Deceptively steep and deep
Hole-in-the-Ground is a geologic feature made by hot magma surging upwards under the Earth’s crust until hitting groundwater and exploding. The resulting explosion blew rock and ash into a perfect circle, one mile across. There is a drivable rim road around and two trails down to the center.

Enjoy the walk around the rim, and hike to the bottom to get a feel for the true depth and grandeur of this hole. The hike around the hole reveals views of Fort Rock, the intersection of chaparral, forest and farmland, and distant views of Mount Bachelor and South Sister.

Cabin Lake (there’s no lake) is a great birding area with two bird blinds. Doves, crossbills, woodpeckers, nutcrackers, and piñon jays are just some of the birds you can see come and go throughout the day. Hot days can be particularly active, as the area has the only water for miles. Some historical landmark forest service buildings are very nearby. Pick up a picnic lunch at Shop Smart’s Deli before you go.

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Getting there:
Distance: 29.3 miles
Driving Time: 35 minutes

From the Chamber of Commerce:
Head south on Hwy 97 to OR 31 (2 miles) – Turn left and head East 27 miles to Forest Service Rd 3125; turn right (North) and follow NF-3125 and Rd 017 to Rd 221
To learn more about Hole in the Ground’s geology, scan the QR code.

Day Trippin’ on the “Trail”
Hole in the Ground & Cabin Lake

Cabin Lake (there’s no lake) is a great birding area with two bird blinds. Doves, crossbills, woodpeckers, nutcrackers, and piñon jays are just some of the birds you can see come and go throughout the day. Hot days can be particularly active, as the area has the only water for miles. Some historical landmark forest service buildings are very nearby. Pick up a picnic lunch at Shop Smart’s Deli before you go.
Before You Go
Gravel and dirt roads will accommodate most cars if care is taken, but help is far away, passers-by few, and cell phone coverage spotty, so don’t get stuck.

Be very careful not to pull your car into the bushes; you can easily start a fire with a hot tail pipe or muffler.

Make a quick check of weather and road conditions. Roads aren’t maintained in winter and can be muddy.

Amenities
Hole-in-the-Ground - none
Cabin Lake campground/day use area has vault toilets and picnic tables. The bird blind area has no amenities.

Bring with you
Sun screen, bug repellant, sun hats, food, plenty of drinking water, water for the bird blind in case their system is down, binoculars, camera, map in case there’s no signal for your gps.