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Ready, Set, ACTION

MAKE ICONIC OREGON MOVIE LOCATIONS
YOUR NEXT VACATION DESTINATION

written by Jean Chen Smith

Did you know more than 700 movies and television shows have been filmed in Oregon? If you are a film buff like me, visiting movie set locations makes for an entertaining vacation.

Driven by interest in movie and television locations, "film tourism" is projected to grow in the upcoming years. From major motion pictures to indie films, here are some of our favorite film location destinations, with suggestions of where to stay and dine so you can get into full travel mode.



Twilight

PORTLAND

Although many films have been shot in Portland, we chose *Twilight* because of the beautiful cinematography that captures the atmosphere of the city. It centers on the lives of high schoolers Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) as they fall in love under dangerous circumstances because of Edward's family history. The cult classic was filmed in Portland and throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Cullen family's home is located right on NW Quimby Street. Built in 2007, it is a private residence owned by John Hoke, a former Nike footwear executive. The bulk of the cafeteria scenes from the movie were shot at the former Madison High School, which is now known as the Leodis V. McDaniel High School, located on the northeastern side of Portland. While you are there, make a stop at Rocky Butte Natural Area—it offers sweeping views of the city and the Columbia River.

STAY: The Ritz-Carlton in Portland opened in late 2023, making it the first Ritz-Carlton property in the Pacific Northwest. The luxury hotel features more than 250 elegant rooms, some with breathtaking views of the Rose City. Located on the twentieth floor, its signature restaurant, Bellpine, offers guests sophisticated dishes amid stunning views under the direction of executive chef Pedro Almeida.

Portland is the setting for portions of the vampire classic *Twilight*. (photo: Bigstock)

Wild

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK & ASHLAND

The movie *Wild*, starring Reese Witherspoon, was based on the bestselling memoir of Cheryl Strayed, *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*. Although hard to believe, it was shot at more than fifty-five locations, in less than thirty days. Filming stretched from the Mojave Desert in California to Washington, with the majority being filmed in Oregon.

Located in south-central Oregon, Crater Lake is a caldera lake that is best known for its clear, deep-blue water. Crater Lake National Park was one of Strayed's real-life stops along her journey, and it makes a memorable, but short, appearance in the movie. While Witherspoon's character camps by the lake, there is a scene that depicts her overlooking the water. If you have never visited Crater Lake, it is an iconic spot that absolutely takes your breath away.

Ashland also made a debut in the movie. Filming took only one day and features a boutique on Main Street, the post office and The Breadboard Restaurant as main focal points. In the book, the quaint town is where Strayed receives packages of clothing and supplies and meets kind and gentle Jonathan (played by Michiel Huisman) for a brief fling.

STAY: About ten minutes from the national park, Crater Lake Resort offers casual accommodations with kitchens, patios and air conditioning. This option is popular with families and guests traveling with pets.

We highly recommend Ashland Springs Hotel, a historic property that opened in 1925. Nestled in the heart of downtown Ashland, guests can enjoy the convenience of walking to restaurants and shopping. Additionally, Larks Home Kitchen Cuisine, the on-site restaurant, offers delicious farm-to-table cuisine.

Crater Lake makes an appearance in *Wild* with Reese Witherspoon as Cheryl Strayed. (photo: Travel Oregon)



Goonies fans head to Astoria, where most of the movie was filmed. The Oregon Film Museum pays homage to *The Goonies* among other Oregon films. (photo: Clatsop County Historical Society/Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce)

ASTORIA

The Goonies

Filed between 1984 and 1985, *The Goonies* became a classic because of its appealing themes of friendship and adventure. Starring Sean Astin, Josh Brolin, Jeff Cohen and Corey Feldman, it was predominantly filmed in Astoria, in addition to Ecola State Park and Cannon Beach. The original *Goonies* house, located on Duane Street, is now a private residence. As of 2025, it has undergone renovations to emulate the original house when it was being filmed.

Movie fans rejoice! While in Astoria, also be sure to visit the Oregon Film Museum, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (The building, formerly the Clatsop County Jail, also features in the movie.) Not only will you find an impressive selection of *Goonies* memorabilia, you will also find artifacts from other movies filmed in Oregon.

STAY: The Bowline Hotel is situated right on the waterfront. The boutique hotel offers stunning views of the Columbia River and is centrally located for access to restaurants and downtown shopping. The hotel's restaurant, The Knot Bar, serves casual fare and fun cocktails.



Photos: Oregon Film Trail

EXPLORE THE OREGON FILM TRAIL

Follow the Oregon Film Trail to explore all your favorite movie locations. Established in 2017 by the Governor's Office of Film and Television (also known as Oregon Film) in collaboration with its non-profit sector, the Oregon Made Creative Foundation, the trail's purpose is to encourage visitors to explore Oregon's extensive film history through tourism and immersion with local communities. "Movies resonate on a deep and personal level," said Jane Ridley, director of strategic initiatives and community projects at Oregon Film. "Visiting these places allows people to immerse themselves in the story. It's very powerful."

