

National Parks on Two Wheels

Introduction

America's national parks are a treasure trove of natural beauty and wonder, offering a diverse range of landscapes and experiences for outdoor enthusiasts. Whether you're an avid road cyclist eager to conquer scenic byways or a mountain biking enthusiast seeking adrenaline-pumping trails, the Pacific Northwest region of the United States beckons with an array of opportunities to explore on two wheels.

This comprehensive guidebook has been meticulously crafted to empower cyclists of all levels to plan and execute unforgettable biking adventures in the national parks of Oregon and Washington. From the breathtaking vistas of Crater Lake to the towering peaks of Mount Rainier, from the rugged coastline of Olympic National Park to the ancient forests of the

Cascades, this book provides insider tips, detailed route descriptions, and essential information for navigating the region's most spectacular natural areas by bike.

Within these pages, you'll find a wealth of practical advice, including suggested itineraries, must-visit rest stops, and points of interest along the way. Whether you're planning a leisurely day trip or an extended bikepacking expedition, this guidebook has everything you need to make the most of your cycling adventures in the Pacific Northwest.

Beyond the practicalities of planning your trip, this book also delves into the rich history and cultural significance of the region's national parks. Discover the stories behind the iconic landmarks, learn about the diverse flora and fauna that call these parks home, and gain a deeper appreciation for the conservation efforts that protect these irreplaceable natural treasures.

With its detailed maps, stunning photography, and engaging narrative, this book is not just a guidebook

but also a celebration of the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that abound in the national parks of Oregon and Washington. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or a novice just starting to explore the joys of biking, this book will inspire you to embark on unforgettable adventures and create lasting memories in some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the country.

So, gather your gear, prepare your bike, and let this guidebook be your trusted companion as you embark on a cycling journey through the national parks of the Pacific Northwest. Unforgettable experiences and awe-inspiring moments await you at every turn.

Book Description

Prepare yourself for an extraordinary cycling adventure through the breathtaking national parks of Oregon and Washington! This comprehensive guidebook empowers cyclists of all levels with everything they need to plan and execute unforgettable biking experiences in the Pacific Northwest.

From the awe-inspiring vistas of Crater Lake to the towering peaks of Mount Rainier, from the rugged coastline of Olympic National Park to the ancient forests of the Cascades, this book provides insider tips, detailed route descriptions, and all the essential information you need to navigate the region's most spectacular natural areas by bike.

Discover scenic byways perfect for leisurely rides, conquer challenging mountain trails that will test your limits, and explore hidden gems off the beaten path. With its detailed maps, stunning photography, and

engaging narrative, this book is not just a guidebook but a captivating companion that will enhance your journey every step of the way.

Beyond the practicalities of planning your trip, this book also delves into the rich history and cultural significance of the region's national parks. Learn about the iconic landmarks, the diverse flora and fauna that call these parks home, and the conservation efforts that protect these irreplaceable natural treasures.

Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or a novice just starting to explore the joys of biking, this book will inspire you to embark on unforgettable adventures and create lasting memories in some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the country. Gather your gear, prepare your bike, and let this guidebook be your trusted companion as you embark on a cycling journey through the national parks of the Pacific Northwest. Unforgettable experiences and awe-inspiring moments await you at every turn.

In addition to its practical value, this book is also a celebration of the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that abound in the national parks of Oregon and Washington. Its stunning photography and engaging narrative will transport you to the heart of these magnificent landscapes, inspiring you to appreciate the wonders of the natural world and the importance of preserving these special places for generations to come.

Chapter 1: The Call of the Open Road

Scenic Byways for Breathtaking Views

Prepare to be mesmerized as you embark on a cycling journey through the national parks of Oregon and Washington, where scenic byways unveil breathtaking vistas at every turn. These carefully curated routes offer a harmonious blend of natural wonders and cultural attractions, ensuring an unforgettable experience for cyclists of all levels.

