

TRAVEL THE PNW WITH TRACY

# Snow parks and hot eats in Mount Hood

Travel to Mount Hood and the surrounding communities to experience the pleasure of outdoor winter adventures in the Pacific Northwest. Book a stay at Cooper Spur, dress for winter weather, stop and enjoy tasty mountain food, and bring your own or rent snowshoes or cross-country ski gear to enjoy this fabulous winter wonderland.

An escape to the snow does wonders for anyone suffering from the doldrums of winter, and it is only a two to three-hour drive from Longview. The experience will restore your soul and rejuvenate your body. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing provide excellent exercise, a chance to enjoy nature, and a great getaway excuse.

### Getting to the mountain

You can get to Mount Hood by driving along the Columbia River Gorge, on Oregon's Interstate 84, then on Oregon's State Route 35, or by taking U.S. Route 26 in Oregon through Sandy and then connecting onto State Route 35 around the back side of Mount Hood. On my trip, my daughter Brittney and I traveled through Sandy. If you go this way, you can stop at Joe's Donut Shop in Sandy for the most delightful pastry ever made, the Cronut. This pastry is a light, flaky, deep-fried croissant dipped in a sugar glaze. There is nothing else like it on the planet.

As we continued, we stopped for a quick lunch at the Huckleberry Inn Restaurant in Government Camp. The Huckleberry Inn Restaurant is an old-fashioned diner. The daily menu offers burgers, shakes, salads, and fried foods. We had the fried halibut and chips. The crispy fish is lightly fried and tender without being greasy. The chips are golden brown and served piping hot.

### Mount Hood Meadows Nordic Ski Center

503-337-2222  
The south side of Mount Hood boasts downhill skiing and the Mount Hood Meadows Nordic Ski Center. They offer cross-country ski rentals, lessons, guided snowshoe tours, snowshoe rentals, and access to groomed trails in the Mount Hood National Forest. The center is open 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays typically from December through early April and every day during winter and spring break. But the Mount Hood Meadows Nordic Ski Center is not yet open for the 2023/2024 season. All visitors, including lesson participants, require a track ticket or Nordic pass.



TRACY ELLEN BEARD, CONTRIBUTED

Brittney, left, and her mom Tracy Ellen Beard at a snow park near Mount Hood.

### Rent gear

#### Cooper Spur Mountain Resort

10755 Cooper Spur Rd. Mt. Hood, OR 97041

#### Pure Stoke

202 State St. Hood River, OR 97031

#### Mt. Hood Meadows Nordic Center

14040 Hwy 35 PO Box 470 Mt. Hood, OR 97041

#### Otto's Ski Shop

38716 Pioneer Blvd. Sandy, OR 97055

### Sample restaurants

#### Three Rivers Grill

601 Oak St. Hood River, OR 97031 (Great for dinner, drinks)

#### Boda's Kitchen

404 Oak St. Hood River, OR 97031 (Awesome picnic lunch)

#### Double Mountain Brewery

8 Fourth St. Hood River, OR 97031 (Fantastic for a beer, lunch, or dinner)

### Cross-country ski

#### Cooper Spur Mountain Resort

10755 Cooper Spur Rd. Mt. Hood, OR 97041

#### Mt. Hood Meadows Nordic Center

14040 Hwy 35 PO Box 470 Mt. Hood, OR 97041

#### Tea Cup Nordic

Oregon Hwy 35 Located 1 mile north of the Mt. Hood Meadows turn-off

#### Trillium Lake

US-26 E/Mt Hood Hwy Look for the sign on right-hand side of the road

#### Cooper Spur

541-352-7803, www.cooperspur.com

Another excellent place to stay and play is Cooper Spur, a one-stop shop at 11000 Cloud Cap Rd. Winter explorers can stay at the lodge, downhill ski, cross-country ski, snowshoe, and eat at the

in Hood River. Enjoy an artisanal beer with a New Haven-style pizza. This pizza has light toppings and a thin crust cooked in a 700- to 1,000-degree oven, creating a crispy crust. Opt for something unusual and try the truffle shuffle pizza, a white pizza with mozzarella, goat cheese, marinated portabella mushrooms, and green onions. The brewery is one of the top local hangouts, and the atmosphere is loud and friendly.

### Boda's Kitchen

541-386-9876, www.bodaskitchen.com

Pack something warm and hearty for your days in the snow. Boda's Kitchen in Hood River has numerous options for the perfect picnic lunch. Forget about the traditional ham and cheese sandwich or a PB&J; Matt and Sirota Johnston, or one of their staff, will assemble a meal made in heaven.

A winter picnic requires something hot. Packed in a vacuum-sealed thermos, Boda's creamy, perfectly seasoned bean and kale soup was our luscious first course. Then, we moved on to the French triple-cream brie and Sleeping Beauty cheese from Cascadia Creamery. Next, a few slices of Fra mani mortadella and Molinari hot Toscana Italian meats paired impeccably with the dried Angelino plums and Pichu berries. The herbed Valencia almonds were easy to munch on, and the Spanish olives added just the right saltiness to our lunch. We finished this fantastic picnic with a mini maple pecan bite, a flourless chocolate cake bite, and a few tiny wedges of Sirota's lemon bars. It was a picnic to remember.

