



AUTO TOUR

AAA Washington Travel Services

Central Oregon Coast

Oregon enjoys a spectacular Pacific shore where the forces of nature create a stunning montage of landscapes. Miles of sandy beach alternate with bold headlands. Copious rains feed the myriad streams that wind down from forested heights, through green valleys, where in places dairy herds graze on luxuriant pastures. Approaching the sea, the rivers broaden into estuaries and bays. Dozens of small cities and towns dot the coastline. In these hard-working fishing ports, lumber towns and resort communities the visitor is always welcome. Virtually all of Oregon's 400-mile coastline is public domain, thanks to the landmark 1912 legislation that preserved the state's beaches for the people.



Heceta Head as seen from the viewpoint just north of Sea Lion Caves – This is one of the most photographed panoramas on the Oregon coast.

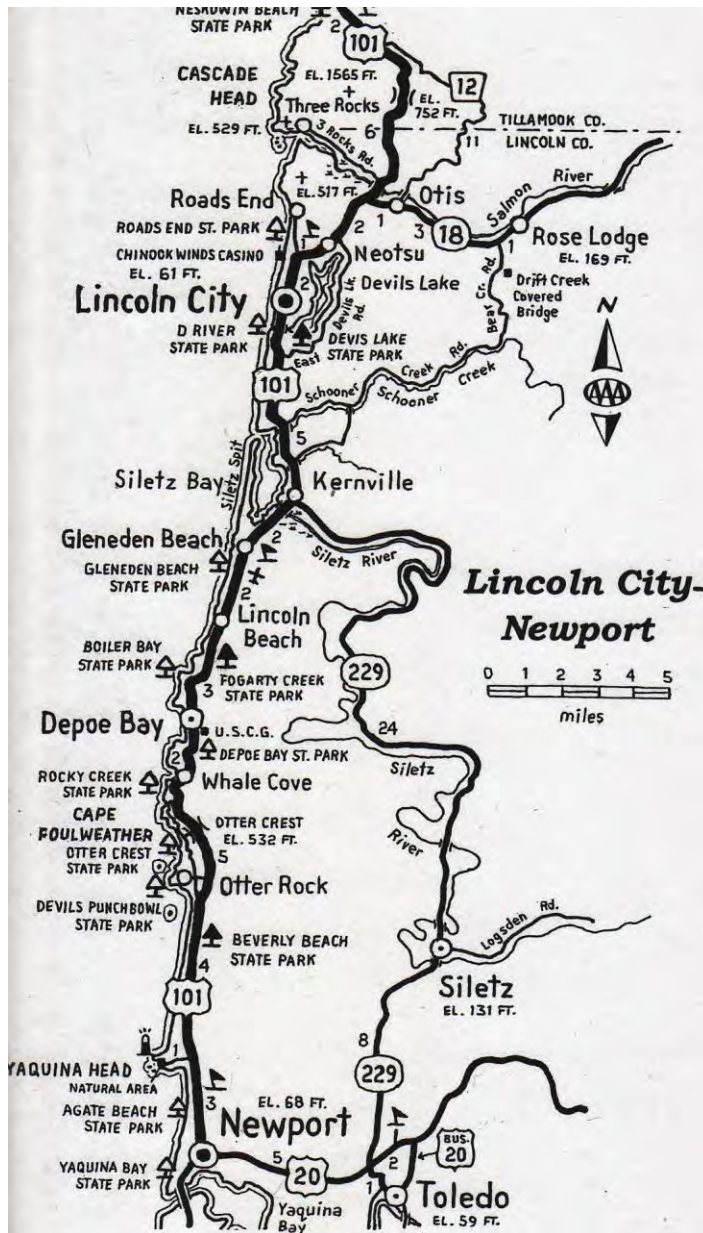
AAA Washington's **Central Oregon Coast Auto Tour** covers the 150-mile section of US-101 from Lincoln City to Reedsport. This highway can be driven in approximately four hours; however, numerous en route attractions beckon a much more leisurely pace.

