

Relax between adventures at these campgrounds

(open mid-March through October):

Viento, 8 miles west of Hood River. Well-shaded campsites on both sides of I-84 are close to several gorge trailheads. Sites include 58 with electricity and water, plus 17 tent sites. The park's day-use area offers easy access to some of best windsurfing in the gorge.

Memaloose, 11 miles west of The Dalles. Accessible only from the westbound side of I-84, the park overlooks the river and the island it's named for. Campsites are reservable through Reservations Northwest; they include 43 full hook-up (sewer, electricity, water), and 67 tent sites.

Ainsworth, 22 miles east of Troutdale on the Historic Columbia River Highway. An adjacent hiking trail connects with other popular U.S. Forest Service trails. Camping choices include 44 full hookup sites, six walk-in tent sites and a hiker-biker camp.

Rooster Rock State Park

What a spot for a picnic! Inviting green lawns and shade trees lie in the shadows of the park's towering namesake monolith. Sandy beaches along its three-mile-long Columbia River waterfront beckon sunbathers while the famed gorge winds propel windsurfers. Amenities include:

- Five group picnic areas (together, they accommodate up to 2,000 picnickers). Three areas have kitchen shelters with utilities. All reservable through Reservations Northwest.
- Boat basin with a ramp for boaters and anglers on a scenic lagoon at the base of Rooster Rock.
- One-mile nature trail through forest and meadow.
- Two 9-hole disc golf courses.
- Off-leash dog area.

Other Day-use Parks Along I-84

Benson State Recreation Area, 30 miles east of Portland. Windsurfers take off from the park's Dalton Point riverside area (accessible only to westbound traffic). Features: lake for fishing and rowboating, disc golf course and kitchen shelter reservable for group picnics east of the freeway.

Starvation Creek State Park, 10 miles west of Hood River. Offers hiking trail access (no water or restrooms available).

Wygant, Vinzenz Lausmann, Seneca Fouts state natural areas, accessible to eastbound travelers only at Mitchell Point, five to seven miles west of Hood River. Linked by Wygant hiking trail, these sites offer commanding views of gorge (trailhead at Seneca Fouts, six miles west of Hood River).

Koberg Beach State Recreation Site, three miles east of Hood River. Inviting beach wayside serves as a launching point for windsurfers and rest stop for I-84 motorists.

Mayer State Park, 10 miles west of The Dalles. Offers riverside day-use areas for windsurfers, swimmers, boaters and picnickers. An upper level features the Rowena Crest Overlook, which offers a magnificent view of the gorge. The Tom McCall Wildflower Preserve borders the viewpoint.

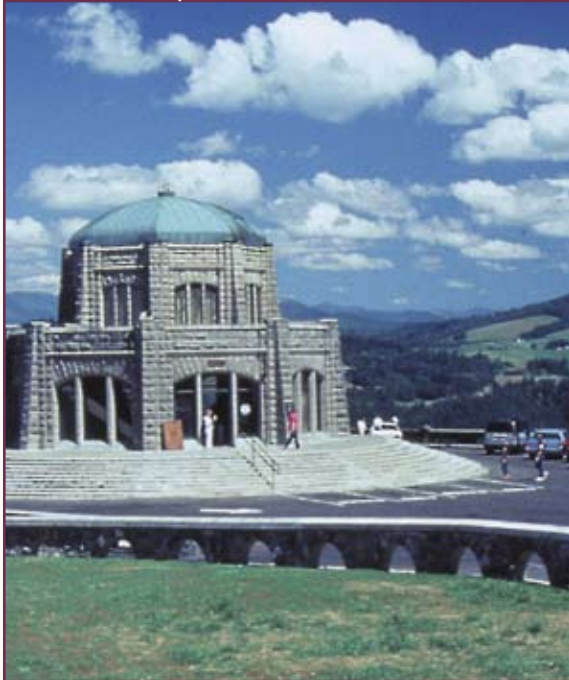
Along the Sandy River

(Parks accessible from both I-84 and the Historic Columbia River Highway)

Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site, 16 miles east of Portland. Features a beach area and boat ramp with a nature trail and rock climbing area above. The Corps of Discovery camped here in 1805.

