



OREGON COAST VISITORS ASSOCIATION

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OREGON COAST FACTS OF INTEREST

ONLY ON THE OREGON COAST

- Highway 101 – nationally designated All American Road borders 363 miles (584 K) of coastline
- Oregon's Public Beaches – all 363 miles (584 K) are designated as public lands
- Oregon Islands – all of the off-shore rocks and islands are designated as wildlife refuges
- Astoria – oldest American settlement west of the Rocky Mountains, dates back to Fort Astoria built in 1811
- Seaside – the end of the Lewis & Clark expedition
- Tillamook Cheese Factory – world famous cheeses make the factory a tasty tourist attraction
- Sea Lion Caves – America's largest sea cave with numerous sea lions, north of Florence
- Myrtlewood Trees – only grow on south coast, beautiful grain/coloration, used for tables, bowls, etc
- West Coast Game Park – it's America's largest wild animal petting park

INTERESTING OREGON COAST FEATURES/FACTS

- Oregon offers shoppers the benefit of NO SALES TAX
- 79 State Parks – Ranging in size from large parks with camping, hiking trails, and beaches to small waysides with picnic tables and great views
- 11 Lighthouses – 9 are Historic Lighthouses, 7 of which are open to the public. The 2 remaining lighthouses are private aids to navigation
- 11 Conde B. McCullough-designed Bridges – recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Cranberries – a major agricultural crop in the Bandon and Port Orford areas



TOWNS

Largest population center is the Coos Bay and North Bend area, with a total population of about 26,000. Followed by Brookings-Harbor at 14,000, Astoria and Newport each about 10,000, and Lincoln City and Florence each just over 7,000. Approximate distance between towns is 10 – 25 miles (16-40 K). Garibaldi, Winchester Bay, and Charleston continue to be fishing villages with charter boats. Depoe Bay offers whale-watching tours. Florence, Reedsport and North Bend are gateways to the Oregon Dunes, and Gold Beach is home base for the lower Rogue River – famous for fishing and jet boats.

SUGGESTED EXPERIENCES

Cannon Beach has famous Haystack Rock and numerous art galleries. Tillamook to Pacific City boasts The Three Capes Scenic Loop with three scenic headlands and charming towns. Newport has historic Nye Beach, and the Historic Bayfront which is home to Oregon's largest commercial fishing fleet. Yachats has oceanfront resorts, Florence has its Old Town, and Bandon has scenic offshore seawalls and world-class golfing.

CONNECTING HIGHWAYS

From Interstate 5, connect with Highway 30 to Astoria, Highway 26 to Seaside/Cannon Beach, Highway 6 to Tillamook, Highway 18/22 to Lincoln City, Highway 20 to Newport, Highway 34 to Waldport/Yachats, Highway 126 to Florence, Highway 38/138 to Reedsport, Highway 42 to Coos Bay and other south coast towns. Or, travel Highway 199 south to connect to Highway 101 just below Brookings.

NEAREST AIRPORTS

Portland International (PDX), Eugene (EUG), Astoria (AST), Newport (ONP) and North Bend (OTH).

CLIMATE

Moderate temperatures rarely dip below freezing in the winter or rise above 80 degrees F (26.7 C) during the summer months. Storm Watchers claim that November through February is their favorite time to visit.

TIME ZONE

Pacific Standard



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OREGON DUNES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA OFFERS SAND PLAYLAND

Stretching approximately 40 miles (64 K) between Florence and North Bend is the largest expanse of coastal dunes in North America, which is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Adventure-loving, off-highway-vehicle (OHV) enthusiasts ride pell-mell up dunes as high as 500 feet (152 M) within defined OHV areas. And those seeking solitude find it while paddling kayaks or canoes on numerous streams and lakes. Approximately 30 lakes also beckon fishermen and birders, and numerous trails call out to hikers.