1. Lincoln City to Otter Rock

From the junction with SR-18, an important access route to the central coast from Portland and the Willamette Valley, US-101 glides over green hills. Skirting the north end of Devils Lake, we enter **LINCOLN CITY** (pop. 8,400, alt. 61 ft.), Oregon's largest beach town. It's a sprawling amalgam of communities overlooking the Pacific described as five blocks wide and seven miles long with mile after mile of cottages, cabins, motels, restaurants, galleries and souvenir and specialty

shops. In recent years the community has taking admirable steps to beautify the commercial streetscape along Highway 101. The US-101 banners along the highway indicate mileage from Astoria. Lincoln City lacks a central core as it was formed by the 1962 consolidation of a string of beach towns: Oceanlake, Delake, Nelscott and Taft.

The oceanfront setting, with sandstone bluffs lining a beach of golden sand, is dramatic. The forested bulk of Cascade Head (elev. 1,565 ft.) dominates the northern end of town. **Road's End Road's End State Park**, at the far north end of Lincoln City offers great views of Cascade Head and is usually less crowded than beaches farther south in the main part of town.



Midway through Lincoln City US-101 crosses the **D River**, the only break in the city's seven-mile beach. This 120-foot long stream drains Devils Lake, and is billed as the world's shortest river. Access to the beach and the river's mouth is available at **D River State Park** at the south end of the bridge.



Steep sandstone bluffs rise above Roads End at the north end of Lincoln City's seven-mile beach. The profile of Cascade Head rises beyond.

Attractions in town include **Connie Hansen Garden**, at 1931 NW 33rd Street, featuring rhododendrons, azaleas, irises and a variety of flowering shrubs and perennials that flourish in the mild coastal climate. You'll find blooms at their peak in April and May. The **North Lincoln County Historical Museum** (4907 SW Highway 101) is an excellent small museum with displays and artifacts ranging from Native American basketry to life in the area from the late 1800s to the mid-1920s.

Chinook Winds Casino, a popular gaming and entertainment venue, overlooks the ocean in the north end of town. Shoppers are served by the **Lincoln City Outlets**, an outlet mall with over 60 stores on Highway 101 and East Devils Lake Road.

Covered bridge fans take note. **Drift Creek Covered Bridge** is 6 miles east of Lincoln City on SR-18, then south on Bear Creek Road (following signs). The 66-foot long span, built in 1914, is Oregon's oldest remaining covered bridge. It was relocated here from its original site on Drift Creek in 1997.

At the south end of Lincoln City US-101 skirts the shore of Siletz Bay – look for cranes and herons on the marshy flats at the bay's southern end. The wetlands are part of the Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Salishan, a destination resort featuring golf and tennis, sits on hills overlooking the bay. Highway 101 runs through the beach towns of **GLENEDED BEACH** (pop. 900, alt. 65 ft.) and **LINCOLN BEACH** (pop. 2,050, alt. 70 ft.). At the south

end of the latter is **Fogarty Creek State Park**, an inviting wedge of sand flanked by sandstone cliffs – the island-like rock is popular with climbers while the stream offers safe wading for youngsters.

The landscape now changes dramatically as sandy beaches give way to rocky cliffs. US-101 winds around **Boiler Bay**. You can still glimpse the rusting shell of a ship's boiler at low tide. The vessel *J. Marhoffer* sank off the coast in 1910 – its boiler washed into this small cove and the moniker endured.

DEPOE BAY (pop. 1,410, alt. 58 ft.) is a compact fishing and resort town perched on hillsides overlooking the Pacific. In the middle of town Highway 101 spans the entrance to the seven-acre bay, billed as the world's smallest navigable saltwater harbor. It's fascinating to watch commercial and sport fishing boats navigate the narrow channel entrance. A pedestrian walkway that crosses the highway beneath the bridge provides a unique view the channel.



Aerial view of Depoe Bay, the World's Smallest Harbor



Depoe Bay's Whale Watching Center is also a good spot to watch waves

Several blocks of shops, restaurants and galleries catering to tourists line the eastern side of the highway. On its western side a seawall promenade parallels the rocky shore, providing a safe, unobstructed vantage. When waves are running high look for the **Spouting Horn**, a geyser of spray created when water is forced through a tube like cavity in the lava rock. In extreme surf the spray arches over the highway, an impressive sight, especially during winter storms.

Oregon State Parks operates the **Depoe Bay Whale Watching Center** just north of the bridge. Stop by to learn about whales and get tips on whale spotting. You can see whales along the Oregon Coast almost year-round. They migrate quite close to shore their way between the Bering Sea and lagoons on the west coast of Baja California. Watch whales in winter from mid-December through January. In spring watching begins in March with the peak near the end of the month and finishes in June with mothers and calves traveling north. Summer brings whales that feed along the coast from July to mid-November. The **Whale, Sealife and Shark Museum** (on US-101 south of the bridge) has displays about marine life.