Dabney State Recreation Area, four miles east of Troutdale. Summertime escape with reservable picnic shelter and electric cooking stations, disc golf course, classic swimming hole and a boat ramp that is open Sept. 30 - May 30.

Vista House, Crown Point



Day-use fees

Day-use area permits are required year-round at Rooster Rock, Benson, Dabney, East Mayer, Viento and both trailheads on the Twin Tunnels section of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail. You'll need to display either a daily permit or an annual pass on the driver side of your dashboard. Or, if you're camping in a state park, your camping receipt will serve as a daily permit for those days you are registered. You may purchase a daily permit for \$3 at the entrance booth or from a nearby yellow vending machine. Annual state park day-use permits are sold for \$25 by merchants near the park, at Joe's Stores throughout Oregon and at most state park offices.

Reservations

Call Reservations Northwest (1-800-452-5687) to reserve campsites at Memaloose State Park and group picnic areas at Benson, Dabney, Guy Talbot and Rooster Rock. Call Memaloose (541-478-3008) to reserve group picnic areas at Mayer State Park. Campsites also are reservable over the internet; visit the Oregon state park website: www.oregonstateparks.org

More information?

Call the Oregon State Park Information Center:

1-800-551-6949

or visit the Oregon state parks website:

www.oregonstateparks.org

Cover photos: (Front) Crown Point and Vista House overlooks Columbia River. (Back) Rooster Rock and Columbia River.



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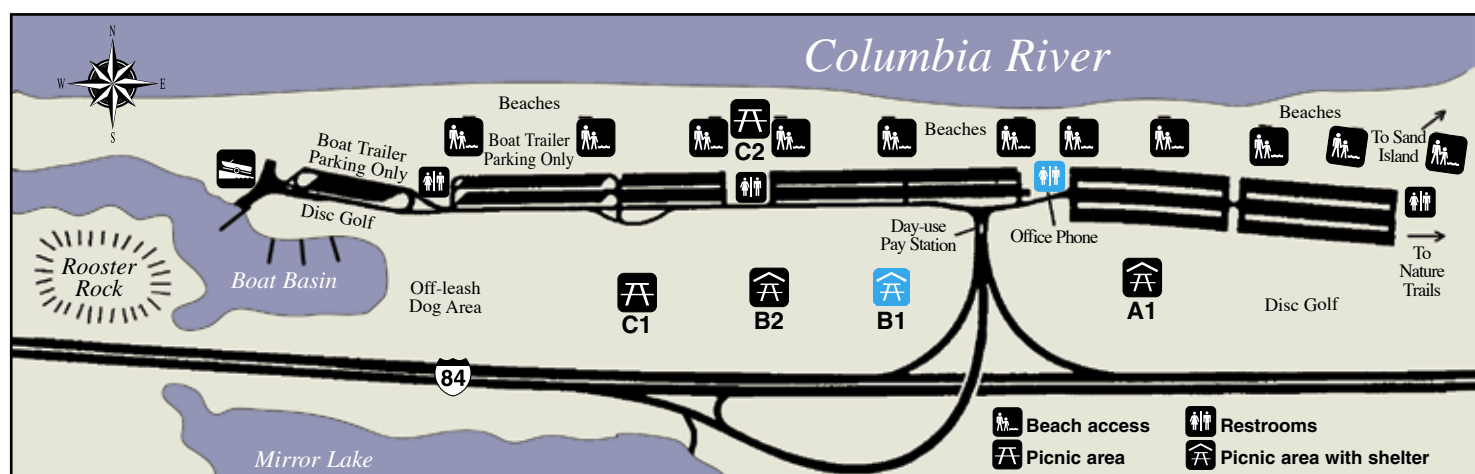
Columbia River Gorge State Parks

& Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail



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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Write to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301. You may also call 503-986-0707 or 1-800-735-2900 (Oregon Relay for the hearing impaired).



