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BEST TRIPS IN 2019

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Crater Lake, Oregon: Ride the Rim

Every year, on two special days in September, a 25-mile stretch of Crater Lake National Park's East Rim Drive is closed to vehicle traffic. That's when bicyclists flock to the park to participate in Ride the Rim, one of the world's most scenic rides.

Intermediate- and advanced-level cyclists who are fit for the challenge can register for Ride the Rim. Within that 25 miles, riders experience incomparable beauty and face a thigh-pumping, uphill battle of 3,500 feet.

Depending on the rider's experience level and fitness, the East Rim can take roughly three to five hours to complete. On Ride the Rim days, East Rim Drive is closed to vehicles from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Riders will find five rest stops along the route, equipped with water, basic bike repair and first aid.

Riders also have the option of extending their ride past the vehicle-free portion and complete the entire Rim Drive around the crater, a total of 33 miles. On this additional stretch, riders share a no-shoulder road with vehicle traffic and must negotiate switchbacks with limited sightlines.

Interested riders should go to ridetherimoregon.com to register and get more information about the route, safety tips and parking. September can bring any type of weather to Crater Lake, and past Ride-the-Rim riders have encountered sunny summer days as well as snow, sleet and hail.

Riders can extend their stay to fully enjoy all Crater Lake National Park has to offer. To find lodging in the park, visit nps.gov/crla. To find lodging in the area as well as other attractions, visit discoverklamath.com.

The Paddle Trails of Kitsap Peninsula, WA

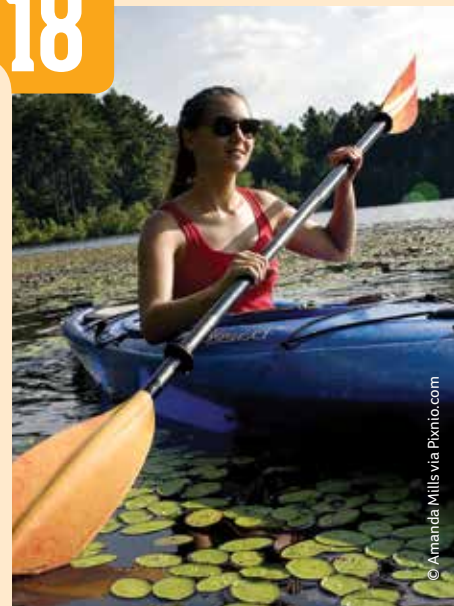
With 371 miles of waterfront, it's no wonder Kitsap Peninsula has been officially designated as part of the National Water Trails System. Kitsap Peninsula is a short ferry ride or drive from Seattle and offers countless places from which to launch a standup paddleboard, kayak or canoe for a scenic paddle on the peninsula's protected waterways.

There are dozens of paddling routes on the peninsula—a route for every paddler—designated with maps on the Kitsap Peninsula National Water Trails website at kitsappenninulawatertrails.com. Trails range in distance from one to seven miles and have designated experience-level ratings, so paddlers won't paddle out of their comfort zone.

Choose from easy trails, like the one-mile, beginning-level Cutts Island route (perfect for a picnic), or more adventuresome routes, such as the seven-mile advanced-level loop route from Port Gamble to Hood Head at the mouth of Hood Canal. Whichever route you choose, Kitsap Peninsula is defined by scenic shorelines, small islands, waterfront villages and sweeping views of the Olympic Mountains. Nature rules here, and the chance of spotting wildlife while on the water is high, from numerous bird species to marine mammals.

Find equipment rental outfitters on Visit Kitsap Peninsula's website at visitkitsap.com/water-activities. Find lodging, restaurants and other attractions at visitkitsap.com.

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