One such byway is the iconic Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway in Oregon, a 66-mile loop that encircles the dazzlingly blue waters of Crater Lake. As you pedal along the winding road, marvel at the towering peaks of Mount Bachelor and Mount Thielsen, their snow-capped summits piercing the azure sky. Stop at picturesque viewpoints to capture the stunning panorama of the lake's caldera, a testament to the region's volcanic past.

Another must-ride byway is the North Cascades Highway in Washington, a 144-mile stretch that traverses the heart of the North Cascades National Park. Prepare to be awed by towering peaks, lush forests, and sparkling lakes that reflect the surrounding beauty like a mirror. Stop at the Diablo Lake Overlook for a breathtaking vista of the lake's emerald waters, framed by sheer granite cliffs.

For those seeking coastal adventures, the Olympic National Park Loop Trail beckons with its 144-mile route along the rugged Washington coastline. Cycle through towering forests, past sandy beaches, and along dramatic sea cliffs, where the sound of crashing waves provides a rhythmic backdrop to your ride. Stop at Rialto Beach to witness the iconic sea stacks that have become synonymous with the park's untamed beauty.

As you explore these scenic byways, take time to appreciate the historic landmarks and cultural

attractions that dot the route. Visit the historic mining towns of Winthrop, Washington, and Roslyn, Washington, which played a significant role in the region's gold rush and logging industries. Discover charming towns like Leavenworth, Washington, with its Bavarian-themed architecture, and Hood River, Oregon, a hub for windsurfing and kitesurfing.

Whether you're a seasoned cyclist seeking an epic adventure or a casual rider looking to immerse yourself in nature's splendor, the scenic byways in the national parks of Oregon and Washington offer an unparalleled opportunity to experience the region's beauty on two wheels.

Chapter 1: The Call of the Open Road

Must-Visit Rest Stops and Points of Interest

As you embark on your cycling adventure through the national parks of Oregon and Washington, be sure to take advantage of the many rest stops and points of interest along the way. These designated areas offer a chance to stretch your legs, refuel, and soak in the beauty of your surroundings.

One such rest stop is the Mount Hood National Forest Welcome Center, located just off Highway 26 near Zigzag, Oregon. This informative center provides maps, brochures, and exhibits on the diverse flora and fauna of the forest. You can also take advantage of the picnic tables and restrooms before continuing on your journey.

Another must-visit rest stop is the Lava Lands Visitor Center, situated near Bend, Oregon. This center showcases the unique geological features of the Lava

Beds National Monument, including lava tubes, cinder cones, and obsidian flows. Guided tours are available, or you can explore the area on your own.

For a truly breathtaking experience, make sure to stop at the Maryhill Museum of Art, located just east of Goldendale, Washington. This museum houses a world-renowned collection of Rodin sculptures, as well as works by other notable artists. The museum also boasts stunning views of the Columbia River Gorge.

If you're looking for a place to stretch your legs and enjoy some fresh air, consider visiting the Hoh Rainforest Visitor Center in Olympic National Park, Washington. This center offers a variety of hiking trails through the lush rainforest, ranging from easy to challenging. Be sure to keep an eye out for the towering trees and abundant wildlife.

Finally, no trip to the Pacific Northwest would be complete without a stop at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center in Port Angeles, Washington. This center

provides information on all that the park has to offer, including hiking, camping, kayaking, and whale watching. You can also purchase park passes and souvenirs here.

Chapter 1: The Call of the Open Road

Planning the Perfect Road Trip Itinerary

An unforgettable road trip begins with a well-crafted itinerary. Whether you're embarking on a solo adventure or a group expedition, taking the time to plan your route will ensure a smooth and enjoyable journey. Here are some key steps to consider when creating the perfect road trip itinerary for exploring the national parks of Oregon and Washington by bike:

1. **Determine Your Interests and Priorities:** Start by identifying what you want to get out of your road trip. Are you most interested in scenic vistas, historical landmarks, or outdoor activities? Once you have a good understanding of your priorities, you can tailor your itinerary to focus on the experiences you're most passionate about.