Welcome to the State Parks of the Columbia River Gorge

Conveniently positioned beside the river and high above on the cliffsides of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, 19 state parks and a state trail open the way to hiking, sightseeing and more.

Looking for a riverside picnic area, a beach or a place where windsurfers catch a breeze? Try one of the six parks on river-level I-84.

How about a close-up look at several of the gorge's spectacular waterfalls? Or panoramic views of the wide, majestic river sparkling far below? Visit the parks along the engineering marvel now known as the Historic Columbia River Highway. Several offer access to nearly 30 U.S. Forest Service (USFS) hiking trails (see other side).

Want to stay overnight? Establish headquarters for your gorge visit in one of three state park campgrounds.

Bridal Veil Falls



Photo by Ron Espersen

Hiking Adventures

Daytime hikes offer the best way see the Columbia River Gorge. State park trails lead to cascading waterfalls, bird's-eye viewpoints and connections with a vast network of cliffside trails managed by the U.S. Forest Service (see maps inside).

The Historic Columbia River Highway is an avenue to many trailheads in the west end of the gorge. And, farther east, long-abandoned segments of the highway now exist as the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail.

Parks Along The Historic Columbia River Highway

Begin a stroll (long or short, your choice) from these parks to a waterfall or cliffside viewpoint:

Guy W. Talbot State Park, 12 miles east of Troutdale. A short trail leads from a secluded, well-shaded picnic area to 249-foot-high Latourell Falls. Great for group picnics with its modern reservable shelter.

Shepperd's Dell State Natural Area, 14 miles east of Troutdale. Features a short trail to views of Young's Creek waterfalls.

Bridal Veil Falls State Scenic Viewpoint, 15 miles east of Troutdale (also accessible to motorists on I-84 from Exit 28). Offers a pleasant picnic destination and two hiking trails, one (one-mile round-trip) leading to the base of gracefully cascading Bridal Veil Falls. Upper-level interpretive trail features magnificent views of rock formations and the Columbia River.

John B. Yeon State Scenic Corridor, on a frontage road two miles east of I-84 Exit 35, 40 miles east of Portland. A short trail leads to a view of 289-foot Elowah Falls (no other visitor facilities available). Visitors also access USFS trails.

Just sightseeing? Views are hard to beat at these parks for those visitors who lack time for a hike:

Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint, 9 miles east of Troutdale. Where photographers stand to frame picture postcard scenes of the Columbia River Gorge and Crown Point.

Crown Point State Scenic Corridor, 11 miles east of Troutdale. Cliff-top site of the historic, octagonal Vista House, a gorge landmark since it was built in 1918. Houses a museum, interpretive displays and a gift shop (open March-October). Panoramic views of the gorge visible in all directions from the parking lot.

Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

Where motorists on old U.S. Highway 30 once crept around curves high along the cliffs of the Columbia River Gorge, hikers, bicyclists and users of other non-motorized forms of transportation leisurely enjoy the view from the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail (HCRHST). The trail, actually two disconnected paved ribbons following abandoned stretches of the historic highway route, gives users more than 10 miles of sightseeing thrills.

Between Hood River and Mosier, the five-mile Twin Tunnels segment passes through two distinct climate zones. Starting at the east Mark O. Hatfield Trailhead near Mosier, the trail leads through semiarid terrain dotted with ponderosa pine trees for about one mile to the Twin Tunnels. Spectacular geological formations telling the story of the gorge's creation dominate the scenery.

