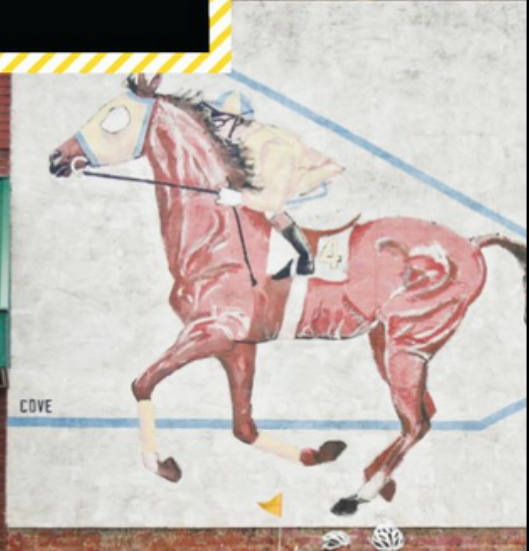


Worthy Brewing



MAPPING
OUT YOUR
Oregon
MEETING



Looking for outdoor splendor and the simple charms of the Old West? Head east in Oregon.

NATALIE COMPAGNO & GREG FREITAS

While western Oregon may have the big cities and the coast, central and eastern Oregon aren't slackers in the appeal department. The regions boast grassy plains, snowcapped peaks, North America's deepest river gorge and a fascinating history. Groups will also find plenty of urban sophistication, with swank lodgings, museums, art galleries and microbreweries scattered throughout.

CENTRAL OREGON

Central Oregon is the perfect base camp for outdoor adventures of every kind regardless of when you visit.

"Central Oregon offers a different quality of life. With recreation out our back door, attendees can choose between hiking, biking, golfing, rafting, canoeing, cave tours, a cycle pub, skiing, snowmobiling and more to create memorable experiences," says Katie Johnson, communications manager with Visit Central Oregon. "Our state-of-the-art facilities and professional planners will provide the space for your group to be successful inside and in the great outdoors. It's an environment that encourages togetherness."

The region is home to Mount Bachelor and the Deschutes River, and Golf Digest named it one of the "Top 25 Golf Destinations" in the world. It also provides more than 8,000 hotel rooms to welcome groups of any size.

Bend/Redmond

Bend is booming. The sixth-fastest growing city in the country has doubled its population in 20 years. The town of 95,000 residents has

both Facebook and Apple stamping their digital footprints. Bend is also home to Central Oregon Community College and Oregon State University-Cascades, which are less than 30 minutes south of Redmond.

Here, you'll find yourself at the epicenter of the craft beer craze. **Deschutes Brewery** started the whole thing in 1988, while others from **Crux Fermentation Project** to **10 Barrel** have picked up the keg and carried it to new heights. To sample the flavors of the region, embark on the Bend Ale Trail—10 stamps in the passport earn a special commemorative glass.

For something truly memorable, **Worthy Brewing** built a three-story observatory and installed a 16-inch reflecting telescope. Run by a local astronomer, the "Hopservatory" is available for groups and charged with the far-out mission of humbling and amazing visitors with the beauty of the galaxy.

"Groups enjoy creative bonding events, perhaps through the Hopservatory to stargaze and enjoy a pint at Worthy Brewing," says Johnson, "or dining lakeside followed by a moonlight canoe trip with **Wanderlust Tours**, or touring the historic Bend area on electric bikes."

Riverhouse on the Deschutes is a riverfront



PHOTOS: WORTHY BREWING; JONI KABANA; RUSS ROGA; ANDY BATT



Bend hotel and convention center complex in a prime location. The hotel offers 221 rooms, while its convention center can accommodate up to 1,600 guests with more than 41,000 square feet of indoor-outdoor space. The convention center is the largest convention center facility east of the Cascades and the only one to be certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver.

Northwest favorite McMenemy's converted downtown Bend's **1936 Old St. Francis School** into a hotel complete with a pub, brewery, movie theater, meeting and event space, and gorgeous soaking pool.

Tetherow is a 700-acre Bend resort that

borders the Deschutes National Forest and boasts an award-winning 18-hole golf course, 50-room boutique hotel, pool, three restaurants, fitness facility, event pavilion and residences.

Further north, **Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center** is located by the airport in Redmond. Facilities include the Barn Complex, the High Desert Activity Center, Middle Sister, North Sister, South Sister, Center Circle and outdoor arenas. Big groups will head to the expo's First Interstate Bank Center, a multipurpose indoor arena extending 80,000 square feet. It can handle up to 7,800 people for a concert or 280 booth spaces,

and can easily transform from trade show to rodeo to antiques fair and back again.

Eagle Crest Resort, also near the airport, features three golf courses, a spa, hiking and biking, and horseback riding. The resort's conference center provides 10,000 square feet of flexible space with ballroom or banquet capacity from 360 to 425.

Sunriver Resort has more than 44,000 square feet of flexible indoor and outdoor meeting and banquet space. This is in addition to four championship golf courses, a spa, a recreation department and full-service business center. Plus, you'll receive complimentary basic wireless internet access in all meeting areas.



Clockwise: Tour the FivePine Lodge & Conference Center on cruiser bikes courtesy of the lodge; relax post-meeting in the soothing soaking tub of the 1936 Old St. Francis School; the 700-acre Tetherow offers three restaurants.

The 640-acre **Pronghorn Resort** just opened Huntington Lodge this past spring. Featuring 104 guest rooms and suites and a full-service spa, the lodge overlooks the 18th hole of one of the resort's two golf courses. It features a renovated Cascada signature restaurant with small plates served throughout the afternoon and evening. In addition, the resort's former restaurant, Chanterelle, has been transformed into flexible event and meeting space. Additional enhancements include a lodge bar and a new outdoor pool created for year-round use with a spacious deck and a central fireplace.

