

## Trip #3 Bingo Clues: Eastern Gorge (Hood River to The Dalles)



This icon indicates some walking or biking is involved.

### TRIP #3: ROW 1

#### #3, 1B: MEMALOOSE VIEWPOINT

At Memaloose Viewpoint, enjoy dramatic, sweeping views from Hood River across the Columbia River to Catherine Creek and up to Lyle. Pay attention below you to Memaloose Island, the site of an unfortunate historic example of how even the best-intentioned settlers could show disregard for indigenous customs and sites.

On the “Island of the Dead\*,” Wasco tribal members carefully placed their deceased in special wooden structures to await resurrection. The Dalles resident Victor Trevitt, a businessman and state representative, had befriended Native Americans and wanted to be buried among “honest men,” so when he died in 1882, his Masonic brothers interred him on the island, too. This was viewed by tribal members as a desecration of their holy ground, so they arrived in canoes to exhume and remove their ancestors’ remains to be buried elsewhere.

Later, when Bonneville Dam was built and water levels rose behind the dam, much of Memaloose Island was flooded, but the obelisk at the west end of the island marking the spot of Trevitt’s burial is still visible.

\*This island gets its name from the Chinook word *memalust* which means “to die.”

Directions: Drive a few miles east along the Historic Highway east of Mosier and you will come to the Memaloose Overlook.

#### #3, 1I: SELFIE AT MOSIER TOTEM POLE

Right in the middle of the town of Mosier, a lovely community park is developing. Overlooking the town is a stout totem pole sculpted by local artist Jeff Stewart who lives near Dufur. It depicts the history of the town and celebrates its past. Snap a selfie here and share it on Instagram *#gorgebingo* if you want.

#### #3, 1N: GLACIAL ERRATIC ROCK

Most of the rock in the Gorge is made of basalt. However, there’s a unique rock made of granite that lies just east of the Mosier Twin Tunnels. The rock floated here encased in ice from Glacial Lake Missoula in Montana during one of the Ice Age Floods. Now it is left here high and dry as a reminder of how the Gorge was shaped by the floods between 13-15,000 years ago.

Directions: Pull off Interstate 84 at Mosier Exit #69 and follow the signs to the east parking lot for the Mark O. Hatfield East Trailhead and the Twin Tunnels. From the parking lot, look east into the rock quarry. Can you spot the lighter-colored boulder than all the others? That's the glacial erratic rock.

**#3, 1G: MOSIER CREEK FALLS** 

There are a lot of waterfalls in the western Gorge but in the eastern Gorge they are less prominent. The little town of Mosier is home to a lovely waterfall. In the summer, many locals cool off at the popular swimming hole at the base of Mosier Creek Falls. You'll find the waterfall by hiking the Mosier Plateau trail for about a quarter-mile when you arrive at a viewing area overlooking Mosier Creek Falls. If you continue hiking up the trail, you'll end up at the plateau's summit, which offers some of the best views in all of the Gorge. This trail is made possible by Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust.

**#3, 1O: CHANGING LEAVES**

Autumn is a great time to tour the Historic Highway. Cooler temperatures and a change in the color of the leaves make for a picturesque visit. Even the poison oak takes on a cheerful hue of red. What tree can you find with its leaves changing?

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## TRIP #3: ROW 2

**#3, 2B: MOSIER CEMETERY** 

Step back in time by reading the stories on the headstones at the Mosier Cemetery. This small cemetery overlooks Mosier Creek. Find it by parking at the totem pole in Mosier and walking east along the Historic Highway, crossing Mosier Creek Bridge. From there, follow the trail signs to the cemetery which is just over the hill. Watch out for the poison oak. If you continue up the trail you'll pass by Mosier Creek Falls and climb a few set of stairs to reach the summit of Mosier Plateau.

**#3, 2I: SPOT AN EAGLE**

The wide open, gently sloping hills characteristic of the eastern Gorge provide the long-range vision ideal for spotting a bald eagle. After this challenge is over, you can join Friends of the Columbia Gorge in the winter for prime bald eagle viewing along the Columbia River. Every year they fly here to eat salmon and enjoy a winter retreat!

Keep a lookout for a large bird with a white head soaring through the sky. It's not an easy task to find a bald eagle but give it your best shot. Good luck! To see one up-close, visit the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum in The Dalles to view a captive eagle.

### **#3, 2N: OAK STREET**

The Historic Highway route goes right down Oak Street through downtown historic Hood River. Enjoy the many shops, restaurants, and wine tasting rooms here along with the stunning views of the Columbia River below.

### **#3, 2G: MOSIER TWIN TUNNELS MESSAGE**



If you look carefully, you'll find a hidden message in the walls of the Mosier Twin Tunnels. In the winter of 1921, several people were trapped during a snowstorm in these tunnels. They carved their names, dates, and "snowbound" into the side of the eastern tunnel's wall. Can you find the message?

