

Hole-in-the-Ground

The most difficult geologic attraction on the route, the roads to Hole-in-the-Ground are poorly maintained. High clearance vehicles are recommended, though we have made the trip in without one. Use caution as causing a wildfire is a real threat to the area. Hot in summer, this trip is best enjoyed in the early hours of the day. You can drive all the way around the caldera, but watch for other vehicles, as the road does not accommodate passing another vehicle, and turn outs free of brush are few.

Take plenty of water; there are no amenities at all here.

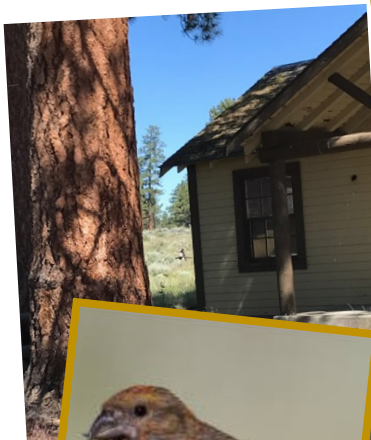


Museum, Fort Rock, and Fort Rock Cave

Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum is a great place to see historical buildings. There is a self-guided tour and gift shop and a modest fee. Open Memorial Day through the second weekend in September—Thursday-Sunday, 11-5.

Fort Rock Natural Area is open for hiking. Lovely vistas, intriguing rock formations, and spring flowers can all be found at Fort Rock State Park. Amenities include restrooms, water, picnic tables, and camping. The nearby town of Fort Rock has a General Store.

Fort Rock Cave is where 10,000 year old sagebrush sandals have been found. Open for guided tours only, you can find out more here with the qr code.



Cabin Lake Bird Blind

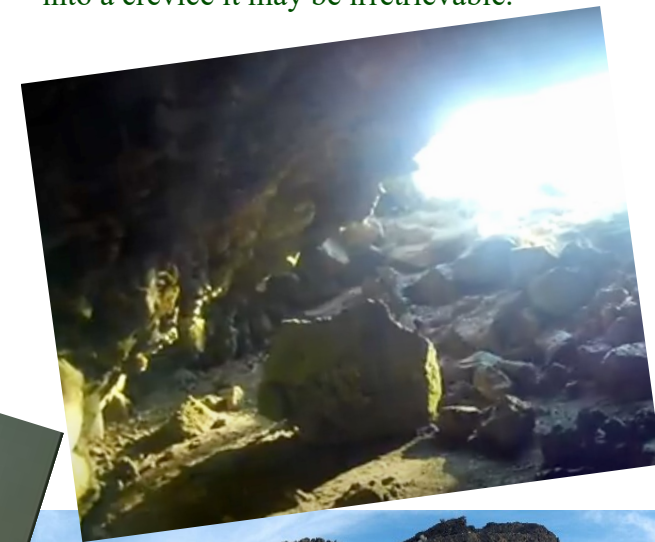
The only non-geological stop on this Fort Rock Tour. Is Cabin Lake—and there is no lake. But there are a couple of bird blinds that provide water that birds and other wildlife will frequent.

Park near the old cabins, walk past them through the fence, and take the paths to the left to the bird blinds. Be aware of your surroundings so you know your way back.

South Ice Caves

South Ice Caves is a cool respite on a hot day. The birds chirp as they flit in and out of the caves, and the cool breezes near their mouths is refreshing. Generally, there are few people around during the week.

This is not a hike for flip flops; a jacket, and leather gloves for clambering over rocks are useful. Use a headlamp, available at Ace Hardware. Secure your mobile device; if it falls into a crevice it may be irretrievable.



Fort Rock

Explore: climb, scramble, hike, learn, and watch!

Truly a trip for the geologically minded, ancient history enthusiast, and outdoor lover!



Hole-in-the-Ground is the most difficult of the stops to reach. The forest roads off of Highway 31 are not maintained, and a high clearance vehicle is recommended. There is virtually no shade, so it's best visited during the cool of the morning. You may not see anyone else there. You can drive around the rim, and Fort Rock is visible when looking east.

Fort Rock Cave

The Fort Rock area includes the Museum, Fort Rock, and Fort Rock Cave (use the qr code for reservations). Buy lunch, gas, and fill up on water in town, and buy your souvenirs at the museum. Fort Rock is also more enjoyable during the cool part of the day.

Then head out on well maintained gravel road to the Cabin Lake bird blinds (there is no lake) and on to South Ice Caves—a cool and refreshing end to exploring. The paved road home improves after about five miles. Consider combining this day trip with the ones to Crack-in-the-Ground and Lost Forest for a fun-packed weekend!

What to bring: how to prepare:

Bring plenty of water! Most of these places have no drinkable water.

Jacket, long pants, head lamp, mosquito repellent, sun screen, hat, lunch, snacks, wet wipes, dark glasses, binoculars, gloves for scrambling over rocks and in the pumice. Don't forget your reservation to tour Fort Rock Cave.

It's best to gas up in La Pine, though Fort Rock and Christmas Valley both have gas stations. There is no place to charge your EV. Give your itinerary to someone and tell them when you'll be back.



Fort Rock

Getting there:

Use the qr code to access the Google map.



51375 Huntington Road, La Pine, OR 97739
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Day Trippin' the High Desert Loop Newberry Country Trail

Fort Rock Loop



South Ice Cave