

# Smith Rock



Amanda Peacher/OPB

**Visitation at Smith Rock State Park increased from 450,000 in 2011 to 776,000 day use visitors annually in 2019.**

Smith Rock State Park draws rock climbers from all over the world and has plenty to offer for even the most casual visitor. The 600-acre park has trails (easy and challenging), a green and shady picnic area, a campground and views that cannot be beat anywhere in the state.

The trail down to the river from the parking lot is a fairly steep dirt and gravel path, fine for everyone but the least sure-footed. A walking stick helps. At the bottom of the trail is a picturesque footbridge, a water fountain and a toilet. Hikers who walk into the canyon have three choices after they cross the footbridge over Crooked River — right,

left or up.

At the footbridge if you turn left, you'll follow the river for about two miles, past the majority of the climbing routes, so be sure to look up occasionally. This isn't a loop.

If you take a right turn at the footbridge, the trail again hugs the river for slightly over a mile, but in a less rocky and wooded manner.

The Misery Ridge trail also starts its climb just across the footbridge. The trail winds past Parking Lot Wall and Red Wall to the summit and descends on the west side past Monkey Face.

Trails can be narrow, so don't forget your mask.