

Trailhead Ambassadors 2018

Dog Mountain: Alternative Hikes

Dog Mountain Summary

- 7.3 miles and 2,900' if hiking the loop – return via the Augspurgen Trail. (About .75 less if up and back the same way).
- Arguably the best displays of wildflowers in the Gorge – certainly the most popular!
- Fit hikers will usually take 2.5-3.0 hours going up and 2+ hours for the return.
- So about 5.5-6.0 hours allowing for 30-60 minutes on the top.
- Suggest hiking the loop counterclockwise. Most people go that way – steep going up; gradual going down. Easier on the knees! Also, if everybody goes the same way the trail will seem less crowded because you will not keep running into other hikers going the opposite direction. The trails are narrow in places making opposing traffic difficult.
- **Hike permits are now required for this trail on Saturday and Sunday - in addition to parking passes. They are not available at the trailhead but may be purchased on-line in advance at: www.recreation.gov . A limited number of these on-line permits are sold each Saturday and Sunday and they often sell out.**
- **Saturdays and Sundays:** A better plan is to stop at the Skamania County Fairgrounds in Stevenson and board the shuttle to Dog Mountain. The shuttle costs \$1/person each way – which includes a free hiking permit! There is no limit to the number of hiking permits given to shuttle users. Dogs are permitted on the shuttle.
- **Weekdays:** **Be advised that parking is limited and is very crowded even on weekdays in the peak flower season.** Parking requires a Northwest Forest Pass or America the Beautiful Pass.

Washington. Trails West of Dog Mountain on Hwy 14.

(Note: Dog Mountain to Bridge of the Gods is 12.8 miles; 15 minutes)

- **Gillette Lake/Greenleaf Overlook.**
 - 2 miles; 3 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
 - Park at Bonneville Trailhead on the right (north) side of the highway across from the dam. Toilets; WA Discover Pass required. Dogs permitted on-leash.
 - 8.6 miles and 875' elev. gain to the Overlook; 6.0/500' to the Lake.
 - A 0.7 mile connector trail leads to the PCT. Go left (west) on the PCT.
 - In one sense this is an "ugly" hike because about half of it is through clear cuts. On the other hand, the geology is pretty interesting! You hike through a jumble of hummocks and boulders that came down to block the Columbia and create the Bridge of the Gods when Table Mountain and Greenleaf Peak collapsed during a massive earthquake. Looking up at these mountains and the Red Cliffs between them it is easy to visualize what happened.

- **Ft. Cascades.**
 - 3 miles; 4 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
 - Turn left into the Bonneville Dam access road (directly across from Hot Springs Road); then go right onto the fishing access road to Fort Cascades Historic Site.
 - A 1.2 mile, flat loop trail.
 - Grab an interpretive brochure at the kiosk and hike to 14 stops describing the history of the area.
 - No parking permit required; dogs permitted on-leash.

- **Beacon Rock**
 - 6.2 miles; 9 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
 - 2 miles; 600' of easy elevation.
 - Consider starting from the Deutsch Road Boat Dock which has nice picnic grounds and the best view of the Rock. Take the .75 River-to-Rock Trail to the base of the Rock; then climb the Rock; return the same way.
 - WA Discover Pass required.

- **Hamilton Mountain.**
 - 7 miles; 15 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
 - Make a sharp right turn on the road into Beacon Rock State Park. (It is right across the highway from the parking for Beacon Rock). Wind uphill to the Hamilton trailhead.
 - The popular loop route to the top of Hamilton is 8.2 miles; 2,100' elev. gain. Flowers; views; waterfalls! An iconic Gorge hike!
 - For a shorter hike just go 1.2 miles; 500' elev. gain to Rodney Falls and the Pool of the Winds. Return the same way.
 - WA Discover Pass required.

- **Cape Horn**

- 15.2 miles; 20 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
- Park at Salmon Falls Road Park and Ride.
- The lower part of the trail is closed to protect nesting peregrines through July 15.
So a loop is not possible at this time.
- A nice out-and-back to the Nancy Russell Overlook is 5 miles; 1000' elevation.
- Good flowers and Gorge views.
- **Can be very crowded on weekends.**
- No parking pass required; dogs permitted on-leash

Washington. Trails East of Dog Mountain on Hwy 14.

