

EXPLORING OREGON

photos by The Clackamas Print



As temperatures in Oregon rise, it's the perfect time of year to explore the trails and views around the state. Hike to a beautiful scenic waterfall, or take a trail to a monument or landmark. The Clackamas Print reviewed five Oregon hikes to try help you find an adventure. Or at least a break from school, studying and Snapchat.

FOREST PARK

This hike comes with a bonus, as it begins and ends at Portland's famous Pittock Mansion. Walk around the grounds and enjoy the panoramic city and mountain views for free. There's an admission fee to enter the mansion.

Find Pittock Trailhead in the corner of the parking lot, where the grounds back up to Forest Park. With more than 80 miles of trails at your feet, the hiking possibilities are limitless. But the trailhead sign offers two possibilities of worthwhile hiking routes.

Tuck your sunglasses away as you step foot on this well-beaten, shaded path with only sprinkles of sunlight sifted

through the tall evergreens. This peaceful hike begins with a descent through the forest, where you'll notice old stumps and sprouting hemlocks. While somewhat uneventful, this short hike is perfect for almost everyone, including trail runners and families as long as you don't mind the hike back uphill.

The second hike begins with the same descent into the forest, but veers left on Wildwood Trail. Water trickling over the trail hints at what's ahead. After crossing over Cornell Road, (a small reminder that you're still in the city), suddenly the calming sound of rushing water will hasten your step. Soon you'll hit Balch

Creek, small waterfalls and wooden bridges. Continue along the creek to the Stone House, a WPA-era restroom, now covered in graffiti. The trail goes on for 78 more miles, but for this hike, it's time to turn around. The second half of the hike takes you back the way you came, and includes some fairly steep climbs. Just remember, your mansion awaits you.

Good for beginners, with additional creepy-cool vibes, the Witches Castle hike in Forest Park is great for after-work jogs, family walks or fun photo shoots. Pet friendly with many restaurants nearby on Northwest 23rd Avenue, this hike is perfect for a quick breath of fresh air.

Located about 35 minutes away from campus, a quick Google search will take you directly to a parking lot and entrance and a porta potty if needed. Friday at 5 p.m. with a friend and an adorable puppy, we ventured out to the graffiti covered castle; there was plenty of greenery and even a small stream. Along the short jaunt to the "haunted" castle, the pathway was rocky and slippery when wet, definitely prepare beforehand and wear non-slick shoes; there is also a small bridge to cross. During this Northwest Portland hike you'll be sure to see runners, couples, dog-walkers, and in our instance an engagement shoot.