Down on the harbor charter boats depart on whale watching and deep-sea fishing excursions.

South of Depoe Bay Highway 101 passes **Whale Cove**, a small picturesque bay flanked by sandstone cliffs. A pocket beach of golden sands lines the northern edge of the cove. The area is being developed as a state park. The upscale Whale Cove Inn perches at the edge of cliffs on the cove's south shore. Just beyond lies **Rocky Point State Park**, an excellent vantage for watching the breakers roll against the rockbound shore – the view stretches north to Cascade Head, beyond Lincoln City.

Just beyond Rocky Point US-101 begins to climb the shoulder of **Cape Foulweather** in a long, well-engineered grade. The old highway (signed SCENIC LOOP – one-way northbound, twists up through thick rain forest. Both roads top out at **Otter Crest State Viewpoint**, 500 feet above the ocean. The English navigator Captain James Cook sighted this eminence through a March gale in 1778, bestowing upon it a term descriptive of the day's meteorological condition. If you are fortunate to be here in clear weather, the panorama stretching south along the scalloped coast to Cape Perpetua is magnificent.

The Oregon Coast Highway swings down from Otter Crest to the village of **OTTER ROCK** (pop. 200, alt. 132 ft.), perched on a rocky bench overlooking the sea. **Devils Punchbowl State Park** showcases a bowl-shaped cavity in the sandstone cliffs. During storms churning waves fill its floor. Look for marine life on and around the offshore rocks (field glasses will enhance your viewing). You can enter the cavern at low tide (the trail down to the beach is at the north end of the parking area). Another trail leads down to Beverly Beach – watch for surfers in the cove just south of the point.

Highway 101 runs along a three-mile stretch of beach, between Otter Crest and Yaquina Head. Otter Rock, the larger of two small islands, erosional remnants of the mainland, rise above the sea less than ¼-mile from the beach. **Beverly Beach State Park** is a large developed recreation area with camping and beach access. To the south Beverly blends into Moolack

Beach, popular with kite flyers. The highway has been rebuilt numerous times along this stretch of coast as the land slowly slumps toward the beach.

Yaquina Head, a finger of ancient lava, extends a mile out into the Pacific. A paved road runs along its southern flank to the **Yaquina Head Natural Area** (admission fee), featuring an interesting cobble beach of blue-gray stones and outstanding tide pools – one unique feature is tidepool access to persons in wheelchairs. Naturalists are usually on duty weekends to answer questions about the area's natural history. Look for the resident colony of sea lions and sea birds on the offshore rocks (field glasses are helpful).

The Yaquina Head Lighthouse, erected in 1873, crowns the tip of the promontory. The lighthouse an interpretive center and offers tours of the historic structure in summer. A trail leads from the parking lot to the top of a knoll for a sweeping view up and down the coast.

2. Newport to Yachats

South of Yaquina Head the highway passes Agate Beach and enters **NEWPORT** (pop. 10,400, alt. sea level to 200 ft.), metropolis of the central coast. The city spreads over a peninsula between the ocean and Yaquina Bay. Settled in the 1850s, Newport has been attracting visitors since its first hotel opened in 1866.

The colorful **Bayfront District**, with its backdrop of steep bluffs, extends several miles along the north shore of Yaquina Bay. Part of the district's charm is its eclectic mix of tourist shops, restaurants, bars, fish-processing plants, canneries and other dockside activities of a working waterfront. Deep sea fishing charters, whale watch and sightseeing boats depart from the small docks and marina that line Bay Boulevard, the district's main street. A resident colony of barking sea lions hauls out on the harbor's old floating docks.

Tourist attractions concentrate around **Mariner Square**, including the **Wax Works** and **Ripley's Believe it or not Museum**. Across Bay Boulevard is **Undersea Gardens**, a floating aquarium. The **Coast Guard Station** stands at the west end of the district – it features a memorial to those who have perished at sea. Near the east end the **Pacific Maritime and Heritage Center** displays binnacles, boat models, ship's wheels, vintage surfboards and nautical art.

