

How to Get There

Getting to the Valley of the Giants (VOG) is an *adventure!*

Use both these written directions *and the map* to find your way. Although VOG is only 14 air miles from Falls City, rough, narrow, winding roads make it a *slow* 30-mile trip: allow at least **90 minutes**.

Please Note: The first 28 miles or so of this trip are on private roads. It is *only* through the continued goodwill of the private land-owner that the general public has the opportunity to visit the VOG.

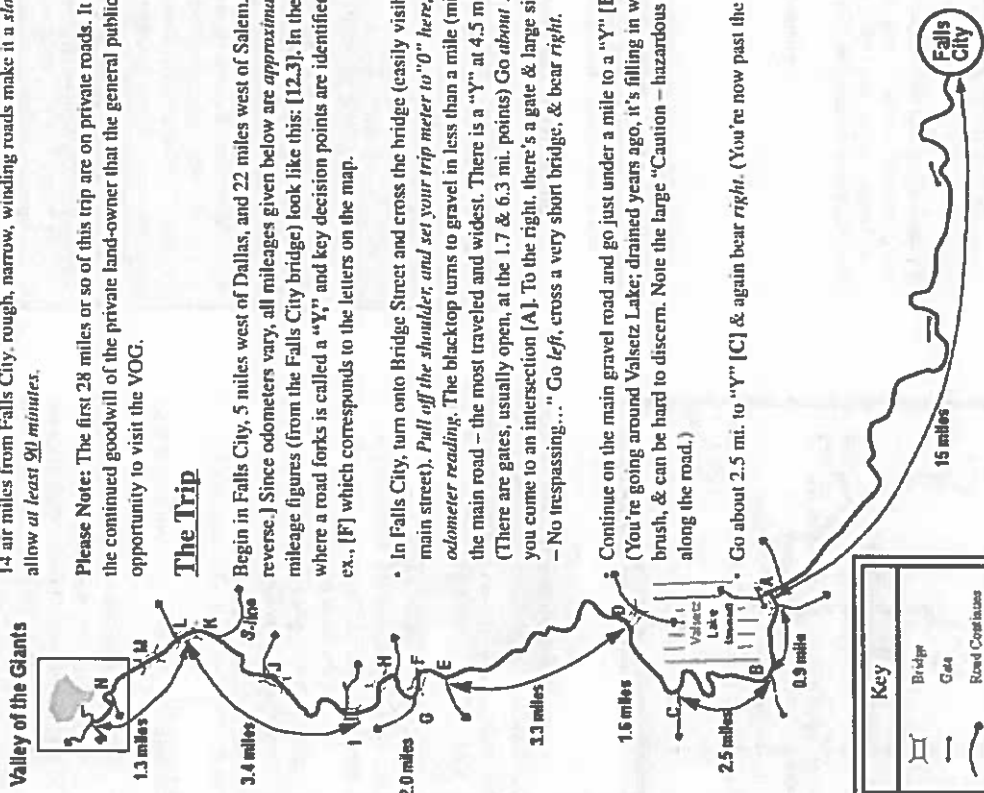
The Trip

Begin in Falls City, 5 miles west of Dallas, and 22 miles west of Salem. [See map on reverse.] Since odometers vary, all mileages given below are *approximate*. Cumulative mileage figures (from the Falls City bridge) look like this: [12.3]. In these directions, where a road forks is called a "Y", and key decision points are identified by a letter (for ex., [F] which corresponds to the letters on the map).

- In Falls City, turn onto Bridge Street and cross the bridge (easily visible from the main street). *Pull off the shoulder, and set your trip meter to "0" here, or note your odometer reading.* The blacktop turns to gravel in less than a mile (mi.). Stay on the main road – the most traveled and widest. There is a "Y" at 4.5 mi. – go right. (There are gates, usually open, at the 1.7 & 6.3 mi. points) Go *about 15 miles* until you come to an intersection [A]. To the right, there's a gate & large sign: "Keep Out – No trespassing..." Go *left*, cross a very short bridge, & bear right.

Continue on the main gravel road and go just under a mile to a "Y" [B]; bear right. (You're going around Valsetz Lake; drained years ago, it's filling in with trees & brush, & can be hard to discern. Note the large "Caution – hazardous area" signs along the road.)

Go about 2.5 mi. to "Y" [C] & again bear right. (You're now past the ex-lake.



Map not to scale

There's a small marsh on your left.) [18.4]

- After about 1.6 mi., there's a bridge on your right [D]. *Do not cross it – bear left*, keeping the river on your right.

- Go 3.3 mi. to a "Y" [E]. Bear right on the lower road. [23.4]

- Travel about 0.2 mi. to a bridge [F]; cross it.

- Go about 0.3 mi. to another "Y" [G]; go right (uphill). (From now on, the river will be on your left.)

- Go about 0.3 mi. to another "Y" [H]; go left: (There's a tiny "traffic island" with two small trees.) [Closer to the VOG, small orange "VG" or "VOG" signs (see drawing [right]) help guide you; follow these when you see them, but they are often stolen by vandals.]

- Go another 1.2 mi., cross a bridge [I] & go straight; do not turn right. (The river will continue to be on your left.) [25.4]

- Go about 1.9 mi., & cross a bridge [J].

