OREGON OUTBACK
NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

“Between the Cascade Mountains and the Continental Divide, there exists a land of magic and mystery, a place where rivers can even travel west which way but never to the sea. This is the Great Basin Country, a star-scape land of marsh and mountain, of reflection and rim rocks, of sage bush and sage-scented dreams.”

Abert Rim
Standing on a surface once more than a quarter mile high. This 30-mile long ridge has 2,000 feet above Lake Abert and is one of the longest exposed fault scarps in North America. It began forming during geologic upheaval several million years ago.

Abert Lake and Summer Lake
Experience the serenity at Abert Lake and Summer Lake. Many lakes in this region have highly concentrated, alkaline salts dissolved in the water, a result of the chemical weathering and surrounding rocks. Hundreds of birds as they feed on the brine shrimp.

Gearhart Wilderness
Gearhart Mountain is the highest point in this Wilderness. The headwaters of several small streams lie at the base of many of the cliffs and ridges.

Christmas Valley / Crack in the Ground
Enter deep into the earth, through this two-mile-long, 10 to 15 foot wide basalt lava fissure which runs from 10 to 70 feet deep. Crack in the Ground and Fossil Lake are two areas more nearby into Age geological features. At places it is bridged by boulders. Winter ice sometimes remains for months in its depths all year.

Devil’s Garden (near Christmas Valley)
Devil’s Garden Lava Field and East Lava Field are other geological oddities northeast of Fort Rock.

Fort Rock
This site is a most unusual discovery. The 325-foot-high crescent shaped remnants of the ancient Fort Rock Volcanic are now a state monument. This unique formation stands in stark contrast to the high desert.

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Derrick Cave
Derrick Cave is estimated to be 1,200 feet long, perhaps Oregon’s third-longest lava tube cave. It is accessible on public BLM and Forest Service land near Fort Rock.

Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum
Immerse yourself in Oregon’s pioneer history where pioneer cabins, a church and even a doctor’s office have been relocated and restored at this 10 acre village.

Goose Lake / Lassen Emigrant Trail
Stop at the highway pull-out and enjoy this scenic area and learn about this unusual feature. Emigrants crossed this lake when it was dry and during drought spells by lowering their wagons 1000 ft. with ropes. Their tracks can still be seen on the lake bottom. Goose Lake State Park in Oregon near the states’ borders offers excellent access.

Blaine County Wildlife Foundation
Visit the interpretive displays at the refuges headquarters to learn about the best sites for viewing pronghorn antelope, elk, deer and other wildlife. This 275,000-acre refuge towers over nearby rock fields and wetlands.

Lakeview / Old Perpetual Geyser
Lakeview is the tallest town in Oregon at 4800 feet. Lakeview is the hangling capital of the world due to its unique thermal. The Lakeview Museum is a display Native American artifacts and items representing the local pioneer life as well as the Outdoors Pioneer Museum. Be sure to visit Old Perpetual Geyser located off of Hwy. 395/114 as it shoots 200 deg. water 60 ft. in the air.

Hot Springs in Lake County
Lake County and neighboring area’s have many hotpots. You can find them year-round. Some popular hotspots are: Summer Lake, Lakeview, Hart Mountain, Surprise Valley and numerous remote area’s.

Shifting Sand Dunes / Lost Forest
Visit the site of the only casualties caused by direct military action on the continental U.S. during WWII. A Japanese balloon bomb killed five people on a church picnic here in 1945.

Sunstone Collection Area
Sunstones are Oregon’s official gemstone, and this is the only place these unique gems can be collected by the public without a permit. Sunstones can be red or green, but pale yellow is the most common color. Facilities available at the site include a portable toilet, picnic tables, and a shaded structure.

Winter Rim / Summer Lake
Experience a natural anachronism. This sintering escarpment, towering high above the lake, was named by Capt. John C. Fremont in 1843. He and his men encountered winter conditions at the ridge summit while lush, green meadows lie below around Summer Lake.