

THERE'S MORE! A FEW SPECIAL SPOTS & EXCURSIONS IN WALLOWA COUNTY

Since you're making the trip to this out-of-the-way corner of Oregon, you may wish to stay another day or two and enjoy more of the area's sights. Remember, this is a popular summer area so be sure to reserve your extra night's accommodations well in advance. Consult the map on the back of the page for specific locations.

- The **Wallowa Mountain Visitor Center** is hard to miss as you approach Enterprise from La Grande. It's the large log structure on the hill just west of town and is the home to the three district offices of the U.S. Forest Service. Visitor hours in the summer are from 7:30 am-5:00 pm Monday - Friday. The center has numerous displays, video presentations, and sells books and maps of the region.

- If you want to purchase any last minute camping supplies, a fishing license or maps go see Larry at **The Sports Corral**, on the right as you enter Joseph. He's also good for advice on the best lures, flies and bait to catch those trout. Or if you're in Enterprise be sure to stop in and see the newest gear that Heidi & Ian have stocked at **Wallowa Outdoors** just across from the front of the courthouse.

- No visit to the area would be complete without a visit to **The Bookloft** in Enterprise (107 E. Main-open 9:30-5:30 M-F and 10-4 Sat.). Proprietress Mary Swanson has a delightful selection of books on the area and makes marvelous coffee delights at her espresso machine. Enjoy one with a tasty treat from the bakery case and then browse through the collection of paintings and photographs in the Skylight Gallery, at the back of the bookstore. This bookstore/coffee shop/gallery is a popular gathering place for all the "local color," and Mary is herself a seasoned llama packer who delights in hearing the adventures of trekkers fresh off the trail. In Joseph you'll find **The Book Corner** 1 1/2 blocks north of the Post Office. Bookseller Tom has a nice array of books on the area and good reads for your vacation. • The village of **Joseph** has recently evolved from a dusty cowboy town to an art community, due largely to the success of the Valley Bronze fine arts foundry located on the edge of town. Artists came to work on their castings, fell in love with the area, then moved here to pursue their craft. Several have opened galleries in Joseph and these offer a wide selection of sculptures, paintings and photographs. Valley Bronze offers tours that originate at their gallery on Main Street, then take guests through the foundry where the casting process is described. Call the showroom at 432-7445 for tour schedules.

- Another popular activity is the thrilling journey to the top of Mt. Howard on the **Wallowa Lake Tramway**. The tram travels 3,200 feet up to the 8,200 ft. summit where nature trails lead to incredible view points and describe the flora and fauna of the surrounding alpine environment.

- In addition to selling fishing licenses, **Wallowa Lake Marina** also rents canoes, row boats and small motor boats by the hour, half day or day. In early summer you can paddle or put-put under the large cottonwoods at the head of the lake and often catch a glimpse of osprey fishing and returning to feed their young in their nest located in one of these trees. The fishing for land-locked salmon (kokanee) is good in early summer and rainbow trout are caught all summer long from the crystal clear waters of this glacier-carved lake.

- Traveling further afield, the trip to **Buckhorn Lookout** takes visitors across the Zumwalt prairie to look out across the dramatic gorge of the Imnaha River. The journey is 35 miles each way on a good gravel road. In the early summer the prairie is abloom with wildflowers, and Ponderosa pines provide welcome shade for a picnic lunch stop.

- A final all day trip involves a lovely, **scenic Imnaha loop drive** from Joseph, along the east boundary of the Eagle Cap Wilderness, over Gumboot Pass and down to the Imnaha River. From here, a good gravel road takes you down the river towards the unique little town of Imnaha. Stop in at the Oregon Fish & Wildlife chinook salmon collection station at the mouth of Gumboot Creek not far from the junction. Fish arriving here have traveled over 500 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Stop again at the tavern in Imnaha for a cold drink and perhaps a glimpse of a local cowboy; cattle ranching in this canyon country is still done the "old-fashioned" way -- from the back of a horse. From Imnaha it's a quick 30 miles on paved highway back up nearly 3,000 feet in elevation to Joseph.

- **Hungry** after all this sightseeing? You can try the local micro-brew and some tasty supper fare at **Terminal Gravity**, tucked away just south of Hwy. 82 as you're leaving Enterprise for Joseph (keep an eye out for the sign) Open at 3:30 pm. In Joseph both **The Wildflour Bakery** at the north end of town across from the big Community Bank building and **The Old Town Cafe** on main street have delightful lunch specials. At the head of Wallowa Lake-**Russell's** across from the tram station serves a tasty burger and more. The dining room at historic **Wallowa Lake Lodge** has a bit more elegant fare. The lodge itself is worth a quick peek, even if you don't eat.

Please don't forget to tell the merchants and restaurateurs that you've been hiking with llamas!