The **Deco District**, Newport's central business quarter, straddles US-101 at the top of the bluff. Its name honors the Modern (Art Deco) style of architecture popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Although many classic Art Deco buildings were demolished in the 1960s, fine examples of this style can still be seen in the district. History buffs will enjoy the **Lincoln County Historical Museum** (545 SE 9th Street) and the adjacent **Burrows House**, built in 1895 and furnished in period.

U.S. Highway 20, which has its western terminus in Newport (at the junction of Olive Street and US0-101), is the longest numbered route in the country, extending 3,237 miles across North America to Boston.

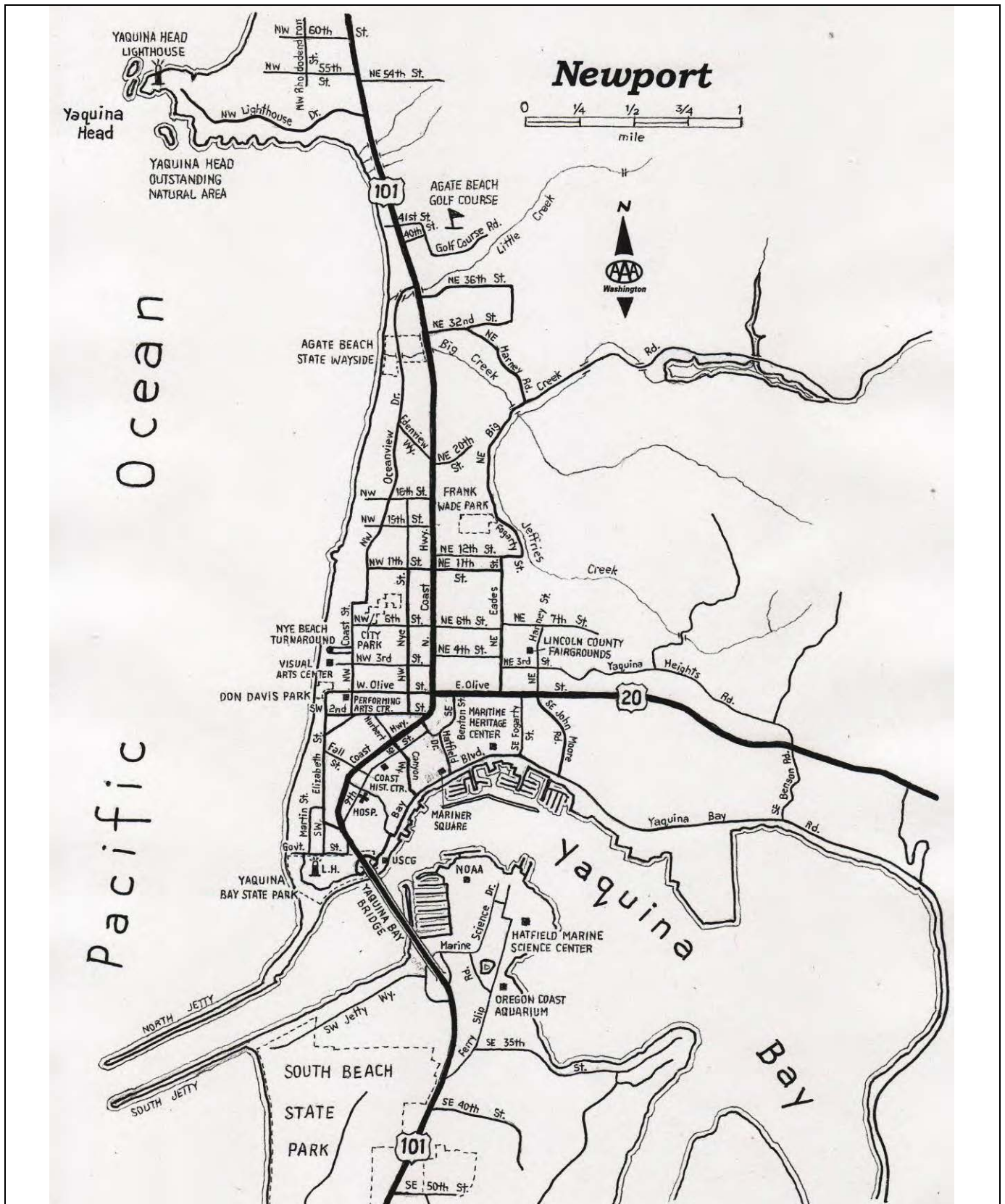


Fishing boats crowd Newport's marina; Yaquina Bay Bridge in background



Nye Beach (above), the site of the area's first hotels, is a picturesque oceanfront community of weatherworn clapboard cottages. At the Nye Beach Turnaround is the **Yaquina Arts Center**. On the bluff to the south is the historic **Sylvia Beach Hotel**, erected in 1913. Visitors

