

## Sightseeing by Segway in Bend, Oregon

by Tamara Muldoon

Gleeful laughter trails in our wake as we glide along paved pathways beside the Deschutes River, winding our way through Bend, Oregon's Old Mill District. Although ungainly in appearance, our

cost; however, tour operators have embraced Segways as an unusual and fun alternative to walking tours. You'll find Segway tours offered in a number of Northwest cities.

becomes almost intuitive.

Although 90% of its new customers have never ridden a Segway, Bend Tour Company has a spotless safety record. Tour participants receive a brief training in the shop, then progress to the parking lot for practice before starting the tour.

The City Sights tour weaves along sidewalks and streets around the Old Mill District, passes through historic neighborhoods, transits Bend's compact downtown and rolls through Drake Park with its famous Mirror Pond. Your guide stops frequently to relate Bend's history, culture and interesting sights.

Segway tours are interactive and personalized. Bend Tour Company owner, Bret Graham, explains. "What makes Segways so perfect for tours is where they can go. You don't pull up to the curb in a van and say 'Down that alley, the third window up is'—you go down the alley and look at the third window."

Consider Bend Tour Company a one-stop shop for entertaining sightseeing options. Other Segway outings include the Art Safari and a 2.5-hour Sunset Spectacular tour which includes tastings at some of Bend's outstanding restaurants and breweries. Or you can try guided excursions conducted by electric cruiser cars or electric bike tours like the Best of Bend or the Brew Cruise. Groups love the pedal-powered Cycle Round and Cycle Pub Ale Trail tours.

To arrange a unique, fun-filled excursion in Bend, Oregon, go to [TheBendTourcompany.com](http://TheBendTourcompany.com). You'll find Bend visitor information at [VisitCentralOregon.com](http://VisitCentralOregon.com). 📍



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Segway vehicles maneuver easily and move at a fast clip, allowing us to cover a lot of ground during this entertaining 1.5-hour guided outing, operated by Bend Tour Company.

Designed for the mobility impaired, the innovative Segway personal transporter made its debut in 2001. Not many people own one due to its

The easy-to-ride machines consist of a platform between two large wheels with an upright handle. Forward and backward motion is controlled by the slightest shift in weight—just a minor movement of your hips is all it takes. To turn, just tilt the handle to either side. The hardest part is learning to relax, after which controlling the Segway