

# OREGON WHALE WATCH

## SITE DIRECTORIES

2026 Version 1.1



# EXPLORE OREGON'S WHALE WATCH SITES

Oregon Whale Watch relies on volunteers across 15 designated observation sites along the Oregon coast. This flip book compiles the site directories for each location, providing a quick overview to help volunteers get familiar with the different sites and what to expect at each one. We encourage volunteers to explore the directories and choose a site that feels like a good fit or even try a few different locations to experience the variety of viewpoints along the coast.

Thank you for helping visitors experience the wonder of whale migration along the Oregon coast!

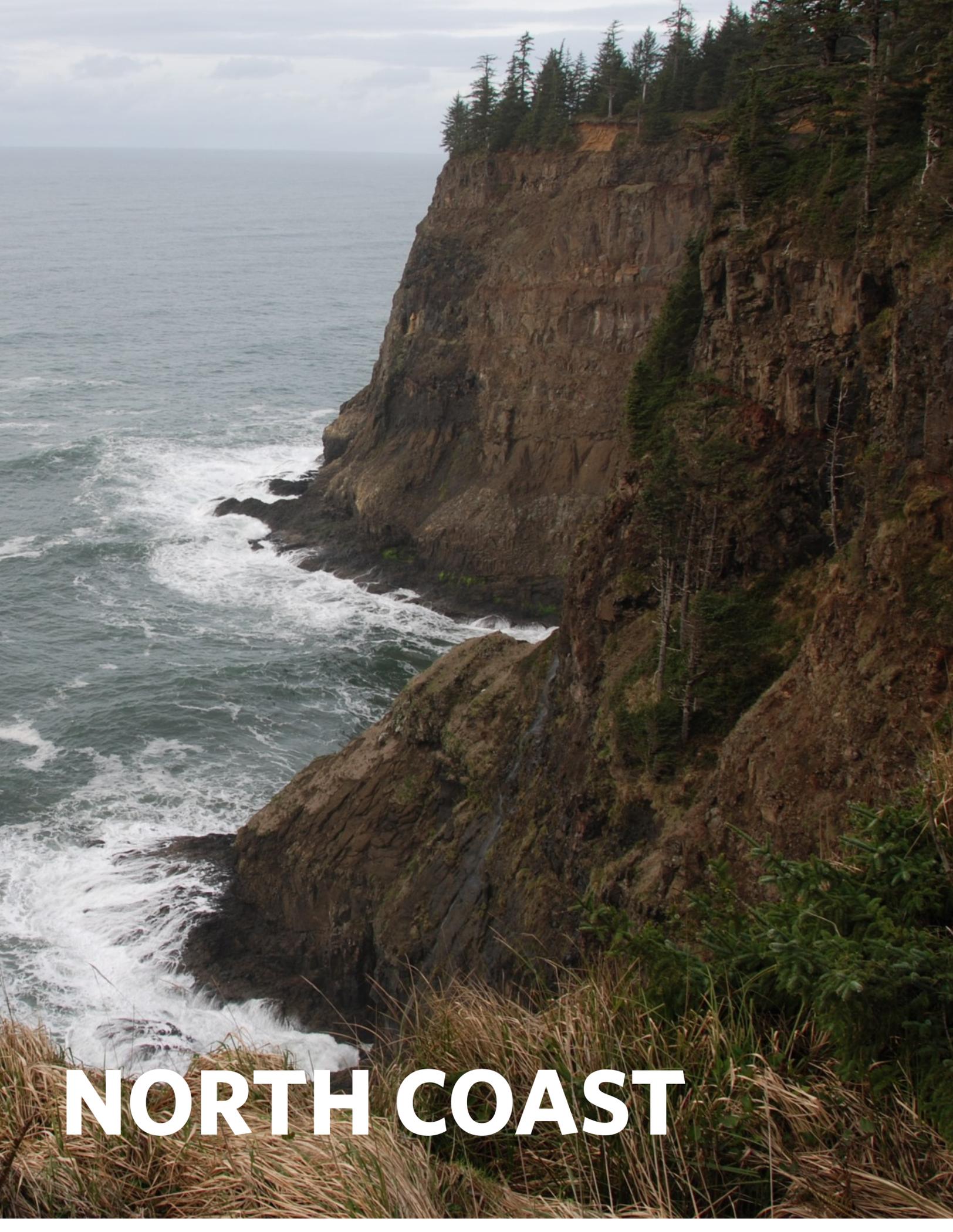


# OBSERVATION SITES

Explore the designated Oregon Whale Watch sites and discover the unique opportunities each location offers to get involved and share in the whale-watching experience.

- **Fort Stevens State Park - Peter Iredale Shipwreck**
- **Neahkahnie Mountain Overlook**
- **Cape Meares Lighthouse**
- **Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint**
- **The Whale Watching Center**
- **Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint**
- **Otter Crest State Scenic Viewpoint - Cape Foulweather**
- **Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area**
- **Yachats State Recreation Area**
- **Cape Perpetua Visitor Center - Viewing Platform**
- **Heceta Head Lighthouse**
- **Umpqua Lighthouse**
- **Shore Acres State Park**
- **Face Rock Scenic Viewpoint**
- **Harris Beach State Park**





# **NORTH COAST**



# Fort Stevens State Park

Coast Region

North Coast District

Fort Stevens Management Unit

## Park Office Information

100 Peter Iredale Rd.  
Hammond, OR 97121  
Phone Number: 503-861-3170

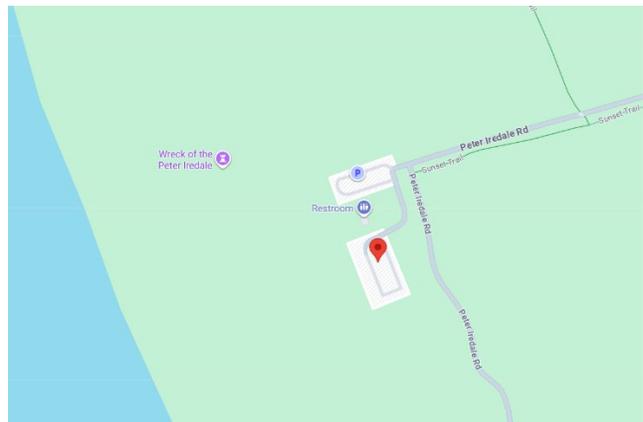
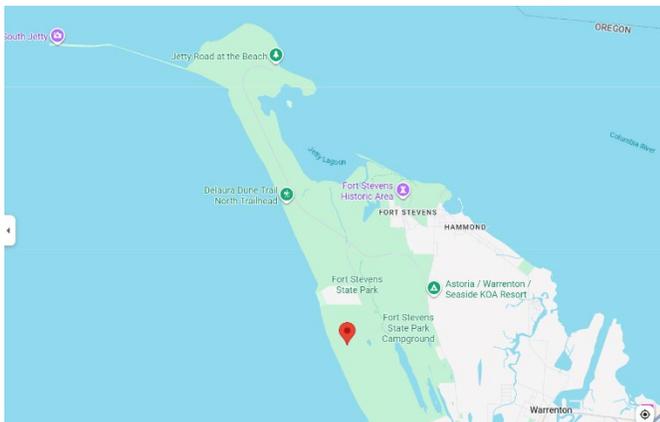
## Site Address

Upper Peter Iredale  
Parking Lot

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Friends of Old Fort Stevens](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** Fort Stevens State Park has a large campground and many day-use areas. Both the campground and the day-use areas are open year-round. The day-use hours are 6 AM to 10 PM. Fort Stevens features 9 miles of paved biking trails, 6 miles of hiking trails, ocean and river beaches, a freshwater lake with 2 picnic areas, the gun batteries of historic Fort Stevens and the accompanying museum/gift shop, and what's left of the Peter Iredale shipwreck dating to 1906. The whale watch site is at the shipwreck parking lot.



**Local Area Information:** Fort Stevens State Park is situated at the mouth of the Columbia River in the town of Hammond. The park is 9 miles west of Astoria and is easily accessible from Highway 101. We are open every day from 6 AM to 10 PM, and the ranger station is open daily from 9 AM to 11 AM during the winter season.

**Park Description:** The Whale Watching site at Fort Stevens is at the upper Peter Iredale parking lot. The parking lot is paved with asphalt, and there is an ADA accessible CXT restroom with 2 toilets. The restroom has pit toilets. There is no running water. There are 2 interpretative signs explaining the wreck of the Peter Iredale and the "Graveyard of the Pacific" between the lower and upper parking lots. The upper parking lot overlooks the ocean and the shipwreck, with good visibility on sunny days. The lot is situated in grassy dunes that give way to shore pine forest. It is also accessible by a paved bike path.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** The site provides good observation of whales and has the advantage of being heavily trafficked and easily accessible. A paved road leads to the parking lot,

as does a paved trail. The whale watch site is the parking lot itself, so volunteers will not have to walk far from their vehicles. A ranger will drop off a trailer with a sperm whale skull and vertebrae at the beginning of each volunteer shift and pick it up at the end. In addition to ocean views, the site offers easy access to the beach and Peter Iredale shipwreck, as well as storm watching, bird watching, and beachcombing opportunities. The Tillamook Rock Lighthouse can be seen to the south, and the south jetty to the north. Ships are frequently seen entering or leaving the mouth of the Columbia.

**Special Access Considerations:** Fort Stevens State Park requires a day-use parking fee or a valid pass. Upon arrival, check in at the ranger station. You will receive a parking pass for your personal vehicle, allowing you to park near the observation building in the main parking area.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** The upper Peter Iredale parking lot sits about 30 feet above sea level.

#### **Average Weather:**

Winter (December through February): Winter is the time of storms at Fort Stevens. Expect heavy rain, high winds, and low visibility. The average low temperature is 37 degrees, and the average high is 48 degrees.

Spring (March through May): Spring is somewhat calmer at Fort Stevens. Plan for rain, with less wind and better visibility. The average low is 42, and the average high is 65.

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10–15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunny days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Convenient Parking:** The site is a paved parking lot.
- **Whale Trailer:** We have a trailer with a sperm whale skull, a sperm whale jaw with teeth, and vertebrae that we bring to whale watch events. This is in addition to the whale watch box with volunteer manuals, whale models, and sample baleen.
- **Restroom Facilities:** ADA accessible CXT restrooms (pit toilets with no running water) are located at the southeast corner of the parking lot, and at the lower Peter Iredale Parking lot.
- **No Shelter:** There is no shelter other than the restrooms, and no seating area other than personal vehicles.
- **Cell Phone Coverage:** Service is spotty at best. The park recently had an ATT tower installed, so coverage is better for ATT customers.

- **Interpretive Signage:** Provides information on the Peter Iredale and shipwrecks in and around the Columbia River mouth.
- **Other:** Dogs are allowed on a 6-foot leash in the park and are permitted off-leash on the beach.
- **Other:** No smoking outside of vehicles.