flock to the beach, a five-mile expanse of sand stretching from Yaquina Head to the jetty-girt mouth of Yaquina Bay. The northern end is known as **Agate Beach**, named for the beds of colorful stones. **Yaquina Bay State Park** crowns a pine-clad knoll overlooking the beach and harbor entrance. There are dozens of picnic sites tucked away in the piney coves. The **Yaquina Bay Lighthouse**, dating from 1871, is open to tours, and is reputed to be haunted.



The **Yaquina Bay Bridge**, a graceful arch of steel and concrete, carries US-101 over the mouth of its namesake bay. It opened on Labor Day 1936. Designed by Oregon Highway Department's bridge engineer Conde McCullough, it is considered an outstanding example of art deco style, a quintessential blend of form, function and aesthetic. The center span

is 138 feet above the shipping channel and the pedestrian walkway affords fine views of the harbor. An excellent view of the span is available on the north shore at the base of the bridge near the pedestrian plaza.

The bridge leads to Newport's **South Beach District**, along the south shore of Yaquina Bay. Here you'll find a large marina and public fishing pier and the **National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's** Pacific research fleet. Nearby the **Hatfield Marine Science Center**, Oregon State University's marine campus has a visitor center with exhibits about marine ecology and research. The **Oregon Coast Aquarium** features outstanding displays of the region's natural history, including one of the largest outdoor seabird aviaries in North America.

South Beach State Park extends along the shore south of Yaquina Bay's South Jetty. The 500-acre park offers camping (RV, trailer, tent, yurt), nature trails, beachcombing, plus summer interpretive programs and kayak tours.

Side trip to Toledo

An interesting side trip from Newport follows Bay Boulevard east. It becomes the Yaquina Bay Road and hugs the shore of the bay and the Yaquina River following a former railroad right of way upstream eight miles to **TOLEDO** (pop. 3,560, alt. 59 ft.), located at the head of navigation for large vessels.

Settled in the 1860s, the town occupies a hilly site overlooking the sprawling tidewater lumber mill. The federal government first established this mill to process Sitka spruce, an important component of early 20th-century aircraft. The district once had forty mills.

The Sitka, or Tideland spruce is one of the great commercial timber trees of the Pacific Northwest. It ranges along the coast from southeast Alaska to northern California. Generally reaching 80 to 125 feet in height; specimens occasionally exceed 200 feet. Its wood is lightweight and durable and was considered a "strategic species" for the early aircraft manufacturing industry.

Toledo's prosperity has waxed and waned with the vicissitudes of the forest products industry. Logging has long been important here and the district once had forty mills. Downtown's S. Main Street features a number of art galleries and antique stores. The **Toledo Centennial History Center**, 208 S. Main St., contains pioneer displays and historical photos. The **Yaquina River Museum of Art**, 152 N.E. Alder Street, compliments the town's cultural scene.

The **Yaquina Pacific Railroad Historical Society**, at NW First and 'A' streets, features a static display of old railway rolling stock, including the Northwest's oldest restored wooden caboose, a Railway Post Office car and "One Spot", a 1922 Baldwin steam locomotive undergoing restoration on the site.

US-20 offers a fast return route to Newport, a 6-mile drive.



South of Newport, Highway 101 runs along the coast for a dozen miles, in places just above the grassy dunes. **Lost Creek** and **Brian Booth** state parks offer beach access. The latter features pristine Ona Beach and **Beaver Creek State Natural Area**, a 390-acre tidal wetland habitat for salmon, trout, river otter, beaver and herons. Canoeing and kayaking are popular.

SEAL ROCK (pop. 600, alt. 64 ft.), a scattered oceanfront community, takes its name from an offshore reef frequented by seals, sea lions, sea birds and other marine life. This marks the western end of the Corvallis-Yaquina Bay Wagon Road, punched through the Coast Range in the late 1860s – the first overland link to the coast from the Willamette Valley. The town was platted in 1887 and became an early resort. **Seal Rock State Wayside** features an oceanfront picnic area in a pleasant stand of shore pine, spruce and salal. The sandy beach has rocky outcrops with tidepools.

