



FREE Guide courtesy of the
**North Coast Land
Conservancy, Seaside Oregon**
www.nclctrust.org

Astoria River Walk: Pick up this paved, 4-mile walk anywhere along the Astoria waterfront. The walk parallels the tracks for the quaint Astoria Trolley, past restaurants, piers, canneries, and historic structures. The scenic river view includes cargo ships, fishing boats, Pelicans, Herons, Cormorants, Sea Lions, and other abundant wildlife, all with the soaring Astoria-Megler Bridge as a backdrop.

Cathedral Tree Trail: Beginning at 28th and Irving in Astoria, this unpaved trail winds up through lofty evergreens and lowly skunk cabbage 1/3 mile to the tree whose arched root structure gives it its name. Visit the tree then backtrack a few hundred feet, and then take the fork another mile to the top of the hill where the **Astoria Column** provides breathtaking views of the city, river, mountains and ocean.

Warrenton River Walk: A partly paved, approximately 4-mile (one way) walk that runs from the center of the small fishing town of Warrenton north along the rural Columbia River waterfront to Hammond. Start at the lighthouse memorial near downtown Warrenton or pick it up at Carruthers Park on Hwy 104 in Hammond. (This is one of many existing and proposed trails in Warrenton - visit the Warrenton Visitor Center or www.warrentontrails.org for more information.)

Fort Stevens: More than 9 miles of paved hiking/biking trails and countless unmarked/unpaved side trails wind through the lush coastal rain forest of Fort Stevens State Park near Hammond. From these trails you can visit the Peter Iredale shipwreck, Coffenbury Lake, Historic military emplacements, and the shorelines of the Pacific Ocean and Columbia River. Pick up a map at the Visitor Center and park in one of several parking lots within the park to start exploring these trails. One such is **Coffenbury Lake Loop Trail**, a lovely unpaved trail through lush coastal rain forest, circling the pristine Coffenbury Lake. Start at the Coffenbury Lake parking lot and take the trail to either the left or right for a 1.5-mile loop.

Fort to Sea Trail: From the historic Fort Clatsop you can take this trail 6.5 miles through the coast range foothills to the ocean at Sunset Beach, following roughly the route the Corps of Discovery traversed when traveling to the shoreline to trade with the local tribes. To get there, follow the signs to Fort Clatsop from highway 101 south of Astoria. Pick up the eastern end of the trail at either the Netul Landing parking lot or from the Fort itself. During the summer months, a shuttle bus runs hourly between Sunset Beach and the Fort; check schedules (and pick up a map) at the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center.

Cullaby Lake: Easy 1.5 mile interpretive loop trail through forested wetlands and lakefront, starting and ending at Cullaby Lake County Park. Look for Cullaby Lake Road off Hwy 101 about 7 miles south of Astoria. From Cullaby Lake Road, turn right (south) on Hawkins Road and proceed 1 mile to the park. The trail starts next to the historic Lindgren Cabin and is part paved, part smooth gravel. The entire route

is wheelchair accessible, but those who are able can alternately take the cutoff at the “Ridge Path” sign at about the halfway point, to follow a more rustic path through majestic old-growth spruce forest. The paths converge back at the main parking lot.

Little Beach and Dunes: Explore the Necanicum estuary’s tidal shore, active sand dunes, and ocean beach. This is an excellent site for watching shore birds, especially during spring and fall migration. From Hwy 101 at Gearhart go west at the light on Pacific Way, then left (south) on Cottage Ave., right (west) on F Street, then left (south) on Wellington to the parking lot at the end. The trail goes south from the end of Wellington.

Seaside Promenade: This easy walk along Seaside’s historic “Prom” takes you from the lively downtown to the more peaceful extremities of Seaside’s beach cottages, pine trees, sand and surf. The Prom is 1.5 miles long and is the westernmost “street” in town; park anywhere within 12 blocks north or south of Broadway and go west to the prom.

Tillamook Head: A moderately strenuous, all day hike through majestic coastal forest and along high sea cliffs, roughly following the route that Lewis & Clark took to trade with the locals in what is now Cannon Beach. Go west on Avenue U from Hwy 101 to Edgewood, south on Edgewood / Ocean Vista to its terminus at the Tillamook Head parking lot. Hike 6 miles over the headland to the parking lot at Indian Beach in Ecola State Park. From here there are four alternatives: 1) have someone pick you up or beg a ride from someone in the lot) 2) Have someone pick you up or return the way you came, or continue on another 1.5 miles to the main Ecola parking lot, or pick up the trail again near the park entrance and continue another 2 miles south to Cannon Beach. Bus service is available between Cannon Beach and Seaside – check www.ridethebus.org for times.

Ecola Creek: 2 miles round trip on an old logging road that parallels Ecola Creek, a critical watershed preserve. Marvel at spectacular old-growth cedars and firs along this easy walk in the coast range foothills near the Cannon Beach reservoir. To get there, take the second Cannon Beach exit off Hwy 101, go east on Sunset Blvd., take an immediate left on Elk Creek Road, approx. 0.2 miles to the parking area.

Saddle Mountain: This popular, one-day hike takes you three miles one way to the top of the 3283’ high Saddle Mountain, the highest peak in the northern coast range. The trail is usually open March to December. To get there take Saddle Mountain Road off Hwy 26 at milepost 10.

Oswald West State Park: You could easily spend a day or more exploring the trails on this wild, rocky, forested stretch of coastline. A good start is the 2.4-mile **Cape Falcon trail**, which takes you from Short Sands beach through ancient forest out to where the surf pounds endlessly on the cliffs of the cape. Park at the Oswald West parking lot 9 miles south of Cannon Beach off Hwy 101, and take the short trail west to Short Sands beach, then find the Cape Falcon trail heading north.

Neah-Kah-Nie Mountain: Spectacular views reward those who take on this moderately strenuous hike up to the top of Neah-Kah-Nie’s 1600’ high peak. Go three miles each way to the top, or continue north at the Y just below the summit to complete the full 7-mile circumnavigation around the mountain’s back side, including 1/2 mile back to your car on the highway at the end. To get there, look for the short spur road going east from Hwy 101 between milepost 41 and 42. Drive a short ways up the road and park on the shoulder near the trailhead.

Recommended reading: *Day Hiking Oregon Coast*, by Bonnie Henderson. Available at local bookstores including Cannon Beach Books, Beach Books in Seaside, and at www.mountaineersbooks.org.