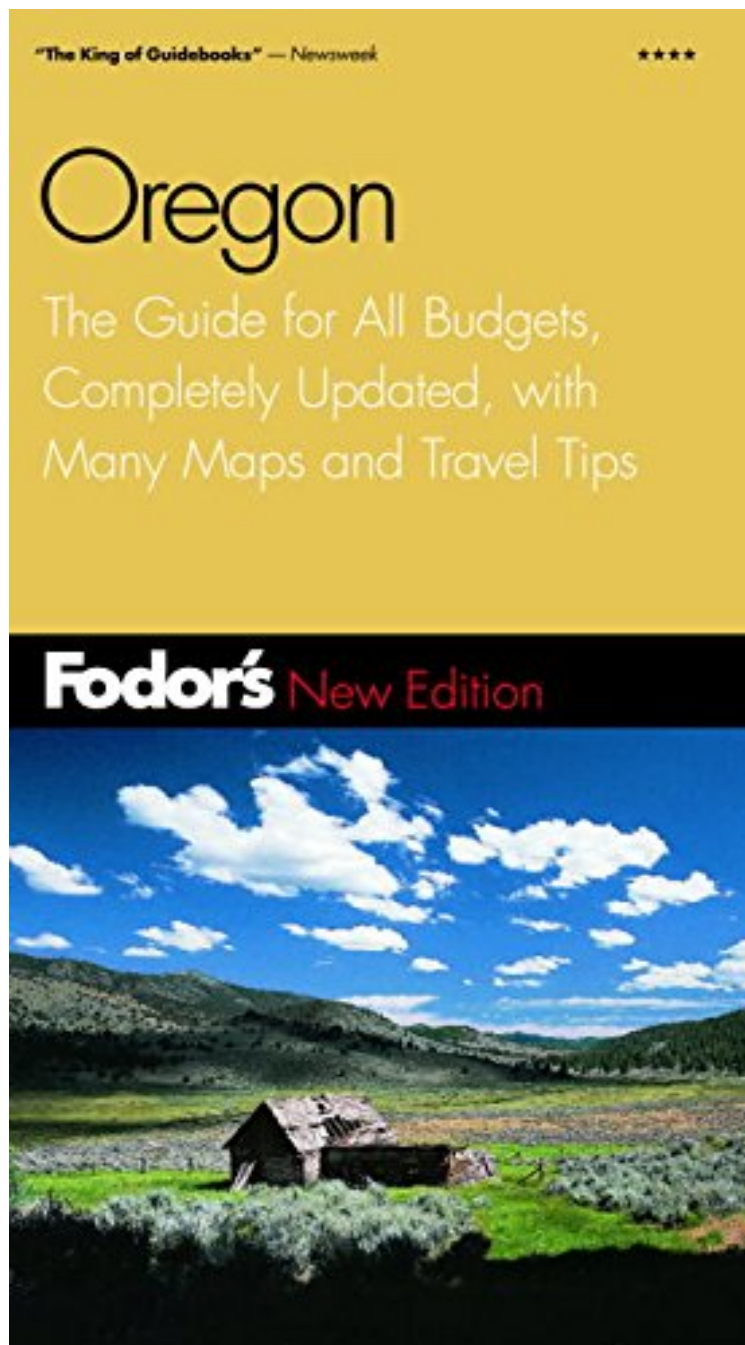


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Fodor's : Fodor's Oregon, 3rd Edition: The Guide for All Budgets, Completely Updated, with Many Maps and Travel Tips (Travel Guide) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fodor's Oregon, 3rd Edition: The Guide for All Budgets, Completely Updated, with Many Maps and Travel Tips (Travel Guide):

No matter what your budget or whether it's your first trip or fifteenth, Fodor's Gold Guides get you where you want to go. In this completely up-to-date guide our experts who live in Oregon give you the inside track, showing you all the things to see and do -- from must-see sights to off-the-beaten-path adventures, from shopping to outdoor fun. Fodor's Oregon shows you hundreds of hotel and restaurant choices in all price ranges -- from budget-friendly BBs to luxury hotels, from casual eateries to the hottest new restaurants, complete with thorough reviews showing what makes each place special. The Smart Travel Tips A to Z section helps you take care of the nitty gritty with essential local contacts and great advice -- from how to take your mountain bike with you to what to do in an emergency. Plus, web links and mix-and-match itineraries make planning a snap.