The highway continues a half-dozen miles south to **WALDPOR**T (pop. 2,060, alt. 11 ft.), a fishing town on the south shore of Alsea Bay. Crabbing and clam digging are popular on the tide flats. The town's settlement dates back to 1880. At the northern edge of town the **Alsea Bay Bridge Interpretive Center** exhibits the history of coastal transportation and bridge building. The **Waldport Heritage Museum**, 325 Grant Street, occupies a building erected by the CCC in 1941.

South of town US-101 parallels the shoreline, passing **Beachside State Park** (camping) and the residential community of **SAN MARINE** (pop. 200, alt. 29 ft.).

3. Yachats to Florence

YACHATS (pop. 720, alt. 35 ft.), pronounced YAH-hots, bears a Native American name descriptive of its setting, *at the foot of the mountain*. Perched on a hillside overlooking the sea and its namesake stream, Yachats is a pleasant resort community. Good beaches both north and south of town feature agate beds popular with rockhounds. From May to September fishers dip for smelt in Yachats' coves. The **Little Log Church and Museum** has local artifacts and exhibits.

South of Yachats the coastal mountains rise abruptly from the sea as we enter the **Cape Perpetua Scenic Area**. Highway 101 winds around the base of its namesake cape, one of the major headlands on the central coast. English Captain James Cook sighted this high promontory on 7 March, 1778, naming it for Saint Perpetua, a third-century martyr. The U.S. Forest Service operates the **Cape Perpetua Visitor Center** featuring exhibits of how the forces of nature created Oregon's coastal landscape. Across the highway the **Trail of the Restless Waters** leads through spruce and pine woods to dramatic overlooks of the rocky shore – the tide pools down on the rocks are fascinating. Off the northern edge of the trail is **Devil's Churn**, a deep cleft in the dark lava rock at the very base of the cape. The wave action in this cleft is awesome. Exercise caution when walking near the precipice and watch for so-called 'sneaker waves.'



Looking south from the crest of Cape Perpetua, one of North America's grand seascapes.

There are two routes up to the crest of Cape Perpetua. The St. Perpetua Trail switchbacks 1¼-mile from the visitor's center up the cape's south flank. A narrow road also winds two miles up to the **Cape Perpetua Viewpoint**. The 803-foot summit offers one of North America's most spectacular coastal vistas. The panorama stretches from Cape Foulweather on the north to Cape Blanco far to the south. In clear weather the seaward horizon is more than 30 miles distant. The shelter on the ocean-facing flank served as a WWII watchtower. Along the short trail, note the striking differences in vegetation – the south-facing slopes are grassy, while a deep forest cloaks the shadier, cooler north flank.

South of Cape Perpetua US-101 skirts isolated beaches backed by steep ridges. After a dozen miles the road winds around **Heceta Head**, named in 1775 for the Spanish navigator Bruno Heceta. The much-photographed **Heceta Head Lighthouse**, erected in 1894, is Oregon's most powerful aid to navigation. The lighthouse offers tours and the keeper's house is a B&B. **Heceta Head Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint** preserves the steep cliffs and sandy beach at the base of the cape

Highway 101 arches over Cape Creek via a graceful span, then tunnels through a ridge that rises precipitously above the sea. The pullouts just south of the tunnel offer must-see views back to Heceta Head and its lighthouse. Listen for the raucous bark of Steller sea lions – they frequently haul out on the rocks at the base of the cliffs. Just south of here is **Sea Lion Caves**, featuring the only Steller sea lion rookery on the North American mainland (all others are on offshore rocks and islands).



During inclement weather you're more likely to see large numbers of these massive pinnipeds inside the 1,500-foot long cave. At other times they tend to gambol in the surf and sun on the rocky shore. An elevator transports visitors down into the cave for a peek at life in the otherwise secretive rookery.

Highway 101 continues to wind along the base of Cape Mountain to **Dune Country Viewpoint**. Here, 225 feet above the sea, southbound travelers have their first view of the Oregon Dunes. The coastline changes dramatically south of here. The mountains recede inland and a broad coastal plain opens up. Prevailing winds and currents have filled this plain with sand, piling it up into some of the tallest coastal sand dunes in the world.