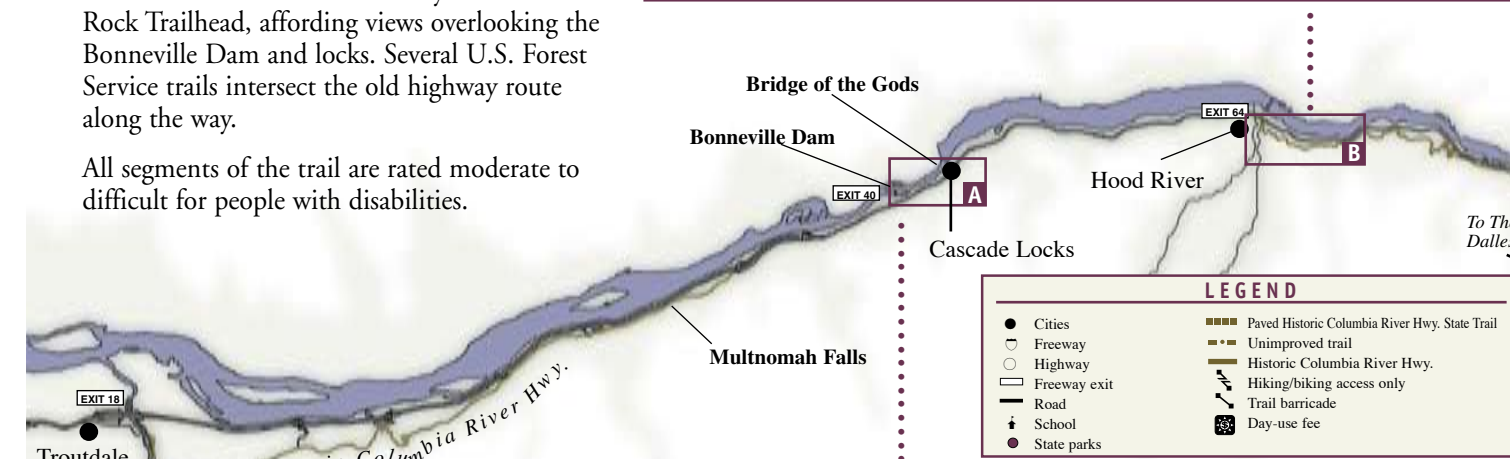
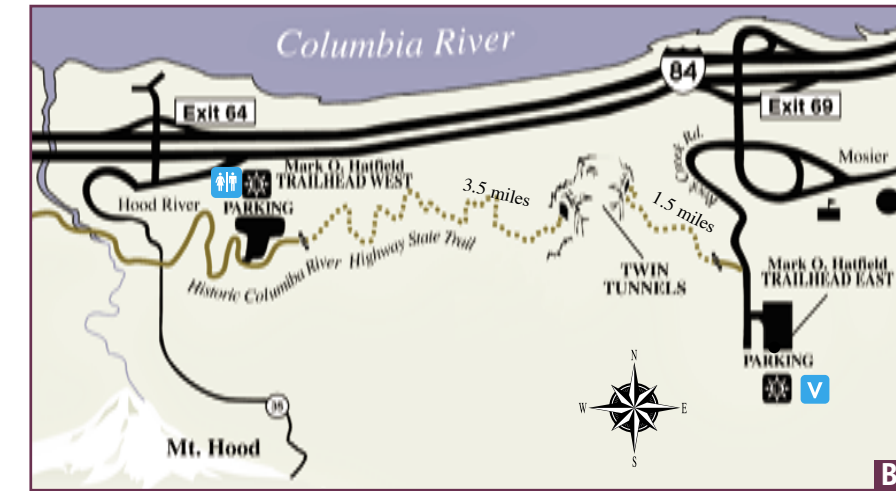
After passing through the tunnels, visitors emerge from the west portal into a forest that includes fir trees and other vegetation common to western Oregon. Viewpoints along the 3.5-mile segment from the tunnels to the west Mark O. Hatfield Trailhead overlook the river and the scenic grandeur of its gorge.

You will need a State Parks day-use permit to park at either the east or west trailhead. (Yellow self-service fee machines are located at each trailhead.) A visitor station

with trail hosts at the west trailhead offers orientation services. A drivable one-mile segment of the Historic Columbia River Highway (U.S. 30) leads from OR 35 to the station's parking lot.

The other open, paved portion of the HCRHST parallels I-84 west of Cascade Locks through an area that receives double the amount of rainfall measured in the Twin Tunnels area. A lush, green landscape of ferns, moss-covered rocks and delicate, shaded wildflowers flank a secluded 2.5-mile segment winding from the trailhead at the west edge of Cascade Locks to the Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery. The trail continues for another mile west of the hatchery to the Tooth Rock Trailhead, affording views overlooking the Bonneville Dam and locks. Several U.S. Forest Service trails intersect the old highway route along the way.

