

runaway

Three more places to find romance.

Astoria

Astoria, at the northern tip of the Oregon Coast, sits just a few miles inland from the Columbia River Bar, a legendary spot known to hold some of the most dangerous waters on the planet. View the drama and romance of weather and water bodies colliding from Coxcomb Hill, the historic town's highest point and the site of the Astoria Column. Climb 164 steps to the top to get right up into the action. Grab a pint and a bite at Buoy Beer, located in a ninety-year-old waterfront cannery building (and catch a glimpse of resident sea lions through a window in the floor). Also on the waterfront is the romantic Cannery Pier Hotel, where guests can watch rowdy weather roll over the Columbia River from a window seat in their room.

Belknap Hot Springs

Green forest, hot water, cozy cabin: check! At Belknap Lodge and Hot Springs, a natural hot springs source feeds concrete pools set in spectacular landscaped grounds with a view of the spring-fed McKenzie River. The bubbling sounds of the river serve as a soothing backdrop to your warm, rejuvenating soak. Guests can rent a cabin, stay in the lodge or camp here. Take a short walk across the footbridge that crosses the McKenzie River to the famed McKenzie River Trail, popular with hikers and mountain bikers. Don't leave without finding Belknap's secret garden.

Bend Staycation

Save the gas money and opt for urban exploration in your own backyard. A city-centered getaway means lodging in downtown Bend, where options range from cozy bed & breakfasts such as the Lara House to vacation rentals with amenities such as the Lavabelles. But the swankiest choice for you and your sweetie is the Oxford Hotel. This sleek hotel anchors downtown with contemporary cool. The Oxford's posh 10 Below restaurant offers three meals a day in the Barbarella-chic subterranean lounge. Walk around downtown, do some shopping, take in live music at McMenamins Old St. Francis School or stay underground at the popular club, The Capitol. **13**