The highway drops down to the plain, skirts freshwater lakes and traverses a mixed woodland of pine, alder and evergreen waxmyrtle. The coast rhododendron thrives here – look for its delicate pink blossoms from May into June.

Darlingtonia State Wayside (watch for the turnout on the east side of US-101, five miles north of Florence) preserves one of the region's more unusual plants. Follow the half-mile trail through eerie bogs of the insectivorous pitcher plant *Darlingtonia californica*, also known as the cobra lily for its fanciful resemblance to the hooded serpent.

FLORENCE (pop. 8,565, alt. 23 ft.), founded in 1895 as a trading center for the farms and lumber camps along the Siuslaw River, is a popular resort area and the northern gateway to the Oregon Dunes. Florence stands at the midpoint along the route of US-101 between Astoria and the California border. The city occupies the north bank of the Siuslaw, four miles above its mouth. The origin of its name is disputed – one version says it honors late 1850s state senator A.B. Florence; a second insists the town was named for a French sailing vessel shipwrecked near the mouth of the Siuslaw in 1874.

Old Town, the city's turn-of-the-twentieth-century riverside business district, has a collection of shops, galleries and restaurants and a boardwalk overlooking the river. A small park contains a directional sign indicating mileage to like-named

cities in North America. To delve into area history, visit the **Siuslaw Pioneer Museum**, at Second and Maple. Its displays document Native American times through the pioneer period and early days in Florence. The **Fly Fishing Museum**, at 280 Nopal Street in Old Town, has thousands of hand-tied flies. The **Oregon Coast Military Heritage Museum** is under

development at 2145 Kingwood Street (they hope to open in 2014). Florence's **Antique District**, on US-101 between Bay Street and Rhododendron Drive, has around a dozen shops and two antique malls.

Sand dunes at the city's edge offer a range of recreational activities. **SandMaster Park**, at 5351 Highway 101 North, is the world's first sandboarding park (it's like snowboarding, only on dunes), with jumps, rails and board rentals. **Sandland Adventures**, a miles south of the bridge on US-101, offers guided dune buggy tours (March through December), train rides, go-karts, bumper boats and miniature golf.

There are several scenic drives in the area. Two local attractions include the **Rhododendron Loop** follows the north bank of the Siuslaw to Heceta Beach (rhododendron blooms are best in late spring). On the opposite shore of the river, **South Jetty Road** runs through pine woods out onto the dunes – note the line of ponds and marsh immediately behind the dunes. The graceful concrete arches of the **Siuslaw River Bridge** carries US-101 across its namesake stream.

4. The Oregon Dunes

The highway runs along the eastern edge of the Oregon Dunes, North America's largest expanse of coastal sand dunes. This narrow belt of sand stretches 50 miles along the Pacific from north of Florence to the mouth of Coos Bay. The dunes extend inland up to three miles. At their tallest they reach 500 feet in height. A forest of shore pine and waxmyrtle crowds the edges of the dunes. Western rhododendron thrives here – their delicate pink blossoms brighten the woodlands in June.



A hike across the dunes can be exhilarating. Removed from the sounds and trappings of civilization is like being in another world. This landscape inspired science fiction author Frank Herbert (1920-1986) to write his landmark work "Dune."

varying sizes in the watersheds east of the Oregon Dunes. These shallow dune country lakes have the characteristic irregular shoreline of a "drowned valley." The larger lakes, such as Siltcoos, Woahink, Tahkenitch and Tenmile, reflect the blue or gray of the prevailing sky conditions. Water in the smaller ponds is brown or even black – their color the product of decaying vegetation. Most of the larger lakes are popular fishing grounds, harboring warm-water species such as bass, trout, perch, crappie and bluegill. Other recreation includes swimming, boating and sailing. **Siltcoos** is the largest of these dune-blocked coastal lakes (5 square miles). Its outlet, the Siltcoos River, meanders through the dunes to finally reach the sea.

The town of **DUNES CITY** (pop. 1,315, alt. 80 ft.), on the isthmus of land between Woahink and Siltcoos lakes, has the usual tourist services. There is a cluster of Forest Service campgrounds southwest of town.