### **Nearby Camping**

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

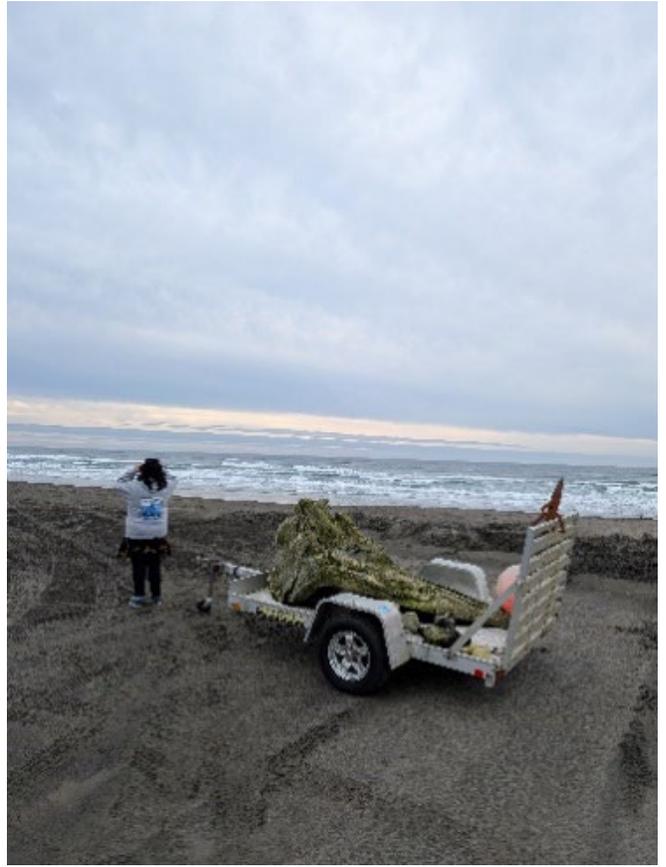
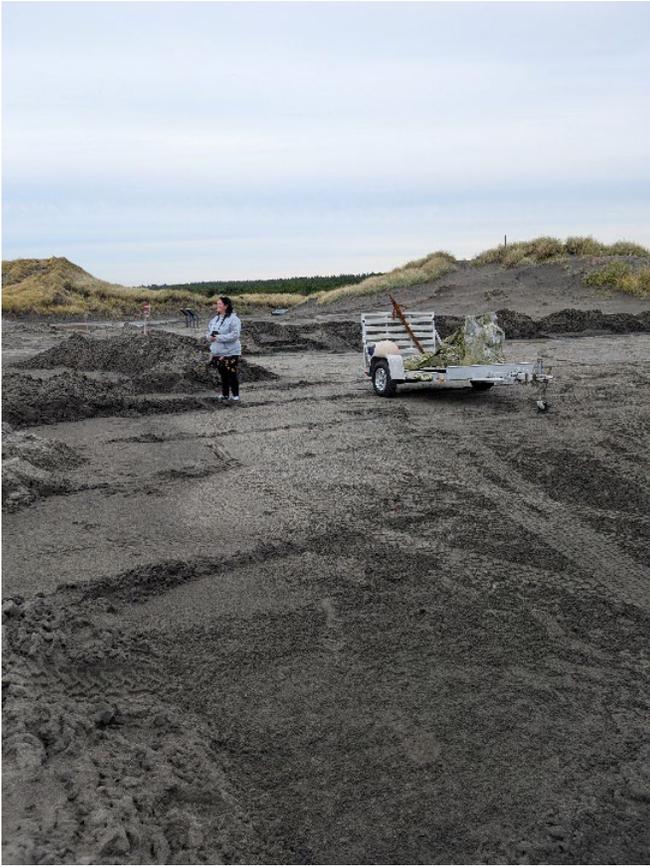
Eligible campgrounds near Fort Stevens:

- Fort Stevens State Park (1 mile southeast)
- Nehalem Bay State Park (38 miles south)

### **Site Photos**

Thanks to host Sunny Wilder for posing as a Whale Watch Volunteer









# Oswald West State Park

Coast Region

North District

Nehalem Bay Management Unit

## Park Office Information

34600 Garey St  
Nehalem, Oregon 97131  
Phone Number: 503-812-0650

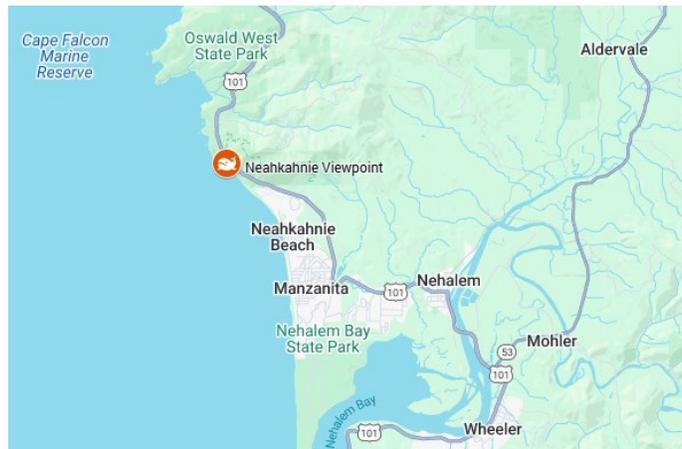
## Site Address

45.74463, -123.96081  
Hwy 101, 2.5 miles North of  
Manzanita, OR

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** The Neahkahnie Viewpoint within Oswald West State Park is a day-use area, open year-round from dawn to dusk. Visitors can enjoy whale watching from the historic stone-masonry highway overlooks, built during the Great Depression by the Works Progress Administration.



**Local Area Information:** The Neahkahnie Viewpoint within Oswald West State Park is located on Highway 101, 2.5 miles north of Manzanita, OR. The park is open every day from dawn to dusk.

**Park Description:** The whale watching observation site at the Neahkahnie Viewpoint within Oswald West State Park is situated on a cliff overlooking the ocean, and features a stone-masonry interpretive circle, with interpretive signage provided by the Oregon Department of Transportation and is ideally positioned to function as a base of operations. There is no signage from Highway 101 specifically distinguishing this location, but it is the largest and most westward of the many highway pullouts. There is a sidewalk along the western edge of all the historic overlooks providing pedestrian access from any of the nearby parking areas, and while there are no benches, the historic stonework provides plenty of seating. The surrounding landscape consists of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, Douglas fir, and shore pine growing out from the sheer sides of the basalt rock cliff face of Neahkahnie mountain, with scatterings of forest groundcover, coastal grasses, and bare rocky surfaces. On a clear day, it is possible to see 40 miles south, as far as Oceanside's Three Arch Rocks, and west as far as the horizon; the northern view is obstructed by the headland adjacent to Devil's Cauldron. Standing more than 600 feet directly above the ocean, this location provides ideal opportunities for spotting migrating whales along the Oregon coast.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** The Neahkahnie Viewpoint within Oswald West State Park provides an ideal location for spotting migrating gray whales and other marine wildlife along the Oregon coast. A large, paved parking lot surrounds a stone-masonry interpretive circle, which provides dramatic ocean views and plenty of room to set up the Whale Watching station. The viewpoint is over 600 feet above the ocean and has sheer cliffs directly over the Pacific Ocean. Neahkahnie Mountain stretches more than a mile westward into the ocean, presenting a stark, rugged profile as it endures the full force of winter storms.

**Special Access Considerations:** There are currently no passes required to park at this location or at any of the adjacent parking areas.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** The observation viewpoint at Oswald West State Park is located at a highway overlook cut into the side of Neahkahnie mountain and is approximately 620 feet (189 meters) above sea level. This elevation provides spectacular panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean; however, due to the height, binoculars are suggested for optimal whale watching. Occasionally, whales come to the base of the cliffs, providing a unique vantage point.

### **Average Weather:**

#### **Winter (December through February)**

- Average Highs: Upper 40s°F to low 50s°F ( $\approx 9^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $12^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- Average Lows: Mid 30s°F to low 40s°F ( $\approx 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $9^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- Average rainfall exceeds 50 inches (127 cm)
- Average wind speeds are 10-15 mph (16-24 kmh). During winter storms, gusts often exceed 60-70 mph (96-112 kmh)

#### **Spring (March through May)**

- Average Highs: Mid 50s°F to low 60s°F ( $\approx 12^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $16^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- Average Lows: Low 40s°F to upper 40s°F ( $\approx 4^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $9^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- Average rainfall exceeds 25 inches (63 cm)
- Average wind speeds are 10-13 mph (16-21 kmh). Though less common, during spring storms, gusts often exceed 50-60 mph (80-96 kmh)
- Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10–15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

## Site Amenities and Accessibilities

- **Paved Parking and Landing:** Parking is directly adjacent to the interpretive circle, and all pedestrian areas are paved.
- **ADA Parking: None;** however, there are no designated parking spaces, and spaces can accommodate any type of mobility needs.
- **Seating:** The stone-masonry walls provide plenty of seating.
- **Restroom Facilities: None** at location, park restroom is 1.6 miles North on Highway 101
- **Cell Phone Coverage: Strong** (best location in Oswald West State Park)
- **Rules: Smoking is not permitted in any Oregon State Parks,** except in personal vehicles
- **Interpretive Signage:** Panels provided by ODOT

## Nearby Camping

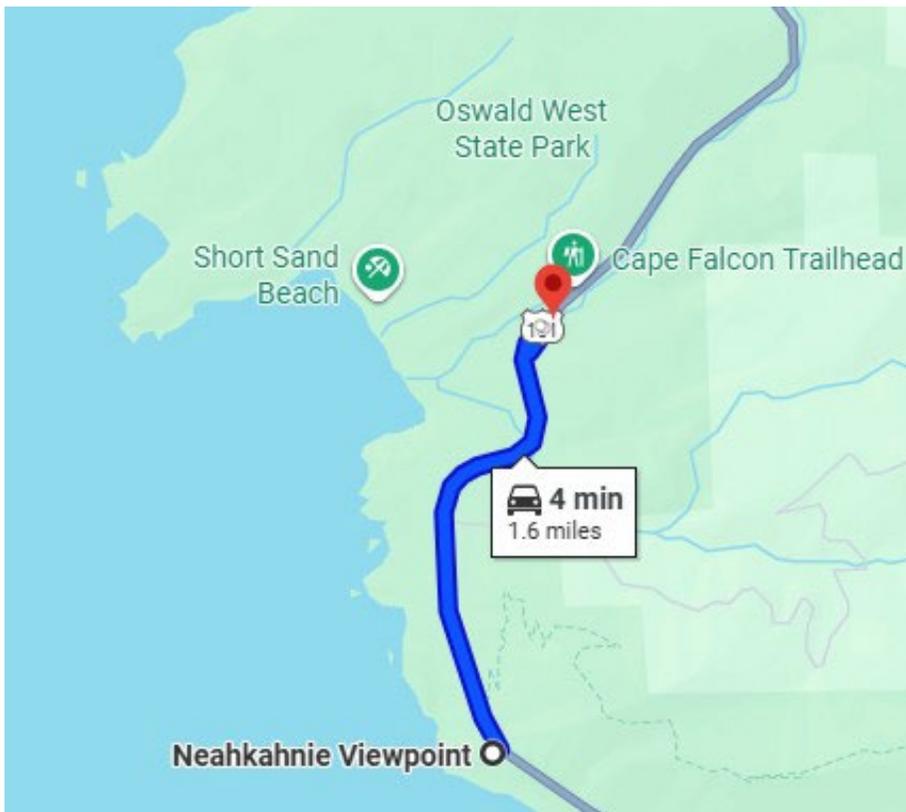
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Eligible campgrounds near Neahkahnie – Oswald West:

- Nehalem Bay State Park (5 miles south)
- Fort Stevens State Park (35 miles north)
- Cape Lookout State Park (39 miles south)

## Site Photos







# Cape Meares Lighthouse

Coast Region

North Coast District

Cape Lookout Management Unit

## Park Office Information

13000 Whiskey Creek Rd  
Tillamook, Oregon 97141  
Phone Number: 503-812-2403

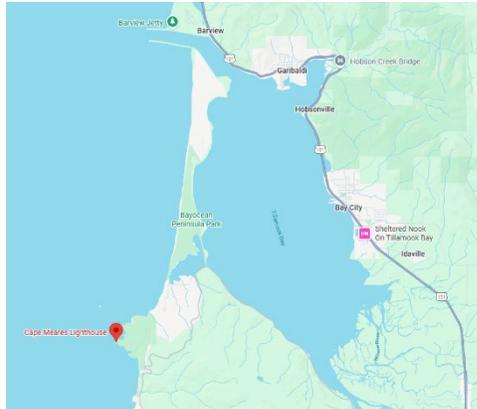
## Site Address

Cape Meares Lighthouse  
3500 Cape Meares Loop  
Tillamook, Oregon 97141

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Friends of Cape Meares Website](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** Cape Meares Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint is open year-round and offers visitors a range of unique coastal features, including the historic Cape Meares Lighthouse (the shortest on the Oregon Coast), the iconic Octopus Tree, and access to a section of the Oregon Coast Trail. From May through September, volunteer hosts staff the lighthouse gift shop and provide guided tours, while U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFW) volunteers are onsite from mid-May through early August to support seabird viewing and assist visitors with wildlife interpretation. The park is open daily from dawn to dusk, with access managed by an automatic gate.



**Local Area Information:** Cape Meares Lighthouse sits high above the Pacific Ocean at the northern end of the Three Capes Scenic Route, offering visitors a sense of stepping back in time on a quieter stretch of the Oregon Coast. Located about 12 miles from the nearest major town of Tillamook and set apart from Highway 101, the area is surrounded by small coastal communities and undeveloped parklands that invite exploration at a slower pace. The nearby towns of Oceanside and Netarts, just 3 and 5 miles to the south, provide additional opportunities for scenic views, beach access, and coastal charm.

**Park Description:** Cape Meares Lighthouse may be the shortest on the Oregon coast, but it features an impressive, kerosene-powered lens. First lit on Jan. 1, 1890, it houses a first-order [Fresnel lens](#). The Light was decommissioned in 1963 and later became part of the State Park system. From the park's many viewpoints, you might spot migrating gray whales or other marine mammals such as sea lions, dolphins, and porpoise. The views of the rocky cliffs also provide great shorebird watching during the spring and summer nesting season.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** Whale Watching Volunteers typically set up near the lighthouse, where the viewpoint offers expansive views of the ocean to the south and west. Perched atop the cliffs of Cape Meares, the lookout provides a 22-mile horizon on clear days and sweeping views of Three Arch Rocks, Netarts Bay, and Cape Lookout to the south. While the lighthouse viewpoint does not offer visibility to the north, whales that travel closer to shore can often be seen from the north or south trails, which also provide better views into seabird nesting habitat and are areas where feeding whales may come close during the summer months. The nearest offshore formations of Pillar and Pyramid Rock are visible from this location, and looking farther north, you can see the mouth of Tillamook Bay and, on very clear days, the distant outline of Cape Falcon.

**Special Access Considerations:** A short but somewhat steep trail leads volunteers and visitors down to the lighthouse. The park's only flush restroom is located east of the main parking lot, and a portable toilet will be stationed near the whale watch site. This portable unit has a combination lock (1911) and also serves as storage for whale watch supplies. If park staff are unable to reach the lighthouse, please return all supplies to the portable and relock it at the end of your shift. For those with mobility needs, the bollards on the main trail to the lighthouse are also secured with combination locks using the same code (1911). Limited parking is available near the fenced Coast Guard building at the bottom of the trail, so please drive down only if necessary, as space is restricted; otherwise, volunteers should plan to walk to the lighthouse.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** Sitting nearly 300 feet above the ocean at the end of Cape Meares this site has panoramic ocean views for good whale watching, as well as any other marine mammal that may be near shore.

**Average Weather:** During the winter, daytime highs at Cape Meares average around 50°F, with lows in the mid-30s. The site, located on an exposed headland, can experience strong winds over 70 mph during coastal storms. Late winter may bring stretches of dry, sunny weather, often with colder overnight lows. Snow is rare, occurring only a few times per year, and sticking snow has not been observed during winter whale watch week in the past 15 years. Occasional morning snow in spring typically melts quickly. Park staff will notify volunteers if weather conditions make the site unsafe.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10 to 15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

## Site Amenities and Accessibilities

- **Trail:** The site is at the end of a 0.1-mile (528 feet or 176 yards) paved trail. Although paved, the trail is fairly steep and may be challenging for individuals with mobility issues. Visitors should consider the uphill return trip before walking down.
- **Restrooms:** The only flush toilets are located on the east side of the main parking lot. During whale watching hours, a portable restroom near the viewing area is available and will be locked when volunteers are not present.
- **Cell phone coverage** is limited on site. The best cellphone coverage is near the overflow parking lot.
- **Dogs:** Must be kept on a 6 feet (or less) leash at all times.
- **Smoking:** This is a non-smoking park.
- **Interpretive Signage:** Provides information about marine life and shorebirds.
- **Shelter:** There is no shelter on-site.

## Nearby Camping

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Cape Meares:

- Nehalem Bay State Park (36 miles north)
- Cape Lookout State Park (10 miles south)

## Site Photos







# CENTRAL COAST



# Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint

Coast Region

Central Coast District

Beverly Beach Management

## Park Office Information

198 NE 123<sup>rd</sup> ST  
Newport OR 97365  
Phone Number: 541-265-4560

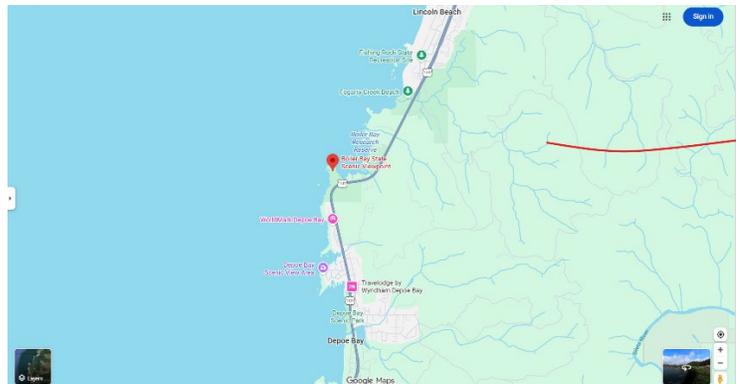
## Site Address

Viewpoint, Boiler Bay State  
Scenic Wayside  
Depoe Bay OR 97341

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation and Season:** This is a day-use area. Park hours are dawn to dusk, open year-round. The Oregon Coast Trail passes through this scenic viewpoint.



**Local Area Information:** Boiler Bay is located on the North end of Depoe Bay, right off of Highway 101.

**Park Description:** A miraculous and rugged, basalt-rimmed bay, Boiler Bay is a great place to watch wild surf action on the rocky spurs. This splendid panoramic viewpoint presents a good opportunity to see gray whales year-round. Take your binoculars -- this is one of the best sites in Oregon to see ocean-going birds (like shearwaters, jaegers, albatrosses, grebes, pelicans, loons, oystercatchers, and murrelets). In 1910, an explosion sank the freighter J. Marhoffer, and you can see the ship's boiler at low-tide.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** Boiler Bay offers a panoramic viewpoint of the ocean with Depoe Bay to the South and Cascade Head to the North. There is no shelter from the elements so please dress appropriately for the weather. This site is known for its crashing waves and basaltic shoreline that make Boiler Bay a premier site for storm watching.

**Special Access Considerations:** Standard OPRD park rules apply at this location. Curbside parking is first-come, first-served. Some RV/Motorhome parking is available. Park Rangers will drop off and pick up the Whale Watch site boxes daily.

## Elevation and Average Weather

**Elevation:** 61 feet above sea level. This elevation provides visitors with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, making it an ideal spot for whale watching and observing the rugged coastline.

