



ZIP 97031

In Oregon, timber and outdoor recreation reign supreme.

Timber homes and horror flicks don't often go hand in hand, but if the above image of the Timberline Lodge makes your blood run cold, you're remembering spine-chilling scenes from "The Shining," which used the iconic Hood River, Oregon, landmark to create the sinister Overlook Hotel. In reality, however, the lodge and its surrounding Mount Hood National Forest are some of the most accessible, welcoming destinations around. With a long history in the timber industry and innumerable opportunities to get out and explore, Hood River is the perfect destination for a timber-minded vacationer.

Timber Roots

Through the early 1900s, the region thrived on its booming apple and timber industries as

well as its influx of skiers and other outdoor enthusiasts. When the U.S. Forest Service-owned Timberline Lodge was commissioned as a Works Progress Administration project during the Great Depression, workers took inspiration from regional traditions and brought in large timbers and local stone for its construction, as well as local talent for its furnishings. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt came out personally to dedicate it, noting in his speech the importance of the Forest Service's mission of providing sustainable timber reserves as well as untainted land for natural development and recreation:

"Looking westward and northward toward Portland and the Columbia River, with their great lumber and other wood-using industries, they [future visitors] will understand the part which National Forest timber will play in the support of this important element of northwestern prosperity."

Recreation Center

Today, the town is still a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, offering year-round skiing as well as rock climbing, cycling and more. With powerful winds channeling through the gorge, Hood River has become world-famous for its kiteboarding and windsurfing opportunities, and hosts the Gorge Games each summer.

Beyond outdoor sports, the area also offers several cultural events, including the Hood River Hops Fest and Hood River Valley Harvest Fest, both occurring each October, as well as April's annual Hood Valley Blossom Festival. Other points of interest include the International Museum of Carousel Art and the Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum. The town also serves as the northern terminus for the Mount Hood Scenic Byway, a new roadway based on old paths forged by Lewis and Clark and travelers along the Oregon Trail.

Only an hour's drive from Portland, with so much to see and do here, the only thing you won't find is boredom.

—Danielle Taylor

Places to Stay

Timberline Lodge

Timberline Lodge, Oregon

Enjoy the nation's only year-round skiing by day and come home to fine dining and luxury rustic accommodations. Don't forget to pet Bruno, the lodge's resident St. Bernard. Rates start at \$110 per night. 800-547-1406; timberlinelodge.com

Columbia Gorge Hotel

Hood River, Oregon

Built in 1920 by timber baron Simon Benson, this hotel and its on-site 208-foot waterfall have attracted many famous visitors. Rates start around \$100 per night during the winter and \$200 per night in the summer. 800-345-1921; columbia gorge hotel.com

Skamania Lodge

Stevenson, Washington

Just across the Columbia River, Skamania (meaning "swift water" in Chinook) Lodge features timbers reclaimed from an old cannery. Rates start at \$139 per night in the winter and \$199 per night in the summer. 800-221-7117; skamania.com

VITAL STATS Hood River, Oregon

Population: 5,831

Size: 33.8 square miles

Household median income: \$31,580

Average house value: \$143,100

For more information: Hood River Chamber of Commerce, 541-386-2000; hoodriver.org