All segments of the trail are rated moderate to difficult for people with disabilities.



Be a Responsible Hiker



Leave no trace of your presence. Pack out any garbage you create, and any found along the trail.

PLEASE, don't smoke on the trails. Fires start even during wet seasons.

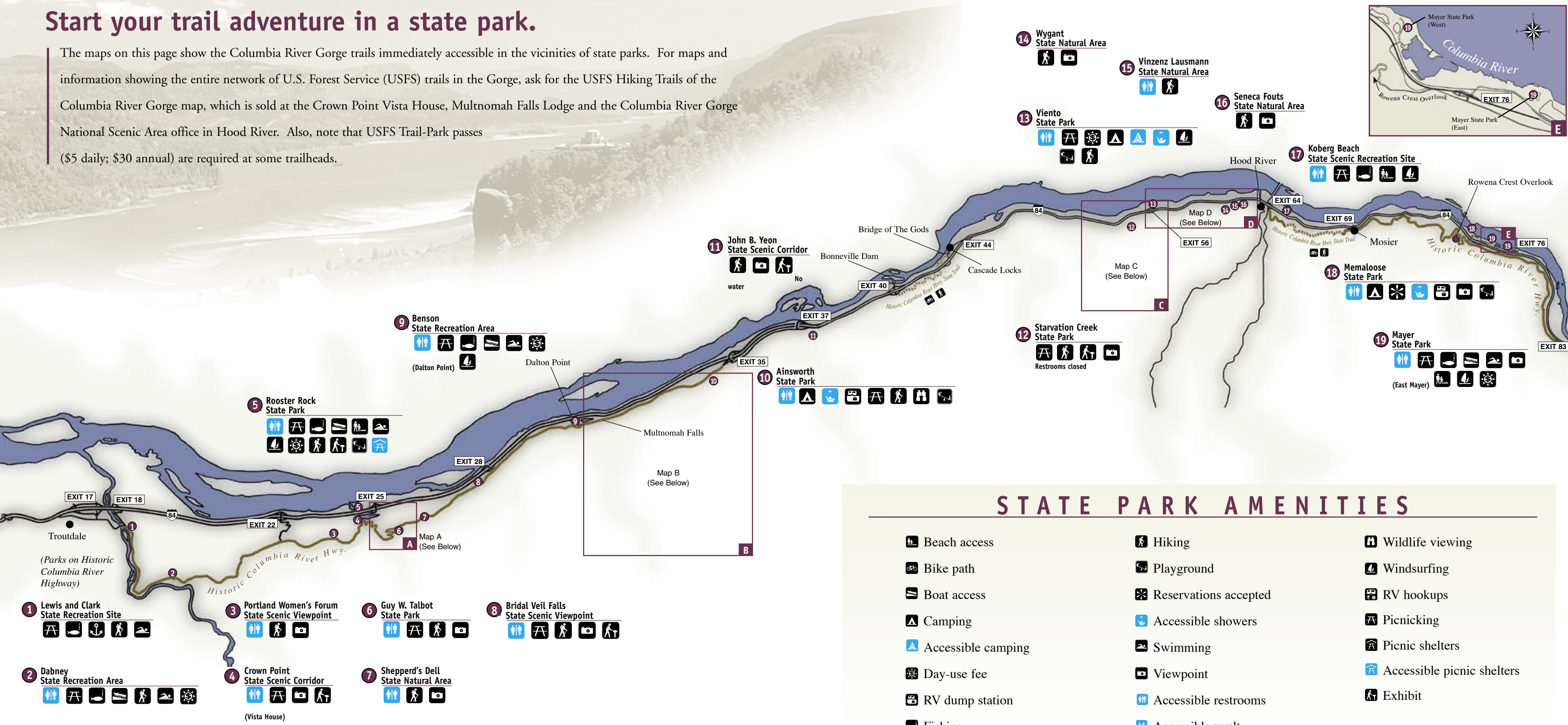
Control your pet. Uncontrolled pets often annoy fellow hikers and harass wildlife. They also can damage vegetation and the trails.

