

Tours that take you behind the scenes of heritage sites and eateries in Albany and the immediate area will activate and inform attendees at this year's Oregon Heritage Conference. The conference will take place April 23-25 in Albany with the registration deadline less than three weeks away.

Among the tours are:

Thompson's Mills State Heritage Area: In this tour and workshop, see first-hand the benefits and challenges of a state heritage site through the exploration of Thompson's Mills, the oldest, continuously operated grain mill in Oregon. After hearing its history and discussing its archaeological record, experience interpretive demonstrations and with a small group identify and prioritize tasks for the care of archaeological sites, historic structures, and permanent and educational collections.

Santiam Wagon Road: Once a vital east-west travel route, today's road faces numerous challenges to its historical integrity. Learn about its history and how cultural resource specialists are working to preserve it today.

Downtown Nosh Tour: This evening tour takes you "back stage" in several of Albany's home-grown restaurants; to taste a sample of what makes each establishment stand out, take the opportunity to see what's going on behind the scenes, and speak with the people who make it all happen. Albany's vintage trolley will take you to meet the crew, hear secrets of favorite recipes, and learn tricks of the trade. This tour is a favorite for many locals.

Albany Historic District Walking Tour: Albany is considered a "must see" destination for people who love historic buildings. Four districts on the National Register of Historic Places boast over 800 historic homes and commercial buildings. Thirteen classic architectural styles are represented in Albany.

Friday Night Treat: a Sneak Peek Historic Home Tour As an attendee of the 2014 Oregon Heritage Conference, you can take a sneak peek inside four of Albany's favorite historic homes. Homeowners and Hosts/Hostesses will answer questions about restoration efforts, historic house maintenance and why they chose Albany as home.

Register for these tours when you register for the Oregon Heritage Conference. More information and registration are available at the conference website at <http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/OHC/Pages/Conference.aspx> Register now or you might be left behind!