The **Oregon Dunes Overlook**, 5 miles south of Dunes City on US-101, offers an outstanding viewpoint encompassing miles of pine woods, golden dunes and the distant Pacific. Signs interpret the natural history and a hiking trail leads through six different wildlife habitats ranging from forest, marsh, grassland and dune to beach.

South of here, US-101 winds through forest with occasional glimpses of dune. After passing Tahkenitch Lake it ascends a wooded ridge. From the crest the view extends southwest over the estuary of the Umpqua River. This stream rises in the Cascades north of Crater Lake, flowing 200 miles to the Pacific. Its lower 20 miles are navigable.

The highway drops down to the flats along the Umpqua River's north shore and the village of **GARDINER** (pop. 250, alt. 43 ft.). Gardiner dates back to the early 1850s and is one of the oldest towns on the Oregon coast. This site had a customs station and post office as early as 1851 and into the early twentieth century served as a steamboat port trading with upstream

communities. Its white frame buildings, built in the late 1800s and early 1900s, are reminiscent of New England and almost the entire town is a **National Historic District**. Note the tall windmill palms growing in some of the yards, indicative of the mild climate. The sprawling waterfront paper mill closed in 1999 and its buildings were demolished in 2006.



A totem greets visitors to the Umpqua Discovery Center

Highway 101 follows the Umpqua River for a mile, then spans a channel to Bolon Island before crossing the main stream via the swing-span **Umpqua River Bridge** (1936). Designed by Conde B. McCullough, the bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places.

REEDSPORT (pop. 4,150, alt. 10 ft.), busy trading center of the lower Umpqua, sprawls along the south bank of the river and its tributary sloughs. Reedsport, named for late 19th-century pioneer homesteader Alfred W. Reed, is headquarters of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. The park's **Visitor Center**, on US-101 at the junction with SR-38, has exhibits and information about the dunes. The **Umpqua Discovery Center**, on the riverfront east of Highway 101, features displays of the area's natural and human history. A riverside boardwalk and observation tower are adjacent to the center.

Three miles east of Reedsport on SR-38, the **Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area** offers roadside pullouts. The local herd of Roosevelt elk, largest of the world's elk species, numbers more than fifty. The historic rhododendron garden across the highway is being restored.

The area's chief fishing port is at **WINCHESTER BAY** (pop. 385, alt. 17 ft.), four miles southwest of Reedsport via US-101. **Salmon Harbor**, just west of the highway has a large marina, home to a commercial and sport fishing fleet. Crab is the main catch and the local merchant association brands Winchester Bay the "Crab Capital of the World." At **Umpqua Aquaculture** you can watch oyster shuckers at work and see a video on oyster cultivation. The town's major annual event is *Dune Fest*, held over five days in late July/early August.

County Road 251 follows the river to its mouth, then turns south to **Umpqua Lighthouse State Park**. The park offers picnic sites, a campground and Lake Marie, a small freshwater lake encircled by a 1.3-mile trail. **Umpqua Lighthouse**, located on an eminence overlooking the mouth of the river just north of the park, was erected in 1894. Its beacon, at an elevation of 165 feet, can be seen for 19 nautical miles at sea. The original Umpqua Lighthouse, built in 1857, was much closer to the sea and succumbed to erosion in 1861. In summer, visitors can tour the lighthouse and the adjacent **Coastal History Museum** from May through September. The museum is located in a historic U.S. Coast Guard station and features exhibits on the lighthouse, local history and the U.S. Coast Guard history on the Umpqua River.

AAA Washington's **South Oregon Coast Auto Tour** continues from Reedsport to the California border.

KEEPING INFORMED

ON THE ROAD

Here is a listing of Central Coast radio stations . . .

FLORENCE

KCFM - 1250AM
KFLO - 88.1FM (NPR)
KCST - 106.9FM

GLENEDEN BEACH
KOGI - 89.3FM (NPR)

LINCOLN CITY

KBCH - 1400AM
KCRF - 96.7FM

NEWPORT

KCUP - 1230AM
KNPT - 1310AM
KLCO - 92.7FM (NPR)
KNCU - 95.1FM
KSHL - 97.5FM
KPPT - 100.7FM
KYTE - 102.7FM

REEDSPORT

KDUN - 1030AM
KLFR - 89.1FM (NPR)
KSYD - 92.1FM
KJMX - 99.5FM

TOLEDO

KYAQ - 91.7FM

WALDPORT

KWDP - 820AM

jpk - 15 January, 2015