Now amply supplied with food, take a short drive to any of the four groomed cross-country destination parks: Mount Hood Meadows, Teacup, Trillium Lake, or Cooper Spur. If you want more solitude and have your gear on hand, you can find several less-maintained parks between the above four.

Tracy Ellen Beard is a freelance writer, editor and photographer based in Longview. Her articles are published in more than 20 online and print publications including Upscale Living Magazine, Northwest Travel & Life, Wander With Wonder,



TRACY ELLEN BEARD, CONTRIBUTED

A Tilly Jane Rumble drink sits on a mantel at the Crooked Tree Tavern in Mount Hood.

Country Magazine, Luxe Getaways and more. She shares a unique perspective on the world as the founder of an international children's

nonprofit. She attended culinary school in San Francisco and owned a catering company.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Kalama Telephone Company has been the local telephone company serving the Kalama area since 1904. During the intervening years, we have worked hard to build a system that would provide high quality telecommunications services to the communities we serve. We have done this notwithstanding the higher cost of serving rural areas in the State of Washington and when few, if any, other telephone companies were interested in serving our communities.

We have served and intend to continue to serve both residential and business customers in our service area with advanced telecommunication services, including internet access, high speed data services, special calling features and voice mail.

The basic services offered by Kalama Telephone Company are comprised of several components. At a minimum, these include:

SERVICE OFFERED:	MONTHLY CHARGE*
	Residence Business
Single party, voice grade access to the public switched network, including an unlimited amount of local usage (basic grade of service)	\$22.50**/line** \$22.50
Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent (i.e. tone dialing)	No additional Charge
Access to emergency 911	There is no additional charge by Kalama Telephone Company to end user customers for the ability to access emergency 911 services. ****
Access to operator service	There is no additional charge by Kalama Telephone Company for the ability to call the operator. However, the call may involve a charge depending on the service requested and the rates of the company whose operator handles the call.
Access to interchange (long distance) services	There is no additional charge by Kalama Telephone Company to end user customers for the ability to place and receive calls through long distance networks interchange carriers that offers services through our network. However, the call may involve a charge from the interexchange (long distance) carrier depending on the type of call.
Access to directory assistance	There is no additional charge by Kalama Telephone Company to end user customers for the ability to call Directory Assistance. However, the call may involve a Directory Assistance charge, the amount of which depends on the area called and the rates of the company whose operators accessed.
Toll limitation service for qualifying low-income customers	There is no additional charge by Kalama Telephone Company to qualifying low-income customers for toll blocking service. Qualifying low-income customers are generally those participating in the Lifetime program.
Lifeline Program and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)	Kalama Telephone Company participates in the federal Lifeline program. Under this program, Kalama Telephone Company offers to qualifying low-income customers a discount off of the monthly rate for basic residential exchange or broadband service. For service on nontribal reservation lands, Kalama Telephone Company's current discounted monthly rate for residential service is \$23.80. Additional discounts may apply for service to qualifying low-income customers on tribal lands.  Kalama Telephone Company also participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Under this program, Kalama Telephone Company offers to qualifying low-income customers a discount off of the monthly rate for broadband service.

\* The charges set forth are subject to change, and in some instances are subject to change without notice. Certain non-recurring charges may also apply to installation or change of service. \*\* Applicable Federal State, County and municipal taxes and surcharges, including a federally mandated end user surcharge per line, are in addition to these amounts. \*\*\* Discounts off this rate are available to qualifying low-income consumers. \*\*\*\* State and County taxes apply per line to fund the provision to this capability.

These services are available to all qualifying subscribers of Kalama Telephone Company. The charges for these services are reflected each month on our normal telephone bill, and may be accompanied by charges for other services provided by Kalama Telephone Company. The services listed above are those that are used to help offset the high cost of serving rural areas and bringing affordable telephone service to residents and businesses in rural areas. Other services are available by contacting Kalama Telephone Company business office at 673-2755.

KALAMA TELEPHONE COMPANY

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

### Three Rivers Grill

541-386-8883, www.threeriversgrill.com

Hood River is a beautiful place to visit, stay, or enjoy a delicious meal on your way to or from the mountain. One of my favorite restaurants is the Three Rivers Grill at 601 Oak St. A perfect spot any time of year, the restaurant is perched high on the hill overlooking the Columbia River. The wrap-around deck is available for seating during favorable seasons.

A winter meal should begin with a hot beverage. The hot apple pie cocktail is delivered steaming hot and topped with whipped cream. Hold the cup, take a sip, and feel your body warm up from the inside out. The Spanish coffee is another tempting option.

### Double Mountain Brewery & Cidery

541-387-0042, www.doublemountainbrewery.com

Double Mountain Brewery is located at 8 Fourth St.

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
ELCA  
Breakfast Service 9:30am  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
5pm - December 24  
2021 Washington Way  
423-6750

# RECYCLING 101

TRUE WRAPPING PAPER & PAPER GIFT BAGS

FALSE Are they Recyclable?

**Answer: TRUE.** Clean wrapping paper and paper gift bags are recycling in Longview's curbside program. Foil wrapping paper and bags are not recyclable and should be thrown away.



**CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING**  
Drop sites: December 24 - January 5  
Curbside pick-up: January 8 - 12

Learn more about what's recyclable at [www.longviewrecycles.com](http://www.longviewrecycles.com)