Also inside the tunnel you'll find milepost #72 and side passages leading to windows known as adits.

When the original Historic Highway was built in this area in 1921, it was necessary to build two tunnels to get through this high rock point. These tunnels and the nearby cliffs were a troublesome spot on the Historic Highway - rockfalls were common and accidents happened all too frequently. A new road was completed in 1954 near water level (now Interstate 84) and the tunnels were abandoned. They were soon filled with rock rubble and forgotten.

In 1995, work began to reopen the tunnels for tourist use. This involved the removal of the rubble, rebuilding and resurfacing the road, and much more. The tunnels opened in 2000.

This paved, car-free, 14-mile out-and-back (round-trip) section of the highway from Mosier to Hood River makes for an easy bike ride. In Hood River, the trail starts at the Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead and in Mosier the Mark O. Hatfield East Trailhead.

Directions: Pull off Interstate 84 at Mosier exit #69 and follow the signs to the east parking lot for the Historic Highway Twin Tunnels trailhead. After you've spotted the glacial erratic (Row 1, "N"), proceed west on the Historic Highway State Trail toward the Twin Tunnels. Pause and enjoy the beautiful views at the viewing plaza just before the tunnels.

### **#3, 2O: MARK O. HATFIELD WEST VISITOR CENTER**

Mark O. Hatfield was an Oregon Governor, Senator, and major force in securing the National Scenic Area Act. He was also instrumental in securing funding to purchase land to complete the Hood River to Mosier project. The Mark O. Hatfield West Visitor Center is the west terminus of the seven-mile, paved, car-free state trail between

Hood River and Mosier. The center offers information on trail features and the Columbia Gorge in general, as well as sales of trail passes and other merchandise. Current hours are 10 a.m.–2 p.m. daily.

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## TRIP #3: ROW 3

### #3, 3B: OAK TREES

The 83-mile long Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is home to a dramatic landscape. In the wet western end, you'll find firs and ferns; on the drier eastern end, pine and oak trees dot the hillsides. If you're unsure if a tree is an oak, look for acorns on the tree branches or lying on the ground.

### #3, 3I: HIKE TOM MCCALL NATURE PRESERVE



The nature preserve between Mosier and The Dalles is named for Oregon Governor Thomas Lawson McCall, whose commitment to conservation in Oregon remains an inspiration. The Rowena Overlook, Tom McCall Point, and Rowena Plateau are owned by the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Parks and the Nature Conservancy and offer some of the most spectacular wildflower displays in the Gorge each May. Enjoy the autumn colors of this time of year and grand views. Remember to stay on the trail and no dogs are allowed.

### #3, 3N: BEAUTY SHOT

The highway's engineer Samuel Lancaster looked for "beauty spots" in the Columbia River Gorge and found ways to take users to these waterfalls and scenic vistas. Find your own place along the Historic Highway that you find beautiful. Snap a photo and share it on Instagram *#gorgebingo* or any other way you prefer. Make sure you park your car in an official parking area and stay on the trail when selecting your "beauty shot."

### #3, 3G: SPOT A TRAIN

The Columbia River Gorge has always been a major east-west transportation corridor because it is a sea-level passage cutting through the Cascades. Railroad tracks line both sides of the Columbia River so there are plenty of opportunities to spot a train, although these days the cargo on some of the trains has become a major concern to Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the public. There are proposals to build fossil-fuel terminals in the Northwest which threaten to dramatically increase the number of coal and oil trains traveling through the Gorge. This raises concerns about pollution and safety.

### **#3, 30: VIEW FROM MOSIER PLATEAU**



The Mosier Plateau trail begins in the town of Mosier, follows Mosier Creek through the community's Pocket Park and then ends up on Mosier Plateau, which is owned by Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust. This trail is part of the *Gorge Towns to Trails* project, a comprehensive trail system that wraps around the Columbia Gorge, linking communities with recreation. The trail was completed in the summer of 2013 with numerous partners and volunteers.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge's Land Trust received this property as a donation from Friends' founder Nancy Russell in 2007.

Atop the plateau, take your time to fully enjoy the view. This is a gorgeous piece of property, saved from development and preserved for us all to enjoy.

Directions to Mosier Plateau Trailhead: From I-84, take Exit #69/Mosier. Follow the Historic Columbia River Highway into town. Pull into the parking area just past the Mosier totem pole located mid-town on left/north side of road. Park between Hwy 30 and the railroad tracks. A wayfinding sign is located here directing you to the trailhead. There is an outhouse close to the totem pole.