- Go 1.3 mi. to an intersection [K]; go straight. [28.6] (The well-marked "S-line" road is the right turn.)

- Go 0.2 mi. to a concrete bridge [L]; cross it & go straight (not right).

- Go 0.3 mi. more to a 2nd concrete bridge [M]; cross it (the river is now on the right).

- After about 1.0 mi., come to a "Y" [N] & go right.

- Go about 0.4 mi. before coming to the VOG trailhead and parking area on your right. [30.5]

Getting back

Reset your trip meter to "0", and carefully retrace your trip. In general, stay on the road which stays parallel to the river.

Distances are approximations; please refer to written instructions, too.

BLM

Salem District

Valley of the Giants

Outstanding Natural Area

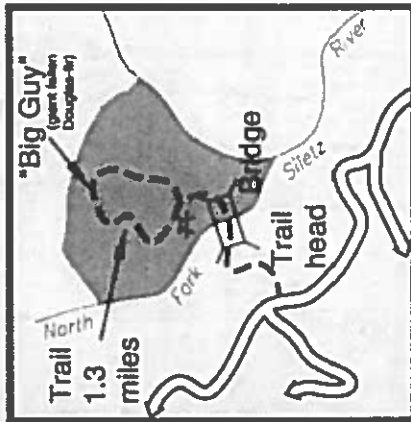
Public Land; USA

Use, Share, Appreciate



What is the Valley of the Giants?

Valley of the Giants (VOG) is a 51-acre parcel of land containing a stand of old-growth Douglas-fir and hemlock trees; the largest trees are between 400 and 450 years old. Because of the increasing rarity of such large trees in the Coast Range, there was considerable public concern for their protection in the early 1970s. In 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) designated the VOG as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA), thus providing the site with a protective land-use category.



About the Trail

The trail from the trailhead to the river is fairly steep, and as it nears the river, it gets steeper. When it's wet, it's slippery. **Watch your step!**

The bridge across the North Fork of the Siletz River also can be slippery when it's wet or icy, including several steps leading to the bridge.

Caution: Many of these huge trees are on their last roots. When trees, limbs, and even bark fall, they can kill! Watch out for falling limbs and trees; avoid the area during winds. Visitors hiking on the trail must be aware that they are doing so at their own risk.

Please stay on the Trail: The Valley of the Giants is used extensively for research and education about old-growth forests, which is why it's important to stay on the trail and not impact the soil, small animals and plants.

All of the features of an old-growth forest – large standing and fallen trees, “nurse” logs and stumps, understory plants, fungi and mosses, etc. – will be found immediately alongside the trail. The picnic table (see map) is the only point where you are permitted to leave the trail.

Reminder: There is **no collecting of any kind** in the Valley of the Giants, which is a *day-use only* area.

About the BLM

As the nation's largest land management agency, the BLM is responsible for managing over 270 million acres of our public lands and natural resources. This responsibility includes producing commodities; protecting plants, fish and wildlife; preserving environmental and cultural values; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Marys Peak Resource Area of the Salem District of the BLM manages the Valley of the Giants, ONA.

For more information, please contact:

Bureau of Land Management
Marys Peak Resource Area
1771 Fabry Rd. SE
Salem, OR 97306Tel. 503-375-5646
Website: <http://www.or.blm.gov/salem>

“Leave No Trace” Guidelines

- VOG is a *day-use* area. Camping and fires are not allowed.
- Park only in the established lot and stay on the trails; do not cut switch-backs.
- The loop trail within the VOG is steep in places, but well maintained; in terms of difficulty, it probably rates a “moderate” designation.
- If you “pack it in, pack it out” . . . Plus a bit more. Trash pickup costs time and money better spent on other efforts. Picking up trash left by less thoughtful people can be your contribution to maintaining the scenic beauty of a place you enjoy – Your Public Lands!
- Control pets at all times. They can be harmful to wildlife and vegetation as well as an annoyance to other people in the area.
- Toilets are not available; body waste should be buried in a hole 6 to 12 inches deep, at least 100' from streams.

Private Lands and Gated Roads

Respect private property. Roads with gates are closed to public access when the gates are closed. Private lands surround the access to the VOG, and can only be accessed with permission from the landowner.

Please – Do Not Trespass

Reporting Problems

Please report any vandalism, trash dumping or other crimes, or accidents to the BLM by calling the Salem District Office at 503-375-5646 or BLM's statewide law enforcement reporting number 1-800-333-7283.

In case of wildfire, call:

911

Getting There

The written directions and the map on the reverse of this leaflet are designed to help you get to the Valley of the Giants by the safest, most direct route. However, this trip is *not recommended for passenger cars or other vehicles with low clearances*. Please heed the following cautions:

Watch Out for

- Log trucks on single lane, steep, twisting roads, with turnouts. Keep your headlights on and don't cut corners or swing out on curves.
- Washouts and rocks in the road; these are mostly encountered in the winter.
- Road closures during high fire danger, usually in late summer and fall. *Roads may be closed at any time for any reason.*

For up-to-date road information, call the Salem District at (503) 375-5646. Note: most of the route is on private roads through private land – respect the rights and property of these landowners.

