

OUTSIDE

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the canal at Alton Baker Park also rents canoes and kayaks as well as paddle boats for use in the canal.

If buying expensive outdoor equipment presents a problem, many Eugene shops rent the necessities. Brother Johnathan's and McKenzie Outfitters both rent backpacks, tents, boots and some climbing gear. Mountain bikes and six-speed bikes can be rented for the day from Pedal Power Bicycles.

With rented boots you can hike two of Eugene's most popular trails — Spencer Butte and Mount Pisgah. The trails are close to town but allow the hiker to rise above the city.

Both Spencer Butte and Mount Pisgah are easy hikes that offer panoramic views. The Ridgeline Trail to Spencer Butte can be reached by South Willamette Street or Fox Hollow Road. It's an easy 1.5-mile loop trail that ends at the summit of the butte.

Once at the top, hikers are rewarded with a bird's-eye view of Eugene, Fern Ridge Reservoir and the Three Sisters Mountains.

Mount Pisgah is part of Buford Park, which also includes an arboretum with its own trails. The summit trail is three miles round trip, and offers long meadows full of wildflowers, as well as views of Eugene and the Willamette Valley.

If you have something even higher in mind than Spencer Butte or Mount Pisgah, you can really get there at Cottage Grove Aviation. Plane rides as well as flying lessons are offered, and they can fit into any student's busy schedule.

"We have a relaxed atmosphere here," said instructor Mark Stadsklev. "Most of my students are employed so we're very flexible. Some people come in at eight in the morning and others come in after work."



File photo
Maneuvering up the rocky face on the west side of Skinner Butte near downtown Eugene is another popular outdoor activity.

They also give scenic flights and hope to teach gliding lessons in the spring.

Whether you fly, hike, bike, or float, make sure you get outside and enjoy Eugene. Then you can go back to the books.



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