



Oregon Caves Drive

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

This 2-day drive will take you down to **Southern Oregon** and the **Oregon Caves**. The road up to the Caves is a terrific, climbing winding road that is worth the drive in itself. The return will be through the **Redwoods** and up the **Southern Oregon** coast.



You will want to plan ahead for this drive as the rooms at the **Oregon Caves Chateau** are reserved months in advance. It is possible to find a hotel in **Cave Junction** about 30 miles away.



Driving = 70% 1, 20% 3 and 10% 4

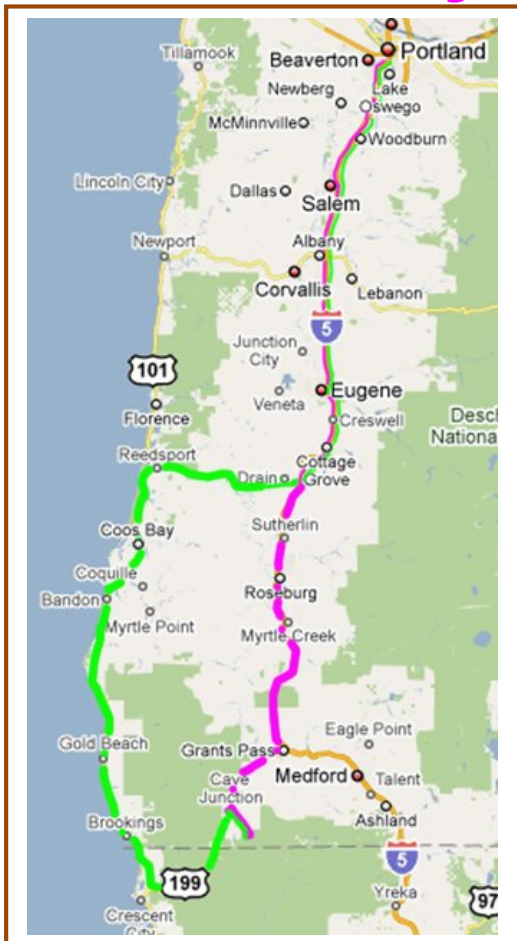


Scenery = 3

Total Driving Time: 12 hrs. / 689 miles

Find your way to *I-5* southbound.

Portland to The Oregon Caves - Driving Time: 4 hrs. 30 mins. / 280 miles



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*.

Tolly's Restaurant in **Oakland** is a great place for lunch on the way. Take **Exit #140 (mile 144.1)** 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 (mile 145.7)**. [**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 (**mile 148**).

At **Grants Pass** take **Exit #58** for *Hwy. 199 (mile 228.5)*. Continue through the downtown area of **Grants Pass**. Stay

in the **right-center lane** through town. Continue on through town and cross the bridge over the **Rogue River**.



On the other side of the bridge, *Hwy. 99* curves to the **left**, however you will proceed directly forward to the junction with *Hwy. 199* – the *Redwood Highway* where you will turn **right** / west (**mile 231.4**). Go **½ mile** to the *Chevron*  station on your **right** (**mile 232**). You will need to refuel here. [**GPS**: *Chevron Minimart* address is 650 Redwood Hwy, Grants Pass, OR]

Continue west on *Hwy. 199* to **Cave Junction**. If you didn't make reservations at the Chateau, you will want to find a motel here: <http://www.cavejunction.com/cavejunction/lodging.shtml>

Otherwise, the *Oregon Caves highway* will take you on up to the chateau – on some nice winding roads! The best time to drive this (least traffic) is in the afternoon.



Arrive at the **Oregon Caves National Park** and **Chateau** (**mile 279.6**). [**GPS**: *Oregon Caves Chateau* address is 20000 Caves Hwy, Cave Junction, OR]



Hopefully you will have arrived at the **Caves** by about 4:00 pm. The last caves tour is at 6:00 pm in the summer – 4:00 pm through May and 5:00 pm September through November.



Enjoy a nice dinner in the chateau's restaurant. The chateau itself was built in the 1920's and is "quaint". The walls are like paper and there is no communication with the outside world – no TV, telephone, internet, cell coverage, etc. Very relaxing.

Oregon Caves to Portland - **Driving Time: 7 hrs. 30 mins. / 420 miles**

In the morning get a bright and early start. Don't miss the old soda-fountain bar for a hearty breakfast.



Zero your odometer trip gauge as you leave (the mileage points are based on this). You'll be starting right with that wonderful 15 miles of twisties down the hill.

Head on down to **Cave Junction** and *Hwy. 199* (**mile 19.9**). Turn **left** / south on *Hwy. 199* and go on into **California**. As you pass through **O'Brien** be sure to check out the vintage police car sitting by the highway. At the border you will breeze through the agricultural check station and then be in for some nice curves as you head west to the **Redwood Forest**.

At (**mile 63.7**) you will enter the **Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park** – the **Redwoods**. There are basically no areas to pull off the side, so continue on until you come to the **Simpson Reed Grove** (**mile 66**). If this small parking lot is full, continue on for a block to **Walker Road**. Turn **right** here and drive right into a nice grove of redwoods. You can park here (don't cross the bridge) and get out to enjoy the experience. There are no restrooms here.




Continue on *Hwy. 199* until you come to the cut-off to *Hwy. 101* (**mile 68.4**)– turn **right** and in about 1/2 mile turn **right** onto *Hwy. 101*.

Heading up the **Southern Oregon Coast** you will be passing many parks, viewpoints and turnouts. Don't miss these. A nice place to stop is **Harris Beach State Park**. Just after leaving **Brookings**, turn **left** into the park (**mile 92.1**) and bear **left**. The road will take you right down to the beach (restrooms, too).



Continue north on *Hwy. 101*. You might want to stop for lunch in the picturesque town of **Bandon (mile 174.1)**.



At **Coos Bay** you will want to stop for fuel. Skip the first *Chevron* station on your **left** and continue through **Coos Bay**. There is a second *Chevron*  station on your **right (mile 198.5)** [**GPS:** *Bayshore Chevron* address is 600 N. Bayshore Drive, Coos Bay, OR].

Continue north on *Hwy. 101* – crossing the high bridge over the bay. As you travel north you will pass the tall sand dunes along the highway.

At **Reedsport** turn **right** onto *Hwy. 38* – the *Umpqua Hwy (mile 225.4)*. You will follow the river for miles.



At **Elkton** you should make a stop at **Arlene's Café (mile 261.4)**. [**GPS:** *Arlene's* address is 14858 State Highway 38, Elkton, OR] This is a great place for a pit-stop AND a chance to sample some nice **Umpqua Ice Cream!**



Continue east on *Hwy. 38*. At **Drain (mile 275.2)** turn **left** on *Hwy. 99 N* and head to the connection with *I-5*. From here, just make your way back north to **Portland**.

Oregon Caves Chateau information: <http://ivcdo.projecta.com/sectionindex.asp?sectionid=2>

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!

Revised 1/1/2010