Advise local authorities of trail washouts, fallen trees and rock slides to help maintain a safe trail system.

Hiking in the Columbia River Gorge

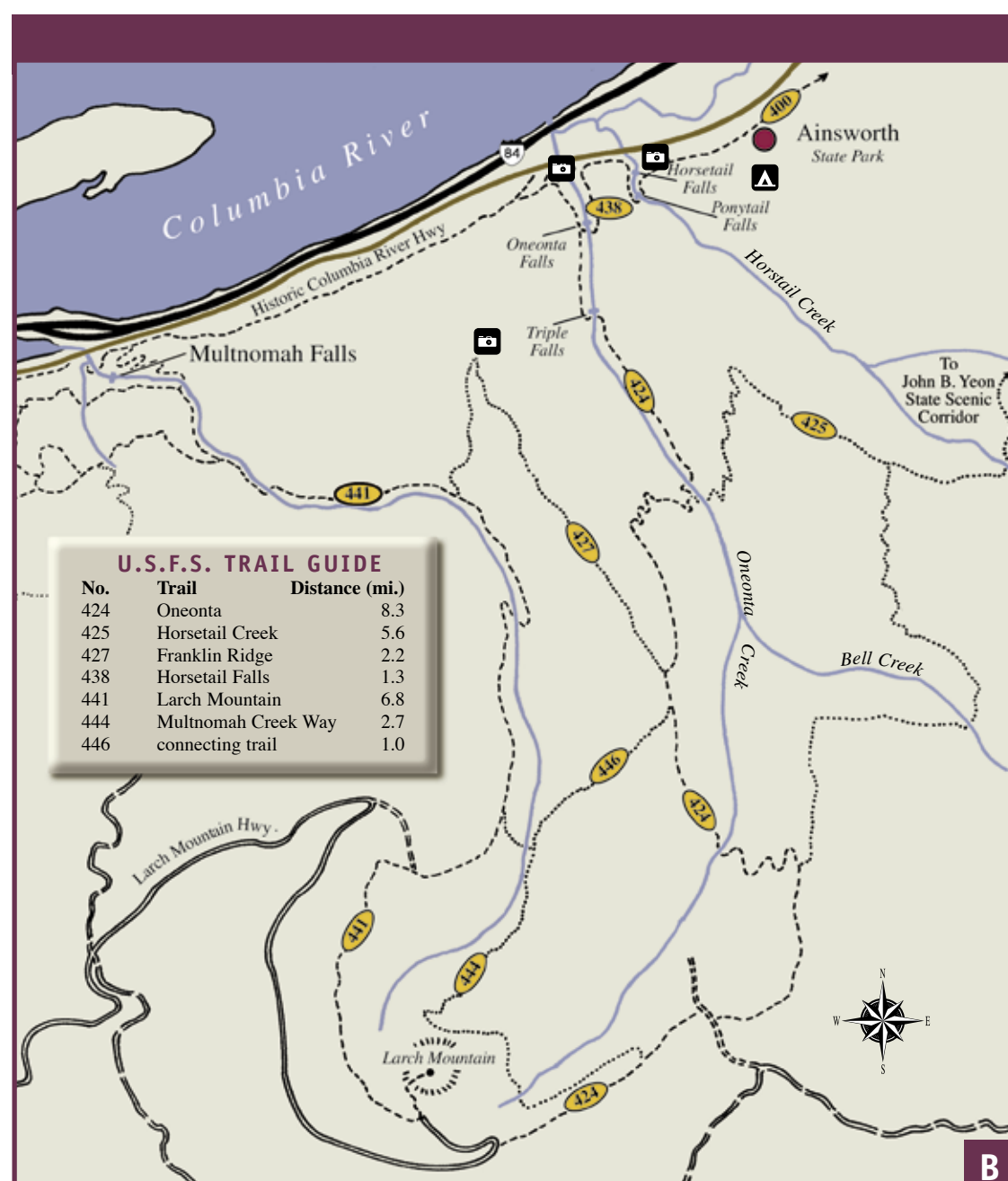
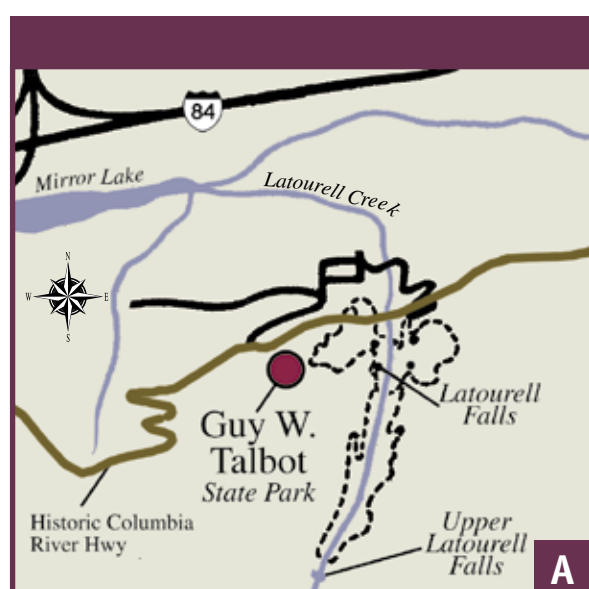
Start your trail adventure in a state park.