**Winter (December through February):** Average Highs: Upper 40s to lower 50s, Average Lows: Mid 30s to low 40s

**Spring (March through May):** Average Highs: Mid 50s to low 60s, Average Lows: Low 40s to upper 40s

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

**Personal Considerations:** Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10–15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there’s even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

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### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Restroom Facilities:** Available a short distance east of the viewpoint and parking lot.
- **Cell Phone Coverage:** Limited (some service in this area).
- **Interpretive Signage:** Provides information on birds.
- **Other:** All animals must be leashed

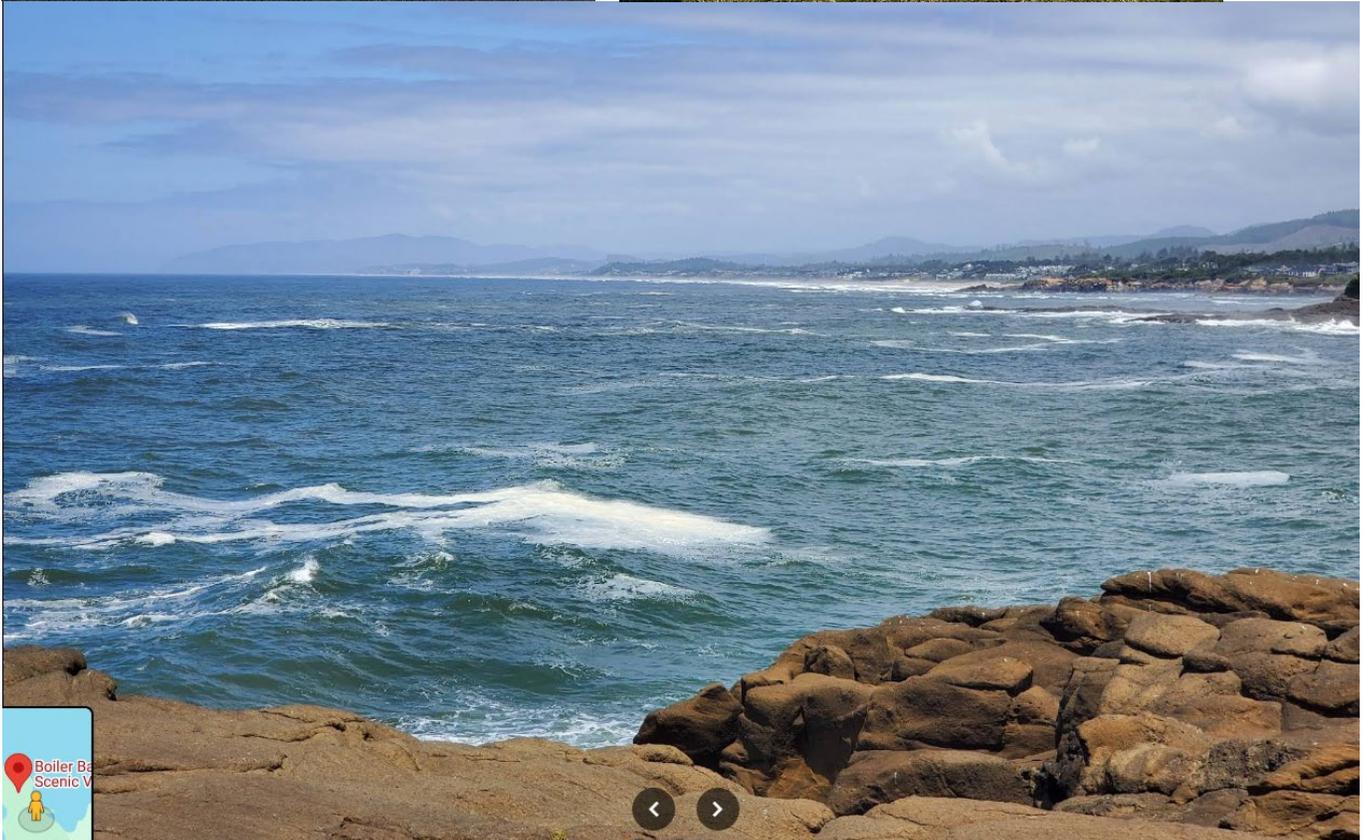
### **Nearby Camping**

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Eligible campgrounds near Boiler Bay:

- Beverly Beach State Park (8 miles north)
- South Beach State Park (18 miles south)

# Site Photos







# Whale Watching Center

Coast Region

Central Coast District

Beverly Beach Management

## Park Office Information

198 NE 123rd  
Newport OR 97365  
Phone Number: 541-265-4560

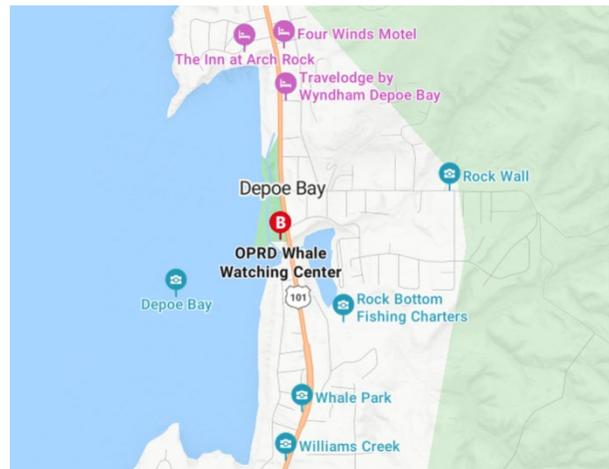
## Site Address

Whale Watching Center  
119 US-101  
Depoe Bay OR 97341

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** The Whale Watching Center is a day-use park with a historic building serving as an interpretive center focused on whales and other marine wildlife. The day-use park is open 365 days a year, and the interpretive center has seasonal closures in January and February.



**Local Area Information:** Located right off Highway 101 in downtown Depoe Bay. Park hours are from dawn to dusk, and interpretive center hours are 10 am to 4 pm Wednesday through Sunday.

**Park Description:** The park and interpretive center are perched along a seawall just north of the Depoe Bay harbor entrance. This park offers exceptional viewpoints of the bay and is a great place to observe marine animals, including whales, seals, sea lions, and birds. The historic building that houses the interpretive center was built in 1956 and provides indoor viewing windows, interpretive panels, and staff to assist in spotting whales and answering questions. There is also a high-zoom camera to capture images of wildlife and project them onto TV screens.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** There are both indoor and outdoor observation areas to whale watch and interact with visitors at this site. Upper and lower viewing windows are located inside the center, and volunteers are also encouraged to explore the outdoor areas when weather conditions permit. Wheelchair accessibility is available to the main level viewing areas of both the indoor and outdoor locations of the park. The park and center give excellent sight lines of the bay and ocean and allow for close encounters with gray whales and other wildlife right from the shoreline.

**Special Access Considerations:** Being a historic building, stairs may be a barrier to accessing all of the indoor building, with an upper observation level being accessed by stairs and plumbed restrooms located downstairs. There will be an outdoor accessible portable restroom available to guests and volunteers.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** The Depoe Bay Whale Center elevation is approximately 60 feet above sea level. At this elevation on the clearest days, it is possible to see up to 10 miles offshore.

**Average Weather:** Depoe Bay temperatures range from an average low of 41 degrees Fahrenheit to an average high of 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Annual rainfall can average up to 80 inches.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10 to 15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

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### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- Ramp is available to access the park and the main floor of the interpretive center.
- Indoor plumbed restrooms accessed via stairs, portable wheelchair accessible restroom available outside.
- The main area of the park is paved, with access to the building and viewpoints.
- Cell phone coverage is generally available but may vary depending on the provider.
- Pets are allowed in outdoor areas of the park while on leash. No pets are allowed into the interpretive center.
- Interpretive panels are located inside the center.

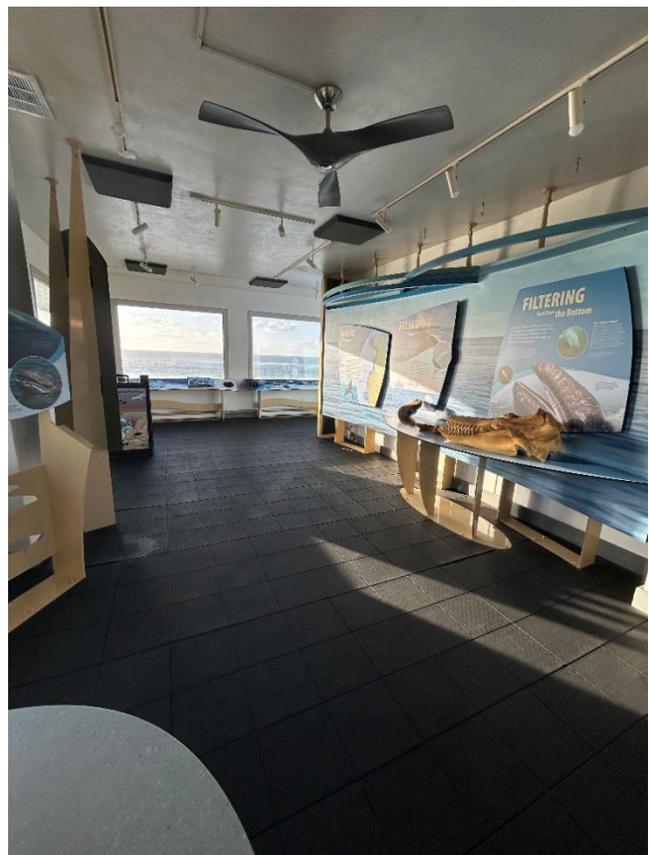
### **Nearby Camping**

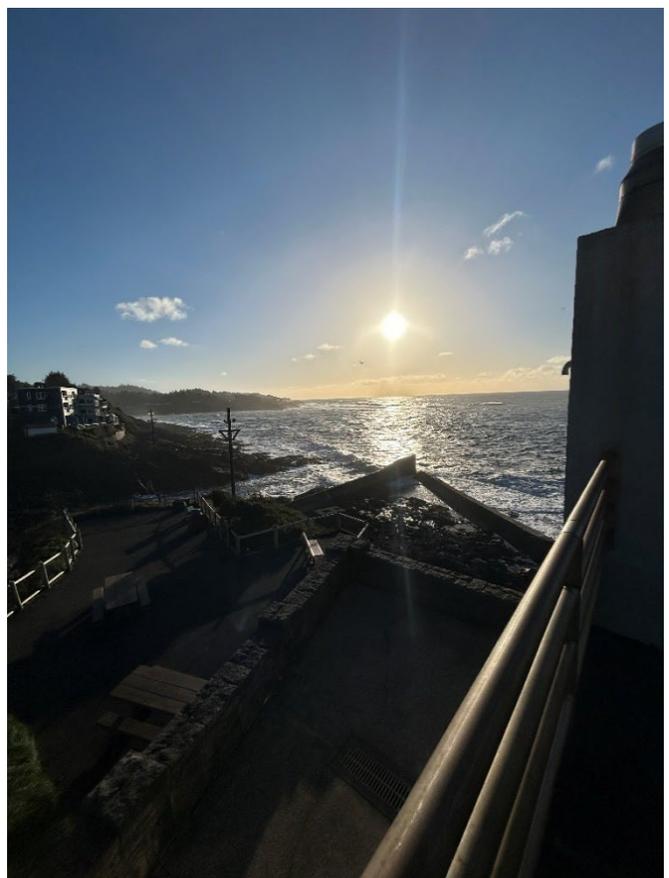
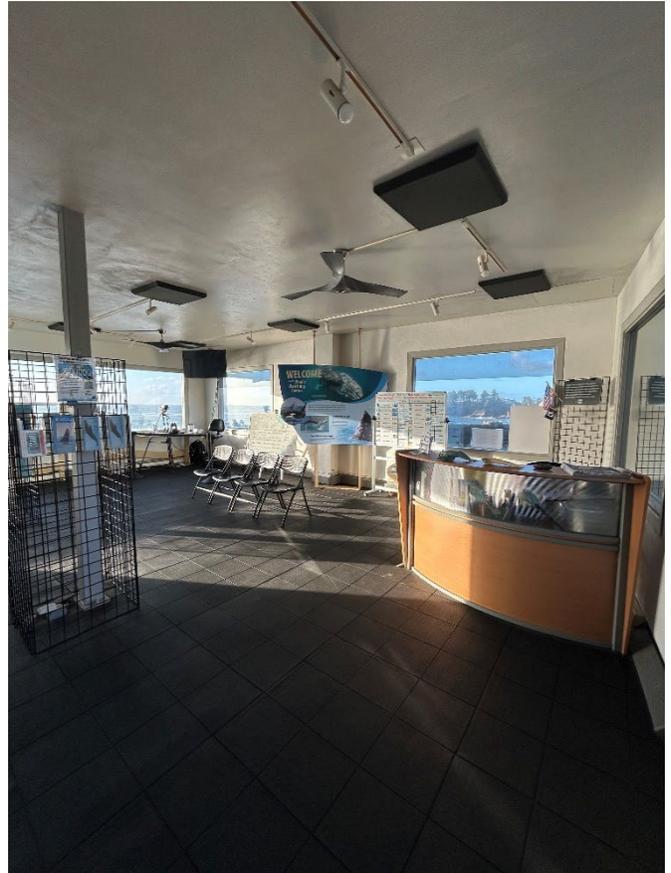
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Eligible campgrounds near the Whale Watching Center:

- Devil's Lake State Park (13 miles north)
- Beverly Beach State Park (7 miles south)

## Site Photos







# Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint

Coast Region

Central Coast District

Beverly Beach Management

## Park Office Information

198 NE 123rd St,  
Newport, Oregon 97365  
Phone Number: 541-265-4560

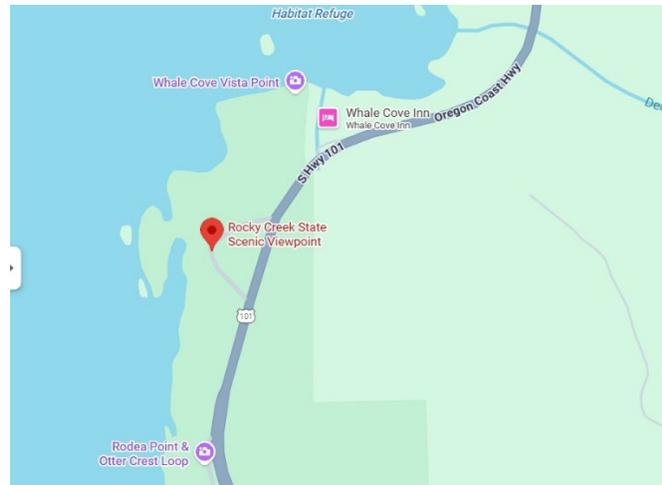
## Site Address

Rocky Creek State Park  
Depoe Bay, Oregon 97341

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** This day-use area is open to the public year-round and is a spectacular ocean-front park on a forested bluff overlooking the ocean. Offshore rocks provide spectacular wave action in storms and are nesting areas for birds, sea lions, and harbor seals.



**Local Area Information:** This day use area is located just 1.7 miles south of Depoe Bay. The area is open from Dawn to Dusk.

**Park Description:** Rocky Creek offers rolling grassy bluffs with exceptional views of crashing waves and abundant wildlife, including whales, seals, and birds. A short trail is available to an observation deck offering spectacular views of Whale Cove, Oregon's oldest marine preserve.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** Volunteers typically set up their station in the parking area but are also encouraged to rove across the park. The main parking area is unsheltered, and volunteers are welcome to utilize their vehicles when the weather turns foul. The vantage point allows visitors to see from the Depoe Bay mile-mark buoy to the North, and nearly to Cape Foulweather to the South. Rocky Creek is a spectacle for wave watchers and storm chasers thanks to the rugged basaltic shoreline.

**Special Access Considerations:** There is an accessible sidewalk just West of the parking area with good views of the ocean. Standard OPRD park rules apply at this location. Curbside parking is first-come, first-served. Some RV/Motorhome parking is available. Park Rangers will drop off and pick up the Whale Watch program site boxes daily.

## **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** The park's elevation ranges from 50 to 65 Feet (approximately 15 to 20 meters) and offers panoramic views.

**Average Weather:** The annual lows and highs vary between 41 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Park is exposed and can have heavy windchills. Average annual rainfall is 80 inches, and December is historically the wettest month with an average of 8 to 10 cumulative inches of rain.

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

## **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10 to 15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunny days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

## **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- Paved Pathway: Extends from the parking area to the bathroom facility.
- Benches and Picnic Tables: Positioned near the bluff for additional seating.
- Interpretive Panels: Found on the viewing platform of Whale Cove Trail.
- Restroom Facilities: Available a short distance from the parking lot.
- Cell Phone Coverage: Limited, but not all carriers may find service.

## **Nearby Camping**

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint:

- Beverly Beach State Park (4 miles south)
- South Beach State Park (15 miles south)

## Site Photos





# Otter Crest State Scenic Viewpoint - Cape Foulweather

Coast Region

Central Coast District

Beverly Beach Management

## Park Office Information

198 NE 123<sup>rd</sup> ST  
Newport, OR 97365  
Phone Number: 800-551-6949

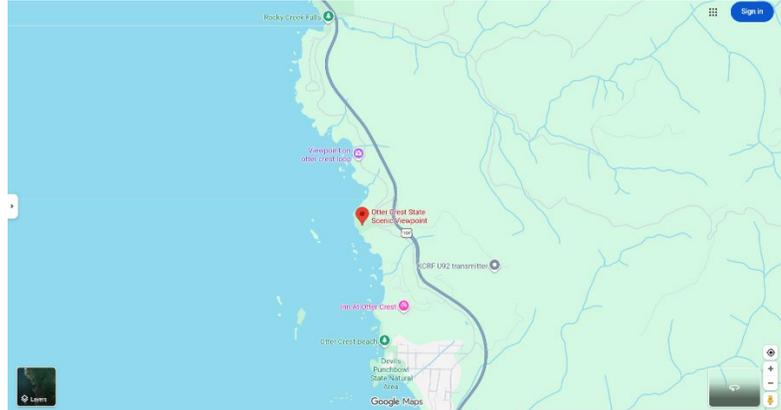
## Site Address

4905 Otter Crest Loop  
Depoe Bay OR 97341

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation and Season:** Otter Crest State Scenic Viewpoint has a magnificent panoramic view that is off the central coast. The outdoor area is open year-round and provides an excellent view of the basalt and sandstone cliffs of Cape Foulweather. At this site there is a Gift Shop that is open to the public March through December. Each year the gift shop has seasonal closures during the months of January and February. Parking area is open from dawn to dusk.



**Local Area Information:** The Lookout gift shop is located approximately 8 miles North of Newport and 9 miles South of Depoe Bay. The gift shop is open every week, Wednesday-Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM, and is closed every Monday and Tuesday. The park and surrounding grounds are open from dawn until closing at dusk. There is an annual gift shop closure in January and February, but the parking lot and park remain open despite the seasonal closure.

**Park Description:** The Lookout gift shop at Cape Foulweather was built in 1937 and sits atop a large basaltic headland. With ties to local artistry, site-seeing and the expansion of Highway 101, the Lookout offers a glimpse into Post WWII era tourism. Today, this location highlights historical art, marine and avian wildlife viewing, and a unique gift shop. Friendly park staff/volunteers run this store and are a great resource for questions about the building and surrounding wildlife.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** This Whale Watch site is at 500 ft of elevation. From this vantage point on the clearest days, we can see up to 25 miles out to sea. The gray whale migration will travel right by this location, with most of the whale traffic going by Gull Rock, which is one mile offshore.

At this location, there are both indoor and outdoor options for viewing the ocean. The gift shop windows have excellent views of the north and the west. From the outdoor viewpoint, an unobstructed view of Yaquina Head to the south can be seen.

The Whale Watch sign can be set up on the sidewalk between the viewpoint and the gift shop. Other marine mammals that can be seen at this location include Humpback whales, Orcas, Harbor porpoise, and California Sea Lions.

**Special Access Considerations:** There is no fee area associated with this park. On busy days, parking can be limited. Please do not park in grassy areas or in non-designated parking zones.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** Approximately 500 feet above the ocean. This provides incredible bird's-eye views of whales, birds, and other marine wildlife.

**Winter (December through February):** Average Highs: Upper 40s to lower 50s, Average Lows: Mid 30s to low 40s

**Spring (March through May):** Average Highs: Mid 50s to low 60s, Average Lows: Low 40s to upper 40s

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10–15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Interpretive Signage:** There are two separate viewing platforms for visitors to enjoy; one adjacent to The Lookout's entrance and another on the South-Western side of the property. The South-Western viewing platform has 3 interpretive panels to help outline what visitors are likely to see from this location. There is seating available upon request inside the building.
- **Accessibility:** The building's recent renovation has improved ADA accessibility, including a large entryway and ADA-rated ramp to allow visitors to access the lower viewing level inside. Note that the paved trail approach to the building from the parking lot is not uniform and can be a potential tripping hazard due to tree roots and other erosion.
- **Restrooms:** Two porta-potties located on-site, as the gift shop does not have public restrooms inside.
- **Cell Reception:** This location should provide cell-phone coverage for all providers. No interruptions to be expected for cell service.

- **Rules:** Inside The Lookout Gift shop, expect to see these limitations: No pets, No Food or Drink.

### **Nearby Camping**

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Otter Crest State Scenic Viewpoint - Cape Foulweather

- Devil's Lake State Recreation Area (17 miles north)
- South Beach State Park (13 miles south)
- Beverly Beach State Park (3.2 miles south)

### **Site Photos**





# Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

National  
Conservation Lands

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

## Park Office Information

750 NW Lighthouse Dr  
Newport, Oregon 97365  
Phone Number: 541-574-3100

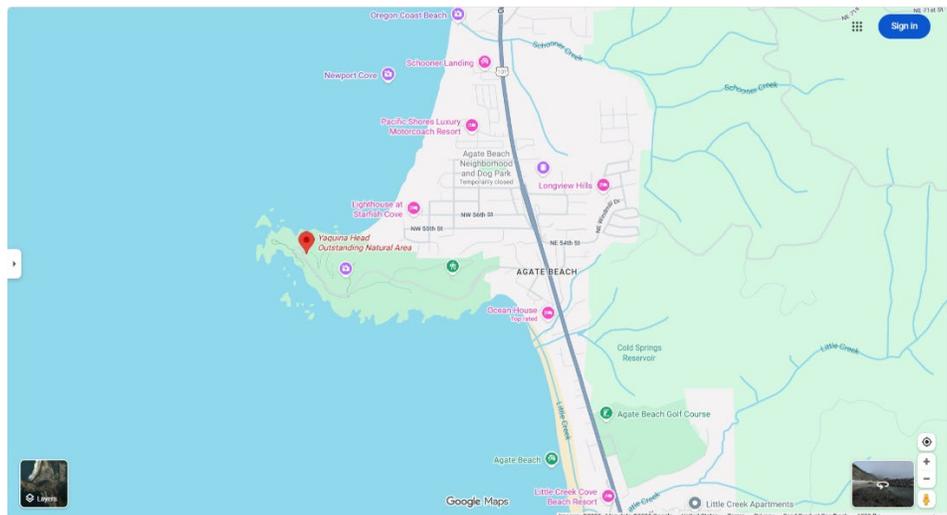
## Site Address

750 NW Lighthouse Dr  
Newport, Oregon 97365  
Phone Number: 541-574-3100

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area is a day-use, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) site, open 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM daily. The Interpretive Center, including exhibits and the Interpretive Store, is open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily. Holiday closures include Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.