LIGHTHOUSES: REVERED SENTINELS OF THE COAST

Of the nine original lighthouses on the Oregon Coast, most are still active, working lighthouses in excellent condition. Seven of these are open to the public and tours are conducted spring through summer where you can go up the stairs to the watch room or even higher to the lantern room. The lighthouses on the North Coast are Tillamook Rock, a mile offshore of Tillamook Head near Cannon Beach, which is privately owned, and Cape Meares, which is located just west of Tillamook and is the shortest at 38-feet (12 M) high. On the Central Coast there are three lighthouses, two of which are near Newport – Yaquina Head, which is the tallest at 93 feet (28 M) and Yaquina Bay, which is the oldest standing wooden lighthouse. The third Central Coast lighthouse is Heceta Head – the most photographed lighthouse – and is located seven miles north of Florence. Along the South Coast there are four lighthouses. Just southwest of Charleston is the Cape Arago lighthouse and near Winchester Bay is the Umpqua River Lighthouse – the most beautiful lens, which emits red and white flashes. The Coquille River lighthouse, with its unusual octagon shape, is just across the river from Bandon. The Cape Blanco lighthouse is located just north of Port Orford, is the oldest lighthouse, and is perched on the most westerly point in Oregon. There are also two privately owned lighthouses – Cleft of the Rock, near Yachats and Pelican Bay, in Brookings – which are deemed as private aids to navigation.



18,000 GRAY WHALES MIGRATE TWICE A YEAR ALONG COAST

Whale watching is a year-round activity on the Oregon Coast with Gray whales the most commonly seen. They migrate south from their feeding grounds in Arctic waters around Alaska from mid-December through January. They head to their breeding grounds in Baja California, Mexico, where warm-water lagoons become nurseries for expectant mothers. Then late March to June they migrate back to Alaska. Coincidentally, the peak migration times coincide with human vacation times. The Whale Watching Spoken Here program provides assisted whale watching during the week between Christmas and New Year's and again at Spring Break, a week when schools are out between mid-March and mid-April. During each whale-watch week volunteers staff 28 sites along the entire coast

providing information about, and tips on spotting, Gray whales. Several hundred Grays do not return to Alaska but become part-time residents off the central coast of Oregon between June and November. Photo courtesy of Depoe Bay Whale Watch Center.

STORM WATCHING: A POPULAR WINTER ACTIVITY

Large numbers of adventuresome folks are drawn to the coast whenever they hear “storm wind warnings” in the weather report followed by “heavy surf advisory with swells up to 20 feet (6 M) or more.” While the storm is still out to sea, it generates swells reaching land. For many storm watchers, seeing spectacular waves is what it's all about. One plan of action would be to arrive early to check out the waves, and then check into an oceanfront motel, resort, or B&B where you'll be warm and dry and can put your feet up, get the fireplace going, and watch the storm. Or duck into a restaurant and watch from ocean-view windows while enjoying a bowl of clam chowder or other scrumptious seafood meals.



BIRDERS FLOCK TO THE COAST DURING SPRING & FALL MIGRATIONS

Thousands of shorebirds and other waterfowl migrate along the Oregon Coast, stopping at estuaries to feed and rest. Migration peaks in April on the northward journey and again in September for the return south. Any place along the coast can become a migration rest stop. The Oregon Coast Birding Trail is a self-guided tour, with an accompanying trail guide, along more than 700 miles (1127 K) of existing roads and trails highlighting approximately 300 bird sites.

FISHING ALONG THE OREGON COAST

Bring your own boat and equipment or enjoy a guided charter with everything supplied. Pick a coastal river, lake, bay, or head out into the ocean. Oregon's coastal communities have many top-notch charter fishing boats, expert fishing guides, and friendly businesses to help make your fishing trip the best ever. If you've fished your limit and still want more, you can find fresh-from-the-sea specialties like Oregon troll-caught salmon, halibut, tuna, and rockfish at local seafood markets. You can also buy direct from fishing boats in ports up and down the Oregon Coast. No matter how far away you live, it's easy to take some of the fresh flavor of the Oregon Coast home with you. Just take your catch, or purchase, to one of the many local markets where they will vacuum pack and ship it to your home.

