



MENU

Home > Museum > Exhibits > Experience Oregon

Experience Oregon



TYPE: [Permanent Exhibit](#) AUDIENCE(S): [Family-friendly](#), [Free for Members](#), [Teachers](#), [Researchers](#) LOCATION: [Portland](#)

Visitors of all ages, and from all parts of the world, come to the Oregon Historical Society each year to learn about Oregon. Whether you were born here, have chosen to make this place home, or are just passing through, it is undeniable that there is something special about this state. From its varied geography to its innovative legislation, Oregon is complex and distinctive, filled with people whose stories are the foundation of the state we see today.



LOCATION:
Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Ave
Portland, Oregon 97205

[Get Directions](#)

[Educator Resources](#)

Experience Oregon is a new 7,000 square foot permanent exhibition that is the cornerstone of our museum. A dynamic educational space, *Experience Oregon* allows visitors to learn about the countless people, places, and events that have shaped this place. Over three years in the making, developing *Experience Oregon* has truly been a collaborative undertaking. Oregon Historical Society staff, trustees, and volunteers; Oregon Tribes; educators; content specialists; historians; community members; and multiple design firms from across the country have contributed their talents to create this exhibition.

Visitors enter *Experience Oregon* through a panoramic theater that introduces major themes and sets the stage for the exhibit. Land and water are two the most pervasive topics covered throughout the exhibit, displaying the diversity of Oregon's landscape, as well as people's historical and ongoing relationships with its resources. Interactive stations throughout the exhibition include a ["Stories from the Archives"](#) tablet game, a canoe-building exercise, a covered-wagon replica visitors can walk through, role-playing games that allow visitors to take sides in historical debates, listening wands that bring to visitors voices from the past, and opportunities to offer ideas and opinions on relevant themes. As visitors leave the exhibit, they can create a memory blanket as a digital "takeaway" using photographs and artifacts, as well as Pendleton blanket designs, to help recall favorite moments from the exhibit.

"Across Time" stations throughout the exhibit use broad themes such as home, water, and land to draw connections between yesterday and today. *Experience Oregon's* design continually directs visitors back to the present, emphasizing why learning about history matters.

We have scoured our collections to display artifacts from across the state's geography and history – some on exhibit for the first time. All of the artifacts on display in *Experience Oregon* are from the Oregon Historical Society museum collection, and our research library preserves the vast majority of the archival materials on view. *Experience Oregon*

would be impossible without the countless Oregonians who, for over a century, have turned to OHS to preserve their histories.

Did you create a “Memory Blanket” at the end of your visit to Experience Oregon? View, download, or share your blanket [here](#).



Loggers in Clatsop County

Oregon Historical Society Research Library, OrHi 93132, bb016662



Thank you Donors!

Thank you to the many individuals, corporations, and foundations that have contributed to the *FORWARD!* campaign. Through generous private donations, we have been able to reimagine our cornerstone exhibition, creating a dynamic, interactive, and thoughtful space for the curious of all ages to learn about our state’s history. Visit the [FORWARD! campaign page](#) to learn more about the other capital improvements the Oregon Historical Society will be making through this campaign and to view a full list of campaign donors.



Spot the Difference in “Experience Oregon”!

New objects are now on display in OHS’s exhibition “Experience Oregon.” In this latest blog post, Curator of Collections Helen Fedchak asks readers to spot the difference in before and after photographs.

[Learn More >](#)



Experience Oregon History Curriculum

Experience Oregon History K–12 curriculum offers comprehensive units inspired by OHS’s cornerstone exhibition, “Experience Oregon,” and is aligned with Oregon Social Science Standards Integrated with Ethnic Studies. Classes can use the curriculum regardless of whether they visit the museum.

[Learn More >](#)



Experience Oregon Series

This series of eight public lectures and discussions from eleven historians dives deeper into significant themes from the vast history introduced in the Experience Oregon exhibit. Through these talks, academic and community scholars offer new ways of understanding the people, places, and events that have shaped Oregon. All programs will be recorded and made available on ohs.org and on our YouTube channel.

[Learn More](#)



On view in Experience Oregon

Browse OHS’s Museum Collection Portal to learn about the nearly 400 objects on view in OHS’s cornerstone exhibition.

[Learn More](#)



Experience Oregon Exhibition Catalog

This illustrated companion to OHS’s award-winning permanent exhibition, “Experience Oregon,” provides a glimpse at priceless objects and breathtaking images and offers unprecedented opportunities to connect to Oregon’s rich and complex history.

[Learn More >](#)

RELATED CONTENT



Columbia River

For more than ten millennia, the Columbia River has...

[Learn More](#)



Willamette Valley Treaties

From 1848 to 1855, the United States made several...

[Learn More](#)



Two Hundred Years of Changes to Native Peoples of Western Oregon

Oregon History 101, September 8, 2014

[Watch online >](#)



Blacks in Oregon

Periodically, newspaper or magazine articles appear...

[Learn More](#)



Latinos in Oregon

The arrival of Latinos in Oregon began with Spanish...

[Learn More](#)

FROM OUR MUSEUM STORE