

WEEKEND ESCAPE | SILVERTON, ORE.



Oregon Garden

AT THE OREGON GARDEN in Silverton, more than 20 teaching and demonstration gardens unfurl across 80 tranquil acres.

Plant yourself in a garden city

This pastoral locale's greenery and fresh dining are easy to fall for

By BARBARA ALBRIGHT >>> Silverton, Ore., is known as the Garden City in a state famous for lush greenery and prolific gardens. My husband and I recently explored Silverton, an hour's drive south of Portland in the middle of the Willamette Valley (local T-shirts proclaim in rhyme that it's pronounced "Willamette, Damn-it"), and discovered a lot goes on in this little town. We spent \$275 for two nights at the Oregon Garden Resort, \$7 for admission to Silver Falls State Park, \$24 at the Gathering Spot Café and \$75 for halibut dinners and artisan cocktails at the Creekside Grill.

The bed

We checked into the woody, rustic lodge at the Oregon Garden Resort (895 W. Main St., Silverton; [800] 966-6490, www.oregongardenresort.com), which houses a spa, a restaurant with sweeping views and a lounge with nightly live music. Our room was nestled in one of a series of cottages, with a fireplace and private balcony. Complimentary breakfast is included, as is free access to the adjoining Oregon Garden (www.oregongarden.org), where you can meander on winding paths through 80 acres of themed gardens (therapeutic, conifer, children's, rose, etc.) and a wetland area that filters the town's water supply. Tour the only Frank Lloyd Wright house in Oregon, designed for a gentleman rancher, which is also on the grounds. The property is bike- and pet-friendly.

The meal

You can sample Zombie Fries (sliced, tempura-battered portobello mushrooms in truffle oil) on the patio at Creekside Grill (242 S. Water St., Silverton; [503] 873-9700, www.creeksidesilverton.com), but for a real locavore experience, try the Hemp Burger by Sorta Sausage or the roasted corn and black bean salad at the Gathering Spot Café (106 N. 1st St., Silverton; [503] 874-4888, www.gatheringspotcafe.com). Open 8 a.m.-3 p.m. daily, between stops in the eclectic shops of the historic district.

The find

We drove 15 minutes through a pastoral landscape of Christmas tree farms, fruit orchards and vineyards before arriving at the towering redwoods in Silver Falls State Park, where we walked the Trail of Ten Falls and thrilled at being able to walk behind and beneath a few of the cascades as they plunged into the deep canyons.

The lesson learned

Visit the last weekend of June and participate in the Petal Pedal — a gourmet distance bike ride that starts and stops in Silverton, with three different routes, mostly flat, that take in the patchwork-quilt views and tiny towns of the scenic Willamette Valley (www.petalpedal.com).

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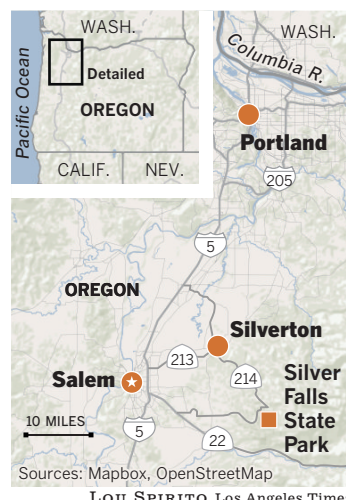
BARBARA ALBRIGHT

SILVER FALLS State Park, about 15 miles from Silverton, is home of the Trail of Ten Falls.



BARBARA ALBRIGHT

A ROOM at Oregon Garden Resort, next-door to Oregon Garden. The woody property includes a spa and restaurant.



LOU SPIRITO Los Angeles Times

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CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

Ready to share your photos of Cuba?

Restrictions on travel to Cuba have eased in 2015, but many enterprising travelers visited long before President Obama relaxed the rules. The Los Angeles Times Travel section is planning a look at the island nation in an upcoming presentation in print and online, and we are hoping you'll share some of your photos of the people and places that have been hidden from most Americans for more than half a century. To share those photos, include your name, city of residence and telephone (the latter two for verification purposes only, not to be shared in print or online), and tell us a little about the photo. You may email or upload. To email a photo (the file must not be larger than 12MB), send it to travel@latimes.com and include Cuba Photo in the subject line. To upload, visit our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/groups/latimestravel/. Do not include your contact info if you upload your images on Flickr. By submitting photos, you agree that The Times may reproduce your photos in any format and use them in print, online, in social media or on other platforms.

— TIMES STAFF



IRVIN SERRANO

This just inn!

Here's some front-page news: The historic old newspaper building in Portland, Maine, will become the city's first "lifestyle boutique" hotel. The 110 rooms at the Press Hotel, housed in the former landmark structure of the Portland Press Herald and scheduled to open May 6, take inspiration from 1920s-era writers' offices. In the Inkwell (the lobby bar) drinks rest on coasters with a typewriter-key motif. "Hot off the Press" French-pressed coffee is also available. You can find a similar concept at the Scotsman hotel in Edinburgh. Doubles at the Press from \$299 a night. Info: www.thepresshotel.com.

— SUSAN FARLOW

Ontario adds flights

Fliers at LA/Ontario International Airport will have new service to Mexico City starting April 6. Aeromexico announced Wednesday it would begin four round-trip flights a week from the Ontario airport. Outbound flights will leave ONT at 1:05 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. Return flights are planned for 9:10 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Aeromexico will fly 737s with 12 seats for first-class passengers and 120 coach seats. Aeromexico already operates service from the airport to Guadalajara four times a week. Info: www.aeromexico.com/us.

— MARY FORGIONE



Electrohome.com

Handy alarm clock

Even if your cellphone's alarm clock performs reliably, the newest Electrohome EEAC 475 USB Alarm Clock Radio may earn a place in your luggage. Its 1.2-inch blue LED display has four dimming modes and allows you to view only the time or cycle through the time, year, month/day and indoor temperature. The 180-degree swivel projection function beams the time in bright red onto the wall or ceiling; a built-in USB port can charge your smartphone. The 3.5-mm audio input jack lets you listen to music from your phone using the clock radio's speakers. Each of the dual alarms, which wake you up to a buzzer or the radio, can be set to go off at the same time every day, only weekends or to skip weekends. At 7.5-by-3.1 inches by 3 inches deep, this is not the tiniest take-along, but it weighs in at just 1 1/4 pounds. Electrohome USB Alarm Clock Radio with swivel projection (EEAC475) costs \$35. Info: www.lat.ms/19tjkW7.

— JUDI DASH