



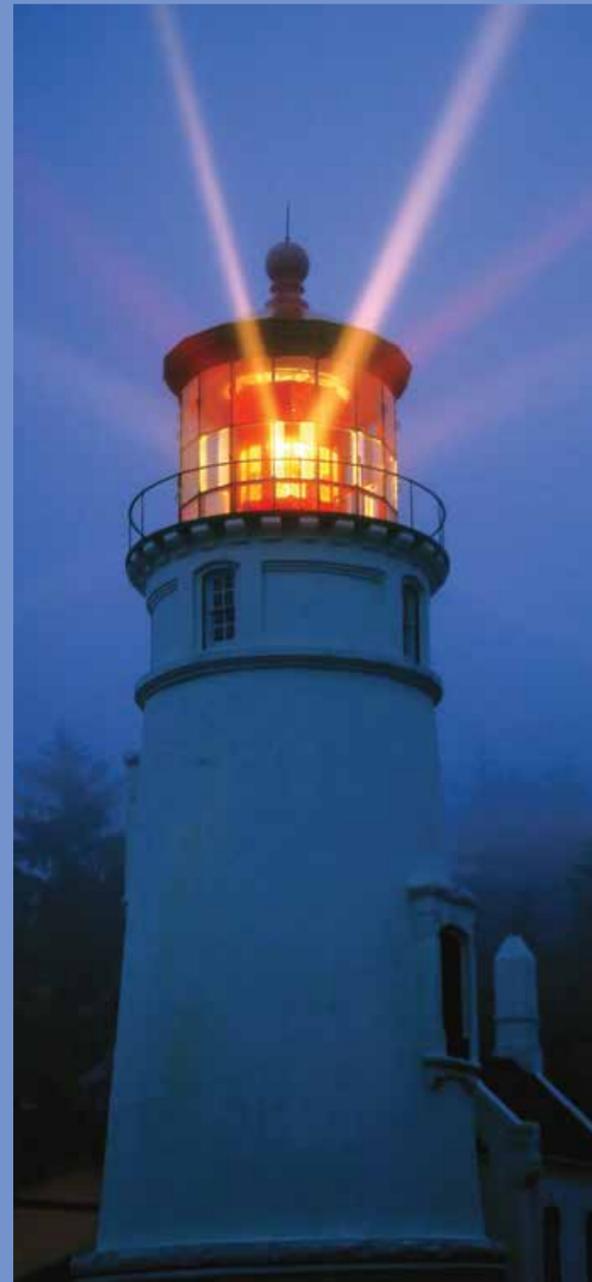
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Information Center
800-551-6949

www.oregonstateparks.org



Oregon Coast Lighthouses



Oregon's Sentinels

Oregon's coastal lighthouses are visible links to the past—towering monuments to Oregon's maritime heritage and the service of its light keepers. Although unoccupied since the arrival of modern technology, these classic structures remain as much a part of Oregon's rugged coastal landscape as any land form or offshore monolith.



Heceta Head Lighthouse

Built on prominent headlands or near major estuaries supporting commercial fishing and shipping, most of these

stations were established by the former U.S. Lighthouse Board between 1870 and 1896 and designed and constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ultimately, the U.S. Coast Guard became the caretaker of the properties and the keeper of the lights.

After installing automated beacons in the 1960s, the Coast Guard began transferring its lighthouse holdings to other government agencies. The transfers prompted vigorous restoration efforts to preserve the predominantly brick towers and frame dwellings that once sheltered the light keepers. All nine of Oregon's surviving lighthouse stations have been added to the National Register of Historic Places, and seven are open for public viewing and regularly scheduled summer tours. They are admired by more than two and a half million visitors each year.

Cover: Umpqua Lighthouse

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This brochure is available in alternative formats upon request.
Call 1-800-551-6949. Oregon Relay for the hearing impaired: dial 711.



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A Trip Back in Time

Aided by interpretive displays, historical accounts, and a little imagination, you can learn what life was like for the keepers who lit the way for mariners navigating Oregon's perilous coastline.

