

Hiking

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orable mention, but Echo Basin features everything but the panoramic views on a short but sweet trek.

The hike travels through a forest home to my favorite type of tree, the Alaska yellow cedar, before entering a shaggy wildflower meadow within a cathedral of rock.

One upside: this hike is far easier than all of the other we'll showcase at 2.5 miles total and 600 feet of climb.

Directions: From Santiam Junction, follow Highway 20 heading southwest toward Corvallis to milepost 67. Turn right at a pointer for "Echo Basin" and follow gravel Forest Service Road 055 for 2 miles to the trailhead. Beware of a washout near the trailhead that may be difficult for low-riding passenger cars. **Coordinates:** 44.4129, -122.0854.

5: Browder Ridge

This route features many of the favorites of Old Cascade hikes — old-growth, wildflowers and mountain views — but without much or any of the crowds.

The hike travels a steep 3.2 miles round-trip to a striking viewpoint of the Three Sisters and some nice wildflowers. The hike to the summit is steep and somewhat tricky, however, and requires some navigation to reach the summit.

William L. Sullivan provides good details on the route in his classic "100 Hikes Central Oregon Cascades."

More details: Hikes climb Browder Ridge, explore Echo Basin

Directions: From Santiam Junction, follow Highway 20 heading southwest toward Corvallis to milepost 68. Turn left onto Hackleman Road (Forest Service Road 2672) and stay on it through a split in the road for 1.8 miles. Turn right onto Forest Service Road 1598 and follow it 2.8 miles to a trailhead sign and parking pullout on the left (the trail starts on the right side of the road). **Coordinates:** 44.371, -122.054

4: Coffin and Bachelor Mountain

These two hikes are placed together because they're right next to each other.

Coffin is the more famous of the duo and a steep 3-mile round-trip hike with 1,000 feet of climb. Bachelor Mountain is 4 miles with 1,100 feet of climb.

Known for beargrass blooms "that brought tears to my eyes," Coffin has a remarkable wildflower display on its steep meadows and an active fire lookout at the top. The fire lookouts are busy but will sometimes chat. Never enter the lookout's catwalk without permission.

Near the top of the hike, you begin to understand the mountain's gloomy name. The summit has the shape — from some angles — of a dark casket. Near the lookout on the 5,700-foot summit, there's a helicopter pad and other places to enjoy a view that stretches an incredible distance — from Washington's Mount Rainier to Southern Oregon's Mount Thielsen, and west to Marys Peak.

Bachelor Mountain features a more level grade on its climb to the former site of a lookout. Old-growth subalpine fir and rocky meadows with wildflowers and mountain views are the highlight.

Directions (Coffin Mountain Trailhead): From Salem, drive east on Highway 22, past Detroit and Marion Forks, to milepost 69. Turn right onto Straight Creek Road (Forest Service Road 11). Go 4 miles and turn right onto gravel road 1168. Continue 3.8 miles and turn left



Striking views of Mount Jefferson greet visitors on the summit of Crescent Mountain. PHOTOS BY ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL



The meadows of Crescent Mountain feature stunning wildflower displays.

onto USFS Road 450. Almost immediately, you'll see the trailhead parking area and a sign for Coffin Mountain Trail. **Coordinates:** 44.6084441, -122.0497065

Directions for Bachelor Mountain: From the Coffin Trailhead, drive back 100 feet to Road 1168, turn left for 0.7 mile to a junction and turn left onto rough Road 430 for a half mile to a parking area at the road's end. **Coordinates:** 44.6178, -122.0343.

3: Iron Mountain and Cone Peak

This is the most popular hike in the Old Cascade region near Tombstone Pass, and for good reason. Most hikers would rank this one higher than No. 3.

There are two very different options here. A family-friendly route begins at the upper Civil Road Trailhead and climbs 700 feet in 1 mile to reach a summit with a wooden desk excellent for kids that want to admire every major mountain from Mount Jefferson to the Three Sisters without the risk of falling off a steep cliff. The hike is 2 miles round-trip.

A more challenging and rewarding route begins at a lower trailhead and follows the Cone Peak and Iron Mountain Trail on a 7.8 loop that climbs 2,000 feet. Old-growth, wildflowers and Iron Mountain's summit are the reward for the challenging trek.

