



The Historic Sunshine Mill

# Getaway to The Dalles

Words & Photos, Elaine Rea

The Dalles is the gateway to the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. Human civilization has continuously populated the area for 15,000 years and today's residents love their independent, self-sufficient, small city and are rewarded with stellar Gorge views from anywhere in town. Steeped in regional history, The Dalles is rich in museums and offers self-guided walk-

ing tours of historic buildings as well as over 30 murals ([thedallesartcenter.org/all-together-the-dalles](http://thedallesartcenter.org/all-together-the-dalles)). It has been a long-time Mecca for sports fishermen and April welcomes the Northwest Cherry Festival. Explore The Dalles' website has great itinerary suggestions for visitors to the area any time of year ([explorethedalles.com](http://explorethedalles.com)).

More —→



*Country Cousins Inn*

## Places to Stay

### The Dalles Inn

Conveniently located in the heart of downtown, The Dalles Inn is the perfect home base to shop, dine, and explore. The staff is friendly and helpful and they offer a grab 'n go breakfast in the lobby each morning.

112 W 2nd Street  
[thedallesinn.com](http://thedallesinn.com)



*The Dalles Inn*

### Country Cousins Inn

Just off Interstate 84, Country Cousins Inn has a long-favored, family restaurant on site serving homestyle food from 6:00am to 10:00pm, seven days a week. The Inn has pet-friendly rooms and a full range of amenities. Be sure to grab a free, family-recipe cookie at check-in, and a bonus for Tesla drivers are the 5 superchargers on the property.

2114 W 6th Street  
[cousinscountryinn.com](http://cousinscountryinn.com)



*Fondue at Zim's Brau Haus*



*Ice Cream at Scooper McQuades*

## Do Not Miss!

### Historic Sunshine Mill

It is not every town that can boast a surviving, 130-year-old flour mill and the Historic Sunshine Mill (former home of the Cheez-It) is exceptional in many ways. Restorations have left many of the former mill fixtures and machinery intact and have created a magical atmosphere for wine tasting and dining from the small-plates menu. They also project movies on the building's exterior for patrons to enjoy from their cars, while sipping wine and snacking on movie treats.

901 E 2nd Street  
[www.sunshinemill.com](http://www.sunshinemill.com)

### Scooper McQuades

Just opened in 2022, Scooper McQuades is fast becoming a town attraction where families can enjoy arcade games, espresso drinks, and ice cream. The menu is expanding to include lunch sandwiches and soup and their calendar has BINGO every Sunday afternoon. Try their 'flight' of three scoops of ice cream, or like us, the Ice Cream Nachos. YUM!

215 E 2nd Street  
[facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084414443206](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084414443206)



Burgers at Big Jim's



Kainos Bacon & Chive Pinwheels



Bargeway Pub



Avocado Toast at the Riv Cafe

## Places to Eat

### Kainos Coffee

Kainos Coffee is locally-owned and dedicated to supporting community non-profits. They roast their beans and make their baked goods in-house. Featured on the East Gorge Food Trail, the very popular wood-fired pizza came highly-recommended as did the pinwheels, with sweet and savory options rotating daily.  
418 E 2nd Street  
[kainos.coffee](http://kainos.coffee)

### The Riv Café

The Riv Café resides in a former stone church, built 120-years ago, and is known for outstanding espresso drinks, in-house baked goods, and farm-to-table ingredients. Also on the East Gorge Food Trail ([eastgorgefoodtrail.com](http://eastgorgefoodtrail.com)), we went with the top customer pick, Chicken and Waffles, and they were delicious! Open for breakfast and lunch, indoor diners enjoy the airy former sanctuary space while outdoor diners are surrounded by greenery

on their patio.  
401 E 10th Street  
[therivcafeevents.com](http://therivcafeevents.com)

### Big Jim's Drive In

Big Jim's was originally a 1966 walk-up burger stand. On the same property, today Big Jim's is a sit-down restaurant still serving up classic burgers, milkshakes, and fries. Their chili is made on-site as are their fry and tartar sauces, and the menu includes seasonal specials like "Sea Fest Baskets." Rumor has it that they can whip up over 3 million unique shake flavors! We were encouraged to order the onion rings with our Jim Dandy Burger, and that was wise advice!  
2938 E 2nd Street  
[bigjimsdrivein.com](http://bigjimsdrivein.com)

### Bargeway Pub

In an unrivaled spot along the banks of the Columbia River, Bargeway Pub attracts locals and visitors alike with live en-

tertainment, their family-friendly menu, and a full-service bar with 30-taps. The pub has been owned and operated by a young family since 2018. The rehabbed grain silo and outdoor dining and music venue, make this the place-to-be on summer evenings.

