



Know Before You Go

Please use this checklist to double check that you have thoroughly prepared for your hike along the Oregon Desert Trail. Above all else please remember each hiker's interactions with the trail communities and land managers paves the way for future hikers along the route. Please travel responsibly and respectfully through eastern Oregon and have a wonderful adventure.

- Weather:** do you have the gear and skills necessary to travel safely along the route in the current weather conditions?
- Permits:** If you plan on camping outside of established campgrounds have you secured the necessary permit for Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge?
- Caching:** Remember, caching on National Forest and Wildlife Refuges is not allowed along the Oregon Desert Trail.
- Camping:** Will you be able to pitch your tent/tarp in sandy soils? Are you prepared to camp and camouflage your camp in the morning? Remember, camping is not allowed on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Please do not camp near isolated water sources, animals often use those sources during the night.
- Water:** Did you print/download the databook/water report? Do you have a good filter and way to clean that filter if it clogs? Remember to pack out all of your pre-cached water bottles.
- Driving:** Some roads become impassable with recent rain. Many roads require high clearance 4WD. Some roads are closed seasonally, especially within the wildlife refuges, any roads closed to vehicles are also closed to bikes.
- Wild animals:** Please do not approach wild animals. You are traveling in their habitat, be aware of animal dens and give wide berth should you encounter a sleeping or feeding area. Game trails and cow trails can make hiking easier and hiking on them helps to consolidate impacts.
- Off-trail travel:** Please travel lightly on cross country sections. We are not trying to create a trail. If you see footsteps, hike in a similar bearing a short distance away. Please report hiker/human impacts you see along the route.
- Private land:** There is private land along the route, and it's clearly marked on the ODT maps. Not all private land is fenced, and not all fences mean private land. If you travel off the route, please have the resources to distinguish private land from public land, and please respect all user groups you may encounter along the way. Keep all gates as you find them.
- Cultural resources:** Cultural artifacts are protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. It is illegal to remove or disturb archaeological sites, historic sites or artifacts such as pot shards, arrowheads, structures and even antique bottles found on public lands. Please do not geotag cultural resources you may find along the route.