2. **Research Your Destinations:** Take some time to research the national parks you plan to visit. Familiarize yourself with the park's geography, attractions, and amenities. This will help you estimate travel times, plan rest stops, and identify potential highlights along the way.
3. **Choose a Starting Point and Endpoint:** Consider your starting point and endpoint carefully. If you're flying into the region, you may want to start your trip from the nearest airport. Alternatively, you could opt to begin your journey from a major city or town in the area.
4. **Map Out Your Route:** Use a mapping app or website to plot your route between destinations. Consider factors such as distance, travel time, and road conditions. If you're planning on cycling long distances, be sure to allow for rest stops and overnight stays along the way.

5. **Plan for Flexibility:** While it's important to have a general itinerary, it's also essential to build in some flexibility. Weather conditions, unexpected detours, or personal preferences may require you to adjust your plans. Be prepared to deviate from your original route if necessary.
6. **Book Accommodations in Advance:** Especially if you're traveling during peak season, it's advisable to book your accommodations in advance. This will ensure that you have a place to stay each night and avoid any last-minute surprises.
7. **Consider Your Budget:** Factor in the costs associated with your road trip, such as gas, food, lodging, and park entrance fees. Set a budget and stick to it as much as possible.

By following these steps, you can create a road trip itinerary that aligns with your interests, maximizes

your time, and ensures a memorable and hassle-free adventure.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: The Call of the Open Road - Scenic Byways for Breathtaking Views - Must-Visit Rest Stops and Points of Interest - Planning the Perfect Road Trip Itinerary - Essential Gear and Equipment for Long Rides - Safety Tips for Solo and Group Adventures

Chapter 2: Mountain Majesty - Conquering High-Altitude Passes and Trails - Navigating Technical Terrain with Confidence - Mastering Hill Climbs and Descents - Trail Etiquette for Respectful Riding - Mountain Biking Etiquette: Sharing the Trails

Chapter 3: Coastal Delights - Exploring Scenic Oceanfront Highways - Discoveries Along the Pacific Coast Trail - Cycling Amidst towering Redwoods and Coastal Forests - Unveiling Hidden Beaches and Coves - Coastal Camping and Accommodation Guide

Chapter 4: Lakes and Lava Lands - Crater Lake's Rim Drive: A Cyclist's Paradise - Exploring the Lava Beds

National Monument - Cycling Around Majestic Mount Hood - Discoveries in the Umpqua National Forest - Fishing and Camping Adventures

Chapter 5: The Evergreen Empire - Majestic Rides Through Olympic National Park - Uncovering the Hoh Rainforest by Bike - Exploring the Olympic Mountains on Two Wheels - Scenic Trails Along the Washington Coast - Hidden Gems of the Cascade Mountains

Chapter 6: From Forests to Deserts - Cycling Through Ancient Forests of the Cascades - Discovering the High Desert Landscapes of Oregon - Exploring the John Day Fossil Beds - Unveiling the Painted Hills National Monument - Wildlife Encounters and Nature Appreciation

Chapter 7: Island Adventures - Cycling on San Juan Island: A Cyclist's Haven - Exploring Orcas Island by Bike - Discovering the Lopez Island Loop Trail - Ferry Routes for Island Hopping - Accommodation and Dining Options on the Islands

Chapter 8: Urban Escapades - Cycling in the Heart of Portland - Exploring Seattle's Waterfront by Bike - Discovering Hidden Bike Paths in Vancouver - Navigating Urban Traffic Safely - Bike-Friendly Accommodation and Services

Chapter 9: Historical Trails - Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail: A Cyclist's Journey - Riding Along the Oregon Trail - Exploring the Nez Perce National Historic Trail - Uncovering Gold Rush History on Two Wheels - Preserving Historical Sites for Future Generations

Chapter 10: The Cyclist's Companion - Nutrition and Hydration for Long Rides - Bike Maintenance and Repair Tips - Packing Essentials for Bikepacking Adventures - Cycling Clubs and Group Resources - Cycling Etiquette and Advocacy

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.