1535 Bargeway Road  
[bargewaypub.com](http://bargewaypub.com)

### Zim's Brau Haus Restaurant

Zim's is a restaurant and sports bar in downtown The Dalles. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, the menu has German favorites like Wiener Schnitzel, a variety of steaks and entrees, and fresh soups and salads. Families are welcome and their homemade bread pudding, served warm with raisins and cinnamon, is not to be missed!

604 E 2nd Street  
[zimsbrauhaus.com](http://zimsbrauhaus.com)

*The Mighty Columbia River*



*Adolfo at Tierra Del Lobos*



*The Neon Sign Museum*

## Things to See and Do

### Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum

Open for 25 years, the Discovery Center is a wonderful place for families to enjoy interactive exhibits educating visitors about the natural history of the Columbia River Gorge. The center has raptor demonstrations and a native plant walking tour. Their beautiful facility has become a popular wedding venue.

5000 Discovery Drive

[gorgediscovery.org](http://gorgediscovery.org)

### National Neon Sign Museum

Located in the restored Elks Club building, built in 1910, in the center of downtown The Dalles. The museum is the passion project of David Benko, 50-year collector of advertising history and electric signs. It opened in 2018, and the museum already has an international following of fans of neon. New exhibits and expansion plans are ongoing. The space is also available for event hosting.

200 E 3rd Street

[nationalneonsignmuseum.org](http://nationalneonsignmuseum.org)

### Fort Dalles Museum

Fort Dalles was active from 1853-1867, installed to support the US Army in westward expansion and conflicts with First Na-

tion people in Walla Walla and Yakima. The Museum, open since 1905, is housed in the last surviving support building, the surgeon's quarters. Exhibits feature Celilo Falls, located 12 miles upriver from The Dalles but flooded after the damming of the Columbia River in 1957. Also on the property are a collection of antique wagons and Anderson House, a Swedish, square-log construction cabin from 1895. The museum staff and volunteers are a font of enthusiasm and knowledge about the rich history of the area.

500 W 15th and Garrison Streets

[fordallesmuseum.org](http://fordallesmuseum.org)

### Tierra del Lobos Winery

Vintner Adolfo Mollinedo grows grapes in Klickitat County, Washington and opened this waterfront tasting room in 2018. Visitors can enjoy glorious river views from the indoor and outdoor seating areas. Try Lobo Noble, their signature red blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Merlot and join the Wine Club for special offers.

201 Osprey Lane W

[tierradelobos.com](http://tierradelobos.com)



The Discovery Center



Fort Dalles

*Sweeney Todd*  
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A MUSICAL THRILLER

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## DAY TRIPPER: THE DALLES



Emma's Bowtique



House of A La Mode



Klindt's



Sigman's



The Workshop

### Just so you know...

"The meaning of DALLIES is the rapids in a river confined between walls of a canyon or gorge."

- Wikipedia



## Places to Shop

### House of Ala Mode Yarn

The House of Ala Mode has a popular online shop and a world-wide following on Instagram so getting to visit their store in The Dalles is a real treat. Their specialty is yarn dyed in-house and they are featuring a newly released line of colors celebrating Pacific Northwest wildflowers. They can do custom colors and source yarns worldwide.

215 Court Street

[houseofalamode.com](http://houseofalamode.com)

### Klindt's Booksellers & Stationers

Klindt's is the oldest bookshop in Oregon (and 6th oldest in the country). Situated downtown, the store has unmatched book-seller atmosphere, and besides being a community landmark, is home to book clubs, broad conversation, and fiercely-loyal book lovers. They also sell journals, eclectic cards, and stationery.

315 E 2nd Street

[www.klindtsbooks.com](http://www.klindtsbooks.com)

### Sigman's Flowers & Gifts

Flowers have been sold from this lovely, corner spot for 80 years and under the current owner since 1980. Besides fresh flowers, the shop is stocked with plants, home décor, seasonal displays, and giftware. They also have a candy counter featuring chocolates from Moonstruck and Spokandy... the perfect accompaniments to a bouquet or arrangement.

200 E 2nd Street

[www.instagram.com/sigmansflowers](https://www.instagram.com/sigmansflowers)

### The Workshop

Billed as "a gift shop for the creative and adventurous," The Workshop sells apparel, art kits, and gifts of their own, creative design. They partner with artists, sell items from Oregon and Washington makers, offer craft classes, and host events. They sell DIY kits and finished products with seasonal, local, and regional influences from their website.

116 E 2nd Street

<https://www.thedallesworkshop.com/>

### Emma's Bowtique

Open 12 years ago by a mother/daughter team, this shop strives to offer good quality baby and children's clothing at affordable prices. In addition, Emma's carries new and gently-used maternity wear and new infant and children's toys.

305 E 2nd Street

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063699454991>

## Easy trip to the Dalles by car from:

Portland: 1 hr 30 mins

Salem: 2 hr 30 mins

Albany: 2 hr 48 mins

Eugene: 3 hr 22 mins

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*Tucker loves the water!*



*Riverfront bike ride!!*



*Friendships forged by firelight*