

Best of America: Oregon's Painted Hills

Dear Telegraph Travel

As an Oregonian and head of an eco-tourism group, I loved Robert Cowan's Feb 25 article about "Oregon the Best of America". However the story got somewhat fuzzy about its star attraction, Oregon's Painted Hills, the "psychedelic slide show" you feature on your website .

Robert described the Painted Hills as being "two hours" from Bend, but missed the fact that this is a unit of the world-renowned **John Day Fossil Bed National Monument**, which holds the earth's most complete fossil record of the last 50 million years of life.

I suggest you add a **Tour Highlight** description below of what's there and who to contact for daring UK travelers who really want to "trip out" in those Painted Hills. The next time Robert is in Oregon look us up at paleolands.org . We would love to show him the rest of the story of Oregon's psychedelic landscapes.

Yours Richard N Ross, Muleshoe Creek Ranch, Fossil, Oregon
Pres., Oregon Paleo Lands Institute, Fossil, Oregon

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

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The John Day Fossil Beds National Monument holds the earth's most complete record of the Age of Mammals, the past 50 million years of life. 90 miles east of Bend on US 26 is the awesome Painted Hills unit of the National Monument, where tie-died hills and high desert terrain inspire travelers. Ancient mammals and landscapes are entombed in day-glow palaces of volcanic clay and ash. The Monument's new Paleontology Center tells the full story of area fossil discoveries and of earth's changing climate. A local ranching coop even raises natural Painted Hills Beef for Portland's best restaurants. Whether it's eco-touring the rugged outback or floating the wild and scenic John Day River, there is plenty to do for adventurous travelers in Oregon's Painted Hills.

See: www.paleolands.org, www.nps.gov/joda/