The only downside here is that during peak blooms, the trails gets very crowded. People do spread out, and it's not nearly as bad as places in the Columbia Gorge, but for me, there are two hikes that are just a little better.

Directions (Civil Road Trailhead): From Sweet Home, travel 32 miles east on Highway 20 and drive over Tombstone Pass. Around mile post 62, turn left on Civil Road / Forest Service Road 035 and travel 2.6 miles to the trailhead. **Coordinates:** 44.39869, -122.155888

2: Middle Pyramid

Diverse old-growth forest, a wildflower meadow set in a rock coliseum and a narrow summit make this hike through the Three Pyramids one of my favorites.

Coincidentally, the trio of extinct volcanic plugs offers knockout views of three active volcanoes just across the way — the Three Sisters. North, Middle and South Pyramid look directly at North, Middle and South Sister.

The trek to summit of Middle Pyramid is the showcase hike, a journey of 4.2 miles round-trip with 1,700 feet of climb — another short but steep one. Beginning in forest, passing a small waterfall, the sometimes-ragged trail enters a beautiful cliff-walled meadow at mile 0.4.

Beyond, the trail climbs uphill to

views of the young Cascades, and eventually to the summit, at the site of a former lookout. Make sure to veer right near the top to find the right spot.

Directions: From Salem follow Highway 22 east, past Detroit, to milepost 76. Turn right on Lava Lake Meadow Road 2067 and follow for 1.9 miles. After crossing a bridge, turn right onto Forest Road 560 and follow 3.5 miles to the road's end and the trailhead. **Coordinates:** 44.498747, -122.046414.

1: Crescent Mountain

The aptly named Crescent Mountain is my favorite hike in the Old Cascades because it has everything the others feature — old-growth forest, wildflower meadows and summit views — but on a grander scale.

The alpine meadow, in particular, is the most beautiful I've ever seen — more striking than Dog Mountain, Jefferson Park and narrowly beating out the other Old Cascades.

The journey is also longer than most of the others, at 9 miles round-trip with 2,200 feet of climb. It begins with a pleasant forested stroll to a small creek, then a steep climb past gigantic trees to the high meadow, which is filled with wildflowers in July and seems to stretch on forever, all while snow-capped volcanoes loom in every direction.

A final climb brings you to another former lookout site, and views from Hood to Diamond Peak, plus a narrow ridge to explore.

Directions: From Salem, head east on Highway 22, past Detroit Lake, to Santiam Junction. Merge onto Highway 20 west toward Albany and keep an eye out for Lava Lake Sno-Park. Turn right into the parking area and stay right onto Forest Road 2067. After a mile, veer left onto gravel Forest Road 508 (you'll see a sign pointing left with a hiker). In another 0.8 miles, you'll come to a large and obvious parking area where the trail begins. **Coordinates:** 44.42915, -122.02995

Urniss is the author of "Best Hikes with Kids: Oregon" and "Hiking Southern Oregon." He can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Review Body: Planning Commission

Hearing Date & Time: August 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Hearing Location: Teleconference meeting via Zoom with a telephone call in number. Due to Executive Order 20-16, the Planning Commission shall hold public hearings by telephone, video, or through some other electronic or virtual means, whenever possible. The instructions to listen to or virtually attend the meeting will be included in the Planning Commission meeting agenda which will be posted on the City's website and outside of City Hall, 306 S Water Street, on August 4, 2020. This will include a hyperlink to the meeting and a call in number to participate by telephone.

Agenda Item #1: File Number CP-20-01. Comprehensive Plan amendment to adopt the 2020 Housing Needs Analysis and Housing Strategy as a support document to the Silverton Comprehensive Plan. The application will be reviewed following the criteria found in Silverton Development Code section 4.12.400.

Failure of an issue to be raised in a hearing, in person or by letter, or failure to provide enough detail to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond precludes appeal to LUBA based on that issue. Additional information and/or review of this application, including all documents and evidence submitted, may be obtained at Silverton City Hall, 306 South Water Street by telephoning Jason Gottgetreu at (503) 874-2212. Copies of the staff report will be available seven (7) days prior to the public hearing and are available for review at no cost at City Hall by appointment, a copy can be provided on request at a reasonable cost.

Silverton Appeal
7/29/2020

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