

BLOSSOM TIME

APRIL 1 - 30, 2018

Starting in early April, the cherry, apple and pear trees in the Hood River Valley welcome spring's return by releasing vibrant pink and white flowers. They start in the lower elevations and, like a domino effect, move up the valley creating a patchwork of color. The area celebrates spring with the annual Hood River Valley Blossom Time, which takes place throughout April. Visit Hood River in April and enjoy family-friendly farm events, craft shows, culinary treats, wine and cider tasting, and the Hood River Hard-Pressed Cider Fest. One of the best ways to enjoy Blossom Time is to drive a gorgeous 35-mile drive that follows the county's Scenic Tour Route north on Highway 35, then returning to Hood River, south via Highway 281. The route passes the valley's plethora of orchards, wineries and farms. Stop along the way to pick up fresh fruit, baked goods, preserves, yarn, fresh produce, wine, cider and more. There's something for everyone.

Easter Egg Hunt at Packer Farm Place

DATE: March 31-April 1, 2018; hunts run every hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days

WEB: packerorchards.com/easter-egg-hunt

LOCATION: Packer Farm Place, 3020 Thomsen Road in Hood River

Second annual Easter Egg Hunt at Packer Farm Place! Bring your basket and search the farm for eggs with the Easter Bunny. After your egg hunt, it's time to play some more! The Packer Farm Place is packed with more Easter fun that runs all day. To purchase tickets and learn more, visit packerorchards.com.

Scenic Glider Rides

DATE: Most Saturdays and Sundays from April through November 2018, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WEB: hoodriversoaring.org/scenic-rides

LOCATION: 1651 Orchard Road, at the east end of Ken Jernstedt Airport (4S2) in Hood River

Soar like an eagle and enjoy a spectacular view of the Hood River Valley, the Columbia Gorge, and the Cascade mountain range! Hood River Soaring's experienced commercial pilots will custom-design your flight to fit your desires. Share the ride with a friend or family member in our two-passenger glider.

Mosier Cherry Blossom Buffet

DATE: April 8, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LOCATION: Mosier Grange, downtown Mosier

Come enjoy a taste of small-town community. Local BBQ salmon, roasted ham, meatballs, scalloped potatoes, tons of different salads, and cake topped with Mosier cherries. Over 50 volunteers help with this event to support the Red Cross shelter, 4-H, scholarships, and other great causes.



Fifth Annual Hard-Pressed Cider Fest

DATE: April 21, 2018, 12 to 7 p.m.

WEB: hoodriver.org/cider-fest

LOCATION: 3315 Stadelman Drive, Hood River, OR 97031

Hood River Valley's hard cider scene is exploding. These craft cider makers source the apples, pears and other fruits from the 440+ local orchardists, creating ciders that truly give you a taste of Hood River, and place the region at the forefront of the new national hard cider movement.

Now in its fifth year, the Hood River Hard-Pressed Cider Fest gives seasoned and novice cider drinkers alike the chance to sample cider from Hood River County's very own cider makers, as well as a variety of additional Northwest cideries. More than twenty-five cideries will be participating, with more than 50 ciders on tap.

The day-long event also features a lineup of local music, and a kids' area – guaranteeing a great time for the whole family. Spring showers aren't a problem, as the tasting area takes covered hall. And, just a friendly reminder, pets are not allowed at the event.

Gorge Artists Open Studios Tour

DATE: April 20- 22, 2018, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WEB: gorgeartists.org

LOCATION: Studios are located throughout the Mid-Columbia, from Cascade Locks to The Dalles, and from Parkdale to Trout Lake (WA)

Forty-one artist studios are open to visitors during blossom time in the Gorge! Featuring a variety of work including painting, drawing, jewelry, glass, sculpture, photography, textiles, fiber, and more. The Gorge Artists Open Studios Tour was established to build community, promote the arts, and provide opportunities for the public to experience and enjoy art in the Columbia River Gorge.

West Side Volunteer Blossom Breakfast

DATE: April 22, 2018, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

LOCATION: Rockford Fire Station, 4250 Barrett Drive in Hood River

Annual volunteer firefighter fund-raiser. Pancakes, ham, and eggs (your way), apple juice, coffee, and milk. Fire prevention handouts. See Sparky the "Fire Dog."