The maps on this page show the Columbia River Gorge trails immediately accessible in the vicinities of state parks. For maps and information showing the entire network of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) trails in the Gorge, ask for the USFS Hiking Trails of the Columbia River Gorge map, which is sold at the Crown Point Vista House, Multnomah Falls Lodge and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area office in Hood River. Also, note that USFS Trail-Park passes (\$5 daily; \$30 annual) are required at some trailheads.



STATE PARK AMENITIES

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Beach access | Hiking | Wildlife viewing |
| Bike path | Playground | Windsurfing |
| Boat access | Reservations accepted | RV hookups |
| Camping | Accessible showers | Picnicking |
| Accessible camping | Swimming | Picnic shelters |
| Day-use fee | Viewpoint | Accessible picnic shelters |
| RV dump station | Accessible restrooms | Exhibit |
| Fishing | Accessible vault | |



U.S.F.S. TRAIL GUIDE

| No. | Trail | Distance (mi.) |
|-----|---------------------|----------------|
| 424 | Oneonta | 8.3 |
| 425 | Horsetail Creek | 5.6 |
| 427 | Franklin Ridge | 2.2 |
| 438 | Horsetail Falls | 1.3 |
| 441 | Larch Mountain | 6.8 |
| 444 | Multnomah Creek Way | 2.7 |
| 446 | connecting trail | 1.0 |



U.S.F.S. TRAIL GUIDE

| No. | Trail | Distance (mi.) |
|------|------------------|----------------|
| 413 | Mt. Defiance | 7.0 |
| 414 | Starvation Ridge | 5.6 |
| 414B | connecting trail | 0.2 |
| 417 | connecting trail | 1.2 |



Safety Reminders



Hiking trails in the Columbia River Gorge lead through a variety of terrain with wide variations in altitude. Trails can be steep and rugged with winding switchbacks.

A day hike of five miles averages about 2½ hours. However, that hiking time does not allow time for sightseeing. It is wise to take along enough water and food for a full-day experience and to allow plenty of time to complete a hike. Try not to get caught on a trail in the dark; daylight is a precious resource in the gorge.

If backpacking, be sure to take a whistle, trail map, compass, flashlight, first-aid kit, pocket knife, sun-burn protection and insect repellent. It's also a good idea to carry extra clothing and socks, a plastic tarp, a candle and waterproof matches.

TRAIL LEGEND

- State parks
- Trail number
- Primary hiking trail
- Secondary hiking trail
- Paved Historic Columbia River Hwy. State Trail
- Viewpoint
- Cities
- Freeway
- Highway
- Historic Columbia River Hwy.
- Road
- School