



Eastern Oregon isn't what you think it is. Sure, it's got natural beauty. The Willows and Blues, the Columbia and Umatilla, the Painted Hills. There are fossil beds that have rested for 40 million years and a poplar forest that was planted in the 1990s. From high desert to mountain peaks to quietly babbling brooks, there are many things to see in our great outdoors.

But it's more than that.

It's also a callback to the Old West, where a century-old rodeo is just the beginning. There are museums documenting the three tribes that first called this place home, the travelers who rolled through later and the settlers who founded the homesteads that morphed into towns and cities. You can touch that history in downtown shops that still work the leather, or walk in

the ruts left by wagon trains.

It's not just about the past, though.

The towns and cities have taken on lives of their own, telling not just their history but cutting a path forward. Some of the world's most advanced agricultural techniques are tested and implemented here. There is art, music and culture, places for children to learn and play, and places for adults to enjoy a locally crafted beer or wine.

Eastern Oregon is not one thing. It's a gateway to the great outdoors and the past, but also a nice spot to spend a weekend in the 21st Century.

We invite you to discover Eastern Oregon, in all its dimensions.

**Daniel Wattenburger,
East Oregonian managing editor**