**Local Area Information:** Yaquina Head is located three miles north of Newport, off of Highway 101. There are signs on the highway and at the stoplight at the intersection of Highway 101 and Lighthouse Drive to help direct visitors to Yaquina Head.

**Park Description:** Yaquina Head is a stunning coastal destination with dramatic cliffs, tide pools, and ocean views. It is a wonderful spot to explore local wildlife and natural landscapes. There is also the historic Yaquina Head Lighthouse and hiking trails. The Yaquina Head Interpretive Center showcases the natural beauty and rich history of Oregon's central coast. The Center also offers a short film and an educational store. The Yaquina Head Lighthouse is the tallest lighthouse on the Oregon coast, standing at 93 feet in height.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** This Oregon Whale Watch site is located at the viewing platform behind the historic lighthouse. With the Yaquina Head property sticking out 1 mile into the ocean from Hwy 101, this location provides an excellent panoramic view of the ocean. On a clear day, to the north, Cape Foulweather and sometimes Boiler Bay can be seen in the distance. In the

south, Agate Beach and the Newport Jetty can be seen. From Yaquina Head, a variety of birds and wildlife can be found. Common species that can be seen are harbor seals, California sea lions, bald eagles, common murre, pelagic cormorants, and Peregrin falcon. The whale watch site box supplies can be picked up at the Visitor Center at 10 am. In the event of a very stormy whale watch day, the BLM allows the Whale Watch program to move inside the visitor center to set up a whale watch table.

**Special Access Considerations:** On arrival, check in at the registration booth at the entrance to the park. Oregon Whale Watch volunteers will be provided with a parking pass for the day.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** The viewing platform at Yaquina Head is 70 feet (21 meters) above sea level.

**Average Weather:** The average weather for December at Yaquina Head is 55° High to 39° Low. Typical rainfall is 11.38 inches over an average of 18 days. The average temperature for March is 55° High and 40° Low. The average rainfall for March is 7 inches of rain over 19 days in the month.

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10 to 15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunny days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Paved Pathway:** Path from the parking lot to the Whale Watch site behind the lighthouse is paved and has no elevation changes.
- **Restroom Facilities:** Available a short distance from the parking area.
- **Cell Phone Coverage:** Most major cell carriers have phone signals at this location
- **Other:** Pets are not allowed at this Whale Watch location.
- **Other:** Smoking is not allowed outside of vehicles at this location

### **Nearby Camping**

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Yaquina Head:

- Beverly Beach State Park (5 miles north)
- South Beach State Park (7.5 miles south)

# Site Photos







# Yachats State Recreation Area

Coast Region

Central Coast District

South Beach Management Unit

## Park Office Information

5580 S Coast Hwy  
Newport OR 97366  
Phone Number: 541-867-7451

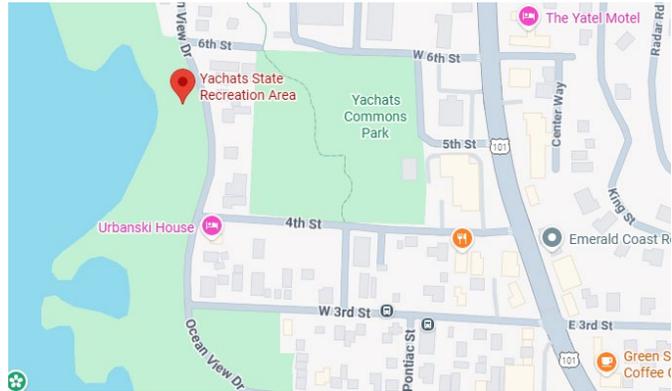
## Site Address

429 Ocean View Dr  
Yachats OR 97498

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** Yachats State Recreation Area is a day-use park open year-round, dawn to dusk. The observation platform overlooks tide pools and the ocean, ideal for whale watching and coastal views. Visitors can explore the intertidal area at low tide or take a short walk into the town of Yachats.



**Park Description:** This small-town park with a big view is just a short stroll from central Yachats via Ocean View Road. Visitors can watch whales and stormy waves from the easily accessible wooden viewing platform. On calmer days, explore the rocky intertidal area by taking the steep path down from the platform, where low tides reveal craggy crevices and tide pools full of marine life. The steep face of Cape Perpetua rises just south of Yachats.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** The observation area at Yachats State Recreation Area offers a prime spot for whale watching and enjoying the scenic Oregon Coast. Perched at an elevation of 36 feet, the platform provides breathtaking ocean-level views, perfect for spotting whales, seabirds, and other marine wildlife. An accessible viewing area ensures all visitors can enjoy the site. The wooden viewing platform is accessed via a paved path from the parking lot and includes railing and a bench. Seating on the platform is limited, but the open design provides unobstructed sightlines and a close connection to the coastal environment. For those wishing to reach the beach, steps lead down from the platform. While the platform does not have a roof, limited shelter is available nearby in the form of a restroom facility (or personal vehicle).

**Special Access Considerations:** A Day-use parking fee or a valid pass is required at Yachats State Recreation Area. Whale Watching Program volunteers will receive a parking pass for the duration of

their assignment. The parking lot offers 20 to 30 parking stalls. Limited seating is available on the viewing platform, so visitors may need to stand during busy periods. Visitors access the platform via a paved path, which is wheelchair accessible. Wooden steps provide access to the beach for those who wish to explore closer to the water. Accessible restrooms are available near the parking area.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** 36 feet above sea level with breathtaking views of the ocean.

#### **Average Weather:**

- **Spring (Mar–May):** Highs 50 to 60°F, lows 40 to 50°F; occasional rain and morning fog.
- **Summer (Jun–Aug):** Highs mid-60s°F, lows low-50s°F; driest season, mild afternoons, foggy mornings.
- **Autumn (Sep–Nov):** Highs 50 to 65°F, lows 40 to 50°F; increasing rain and stronger winds.
- **Winter (Dec–Feb):** Highs 45 to 50°F, lows 40 to 45°F; frequent rain, strong winds, rare snow.

Visitor Tips: Bring layers and rain gear year-round. Summer offers mild weather for whale watching, while winter provides dramatic coastal storm viewing for prepared visitors.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10 to 15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Paved Pathway:** Leads to the observation deck for easy access.
- **Site Accessibility:** Accessible observation deck.
- **Benches:** One bench on the observation deck.
- **Restroom Facilities:** Accessible flush restrooms available
- **Interpretive Signage:** One interpretive sign

### **Nearby Camping**

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Yachats:

- South Beach State Park (22 miles north)
- Carl G. Washburne State Park (12 miles south)

## Site Photos





# Cape Perpetua Visitor Center

US Forest Service

Pacific Northwest Region

Siuslaw National Forest

## Park Office Information

USFS Waldport District  
Office  
1130 Forestry Lane  
Waldport, Oregon 97394  
Phone Number: 541-563-8400

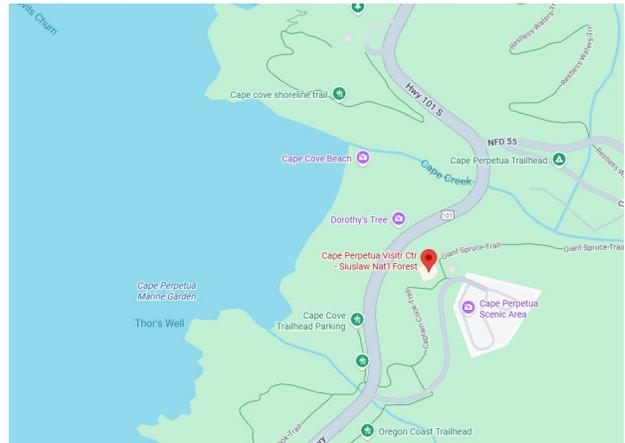
## Site Address

Cape Perpetua Visitor  
Center  
2400 US-101  
Yachats, Oregon 97498

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[USFS Website](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** The Cape Perpetua Visitor Center Viewing Platform is a day-use, US Forest Service (USFS) site located within the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area and is open year-round. While the Visitor Center operates on a seasonal schedule, surrounding trails and viewpoints remain open daily from dawn to dusk. The site features an indoor Visitor Center, a wheelchair-accessible outdoor viewing deck, interpretive displays, trail access, and panoramic ocean views ideal for whale watching.



**Local Area Information:** The Cape Perpetua Visitor Center is located approximately two miles south of Yachats, Oregon, along Highway 101, and 11 miles south of Waldport.

## Visitor Center Hours:

- Winter: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday
- Summer: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., daily

Note: The Visitor Center may be closed on federal holidays or during severe weather events.

**Park Description:** Situated in the heart of the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, the Visitor Center offers sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean framed by rugged coastline and coastal forest. Visitors can enjoy ocean views from both inside the Visitor Center and from the outdoor deck. The surrounding landscape features dramatic headlands and nearby trails that connect visitors to additional viewpoints and natural features.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** Whale watching takes place from the elevated viewing platform adjacent to the Visitor Center, which provides excellent sightlines of the open ocean and nearby coastline. The platform is ramp accessible and includes some seating, making it suitable for extended observation periods. This location offers vantage points for spotting migrating gray whales, as well as opportunities for storm watching.

**Special Access Considerations:** Parking fee or federal pass required. Ample parking is available, with approximately 40–50 parking spaces. The furthest parking space is approximately 100 yards from the viewing area. Both the Restroom and the Viewing area are ramp-accessible. Accessible restrooms are available. Note: Some amenities (restrooms, gift shop, porch access) may be closed depending on season or staffing.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** Approximately 150 feet above sea level, providing elevated ocean views that support good visibility for whale watching and coastal observation.

