

OVERLAND EXPO

Overland Expo can help you find the right vehicle, pack it with equipment and provisions, and learn the finer points of off-roading, with hands-on demonstrations and dozens of classroom sessions. Instructors include expert distance rally veterans and professional expedition leaders. You can also go just to take in the beautiful high country weather and the expo atmosphere, circulating among a wide variety of outdoor equipment and activity vendors and food booths.

This year's ninth annual West event (an East version in fall is in its fourth year) had a new venue, still just outside Flagstaff, now just to the south in Fort Tuthill County Park,

with Ponderosa forest, grassy meadows and views of the San Francisco Peaks, freshly covered with snow in mid-May.

We used the event as our launch site for off-roading to Jerome one day and to a volcanic off-highway park northeast of Flagstaff the second, with a chance to cruise Expo's booths and classes between the two.

A record of nearly 12,000 people attended this year's Overland Expo West—from South America, Asia, Australia, Canada and almost every US state—visiting displays and showcase vehicles from over 300 camping, equipment and vehicle outfitters, as well as high-profile vehicle manufacturers. Some 480 ses-

sion-hours of classes by some 150 presenters covered topics from vehicle recovery to securing rally sponsorship. The event also hosts authors, filmmakers and VIPs, with happy hours, food and drink including a final BBQ on Sunday, and even a film festival to round out the weekend.

Host Sponsors are Four Wheel Campers and BFGoodrich; Title Sponsors include Rhino-Rack and AT Overland. The event is put on by about 30 staff and 135 volunteers.

The 4th Overland Expo East will be held at the end of September, in North Carolina. The 10th Overland Expo West is scheduled for May 18-20, 2018 at the same Flagstaff venue.

If interested in exhibiting, presenting or volunteering next year, visit www.overland-expo.com/west. ■