Climb to lantern or tower watch rooms and experience the panoramic sights once enjoyed by the light tenders from their perches high on the cliffs. Hear the sounds of seabirds, wind, and waves that accompanied their isolation as they worked through the night to prevent ships from running aground on the rocks.



Regularly scheduled tours are offered at the Cape Blanco, Umpqua River, Yaquina Bay, Coquille River, and Yaquina Head lighthouses. The Cape Meares lighthouse features a public exhibit area.

For information on tour schedules, call the State Parks Information Center at 800-551-6949.

Year-Round Recreation

Because they are situated on rocky outposts and headlands, most of Oregon's lighthouses double as excellent wildlife viewing areas. In fact, several of them are listed as premier sites in the Oregon Wildlife Viewing Guide, a publication of the non-profit Watchable Wildlife, Inc. During late fall, winter, and early spring, the lighthouses become outstanding lookouts for whale migrations and storm watching.

If you're touring lighthouses, you can also visit or stay at nearby state parks. They are listed from north to south; refer to the map on the other side.

- Fort Stevens**, 10 miles west of Astoria
- Nehalem Bay**, 27 miles south of Seaside
- Cape Lookout**, 10 miles south of Cape Meares
- Devil's Lake**, located in Lincoln City
- Beverly Beach**, 4 miles north of Yaquina Head
- South Beach**, 2 miles south of Yaquina Bay
- Carl G. Washburne**, 2 miles north of Heceta Head
- Jessie M. Honeyman**, 3 miles south of Florence
- Umpqua Lighthouse**, 6 miles south of Reedsport
- William M. Tugman**, 8 miles south of Reedsport
- Sunset Bay**, 12 miles southwest of Coos Bay
- Bullards Beach**, 2 miles north of Bandon
- Cape Blanco**, 9 miles north of Port Orford
- Humbug Mountain**, 6 miles south of Port Orford
- Alfred A. Loeb**, 8 miles northeast of Brookings
- Harris Beach**, immediately north of Brookings



Yaquina Head Lighthouse



Yaquina Bay Lighthouse

Lighthouse Helpers

If you'd like to learn more about Oregon's lighthouses and help with preservation and education efforts, you will be welcomed by any of these non-profit organizations:

U.S. Lighthouse Society, Oregon Chapter
Phone: 415-362-7255
oregon.uslhs.org

Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses
750 Lighthouse Dr. #7, Newport, OR 97365
Phone: 541-574-3100
www.yaquinalights.org

Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 262, Netarts, OR 97143
Phone: 503-842-2244
www.capemeareslighthouse.org

Cape Blanco Heritage Society
P.O. Box 1132, Port Orford, OR 97465
Phone: 541-332-0521
www.capeblancoheritagesociety.com

Coquille River Lighthouse Keepers Foundation Inc.
P.O. Box 21, Bandon, OR 97411

Oregon State Parks Foundation Oregon Lighthouse Campaign
888 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 1600, Portland, OR 97204
Phone: 503-802-5750
www.oregonstateparkstrust.org



1 Tillamook Rock Lighthouse

Located 1.2 miles seaward off Tillamook Head south of Seaside, Tillamook Rock has a 62-foot-high tower and stands 133 feet above sea level on a basalt rock islet. Its exposure to fierce storm waves gave rise to its nickname, "Terrible Tilly." Originally commissioned in 1881 to help guide ships entering the Columbia River, it was replaced by a whistle buoy in 1957. At one time, it was used as a *columbarium*, a storage place for ashes of the deceased.

There is no public access to Tillamook Rock—the Oregon Coast Trail on Tillamook Head between Ecola State Park and Seaside offers the closest views. The lighthouse is also visible from the Indian Beach parking lot at Ecola; day-use parking pass required.



2 Cape Meares Lighthouse

This lighthouse stands 217 feet above the ocean, yet its 38-foot tower is the shortest on the Oregon coast. First illuminated in 1890, it was decommissioned in 1963 when an automated light was installed on a small concrete building just east of the tower. Although it is no longer in service, the lighthouse still contains the original first-order Fresnel lens. Trails lead to views of seabird nesting sites, Stellar sea lions and migrating whales.

