.

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