**Average Weather:** Winter: Cool and wet, with frequent rain, strong wind, and temperatures generally ranging from the mid-40s to low-50s °F

Spring: Variable conditions; cool temperatures with wind and intermittent rain

Summer: Mild and often breezy, with temperatures typically in the 60s °F

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10–15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Elevated Viewing Platform:** Ramp accessible with seating and expansive ocean views
- **Visitor Center:** Indoor viewing area, interpretive displays, and potential shelter from weather (hours vary)
- **Restrooms:** Accessible restrooms available on site (hours vary)
- **Parking:** Large paved parking area with short walking distance to viewing platform
- **Pathways:** Paved and ramped access to viewing areas
- **Seating:** Available on the viewing deck and inside the Visitor Center
- **Gift Shop & Porch:** May provide shelter during inclement weather when open
- **Cell Phone Coverage:** Limited
- **Pets:** Allowed only on leash (6 feet or less) within developed areas; Not allowed inside building
- **Fee:** Parking fee or federal pass required

## Nearby Camping

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Cape Perpetua:

- Beverly Beach State Park (8 miles north)
- South Beach State Park (18 miles south)

## Site Photos







# Heceta Head Lighthouse

Coast Region

Central Coast District

Washburne Management Unit

## Park Office Information

93111 Highway 101 N

Florence OR 97439

Phone Number: 541-547-3416

## Site Address

92072 S Highway 101

Yachats OR 97493

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)

[Location on Google Maps](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** Heceta Head Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint (SSV) is a day-use area, open year-round from 6 am to 9 pm. Visitors can enjoy whale watching from the designated observation site up at the lighthouse. The walk to the lighthouse from the parking lot is uphill approximately ½ mile, along a compacted gravel trail.



**Local Area Information:** Heceta Head Lighthouse is 12 miles north of Florence and 12 miles south of Yachats. Both towns offer several grocery stores, a wide range of dining options, and multiple local businesses. Florence has multiple gas stations, and the nearest gas station to the north is in Waldport.

**Park Description:** A walk up to the site is required: a ½-mile gravel trail from the parking lot to the site at the lighthouse. Site location is set at the base of Heceta Head Lighthouse, approximately 150 feet above sea level, offering great views of the ocean. No water on site, porta-potties available up at lighthouse grounds.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** The observation site is set on a grassy bluff 150 feet above sea level, offering unobstructed sightlines of the Pacific Ocean, ideal for whale watching, storm watching, and enjoying coastal scenery. There is minimal shelter at this location; please plan accordingly.

**Special Access Considerations:** Heceta Head Lighthouse SSV requires a parking fee. Whale Watch Volunteers get the fee waived on dates you are volunteering. Park Staff may reach out via email before you volunteer to pre-register your vehicle.

## **Elevation and Average Weather**

Elevation: The site location at Heceta Head Lighthouse SSV is situated on a coastal bluff approximately 150 feet above sea level. This elevation provides visitors with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, making it an ideal spot for whale watching and observing the rugged coastline.

Average Weather: Winter (December through February): Average Highs: Upper 40s to lower 50s, Average Lows: Mid 30s to low 40s

Spring (March through May): Average Highs: Mid 50s to low 60s, Average Lows: Low 40s to upper 40s

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation/wind are more frequent.

## **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10 to 15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunny days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

## **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- Gravel Pathway: ½ mile, leads to observation site
- Benches: Located at the observation location, as well as in the parking lot.
- Restroom Facilities: Vault Toilets located in the parking lot; porta-potties located at the observation site. No running water.
- Cell Phone Coverage: Semi-reliable service from major providers up at the observation location, none in the parking lot.

## **Nearby Camping**

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Heceta Head Lighthouse:

- South Beach State Park (35 miles north)
- Carl G. Washburne State Park (3 miles north)
- Jessie M. Honeyman State Park (16 miles south)

**Site Photos**







# SOUTH COAST



# Umpqua Lighthouse

Coast Region

South Coast District

Umpqua Lighthouse MU

## Park Office Information

460 Lighthouse Rd  
Reedsport, Oregon 97467  
Phone Number 541-271-4118

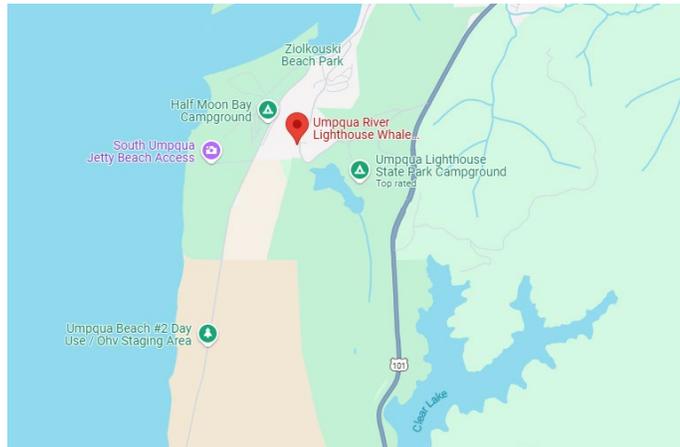
## Site Address

1020 Lighthouse Rd.  
Reedsport, OR 97467  
Latitude: 43.663252  
Longitude: 124.197869

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** Umpqua Lighthouse Scenic Viewpoint is open year-round, from dawn to dusk. This spot offers sweeping views that showcase the area's natural beauty. For an even better experience, consider bringing binoculars to take in the details.



**Local Area Information:** Reedsport is an outdoor lover's paradise. The Umpqua River is home to one of the largest recreational fishing ports on the Oregon Coast. In addition to fishing, locals and visitors enjoy hunting, hiking, riding ATVs on the dunes, beach combing, boating, bike riding, and much more. Just three miles east on Highway 38 is the famous Dean Creek Elk Viewing area, currently sustaining hundreds of Oregon's Roosevelt Elk in their natural habitat with viewing stations and photo opportunities.

**Park Description:** Umpqua Lighthouse State Park is located less than a mile from the famous Salmon Harbor on Winchester Bay. The campground and developed day-use areas are centered around beautiful Lake Marie. Access to this small freshwater lake is provided for angling and non-motorized boating. There is a small sandy beach set aside for swimming and relaxing. The small overnight campground offers RV and tent campsites, along with two beautiful one-room log cabins. These warm and cozy cabins sleep four comfortably.

**Whale Watching Station Site:** Overlooking the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area is a Gray Whale Station, including maps, charts, and binoculars to spot migrating whales. The elevated viewpoint makes it a good spot for whale watching during migration seasons as the relatively deep coastal waters draw the gray whales closer to shore.

**Special Access Considerations:** The site is open during daylight hours only; there is no overnight use allowed. Parking may be limited during peak seasons. Paved pathways near the viewpoint offer accessible routes.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** The elevation of the viewpoint is approximately 122 feet above sea level, providing an excellent vantage point for photography, whale watching during migration seasons, and observing local wildlife

**Winter (December through February):** Average Highs: Upper 50s to lower 50s, Average Lows: Mid 40s to low 40s

**Spring (March through May):** Average Highs: Mid 50s to low 60s, Average Lows: Low 40s to upper 40s

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10 to 15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Paved Pathway:** Asphalt and gravel to the viewpoint, offering accessible paths for visitors.
- **Restroom Facilities:** Available at Lake Marie day use, a short driving distance from the viewpoint.
- **Cell Phone Coverage:** Cell phone coverage may be spotty in some areas due to the coastal location. Coverage varies by provider.
- **Interpretive signage:** Interpretive boards offer insights into the area's natural features, enriching the visitor experience.
- **Other:** The area can be very windy, which might affect comfort and accessibility.

### **Nearby Camping**

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Umpqua Lighthouse:

- Umpqua Lighthouse State Park (0.7 miles south)
- William M. Tugman State Park (5 miles south)

## Site Photos







# Shore Acres State Park

Coast Region

South Coast District

Sunset Bay Management Unit

## Park Office Information

89814 Cape Arago Hwy  
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420  
Phone Number: 541-888-3778

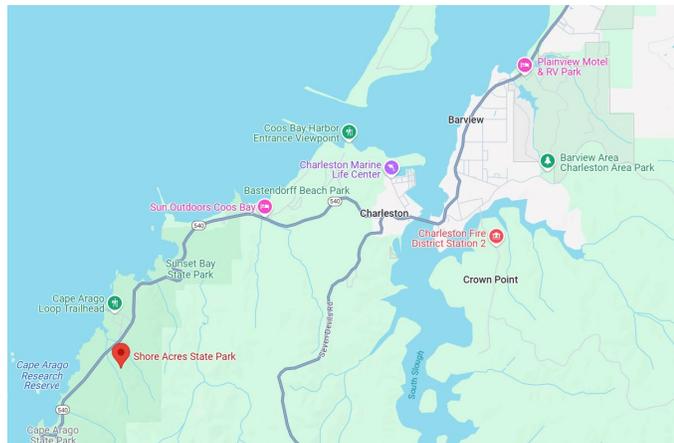
## Site Address

89039 Cape Arago Hwy  
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Friends of Shore Acres Website](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** Shore Acres State Park is a day-use area, open year-round from 8:00 AM to dusk. Visitors can enjoy whale watching from the designated observation site while also exploring the park's formal garden and Information & Gift Center (IGC). Hours for the IGC are posted on the Friends of Shore Acres website.



**Local Area Information:** Shore Acres State Park is located on the Cape Arago Highway, 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay/North Bend and U.S. Highway 101. The park is open every day from 8 AM to dusk.

**Park Description:** The whale-watching observation site at Shore Acres State Park features a paved hexagonal pathway that leads toward an open-sided observation shelter with a tiered roof, positioned on a grassy bluff overlooking the ocean. A brown wooden sign in the foreground, supported by two posts, reads: "Shore Acres State Park - Animals Prohibited Outside Vehicles." The surrounding landscape consists of dry grass with scattered green shrubs, and a wooden bench is visible on the left near the edge of the bluff. The deep blue ocean stretches to the horizon under a clear sky with wispy clouds, providing an ideal vantage point for spotting migrating whales along the Oregon coast.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** The observation shelter at Shore Acres State Park provides a prime vantage point for spotting migrating gray whales and other marine wildlife along the Oregon Coast. A paved hexagonal pathway leads visitors to the open-sided structure, which features a

tiered roof and scenic ocean views. The shelter is set on a grassy bluff, offering unobstructed sightlines of the Pacific Ocean, ideal for whale watching, storm watching, and enjoying coastal scenery.

**Special Access Considerations:** Shore Acres State Park requires a parking fee. Upon arrival, you will receive a parking pass for your personal vehicle, allowing you to park near the observation building in the main parking area. A Field Staff ranger will provide the pass when you arrive.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** The observation building at Shore Acres State Park is situated on a coastal bluff approximately 80 feet (24 meters) above sea level. This elevation provides visitors with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, making it an ideal spot for whale watching and observing the rugged coastline.