The Cape Meares Lighthouse is open daily April through October from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a small gift shop at the site. Information: 503-842-2244 or call the office at Cape Lookout State Park at 503-842-3182.



3 Yaquina Head Lighthouse

Yaquina (yah-KWIH-nah) Head stands 162 feet above sea level. Its 93-foot-high tower is the tallest on the Oregon coast. Yaquina Head was first illuminated in 1873; today it continues to aid navigation. The lighthouse is in Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (administered by the Bureau of Land Management), which offers views of seabird nesting sites, natural exhibits, and trails to tide pools.

The Yaquina Head grounds and interpretive center are open year round. The lighthouse is open by tour only; tours are scheduled most afternoons, except Wednesdays. First-come, first-served. A daily or annual Yaquina Head pass, an Oregon Pacific Coast Passport, or a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is required. Information: 541-574-3100 or yaquinalights.org.



4 Yaquina Bay Lighthouse

Yaquina Bay is the second-oldest standing lighthouse on the Oregon coast. It was in service for only three years, from 1871 to 1874, before the brighter Yaquina Head Lighthouse replaced it. Yaquina Bay was re-lit and recognized as a privately maintained aid to navigation by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1996. The lens is positioned 42 feet above ground level and 161 feet above sea level.

Self-guided tours are free; donations accepted. The lighthouse is open Wednesdays through Sundays, except major holidays. Summer hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; off-season hours are reduced. Information: 541-265-4560 or 541-265 5679, or go to yaquinalights.org.



5 Heceta Head Lighthouse

This iconic lighthouse sits on the west side of 1,000-foot-high Heceta Head, a nesting site for seabirds. It has a 56-foot tower that sits 205 feet above the ocean. It was first illuminated in 1894; today, its automated beacon shines 21 miles from land and is rated as the strongest light on the Oregon coast. The historic assistant light keeper's house, built in 1893, is a bed and breakfast. (866-547-3696, hecetalighthouse.com)

Daily lighthouse tours are from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., weather and staff permitting. Schedule a tour by emailing heceta.h.lighthouse@oregon.gov. Information: 541-547-3416. A state parks day-use parking permit or Oregon Pacific Coast Passport is required.



6 Umpqua River Lighthouse

Umpqua is the second lighthouse to occupy this site. An earlier structure built in 1857 was the first lighthouse sited on the Oregon coast; it succumbed to erosion in 1861. The Umpqua River lighthouse is nearly identical to the one at Heceta Head, and both lights were illuminated in 1894, but the Umpqua lens emits distinctive red-and-white automated flashes.

The lighthouse structure and museum are open seasonally. Admission to the museum is free, but there is a charge for guided tours (May through October). Information: 541-271-4631.



7 Cape Arago Lighthouse

Cape Arago stands 100 feet above the ocean on an islet just off Gregory Point. Its light is perched atop a 44-foot-high tower and was first illuminated in 1934. Although it is the newest lighthouse on the coast in terms of years of service, earlier structures were built on the site in 1866 and 1908; both times, the buildings succumbed to weather and erosion.

Cape Arago is not open to the public; view it from 1/4 mile south of the Sunset Bay campground entrance. Listen for the lighthouse's unique fog horn.



8 Coquille River Lighthouse

Coquille River lighthouse was commissioned in 1896 to guide mariners across a dangerous bar. It was decommissioned in 1939 following improvements to the river channel and navigational aids, then restored as an interpretive center in 1979. The light shines from atop a 40-foot octagonal tower. Historic restoration efforts began in 2007.

Open daily from mid-May through mid-October, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tours available. Information: 541-347-2209.



9 Cape Blanco Lighthouse

Cape Blanco's conical tower is perched 256 feet above sea level on Oregon's westernmost point. It is the oldest standing lighthouse on the Oregon coast, commissioned in 1870 to aid shipping generated by gold mining and the lumber industry. Automated equipment was installed in 1980.

Daily guided tours are offered 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April through October (closed Tuesdays). Information: 541-332-0248 or 541-332-6774.



All schedules are subject to change without notice. Please call the numbers provided or the Oregon State Parks Information line at 800-551-6949 to get the most up-to-date visitor information.

(Map not drawn to scale)