



# Mt. St. Helens – Johnston Ridge Observatory

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

This drive will take you up to the **Johnston Ridge Observatory** on the west side of the mountain. You will get up close and personal with **Mt. St. Helens** as well as learn about the volcano at the interpretive center. Take along a picnic lunch if you wish.



**Driving = 30% 1, 20% 2 and 50% 3**

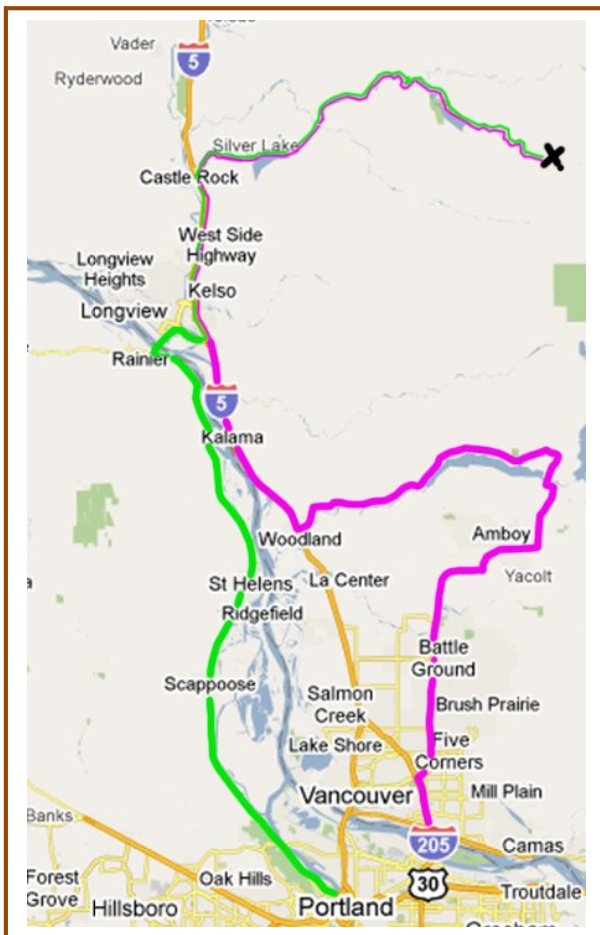


**Scenery = 4**

**Total Driving Time: 4 hrs. / 256 miles**

Find your way to *I-205* on the **Washington** side of the **Columbia River**. From the **Portland** area take *I-205* north across the river.

**Portland to Johnston Ridge Observatory - Driving Time: 2 hrs. / 137 miles**



**Zero** your odometer trip gauge as you leave or pass by the **I-205 / Hwy. 14** interchange (the mileage points are based on this).

Continue north on *I-205* for **3.5 miles** and take the *Hwy 500* exit (**Exit #30A**). Follow the signs to *Hwy 500 EAST*. Once on *Hwy 500* get into the center or left lane - both become *Hwy 503*. The signs say "to **Brush Prairie** and **Battle Ground**".

Stay on *Hwy. 503* through **Brush Prairie** and **Battleground** to **Amboy** (**mile 26**). At **Amboy** turn **right** / east on *Hwy 503*. *Hwy 503* will dead-end into *Hwy 503/Lewis River Road* (**mile 34.9**). Turn **left** / west on *Lewis River Road*. Continue on *Hwy. 503* to **Woodland** (**mile 57.7**).

At **Woodland**, take the on-ramp to *I-5 North*. Continue on *I-5* to **Castle Rock**. Take **Exit #49** (**mile 86.4**). Turn **right** on *Hwy. 504 / Spirit Lake Memorial Highway*.





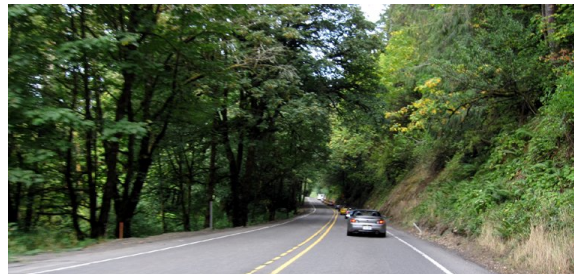
Continue on *Hwy. 504* to the **Johnston Ridge Observatory (mile 136.7)**. [GPS: Johnston Ridge Observatory address is 24000 Spirit Lake Highway, Toutle, WA]



If you are going to enjoy that picnic lunch head on back to the **Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center (mile 136.7)** where there are picnic tables.

**Johnston Ridge Observatory to Portland - Driving Time: 2 hrs. / 119 miles**

Return to *I-5 on Hwy. 504*. Take the *I-5 South* on-ramp. Continue south on *I-5* to **Longview**. Take **Exit #36** to **Longview (mile 199.4)**. Head west on *Hwy. 432*. Turn **left** / south on *Hwy. 433 / Oregon Way (mile 203)*. Cross over the **Columbia River** and follow the signs to *Hwy. 30 East* – to **Portland (mile 205.8)**.



Continue on *Hwy. 30* through **St. Helens** and **Scappoose** on your way back to **Portland (mile 256)**.

**US Forest Service – Mt. St. Helens Information:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/mshnvm/>

**Johnston Ridge Observatory Information:** **\$8.00** admission charge  
[http://www.gonorthwest.com/washington/cascades/mt\\_st\\_helens/johnstonridge.htm](http://www.gonorthwest.com/washington/cascades/mt_st_helens/johnstonridge.htm)

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!**