Sisters

The charming town of Sisters is a smaller alternative to Bend. The lavishly recreated Old West town offers unparalleled vistas with the Three Sisters mountain peaks—each over 10,000 feet—as the backdrop.

FivePine Lodge & Conference Center makes an ideal corporate retreat locale with 4,800 square feet of flexible meeting space for up to 200 guests. Besides the spa, brewpub and movie theater, guests can work out at the Sisters Athletic Club (which includes indoor pools and fitness classes) and take advantage of the complimentary cruiser bikes to get around the resort.

Eight miles from town, **Black Butte Ranch** awaits in an idyllic setting among aspens and ponderosa pines. Golf, tennis and swimming pools are augmented by yoga classes, and intimate private meeting rooms keep the group focused. The Lodge Deck can seat up to 250, and the restaurant can seat 120. But why stay inside? The 1,800-acre resort has outdoor gathering spaces, so your options are wide open. Have a barbecue in the sports field pavilion or a group lunch on the Glaze Meadow Golf Course deck. The ranch also offers group activities and competitions, including a biking "Tour de Ranch," the "Black Butte Posse" guided horseback-riding excursion and fly fishing trips.



EASTERN OREGON

"Eastern Oregon is one of the most geologically diverse regions in our state—you can find everything from arid deserts to snowcapped mountains, lush forests, wild and scenic rivers to rolling sagebrush," says Jaime Eder from Travel Oregon.

Forming most of the border with Idaho, the Snake River cuts one of the deepest river-carved gorges in the world. The Blue Mountains and Wallowa Mountains to the east and the surrounding prairie give visitors a window into the Old West—although writers and artists now come to the region as often as ranch hands and cowboys. "It's an expansive, often remote part of the state—which is part of what makes it so appealing," says Eder. "It truly feels like an escape where one can unplug and enjoy the scenic beauty."

Pendleton

The town associated with high-end woollens and rodeo is also the gateway to the east. With 16,500 residents, Pendleton is one of the largest communities in the region, and its proximity to Washington wine country makes it a must destination. The Native American population is a cultural focal point and provided the inspiration for the now world-famous eponymous blankets, originally based on tribal designs.

With 40,000 square feet of space and 11 meeting rooms, the **Pendleton Convention Center** has groups of all sizes covered. The center offers event-planning services, and catering and bar service are provided by CG Public House and Catering. The main hall can hold 600 guests for a banquet and 800 classroom-style. Looking for a little more room? No problem, the Happy Canyon Arena can hold 4,500 for an outdoor concert. Lucky for you, the center also has 500 parking spaces.

The 10-story **Wildhorse Resort & Casino** on the Umatilla Reservation offers gaming excitement alongside more than 14,000

square feet of meeting space and 301 guest rooms. Two of its most popular meeting spaces—Rivers Event Center and Cayuse Hall—can accommodate banquets for up to 430 and 230, respectively. The resort is expanding its space by an additional 18,000 square feet, further optimizing options for planners. "We provide complimentary audio-visual equipment for our groups," says Sales Executive Leandra Hopkins, adding, "Our golf course is a popular amenity that some of our groups take advantage of during spring, summer and early fall. It is available for groups to hold a tournament before or after their meetings or events."

And when work is done, groups can explore the town's hardscrabble past via **Pendleton Underground Tours**. Make your way through the tunnels underneath the downtown historic district and learn about the opium dens, bootleggers, gamblers and prospectors of years past.

La Grande

Planners can choose from a variety of spaces on the campus of **Eastern Oregon University** in La Grande. Event specialists work with planners to accommodate everything from small groups to several hundred. For lodging, the newly renovated boutique **Landing Hotel**, one block south of the historic district, provides an excellent home base.

Joseph

Eastern Oregon is the ancestral home of Chief Joseph, the great leader of the Nez Perce nation. The town that bears his name is filled with art galleries, antique shops and—you guessed it—brewpubs. Joseph lies at the base of the beautiful Wallowa Mountains, an outdoor playground for nature lovers.

Wallowa Lake is also home to the Wallowa Lake Monster, the centuries-old tale of a gentle leviathan from Nez Perce culture. Groups can stay at the refurbished 1923 manor **Wallowa Lake Lodge**, which exudes a cozy authentic period atmosphere. Don't miss the **Wallowa Lake Tramway**, which zips visitors by gon-

dola up to the 8,200-foot summit of Mount Howard. At the top, the **Summit Grill**, billed as the highest restaurant in the Northwest, is available for group buyouts and special events.

John Day

Four and a half hours south in the town of John Day, **Silvies Valley Ranch** offers groups the chance to get away from it all at an eco-resort that is also an authentic cattle ranch. Situated at the midway point of Boise, Idaho and Bend, the 34-room full-service resort offers Western experiences—such as riding, roping and shooting—as well as a full-service spa and two 18-hole links-style golf courses. The brand-new conference facility holds groups of up to 36 in comfort, and the award-winning restaurant features over 110 whiskeys—the most extensive selection in the region. Time for a tasting!

Baker City

Further east and well worth the trip, the **Geiser Grand Hotel** in Baker City has been welcoming groups with traditional hospitality since 1889. The National Historic Landmark has a plethora of meetings options, from The Library to the Swans Room to the Queen City Room, holding 20-200 guests.

Ontario

Ontario is located less than an hour away from Boise by car. Looking out over the Snake River that divides the two states, the **Four Rivers Cultural Center** has a formal Japanese garden and a 30,000-square-foot conference center with multiple meeting rooms.

Well, that's it. We've run out of Oregon roads. But now that you've traveled along central and eastern Oregon with us, where are you planning to meet next? 🍷

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