From the Inside Flap No matter what your budget or whether it's your first trip or fifteenth, Fodor's Gold Guides get you where you want to go. In this completely up-to-date guide our experts who live in Oregon give you the inside track, showing you all the things to see and do -- from must-see sights to off-the-beaten-path adventures, from shopping to outdoor fun. Fodor's Oregon shows you hundreds of hotel and restaurant choices in all price ranges -- from budget-friendly BBs to luxury hotels, from casual eateries to the hottest new restaurants, complete with thorough reviews showing what makes each place special. The Smart Travel Tips A to Z section helps you take care of the nitty gritty with essential local contacts and great advice -- from how to take your mountain bike with you to what to do in an emergency. Plus, web links and mix-and-match itineraries make planning a snap. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Destination: Oregon At its eastern end, Oregon begins in a high, sage-scented desert plateau that covers nearly two-thirds of the state's 96,000 square mi. Moving west, the landscape rises to 10,000-ft-high alpine peaks, meadows, and lakes; plunges to fertile farmland and forest; and ends at the cold, tumultuous Pacific. Within a 90-minute drive from Portland or Eugene you can lose yourself in the recreational landscape of your choice: a thriving wine country, uncrowded ocean beaches, snow-silvered mountain wilderness, or a butte-studded desert that has been used as the backdrop for many a Hollywood western. Oregonians, who have been called the hardest-working and the hardest-playing Americans, take full advantage of the outdoors. There is a story, never confirmed, that early pioneers arriving at a crossroads of the Oregon Trail found a pile of gold quartz or pyrite pointing the way south to California. The way north, on the other hand, was marked by a hand-lettered sign: TO OREGON. Oregonians like to think that the more literate of the pioneers found their way here, while the fortune hunters continued south. Tourism grows in importance every year -- Oregonians have discovered that the scenic and recreational treasures that thrill them also thrill visitors from all over the world. A sophisticated hospitality network has appeared, making Oregon more accessible than ever before. Dining Fresh foods grown, caught, and harvested in the Northwest are standard fare in gourmet restaurants throughout Oregon. Outside urban areas and resorts, most restaurants tend to be low-key and unpretentious, both in ambiance and cuisine. On the coast, look for regional specialties -- clam chowder, fresh fish (particularly salmon), sweet Dungenesse crab, mussels, shrimp and oysters. Elsewhere in the state, fresh water fish, local lamb and beef, and seasonal game dishes appear on many menus. Desserts made with local fruits such as huckleberries and marionberries are always worth trying. Biking and Hiking For the past 20 years, Oregon has set aside 1% of its highway funds for the development and maintenance of bikeways throughout the state, resulting in one of the most extensive networks of bicycle trails in the country. The system of hiking trails throughout state-park and national-forest lands is equally comprehensive. Boating, Fishing, and Rafting Oregon's many waterways afford limitless opportunities for adventure. Many companies operate boating and white-water rafting tours, or you can rent equipment and head out on your own. Fishing requires a license. Rockhounding Rockhounding -- searching for semiprecious or unusual rocks -- is very popular in the Ochocos in central Oregon and Harney County in the Stinkingwater Mountains in eastern Oregon. Agate, obsidian, jasper, and thundereggs are among the sought-after stones. Skiing Most Oregon downhillers congregate around Mount Hood and Mount Bachelor, but there is also skiing to the south, at Willamette Pass and Mount Ashland. The temperate willamette Valley generally receives only a few inches of snow a year, but the Coast Range, the Cascade Range, and the Siskiyou Mountains are all Nordic skiers' paradises, crisscrossed by hundreds of miles of trails. Every major downhill ski resort in the state also has Nordic skiing, but don't rule out the many Forest Service trails and logging roads. Wine Tasting The Willamette Valley is Oregon's main region for viticulture -- many area wineries are open for tours, tastings, or both. Wineries near Forest Grove can be toured in an

afternoon outing from Portland. South of the Willamette Valley are the Umpqua Valley and Rouge River wine-growing regions.