



Old McKenzie Pass

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

This drive will take you on possibly the most exciting driving road in **Oregon**. Built in the 1920's it is full of climbing, winding curves. The pass offers a spectacular view of the **Central Oregon Cascades**.



Driving = 70% 1, 20% 3 and 10% 5

Scenery = 3

Total Driving Time: 6 hrs. / 349 miles

Portland to Sisters - Driving Time: 3 hrs. / 183 miles



Find your way to *I-5* southbound.



Zero your odometer trip gauge as you pass by the **Wilsonville/I-5 exit (Exit #283)** (the mileage points are based on this).

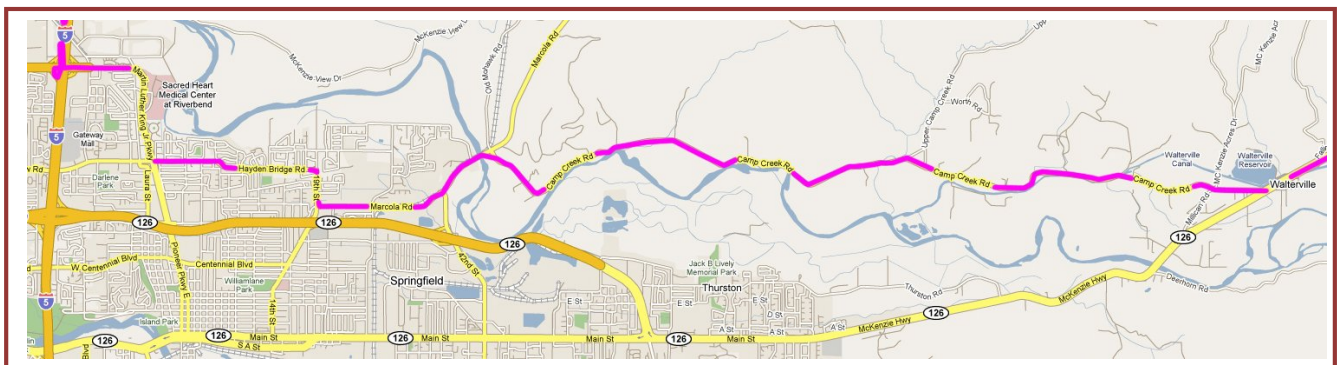
Proceed south on *I-5* to **Eugene**.

The "scenic route" through **Springfield**:

At **MP 195A**, exit *I-5* and head east on *Beltline Road*. *Beltline* curves to the **right** and becomes *MLK Jr. Pkwy*. At the round-a-bout intersection, turn **left** on *Hayden Bridge Way/Road (mile 91.2)*.

In about 1-1/2 miles, turn **right** on *19th St.* for about **4 blocks**, then turn **left** on *Marcola Road* for **2 miles**. After crossing the river, turn **right** on *Camp Creek Road*. In **8 miles**, turn **left** on *Hwy. 126 (mile 103.6)*.

I-5 to *Hwy. 126*





From here through **Vida** watch for speed traps! Just past **Vida** is the **Ben and Kay Dorris Park** on the **right (mile 120.3)**. It is a good idea to make a pit-stop here as the next stop is at the top of the pass (about an hour away).

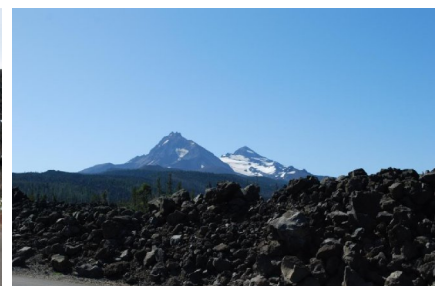
Back on *Hwy. 126*, you will travel another 26 miles to the junction of *Hwy. 242*. Turn **right** on *Hwy. 242 – the Old McKenzie Pass Highway (mile 146.2)*.



For the next half-hour you will be in for a driving treat!



As you approach the top of the pass you will encounter the many lava flows in the area.



At the top of the pass is the **Dee Wright Observatory (mile 167.6)**. Stop here to use the facilities and hike up to the observatory to enjoy the 360° view of the lava flows, **Black Butte, The Sisters**, etc.



Continue on *Hwy. 242* to **Sisters (mile 183.3)**. As you enter **Sisters**, watch for *Hood Avenue* where you will turn **left**. At the Junction of *Hwy. 242* and *Hwy. 126* in **Sisters**, turn **left** / north.

In about ¼ mile on your **left** is a  **Chevron** station where you will want to refuel.

Sisters to Portland - Driving Time: 3 hrs. / 167 miles

Return to **Portland** will be on *Hwy. 20* to **Albany** and then north on *I-5*. Head northwest on *Hwy. 20*. If you brought a picnic lunch, you might want to stop at **Cascadia Park (mile 243)** to enjoy it there. At **mile 284** in **Albany** follow the signs to **Portland** on *I-5*.

Note: This route is only reliably open from July through October. Winter snows typically create havoc with the highway. It is ALWAYS a good idea to contact the state highway department before heading up there. Their number is: 1-800-977-ODOT (6368). You can also check their website for up-to-date information:

<http://www.tripcheck.com/Pages/RCMap.asp?curRegion=0&mainNav=RoadConditions>

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!