

Tour 5: The Volcanic Tour 1271 miles

by Church Village Travel

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The Volcanic
Tour

Day 1 Fly from Heathrow to Seattle. Overnight at airport hotel.

Day 2 Drive to Mount Rainier via Snoqualmie Falls for 1 night (138 miles – 2:58 Hrs)
Snoqualmie Falls is one of Washington State's most popular scenic attractions. More than 1.50 million visitors come to the falls every year. At the falls you will find a two acre park, observation deck, gift shop and the 270 ft falls. The Park is open from dawn to dusk and entrance is free. Mount Rainier National Park. A Source of Inspiration. Learn about glaciers. Discover life in a rainforest. Hike the Wonderland Trail. Explore subalpine ecology. Watch clouds shroud the mountain and disappear. Visit a rustic historic building. Climb to the summit. Study geology. Experience a mountain meadow. Listen to a glacier crack. BE INSPIRED!

Day 3 Drive to Hood River via Mount St Helens for 1 night (250 miles – 5:42 hrs)
Mount St. Helens is most famous for its catastrophic eruption on May 8th 1980, at 8:32 am which was the deadliest and most economically destructive volcanic event in the history of the United States. Fifty-seven people were killed; 250 homes, 47 bridges, 15 miles of railways, and 185 miles of highway were destroyed. A massive debris avalanche caused an eruption, reducing the elevation of the mountain's summit from 9,677 ft to 8,365 ft and replacing it with a 1 mile wide horseshoe-shaped crater. The debris avalanche was up to 0.7 cubic miles in volume. The Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument was created to preserve the volcano and allow for its aftermath to be scientifically studied.

Day 4 Drive to Bend for 2 nights (142 miles – 2:44 Hrs)
This central Oregon mountain town has it all. A warm inviting mountain getaway with a cosmopolitan appeal is what you will find when you arrive in this friendly town. Majestic snow capped peaks permeate the high desert skyline making for some of the best weather in Oregon, with sun drenched days and cool nights. As you follow the Cascade mountain range you will come across unique volcanic features, such as lava tubes, cinder cones and extinct volcanos.

Day 5 Spending the day exploring Bend's quaint Downtown and Old Mill District with its myriad of specialty shops and quality restaurants will be a highlight of your visit.
Drive to Sisters - Located in western Deschutes County, just east of the Cascade Mountains, Sisters is known as the Gateway to the Cascades. Sisters' 1880's theme downtown has the authentic look and feel of the Wild West, and is a delightful place to shop with its many specialty stores and galleries.

Day 6 Drive to Crater Lake via Mount Bachelor for 1 night (132 miles – 2:32 Hrs)

Crater Lake: Like No Place Else on Earth. Crater Lake has inspired people for hundreds of years. No place else on earth combines a deep, pure lake, so blue in color; sheer surrounding cliffs, almost two thousand feet high; two picturesque islands; and a violent volcanic past. It is a place of immeasurable beauty, and an outstanding outdoor laboratory and classroom.

Crater Lake Lodge for 1 night
During this brief summertime window, one magnificent day typically follows another. For visitors, these few months provide the best opportunity for a comfortable visit. Many interpretive programs are offered which encourage a deeper understanding of the lake and the park. Hiking and camping are popular activities. Fishing for trout and salmon in the lake is also a favorite pastime.

Day 7 Drive from Crater Lake to Grants Pass for 1 night (105 miles - 2:08 Hrs)

This afternoon take a 2-hour, 36-mile round trip from Grants Pass thru Hellgate Canyon. You will view old floodwater marks on the narrow heights above. Close-ups of remarkable rock shapes carved by the river's hydraulics will fascinate you as a variety of native plants and animals surround you. See the canyon where John Wayne and Katherine Hepburn filmed "Rooster Cogburn" and Matt Dillon plunged into the depths to escape a gang in hot pursuit in "Gunsmoke". Also, the pursuit of Meryl Streep in "River Wild".

For a completely different experience visit The Oregon Vortex. The Vortex is a glimpse of a strange world where the improbable is the commonplace and everyday physical facts are reversed. It is an area of naturally occurring visual and perceptual phenomena, which can be captured on film. No matter your education or profession you will find a challenge to all your accepted theories.

Day 8 Drive to Eureka via Redwood National Park for 1 night (183 miles – 3:20 Hrs)
An amazing diversity of life exists at Redwood National and State Parks. The ancient coast redwood ecosystem preserved in the parks contains some of the planet's most majestic forests. Here, banana slugs, gray whales, Douglas-fir, black bears, and sea anemones are equally at home with redwoods.

Day 9 Drive Redding for 2 nights (148 Miles – 2:42 Hrs)

Day 10 Drive to Lassen Volcanic National Park. Come witness a brief moment in the ancient battle between the earth shaping forces of creation and destruction. Nestled within Lassen's peaceful mountain forests you will find that hissing fumaroles and boiling mud pots still shape and change the land.

Day 11 Drive to Napa Valley for 2 nights (194 miles – 2:53 Hrs)

Day 12 There are many things to do in this region. Start in Healdsburg and learn about all things wine at the Sonoma County Wine Library. Head south to Santa Rosa, Sonoma County's largest city; admire the Shasta daisies and Santa Rosa plums of a renowned horticulturalist at the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens.

Continue on to the Sonoma Valley. Visit Jack London State Historic Park and hike the same trails the author and resident strode on the northeast flank of Sonoma Mountain. Relax, post hike, with a movie at the restored Sebastiani Theatre in downtown Sonoma. And don't ignore Sonoma's famous cheeses; try the Sonoma Cheese factory for starters. In Napa, take a ride and enjoy a meal (you did reserve ahead, right?) in restored historic Pullman Dining & Lounge Railcars of the Napa Valley Wine Train as you watch vineyards slowly pass by. Head north through the Napa Valley admiring the parade of wineries; Schramsberg Vineyards, just north of St. Helena, makes some of the world's finest champagne. South of

Calistoga, stop in at Castello di Amorosa, a brand-new winery ensconced in a perfect replica of a European castle.

Day 13 Drive to San Francisco for 1 night (65 miles – 1:11 Hrs)

Must See 1: Alcatraz and history go hand in hand. Once home to some of America's most notorious criminals, the federal penitentiary that operated here from 1934 to 1963 brought a dark mystique to the Rock. The presence of infamous inmates like Al "Scarface" Capone, and the "Birdman" Robert Stroud helped to establish the island's notoriety. To this day, Alcatraz is best known as one of the world's most legendary prisons.

Must See 2: Pier 39 & Fisherman's Wharf. Whether it's family fun, unique shopping, an up-close look at California's playful sea lions, an encounter with a street performer or delightful dining, San Francisco's PIER 39 is the place to be.

Must See 3: The cable car system is the world's last permanently operational manually operated cable car and is an icon of San Francisco. The cable car system forms part of the intermodal urban transport network. Cable cars operate on two routes from downtown near Union Square to Fisherman's Wharf and a third route along California Street. While the cable cars are used to a certain extent by commuters, their small service area and premium fares for single rides make them more of a tourist attraction. They are among the most significant tourist sites in the city.

Day 14 Fly from San Francisco International

Church Village Travel

Davenport House, Main Road, Church Village, Pontypridd CF38 1RD

Telephone: 01443 207495 Fax: 01443 207982

Email: sales@churchvillagetravel.com Web: www.churchvillagetravel.com