The trail features forty-four physical markers located at filming sites throughout Oregon. Each sign showcases the film's title in addition to fun facts and behind-the-scenes tidbits moviegoers are sure to find interesting. For a more comprehensive experience, you can download the SetJetties app. Oregon Film partnered with the global database company to offer more than 300 additional Oregon film locations you can access on a phone, and users can find interactive maps, directions and photos. It's a great way to piece together a road trip of all your favorite flicks along the Oregon Film Trail. Learn more at www.historicoregonfilmtrail.com.



McMinnville High School served as a high school in Philomath, where the subject of *Quarterback Princess* was the quarterback for the football team. (photo: Dan Hinman/Visit McMinnville)

MCMINNVILLE

Quarterback Princess

This 1983 movie is based on the true story of Tami Maida, who fought for the right to play football in the small town of Philomath. Having just moved from Canada, the real Tami played on the Philomath High School football team in 1981, during the team's victorious 7-1 season. The sports drama stars Helen Hunt, along with Tim Robbins and Don Murray. Although it took place in Philomath, 20th Century Fox filmed the majority of the scenes at McMinnville High School. Since then, quite a lot has changed. Decades later, viewers might still recognize the setting of Third Street and the high school.

STAY: Located on First Street, The Compass is a contemporary bed-and-breakfast, with self check-in, luxe bathrooms, cozy community spaces and a wine library. Choose from five modern suites with spa bathrooms, sumptuous bedding and working spaces for the digital nomad. For those craving more space, the standalone studio features a king bed, a comfortable sitting area to stretch your legs and a kitchenette. Best of all, it is both kid- and pet-friendly.

BURNS

Lean on Pete

Based on a novel by Portland author and musician Willy Vlautin, *Lean on Pete* stars Charlie Plummer, Chloë Sevigny, Travis Fimmel and Steve Buscemi. Released in 2018, it won several independent film awards in addition to the Marcello Mastroianni Award for Best Young Actor or Actress for Plummer, who played the main character, Charley Thompson.

The coming-of-age story chronicles 15-year-old Charley's life as he befriends a former racehorse while working at a stable. Filmed mostly in Eastern Oregon's high desert, the stark landscape offers a glimpse into the remote beauty in that area of our state.

STAY: Rest your head at the Historic Central Hotel, an elegant property offering twelve comfortable rooms with air conditioning and heating. Located in the downtown area, it is close to many restaurants and shops.



The iconic Hayward Field was the setting of *Tracktown*, an indie film about the running career of Alexi Pappas. (photo: Frank Shoemaker/Eugene, Cascades & Coast)

Tracktown

EUGENE

The majority of this 2017 indie film was shot in Eugene. Inspired by the real-life experiences of Olympic hopeful, co-director and University of Oregon alumna Alexi Pappas, the movie follows her through the ups and downs as she pursues her athletic career. Scenes include Hayward Field where the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials take place, Bill Bowerman's house and various parts of the UO campus. Pappas incorporated many Oregon runners, faculty and staff into the film.

STAY: Following a recent renovation, the 259-room Valley River Inn rests along the Willamette River. It is close to restaurants and about 3 miles from the University of Oregon. The pet-friendly property offers a variety of accommodations, including suites with spacious living rooms. Enjoy Sweet Waters on the River, which serves Pacific Northwest fare with nice views of the Willamette River. On warm and sunny days, ask to sit outside on the patio.



The 1975 film *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* was largely filmed at Oregon State Hospital in Salem. In the film, Jack Nicholson's character arrives at the hospital via these steps. (photo: Oregon Film Trail)

SALEM & DEPOE BAY

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

The classic *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* was shot at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem and Depoe Bay. It is based on the book by Ken Kesey, who graduated from the University of Oregon, and stars the iconic Jack Nicholson, who earned an Academy Award for Best Actor. The majority of the mental hospital scenes were filmed at Oregon State Hospital, while Depoe Bay is the setting where the patients go on a fishing field trip.

STAY: The Grand Hotel in Salem adjoins the Salem Convention Center and is two blocks from Riverfront City Park. Guests can expect a complimentary hot breakfast buffet with their stay.

SCP Depoe Bay offers thirteen eco-friendly rooms with minimalist design features. Aptly named, peaceful rooms offer additional wellness amenities including Himalayan rock salt lamps and sound machines. For a casual dinner, mosey down to Grace and Hammer for some wood-fired pizzas and an ice-cold beer. 🍷



The fishing trip scene in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* was shot in Depoe Bay. (photo: Oregon Film Trail)