



**Painted Hills, Kam Wah Chung Museum and John Day Museum Tour
With
Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC**

Summer is a great time of year to get out and explore some of the more unusual natural and man-made attractions in Oregon. The Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC, tour is out and about again, this time heading inland to the central regions of the state.

Our first stop is the Oregon Painted Hills, nestled in the John Day River Basin within the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, located in Wheeler County about 75 miles East of Bend.

Painted Hills is named after the colorful layers of its hills corresponding to various geological eras, formed when the area was an ancient river floodplain. The color-splashed hummocks and hills are the eroded remnants of the lower John Day Formation.

The weathering of volcanic ash under varying climatic regimes resulted in vividly hued rock layers of red, pink, bronze, tan, and black. The black soil is lignite that was vegetative matter that grew along the floodplain. The grey coloring is mudstone, siltstone, and shale. The red coloring is laterite soil that formed by floodplain deposits when the area was warm and humid.

Still moist from the light overnight rain, the colors of the Painted Hills were spectacular against the light overcast clouds and mid-summer dessert grasses and vegetation.

After leaving the Painted Hills we visited the John Day Fossil Beds Monument Visitors Center. Then, a short quarter mile drive down the road brings us to the Cant Ranch Historical Museum for a lovely picnic lunch. We dined outside in the enclosed veranda overlooking the John Day River and painted hills in the background.

After lunch we continued on to the city of John Day, our destination is the Kam Wah Chung historic museum, located in a quiet neighborhood just off the highway.



The John Day Kam Wah Chung Co. Museum is a unique historic site. The building, constructed as trading post on The Dalles Military Road in 1866-67, served as a center for the Chinese community in Eastern Oregon until the early 1940's.

The original building now contains thousands of artifacts and relics which illustrate the many former uses of the site... as a general store, office of the famous herbal doctor, Chinese temple and the home of two noted members of the local community. "Doc" Ing Hay and Lung On, highly successful businessman.

In 1887, two young immigrants, Ing Hay and Lung On, bought the Kam Wah Chung & Co. building, constructed in the 1860s. Doc Hay and Lung On lived in the building until 1948 and 1940 respectively. They became important and honored members of the local community. With their home in the Kam Wah Chung building, they were major participants in the building of the dynamic economy and culture of Eastern Oregon. The

development of that economy and culture is uniquely represented in today's John Day Kam Wah Chung Museum.

Doc Hay and his partner, Lung On, sold large amounts of mining supplies and staple foodstuffs to the miners, both white and Chinese, who came out of the hills periodically to stock up. As the needs of the local community evolved, the two men sold canned goods, notions, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and pipe tobaccos. Many of the goods, especially teas and Oriental foods, were imported from China. During Prohibition, Lung On also sold "bootleg" whiskey. Examples of all those types of goods can be seen in today's Kam Wah Chung & Co. Museum.

Perhaps the most important function of the building was as the Medical Office of "Doc" Hay, the most famous herbal doctor between Seattle and San Francisco. Doc Hay was a master of Pulse Diagnosis, a traditional Chinese method of detecting illness through light pressure at the wrist. There are records of many remarkable feats of diagnosis later confirmed by Western-style medical doctors. Doc Hay treated his patients with herbal medicines, made up of imported and local plants. More than 1,000 different herbs, many rare ones whose use is still unknown, can be seen in the museum. Many other traditional Western and Chinese, medicines can also be seen by the visitor.

The Kam Wah Chung & Co. building also served as the social and religious headquarters for the Chinese community in Eastern Oregon. Lung On was a sort of troubleshooter for the Chinese, often called upon by miners as far away as Nevada and Idaho to interpret English, or to resolve difficulties caused by conflicts between immigrant Chinese and U.S. Customs officers at the ports in Oregon and Washington. Doc Hay was the chief priest for the Chinese and often officiated at religious ceremonies or cast fortunes for men anxious to know the future. The building contains a major shrine and several smaller ones, and many religious objects covered with smoke from decades of incense.

After departing the Kam Wah Chung museum we visited a few unique points of interest that included the Grant County Chamber of Commerce, and a beautifully restored 19th century Church. Our adventure continued south on Highway 395 to Canyon City, the Grant County seat, with the intention to visit the Grant County Historical Museum and the Grant County Rodeo and Cowboy Heritage Museum.

Canyon City was established in June 1862 as a result of the discovery of gold in Canyon Creek, which flows through the town. The discovery led to land between Canyon City and John Day being worth \$500 per square yard (\$598/m²). Panning for gold could yield several ounces in each pan of sediment. At the peak of the local gold rush, it is claimed that 10,000 people lived in Canyon City, making it larger than Portland at the time

The museums were chocked full of fascinating and unusual antiques and memorabilia spanning the mid 1800's through the early 1950's and from every facet of life.

Some of the collection of historic items is available for hands-on exploration, including a collection of vintage clothing and hats that the ladies in the group found simply irresistible!



The next leg of our adventure took us further South on Hwy 395, through the city of Seneca and into the city of Burns for a nice home-style dinner before turning West for the final jaunt home. As the sun was setting on our adventure we saw Elk and Antelope foraging along side the road as we watched a spectacular sunset over the Cascade mountain range.

Gadabout Serene Adventures, out of Sunriver, Oregon, provides scenic and recreational tours designed specifically for the senior citizen, including those who may have a limited level of physical ability. We incorporate the beauty of nature and the great outdoors into most of our adventures. We also believe that you should always keep learning, therefore, we include numerous adventures to discovery centers, museums and other places of culture to spark the mind and the heart. We offer weekly adventures from one to three days, between April and December, and have convenient pick-up locations in Sunriver and Bend. Additional pickup locations are sometimes available in Sisters, Redmond, La Pine, Madras, or Prineville depending upon the direction of our tour destination.

Gadabout Adventures can be reached at 541-593-6200 or at our web site at www.gadaboutadventures.com to receive a Calendar of Tours and other information.

Robin & Danita Parker, Owners / Operators
Gadabout Serene Adventure, LLC