**Winter (December through February):** Average Highs: Upper 40s to lower 50s, Average Lows: Mid 30s to low 40s

**Spring (March through May):** Average Highs: Mid 50s to low 60s, Average Lows: Low 40s to upper 40s

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10 to 15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Paved Pathway:** Leads to the observation shelter for easy access.
- **Benches:** Positioned near the bluff for additional seating.
- **Restroom Facilities:** Available a short distance from the observation building.
- **Cell Phone Coverage: None** (no service in this area).
- **Interpretive signage** (if applicable) providing information on marine life and seasonal migrations
- **Other:** Animals are not allowed outside of vehicles

### **Nearby Camping**

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at

participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Shore Acres:

- Sunset Bay State Park (1.5 miles north)
- Bullards Beach State Park (24 miles south)

## Site Photos









# Face Rock Scenic Viewpoint

Coast Region

South Coast District

Bullards Beach Management Unit

## Park Office Information

56487 Bullards Beach  
Bandon, Oregon 97411  
Phone Number 541-347-2209

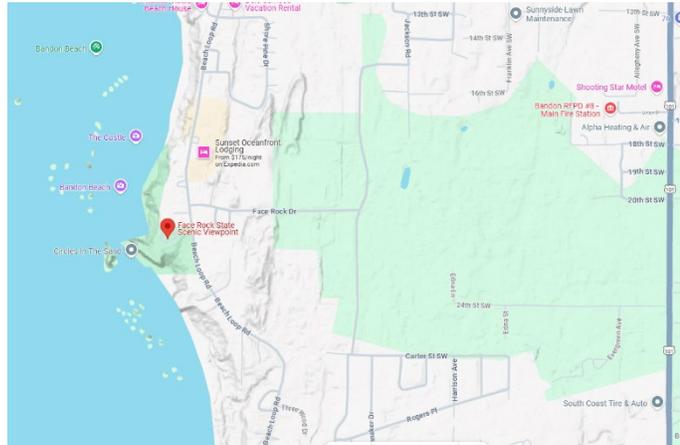
## Site Address

Park in Bandon, OR 97411  
Latitude: 43.105359  
Longitude: 124.433746

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Bullards Beach Website](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** Face Rock Scenic Viewpoint is a day-use park, open year-round from 8:00 AM until dusk. The viewpoint sits high above the shoreline, offering sweeping ocean views and an excellent chance to spot migrating whales close to shore. For the best experience, consider bringing binoculars.



**Local Area Information:** Face Rock State Scenic Viewpoint is located on Beach Loop Drive SW, about 1.5 miles west of U.S. Highway 101. Bandon lies in Coos County along the southern Oregon coast. While the nearest interstate (I-5) is 107 miles away near Eugene, Bandon is directly accessible via U.S. Highway 101, Oregon's renowned scenic coastal route. The town is approximately 230 miles south of Portland, 23 miles south of Coos Bay/North Bend, and 101 miles north of the California border.

**Park Description:** Face Rock State Scenic Viewpoint, located in Bandon, Oregon, is a 15-acre park renowned for its dramatic coastal scenery and distinctive offshore rock formations, most notably the iconic Face Rock. Established in 1934 and expanded in 1961, the park offers visitors a blend of natural beauty and cultural legend.

**Whale Watching Observation Site:** Perched atop a headland known as Gravel Point, the viewpoint provides panoramic vistas of the Pacific Ocean and the surrounding sea stacks, including Face Rock, Cat and Kitten Rocks, and Wizard's Hat. The park's elevated position makes it an excellent

spot for whale watching during migration seasons, and its inclusion in the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge provides opportunities for birdwatching, with over 300 species frequenting the area.

**Special Access Considerations:** The site is open during daylight hours only; there is no overnight use allowed. Parking is free but may be limited during peak seasons. Paved pathways near the viewpoint offer accessible routes, but beach access is only via stairs and sandy trails, which may present challenges for individuals with mobility concerns or those using strollers.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** The elevation of the viewpoint is approximately 72 feet above sea level, providing an excellent vantage point for photography, whale watching during migration seasons, and observing local wildlife

**Winter (December through February):** Average Highs and Lows: 51°/43°, cool and wet with strong winds

**Spring (March through May):** Average Highs and Lows: 58°/45°, mild and damp with breezy afternoons

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10–15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Paved Pathway:** Sidewalks to the viewpoint are well-maintained, offering accessible paths for visitors.
- **Picnic Areas:** Picnic tables and benches are available near the parking area, providing spots for outdoor leisure with ocean views.
- **Restroom Facilities:** Available a short distance from the viewpoint.
- **Cell Phone Coverage:** Cell phone coverage may be spotty in some areas due to the coastal location. Coverage varies by provider.
- **Interpretive signage:** Throughout the park, interpretive boards offer insights into the area's natural features, history, and local legends, enriching the visitor experience.
- **Other:** The area can be very windy, which might affect comfort and accessibility.

### **Nearby Camping**

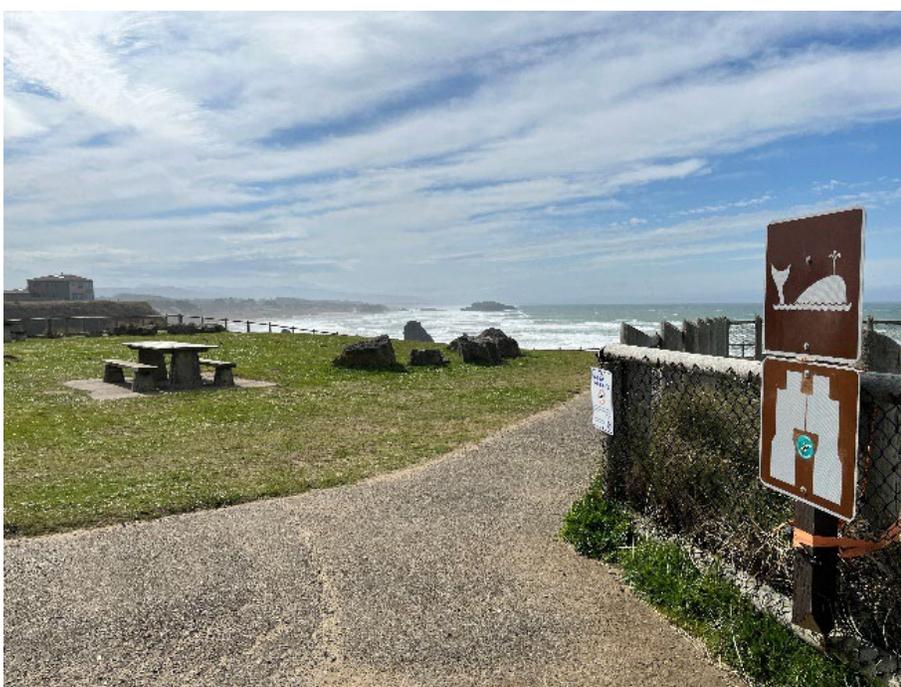
Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at

participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Face Rock:

- Bullards Beach State Park (5 miles north)
- Sunset Bay State Park (27 miles north)
- Cape Blanco State Park (25 miles south)

## Site Photos









# Harris Beach State Park

Coast Region

South Coast District

Harris Beach Management Unit

## Park Office Information

1655 Highway 101 N  
Brookings, Oregon 97415  
Phone Number: 541-469-0224

## Site Address

1655 Highway 101 N  
Brookings, Oregon 97415

## Helpful Links

[Park Website](#)  
[Location on Google Maps](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Park Site Designation & Season:** The day-use area is open year-round and features a designated viewing deck designed to enhance the scenic experience. Visitors can explore walking paths and hiking trails that lead to various vantage points overlooking the ocean and surrounding landscapes. These spots are ideal for observing migrating gray whales, as well as harbor seals, California sea lions, and a variety of seabird species.



**Local Area Information:** Brookings is a coastal town located in the southwestern corner of Oregon, known for its mild climate and scenic beauty. Nestled along the rugged Pacific coastline, it offers access to beaches, hiking trails, and the Chetco River.

**Park Description:** Harris Beach State Park, located just north of Brookings, Oregon, offers visitors stunning coastal views and a variety of recreational opportunities. The park features several viewpoints that provide panoramic vistas of the Pacific Ocean, sea stacks, and the renowned Bird Island (also known as Goat Island), which serves as a National Wildlife Sanctuary and a breeding site for rare birds like the tufted puffin.

**Whale Watching View Deck:** Perched along the rugged Oregon coastline, the whale watching view deck at Harris Beach State Park offers one of the most scenic and accessible vantage points for observing marine life. Located near the day-use area, this elevated platform provides sweeping, unobstructed views of the Pacific Ocean and the dramatic sea stacks that define the southern coast.

From this spot, visitors can witness the awe-inspiring migration of gray whales as they pass by during the winter and spring seasons. The deck is outfitted with interpretive signs that help guests

identify different whale species and understand their migration patterns. It's also a popular location for spotting harbor seals, sea lions, and a variety of seabirds, including puffins and pelicans.

**Special Access Considerations:** The Harris Beach view deck is easily accessible via a short, paved path from the day-use parking area. Volunteers should note that the viewing area is not covered or enclosed, and coastal weather conditions can change quickly.

### **Elevation and Average Weather**

**Elevation:** The observation deck is approximately 100 to 150 feet above sea level.

**Winter (December through February):** Average Highs and Lows: 64°/50°, cool and wet

**Spring (March through May):** Average Highs and Lows: 68°/53°, mild and humid

Visitors should be prepared for variable weather conditions, especially during the winter months when precipitation is more frequent.

### **Personal Considerations**

Coastal weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures are often 10 to 15 degrees cooler than inland areas. Be prepared for changing conditions by dressing in layers, wearing sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and bringing a raincoat if there's even a slight chance of rain.

On sunnier days, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Binoculars are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Before traveling, check the weather forecast and current traffic conditions at TripCheck. Click on the following blue link to check road and weather conditions: [Oregon TripCheck](#).

### **Site Amenities and Accessibilities**

- **Paved Pathway:** A short, paved pathway leads from the day-use parking area to the view deck, allowing easy access for visitors of all abilities.
- **Benches:**
- **Restroom Facilities:** Restrooms with accessible stalls are located nearby within the day-use area, just a short walk from the view deck.
- **Cell Phone Coverage:** Cell phone coverage is generally available in the area, though signal strength may vary depending on the provider.
- **Interpretive signage:** Interpretive panels along the view deck provide educational information about local wildlife, coastal geology, and gray whale migrations.
- **Other:** The view deck offers unobstructed ocean views, making it a popular spot during peak whale-watching season.

### **Nearby Camping**

Oregon Whale Watch volunteers may be eligible for a camping fee waiver as part of the volunteer program. To qualify, volunteer shifts must align with the requested reimbursement dates, plus one travel day. Cabins and yurts are not eligible. Volunteers must reserve campsites in advance at participating State Parks through Reserve America. After the whale watch season, volunteers seeking reimbursement must complete the camping reimbursement request form.

Eligible campgrounds near Harris Beach:

- Harris Beach State Park (0.3 miles east)
- Humbug Mountain State Park (50 miles north)

## Site Photos