Begin the hike close to the totem pole in Mosier. The trailhead is actually 1000 yards east up the road, on the south side of Historic Highway 30, just over the historic bridge. You'll see a bench just after crossing the bridge and a trail. This is the beginning of the hike. You'll also see a sign for the pioneer cemetery here.

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## **TRIP #3: ROW 4**

### **#3, 4B: ROWENA LOOPS**

At Rowena Overlook, the view is grand looking out into the Gorge, but so is the view looking down at the iconic Rowena loops. The sweeping loops were designed this way to keep the road grade no greater than 5% from the crest to the village of Rowena below. The loops take the highway from 747 feet to less than 200 feet in approximately two miles. Enjoy the view and drive carefully.

### **#3, 4I: HISTORIC BUILDING IN THE DALLES**

The city of The Dalles is full of historic buildings. From Native Americans to Oregon Trail pioneers, The Dalles has been a long-time gathering place and crossroads for this region. A stop at The Dalles Chamber of Commerce will provide you with a map of the historic city buildings. One historic building that is easy to find is Old St. Peters Landmark Church which is a restored Catholic Church. Look for the tall steeple. Which building(s) will you find?

### **#3, 4N: COLUMBIA GORGE HOTEL**

The Columbia Gorge Hotel was built by Highway promoter Simon Benson in 1920 for travelers to rest from their journeys and to find a place of beauty and even opulence. Benson knew that with great roads, great places to stay were a necessity. The grounds were beautifully landscaped. There were 48 rooms, each with a private bath. The guest list was impressive with visitors such as movie stars Jane Powell, Myrna Loy and Rudolph Valentino, along with Presidents Roosevelt and Coolidge. Today this hotel is in the National Register of Historic Places.

The second-highest waterfall in the Columbia Gorge can be viewed from the hotel property. Wah-Gwin-Gwin Falls (meaning “rushing water”) tumbles 208 feet into the Columbia River below.

### **#3, 4G: MOSIER CREEK BRIDGE**

The 182-foot-long Mosier Creek Bridge was designed by Conde B. McCullough, an Oregon State bridge engineer from 1919 to 1935. McCullough designed many of the bridges on Oregon Coast Highway 101. The bridge was completed in 1920.

### **#3, 4O: FRUIT ORCHARD**

Apple, cherries, pears and other fruit orchards thrive in the eastern Gorge. There are several orchards east of Mosier on the Historic Highway. You may notice a few old orchards, having passed their prime, are being converted to vineyards.

## **TRIP #3: ROW 5**

### **#3, 5B: MAYERDALE ESTATE**

Located less than two miles east of Mosier is the Mayerdale Estate. Originally established in 1910 by Mark “Markie” A. Mayer, the estate provided various fruit, eggs and farm produce to locals. This is the same Mayer family that donated the land that is now Mayer State Park near Rowena. The house was built in 1913 but the current owners are refurbishing the home to its former grandeur. This is the residence of Tom Garnier of Garnier Vineyards. The tasting room is just west of the estate and is open noon– 5 p.m. on weekends. The wines are excellent!

### **#3, 5I: VINEYARD**

The Columbia Gorge has a thriving wine industry with over 30 different grape varieties grown within a 40-mile stretch. Several wineries have tasting rooms along the Historic Highway. Stop in and sample some fantastic wines.

### **#3, 5N: EAST ENTRANCE HISTORIC HIGHWAY SIGN**

The eastern section of the Historic Highway took nine years for the highway to be built and was dedicated on July 27, 1922. A beautiful rock and wood sign announces the east entrance to the Historic Highway. The sign is located just off “The Dalles – Discovery Center” Exit #82 from Interstate 84. At the junction of the off-ramp and Historic Highway, turn right (west) at the stop sign, and here you’ll find it.

### **#3, 5G: ROWENA KOLK PONDS**



Between 13-15,000 years ago, a series of over forty Ice Age Floods scoured the Columbia Gorge landscape. Glacial erratic rocks and kolk ponds can be found in the Gorge reminding us of this historic event. Kolk ponds are an underwater vortex created when rapidly rushing water passes an underwater obstacle. You can find two kolk ponds on Rowena Plateau. Be careful: there is a lot of poison oak in this area.

Directions: From Portland, drive east on Interstate 84 to the Mosier exit #69. Turn right at the freeway off-ramp and follow the Historic Columbia River Highway through Mosier. Continue east on the old highway for almost 7 miles. Look for a turnoff to the right with a big sign reading "Rowena Crest."

### **#3, 5O: PONDEROSA PINE**

East of the Cascade Mountains, you will encounter an arid landscape. Oak and red-barked ponderosa pine trees are found here along with other more drought-tolerant plants. Sorosis Park in The Dalles is home to lots of pine trees and provides an impressive view of the Gorge. Where will you find a ponderosa pine?