

Eastern Oregon Paddling Destinations



Wallowa Lake ★★★★★

Tucked in the northeastern corner of Oregon and surrounded on two sides by the Wallowa Mountains lies 3.5-mile long Wallowa Lake. The lake sits at an elevation of 4,372 feet. The southern and western shorelines are forested; the northern and eastern shorelines are grassy plains.

At the southern tip of the lake sits Wallowa Lake State Park. The campground at the state park has 87 tent sites and RV sites. The state park boasts a variety of activities, and at Wallowa Lake Marina, visitors can rent canoes and kayaks. There is also a large day-use area. The state park is one of the nicest in the state.

Powerboats are allowed on the lake, so it's best to paddle close to the shore.

There is fishing in the lake for both rainbow trout and kokanee. The marina store inside the park sells bait and tackle.

After a morning paddle, hop on the tramway just outside the park for a ride to the top of Mt. Howard (elevation 8,200 feet) and breathtaking views of the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area and Wallowa Lake. There are several hiking trails of varying degrees of difficulty at the top of Mt. Howard.

The town of Joseph is just to the north of Wallowa Lake and provides a wonderful shopping and dining experience. There is plenty of lodging available in Joseph if camping at Wallowa Lake State Park doesn't suit your taste.

Just outside the state park, you will find souvenir shops, miniature golf, and arcade games. There is also a stable where you can rent a horse for an overnight backcountry horseback camping trip.

Hells Canyon is only 54 miles northeast. Hat Point Viewpoint overlooks the Snake River where it flows through the mile-deep canyon.