



# Crater Lake Drive

The Oregon S2000 Owner's Forum: [HTTP://OREGON.S2KI.COM](http://OREGON.S2KI.COM)

This 2-day drive will take you down to the most scenic spot in **Oregon – Crater Lake**.



This drive cannot be done in a day, so you will need to plan ahead for hotel reservations. 8 or 9 months is not too soon to make your reservations at the **Crater Lake Lodge** (\$\$\$\$). You can probably get away with 6 months ahead for the **Diamond Lake Lodge** (\$\$). There aren't a lot of choices – the next nearest set of hotel facilities is on *I-5* in **Roseburg**. **Diamond Lake Lodge** is a nice setting, close to the park and reasonably priced, although a little dated.



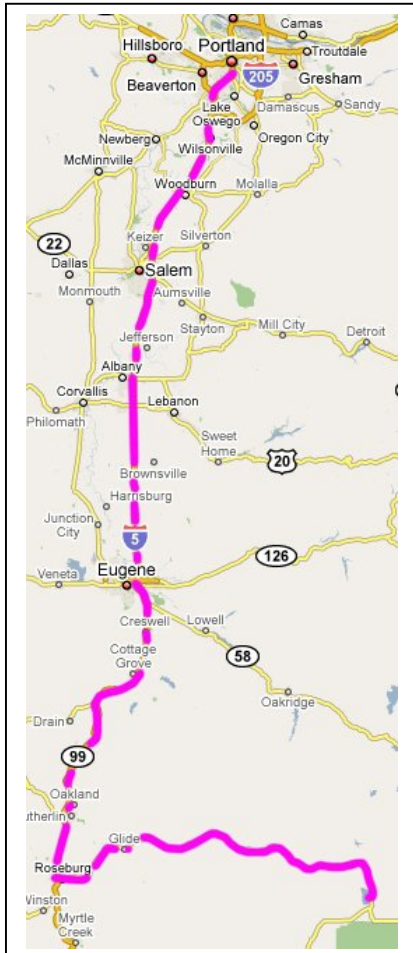
**Driving = 50% 1 and 50% 3**



**Scenery = 5**

**Total Driving Time: 9 hrs. / 566 miles**

**Portland to Diamond Lake - Driving Time: 4 hrs. 20 mins. / 259 miles**



Head south on *I-5*. **Tolly's Restaurant** in **Oakland** is a great place for lunch on the way. Take **Exit 140** toward **Oakland**. This is the old *Hwy. 99*.

Just after crossing a one-lane bridge you will enter **Oakland**. Turn **left** on **Locust Street**. **Tolly's** will be 1/2 block ahead on your **left**. [GPS: *Tolly's* address is 115 Locust St., Oakland, OR]



Leaving **Tolly's**, turn **left** on **N. 1st St.** and then **right** on **Stearns Lane** as you head back to *I-5*. You will pass under *I-5* and go about 1/2 mile further to the on-ramp – turn **left**. There is a sharp 20 mph curve/onramp just as you merge onto the *I-5* freeway.

At **Roseburg** take the *Hwy. 138* exit (**MP 124**). You can (and should) "top-off" at the **Chevron** station at 2625 **N.E. Diamond Lake Blvd** (*Hwy. 138*). Leaving here you will head

on up the **North Umpqua River**. Near **Glide** you might want to stop off at the **Colliding Rivers Viewpoint** for a pit stop. This is where the *North* and *South Umpqua* rivers meet head-on (the only place in the world this phenomenon happens). Then it is off and up the mountain to **Diamond Lake**. [GPS: *Diamond Lake* address is 350 Resort Drive, Diamond Lake, OR]



Check in at the resort, and then you will have the afternoon to explore the lake or just sit around.

### **Diamond Lake to Crater Lake - Driving Time: 20 mins. / 16 miles**



The following morning after breakfast at the lodge, you are off to **Crater Lake** (the lodge will pack a nice picnic lunch if you want). The north entrance to **Crater Lake National Park** is just 10 minutes from **Diamond Lake**. As a National Park, there is an entrance fee of \$10 per car. Geezers with a "Golden Age Pass" get in free (this includes their passenger).

It is another 10 minute drive to the *Rim Drive Road* around the crater. Although you can go either direction, it is recommended that you turn **left** and go *clockwise* around the lake. The best scenic views are around the north side and there is little traffic in the morning.



It takes about 3 hours to drive around the lake. At about the 3 o'clock position on the *Rim Drive* you can take a side trip to see the **Pinacles**, or **Hoo Doos**. This is worthwhile seeing and you can use the picnic tables at the campground for that picnic lunch you brought along.



Continuing on around the lake, you will come to a very congested area – the **Crater Lake Lodge**.

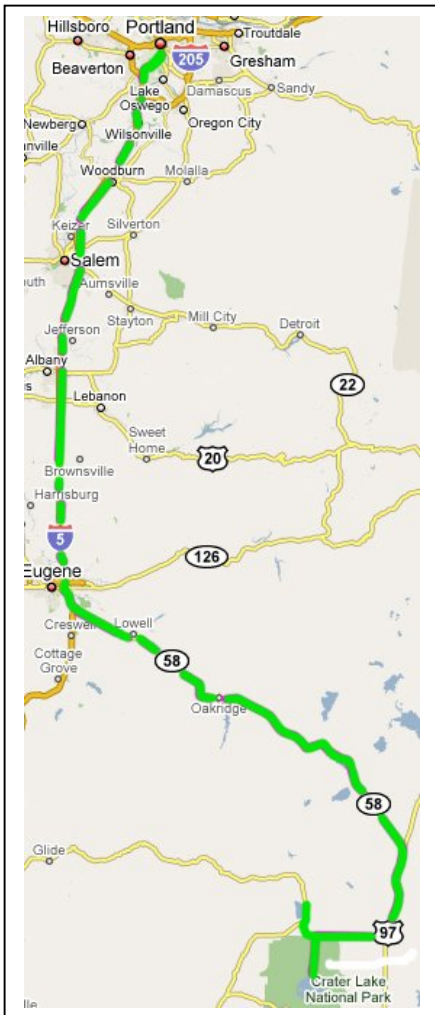


This is the most popular spot on the south rim and there will be lots of people and very little parking space. The lodge is worth seeing and they serve a nice lunch. There are other eating facilities here as well. The Park Service has a number of interpretive centers and lectures you can join in on.

It is possible to hike down to the lake and take one of the tours across the lake and out to **Wizard Island**. However, that is nearly a full day's adventure in itself. And, you have to hike back out as well (no small feat at 8,000 feet). Remember that it is 4 to 5 hours back to Portland, so don't dally too long at the south rim.

Continue on around the *Rim Drive* to the junction you arrived at this morning and then head to the north gate.

### **Crater Lake to Portland - Driving Time: 4 hrs. 20 mins. / 246 miles**



Once at the north gate, turn **right**/east on *Hwy. 138*. You are in for a mind-numbingly straight section of road until you hit *Hwy. 97*. At *Hwy. 97*, turn **left**/north. Go 18.3 miles and take the **Hwy 58 exit**.

*Hwy. 58* will take you by **O'Dell Lake**, over **Willamette Pass** and down through **Oakridge** along the middle fork of the **Willamette River**. You will also pass by **Lookout Point Lake** and **Dexter Lake** before you hit *I-5* just south of **Eugene**.

Then it is a straight shot back up *I-5* to **Portland**.

This is merely a suggested drive. You can shorten it – lengthen it – reverse it – modify it – deviate from it or just stay home and detail your car.

**Enjoy and Drive Safely!**

**S2Ki Oregon -  The fun starts here!**