- **Dog Creek Falls.**
 - A beautiful and rarely-visited waterfall!
 - Just 2.0 miles; 4 minutes east of the Dog Mountain Trailhead near Milepost 56 on Hwy 14. Look for the sign and turn off into a parking area on the left (north) side of the highway.
 - The waterfall is just a short stroll up the path following the stream.
 - No parking pass required.

- **Coyote Wall, Labyrinth, Catherine Creek.**
 - 18 miles away; 25 minutes from here.
 - Go east on Hwy 14. The trailhead for Coyote Wall is at Courtney Road. This trailhead and most of the Coyote Wall trails will be extremely **crowded with mountain bikers on weekends**.
 - Catherine Creek is a better option on weekends (no bikers!). Continue east on Hwy 14. Turn left on Old Hwy. No. 8 at Rowland Lake to reach the Trailhead.
 - Variety of trail options; flowers and Gorge views.
 - No parking permit required. Dogs permitted on leash.
 - **Can be crowded on weekends.**

- **Lyle Cherry Orchard.**
 - 23 miles away; 28 minutes from here.
 - Go east on Hwy 14. Trailhead on the left just past the tunnel east of Lyle.
 - 5 miles; 1160' elevation; flowers and great Gorge views.
 - No parking permit required. Dogs permitted on-leash.

- **Dalles Mountain Ranch, Crawford Oaks Loop.**
 - 33 miles away; 40 minutes from here.
 - Go east on Hwy 14 past the turnoff to The Dalles bridge to Columbia Hills State Park – Crawford Oaks Trailhead.
 - Figure-8 loops. 9 miles; 1300' elevation (shorter options possible).
 - Great flowers and Gorge views.
 - WA Discover Pass required.

Oregon. Cross the Bridge of the Gods. Trails to the West off of I-84.

(Note: Dog Mountain to Bridge of the Gods is 12.8 miles; 15 minutes; \$2 toll)

- **Bridal Veil Falls**

- 23 miles; 24 minutes from the OR end of Bridge of the Gods.
- Note: there is no westbound exit at Bridal Veil. Drive west on I-84 to Exit 25 Rooster Rock. Loop back on I-84 eastbound to Exit 28 Bridal Veil. Turn right and drive 0.7 miles to the Bridal Veil Trailhead
- Take the Interpretive Trail as well as the trail to the waterfall. It is short, flat, paved and has great views of the River. In late April and early May the Camas fields are awesome!
- No parking permit required. Dogs permitted on-leash.

- **Latourell Falls.**

- 2.4 miles; 5 minutes west of Bridal Veil Falls.
- Cross BOG; west on I-84; exit 35; continue west on Frontage Road/Historic Highway for 10.4 miles to trailhead.
- 2.3 miles; 540' elevation.
- Two wonderful waterfalls!
- **Can be very crowded on weekends.**
- Note: To return to I-84 going east drive west on the Historic Highway through Corbett and watch for the sign to I-84. There is a westbound entrance ramp to I-84 at the Bridal Veil exit.

Oregon. Cross the Bridge of the Gods. Trails to the East off of I-84.

(Note: Dog Mountain to Bridge of the Gods is 12.8 miles; 15 minutes; \$2 toll)

- **Starvation Creek.**
 - 11 miles; 12 minutes from the Oregon side of Bridge of the Gods.
 - Cross BOG. From the east end of Cascade Locks get on I-84 eastbound. Take exit 55, Starvation Creek.
 - The **trails are closed** but you can visit Starvation Creek Falls – just a short walk from the Rest Area.

- **Rowena Plateau; Tom McCall Point.**
 - 35 miles; 35 minutes from the Oregon side of Bridge of the Gods.
 - Cross BOG. From the east end of Cascade Locks get on I-84 eastbound. Take exit #76. After the exit ramp go east then quickly turn right to US 30. Switchback up the hill to Rowena Crest.
 - Tom McCall Point. 3.2 miles; 1000' elevation.
 - Or, walk across the road and follow the trail towards the river. Gentle 2 mile walk with minimal elevation loss/gain, past kolk ponds left by the Ice Age Floods and mysterious “MIMA Mounds”. Great river views.
 - No parking permit required. No dogs permitted.