Trailhead Ambassadors 2018
Latourell Falls: Alternative Hikes

General Note: The Historic Highway is closed from the Bridal Veil exit to its eastern end near Wyeth – i.e., the “Waterfall Alley” section. The local access road is open from Cascade Locks to the trailhead for Elowah/Upper McCord Falls and the west end of the restored HCRH. However, the Herman Creek Trails and Elowah/Upper McCord Trails are closed. The restored HCRH is also closed from the Elowah trailhead to Cascade Locks.

I-84 Exits

- **Exit 22 Corbett.**
  - You can exit from the interstate heading **east or west**.
  - You can enter the interstate heading **east or west**.
- **Exit 25 Rooster Rock State Park.**
  - You can exit from the interstate heading **east or west**.
  - You can enter the interstate heading **east or west**.
- **Exit 28 Bridal Veil.**
  - You can only exit from the interstate heading **east**.
  - You can only enter the interstate heading **west**.

Latourell Falls Summary

- A 2.0 mile loop and 500’ elevation gain to see the upper and lower falls.
- Park at the trailhead on the Historic Highway – rest rooms and a view of the lower falls.
- Or drive a short distance east or west from the HCRH trailhead and turn towards the River on Latourell Rd. Drive to a lower picnic area of Guy Talbot State Park. A partially paved trail leads past a prime view of the lower falls and then up to the HCRH parking area. Park only in the spaces by the picnic pavilion; respect property of the homeowners nearby.

Bridal Veil Falls

- If you came from the west you probably passed it on your way to Latourell Falls.
- Go back for a visit! It is only 2.4 miles and 6 minutes eats of Latourell Falls on the HCRH and well worth a stop!
- A short, paved trail leads this beautiful waterfall.
- Another short, paved interpretive loop trail leads through fields covered with Camas blooming through mid-May to great views of the River!
Oregon. Trails West of Latourell Falls.

- Heading west in I-84 from the Bridal Veil Exit.
- **Rooster Rock State Park, Exit 25.**
  - 4 miles; 7 minutes from Bridal Veil.
  - Drive to the far western end for a close-up look at Rooster Rock. Look up towards the basalt cliffs below Crown Point and you can figure out where Rooster Rock detached and slid to its present location!
  - A nice loop trail starts from the Visitor Center at the east end of the park. It is flat and 2.0 miles long with nice views across the River and up at the cliffs to the south.
  - $5 day use fee for the park.
  - Or, board the shuttle for a free ride to Multnomah Falls (Friday, Saturday, Sunday only). There are no fees if you just park for the shuttle.

- **Sandy River Delta Park.**
  - 11 miles; 11 minutes from Bridal Veil.
  - Head west on I-84 to Exit 18. The park is on the north side of the interstate just east of the Sandy River.
  - Multiple, flat trails; some universal accessible. Suggest a loop of the Confluence and Boundary Trails – 2.75 miles.
  - The park is heavily visited by people with their dogs.
  - Toilets; no fees.

- **Oxbow Regional Park.**
  - 20 miles; 32 minutes from Bridal Veil.
  - Head west on I-84 to Exit 18. Go south (left) and follow the signs to Lewis and Clark State Park, Oxbow Nature Park.
  - 15 miles of hiking trails through old growth forest teeming with wildlife.
  - Toilets; $5 day use fee.
Oregon. Trails East of Latourell Falls.

- There are really no hiking opportunities nearby. All the trails on the Oregon side and the Historic Highway are closed from Bridal Veil to Mitchell Point due to the Eagle Creek Fire. The closest hiking opportunities on the Oregon side are at Hood River and beyond. Better to cross into Washington at Cascade Locks!
- However, consider a visit to Bonneville Dam and/or Thunder Island in Cascade Locks.

Bonneville Dam.
- You will have to go through Corbett and back to Exit 22 in order to head east on I-84.
- 20 miles; 24 minutes from Exit 22 to Bonneville Dam (Exit 40).
- Tour the dam: nice views of the River and the mountains on the Washington side; Visitor Center with information about the dam; viewing windows of the fish ladders.
- Visit the Fish Hatchery on the same grounds as the dam. Information about the process of raising salmon and trout in hatcheries. Go see Herman the Sturgeon!
- Toilets; no fees.

Thunder Island in Cascade Locks.
- 23 miles; 24 minutes from Exit 22 to Cascade Locks (Exit 44).
- Drive east through town and turn left into Cascade Locks Marine Park.
- Walk across the footbridge over the old locks channel to Thunder Island.
- Explore the island! Take time to look at Table Mountain, the Red Cliffs and Greenleaf Peak across the River in Washington. These mountains collapsed and slid into the River during one of the 9.0 Cascadia earthquakes, blocking the flow and creating the “Bridge of the Gods”.
Washington. Trails West of Cascade Locks.

Drive east to Cascade Locks (Exit 44). Cross the Bridge of the Gods into Washington ($2/vehicle fee). Turn left (west) on Hwy 14.

- **Gillette Lake/Greenleaf Overlook.**
  - 2 miles; 3 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Guides.
  - Park at Bonneville Trailhead. Toilets; WA Discover Pass required.
  - 8.6 miles and 875’ elev. gain to the Overlook; 6.0/500’ to the Lake.
  - A 0.7 mile leads to the PCT. Go 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 Guides.
  - 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.

- **Beacon Rock.**
  - 7 miles; 15 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
  - Park on the left side of Hwy 14 near the toilets. The trail up the Rock starts at the west end of the parking area.
  - 1.8 miles; 600’ elev. gain to the top! Great views up and down the River.
  - For a really great view of the Rock (and a nice place for a picnic lunch) drive 0.7 mile west on Hwy 14 and turn left onto Doetsch Ranch Road. Drive to the boat docks at the end of the road.
  - Washington 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.

Drive east to Cascade Locks (Exit 44). Cross the Bridge of the Gods into Washington ($2/vehicle fee). Turn right (east) on Hwy 14.

- **Wind Mountain.**
  - 11 miles; 17 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
  - At 8.5 miles from the Bridge turn left onto Wind Mountain Road. In 1.4 miles turn right on Girl Scout Road; then go 0.2 miles to the pavement’s end at a clearing. Park there. No permit required.
  - The hike to the top is 2.8 miles; 1,230’ elev. gain.
  - Great Gorge views from the summit.
  - The summit has numerous “Vision Quest” Pits. Observe, but please do not disturb them and respect the sacred feelings of the native Americans for these pits.

- **Dog Mountain.**
  - Hike permits are now required for this trail (Saturday and Sunday only) and they are not available at the trailhead.
  - **Saturdays and Sundays:** 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!
  - It is 3.0 miles; 6 minutes from the Washington end of Bridge of the Gods to Stevenson.
  - The Dog Mountain/Augsburger Loop Trail is 7.3 miles; 2,900’ elev. gain.
  - Arguably the best displays of wildflowers in the Gorge – certainly the most popular!
  - **Weekdays:** Continue another 9.5 miles; 13 minutes east from Stevenson to the Dog Mountain Trailhead. 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.