



# Oregon Coast

## Includes ➔

Astoria .....	294
Seaside .....	298
Cannon Beach .....	300
Manzanita .....	302
Lincoln City .....	305
Newport .....	308
Yachats .....	310
Florence .....	313
Bandon .....	318
Port Orford .....	320
Brookings .....	323

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rising Star Cafe (p304)
- ➔ Blackfish Cafe (p307)
- ➔ Local Ocean Seafoods (p310)
- ➔ Waterfront Depot (p314)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Wildspring Guest Habitat (p321)
- ➔ Tu Tu' Tun Lodge (p322)
- ➔ Newport Belle (p309)
- ➔ Heceta Head Lighthouse B&B (p312)

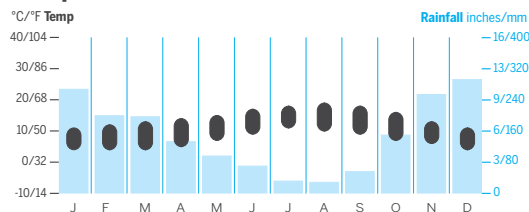
## Why Go?

A drive along Oregon's coast is a must-do any time of year. Rocky headlands loom high above the ocean, providing astounding vistas, while craggy rocks lie scattered along the shoreline like oceanic sentinels. The Coast Range is deeply etched by great rivers and patched with forests, offering outdoor enthusiasts excellent boating, fishing and hiking. The Oregon Dunes – among the largest coastal dunes in the world – stretch for more than 50 miles, and just offshore, gray whales migrate from Alaska to Mexico and back.

Thanks to a far-sighted government in the 1910s, Oregon's 363-mile Pacific Coast was set aside as public land and strung with more than 70 state parks and protected areas. The northern Oregon coast has developed more quickly than the southern end, offering travelers a choice between bustling beach resorts and blissfully laid-back retreats. Everyone from campers to gourmet-lovers will find a plethora of ways to enjoy this exceptional region.

## When to Go

### Newport



**Jul & Aug** Hit the beach or go camping – but be prepared for crowds and high prices.

**Nov–Jun** Gray whales migrate north (March to June) or south (November to February).

**Dec–Mar** Storm-watchers' heaven: the crowds are gone and there's plenty of bargain lodging.

## NORTHERN OREGON COAST

Oregon's northern coast stretches from the mouth of the Columbia River south to Florence. Here lie the state's biggest and most touristy beach towns – Seaside, Cannon Beach and Lincoln City – while Depoe Bay is great for whale-watching and Newport is famous for its excellent aquarium.

Because of its popularity, the northern coast tends to get clogged with weekend visitors from Portland and the Willamette Valley. Since US 101 is mostly a two-lane highway, traffic can slow to 20mph in sections – especially with the many RVs on the road. Expect to join the masses during summer months, when the beaches fill with crowds and lodging prices skyrocket.

### Astoria

POP 10,000

Named after America's first millionaire, John Jacob Astor, Astoria sits at the 5-mile-wide mouth of the Columbia River and was the first US settlement west of the Mississippi. The city has a long seafaring history and has seen its old harbor, once home to poor artists and writers, attract fancy hotels and restaurants in recent years. Inland are many historical houses, including lovingly restored Victorians – a few converted into romantic B&Bs.

### Sights & Activities

Astoria has been the setting and shooting location for movies such as *The Goonies*, *Kindergarten Cop* and the *Free Willy* and *Ring* series. Adding to the city's scenery is the 4.1-mile **Astoria-Megler Bridge**, the longest continuous truss bridge in North America, which crosses the Columbia River into Washington state. See it from the

**Astoria Riverwalk**, which follows the trolley route. **Pier 39** is an interesting covered wharf with an informal cannery museum and a couple of places to eat.

### ★ **Columbia River Maritime Museum**

MUSEUM

(☎ 503-325-2323; [www.crmmm.org](http://www.crmmm.org); 1792 Marine Dr; adult/child 6-17yr \$12/5; ☀ 9:30am-5pm) Astoria's seafaring heritage is well interpreted at this wave-shaped museum. It's hard to miss the Coast Guard boat, frozen in action, through a huge outside window. Other exhibits highlight the salmon-packing industry, local lighthouses and the river's commercial history; also check out the Columbia River Bar exhibit and 3-D theater.

### **Astoria Column**

LANDMARK

(☎ 503-325-2963; [www.astoriacolumn.org](http://www.astoriacolumn.org); Coxcomb Hill; parking \$1) Rising high on Coxcomb Hill, the Astoria Column (built in 1926) is a 125ft tower painted with scenes from the westward sweep of US exploration and settlement. The top of the column (you'll need to go up 164 steps) offers excellent views over the area.

### **Flavel House**

HISTORIC BUILDING

([www.cumtux.org](http://www.cumtux.org); 441 8th St; adult/child 6-17yr \$5/4; ☀ 10am-5pm) The extravagant Flavel House was built by Capt George Flavel, one of Astoria's leading citizens during the 1880s. This Queen Anne house has been repainted in its original colors and the grounds have been returned to Victorian-era landscaping; it has great views of the Columbia River too.

### **Oregon Film Museum**

MUSEUM

(☎ 503-325-2203; [www.cumtux.com](http://www.cumtux.com); 636 Duane St; adult/child 6-17yr \$4/2; ☀ 10am-5pm) Just below Flavel House is this small but fun museum, located in the old county jail. Two rooms and jail cells honor movies filmed in Oregon, especially Astoria's own *The Goonies*. Make your own movie clips and see yourself on a green screen.

### **Lewis & Clark**

#### **National Historical Park**

HISTORIC SITE

(☎ 503-861-2471; [www.nps.gov/lewi](http://www.nps.gov/lewi); 92343 Fort Clatsop Rd; adult/child 15yr & under \$3/free; ☀ 9am-6pm Jun-Aug, till 5pm Sep-May) Five miles south of Astoria, this historical park holds Fort Clatsop, a reconstructed fort similar to the one the Corps of Discovery occupied during their miserable winter of 1805-06. There's expedition history and artifacts at the visitor center, and costumed

### OREGON PACIFIC COAST PASSPORT

Many attractions along Oregon's coast require a \$5 day-use permit to visit. With the multi-agency **Oregon Pacific Coast Passport** you'll pay \$35 for an annual pass that includes many of these top sights. You can buy this pass at various locations along the coast; for a list and details, see [www.fs.fed.us/](http://www.fs.fed.us/)