



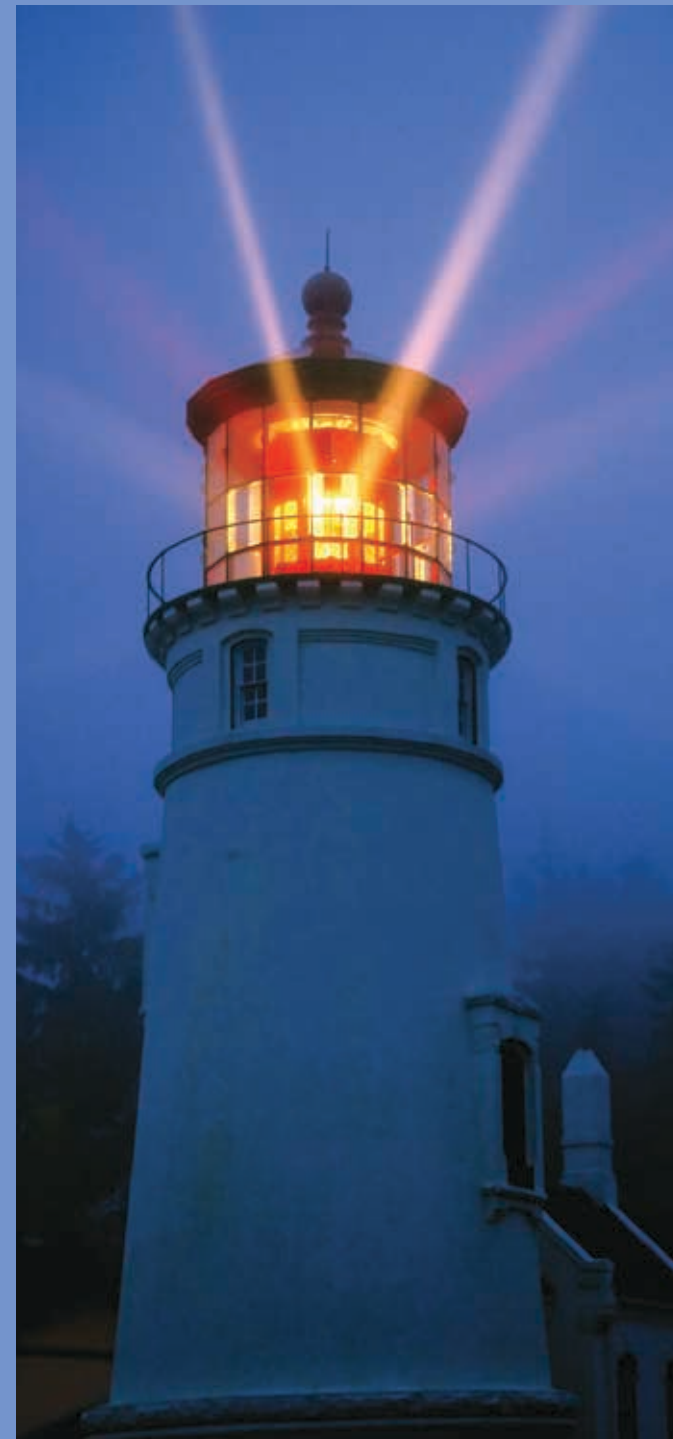
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Information Center
1-800-551-6949

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.

All information is subject to change without notice.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Write to OPRD, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301 or call 1-800-551-6949 (Oregon Relay for the hearing impaired: 1-800-735-2900).



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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 1-800-551-6949.

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 here from north to south; there is a 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. It is the only privately owned Oregon coast lighthouse on the National Register of Historic Places and was once 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; a state parks day-use parking permit or Oregon Pacific Coast Passport is required.



2 Cape Meares Lighthouse

Located within Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint 10 miles west of Tillamook and U.S. 101, the 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 from the main parking area to the lighthouse and to viewpoints overlooking offshore islets inhabited by Steller sea lions and nesting seabirds; they are also good spots for whale watching.

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. For more information, call (503) 842-2244 during open hours, or call the office at nearby Cape Lookout State Park at (503) 842-3182.



3 Yaquina Head Lighthouse

Located off U.S. 101, three miles north of Newport, Yaquina (yah-KWIH-nah) Head stands 162 feet above sea level. Its 93-foot-high tower soars upward, the tallest on the Oregon coast. Yaquina Head was first illuminated in 1873; today its automated light serves as an aid to navigation along the seacoast and at the entrance to Yaquina Bay. The lighthouse is administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, which offers close-up views of seabird nesting sites, natural exhibits, and trails to tide pools that are accessible year-round.

The Yaquina Head grounds are open all year long, sunrise to sunset. The interpretive center is open daily; the lighthouse is open every day except Wednesday. From October through May, both facilities are open on a reduced schedule. A daily or annual Yaquina Head pass, an Oregon Pacific Coast Passport, or a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is required to enter the lighthouse area. Call (541) 574-3100 for current visitor information.



4 Yaquina Bay Lighthouse

Located in Yaquina Bay State Recreation Site on U.S. 101 at the north end of the Yaquina Bay bridge in Newport, 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.

The lighthouse is open daily except for holidays such as Christmas, New Year's, and Thanksgiving. From October through April, it is open with reduced hours. Call (541) 265-4560 or (541) 265-5679 for current schedule and information on tours or special events; you can also visit www.yaquinalights.org.



5 Heceta Head Lighthouse

Located 12 miles north of Florence in Heceta Head Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint, this iconic lighthouse sits on the west side of 1,000-foot-high Heceta Head, where offshore rocks and headlands provide abundant seabird nesting sites. It has a 56-foot tower that sits 205 feet above the ocean. It was first illuminated in 1894; today, its automated beacon, which can be seen 21 miles from land, is rated as the strongest light on the Oregon coast. The historic assistant light keeper's house—Heceta House, built in 1893 and now maintained by the U.S. Forest Service—offers bed and breakfast accommodations and rental facilities for group events; call (541) 547-3696 for more information. A state parks day-use permit or Oregon Pacific Coast Passport is required to park at Heceta Head.

Note: The 120-year-old lighthouse closed in 2012 to undergo extensive historical restoration. It will reopen to the public as soon as the project has been completed. Check www.oregonstateparks.org or call the OPRD information line at 1-800-551-6949 for updates.



6 Umpqua River Lighthouse

Located three miles south of Reedsport above the entrance to Winchester Bay and adjacent to Umpqua Lighthouse State Park, Umpqua is the second lighthouse to occupy this site. An earlier structure commissioned on the north spit of the river in 1857 was the first lighthouse sited on the Oregon coast; it fell into the river in 1861 after the sand under the foundation eroded. The current structure has a 65-foot tower that overlooks sand dunes from a 165-foot elevation on the south side of the bay. 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 maintained by the Douglas County Parks and Recreation Department and open in season from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the museum is free, but there is a charge for guided tours, which are offered May through October—call (541) 271-4631 for more information.



7 Cape Arago Lighthouse

Located 12 miles southwest of the cities of North Bend and Coos Bay off U.S. 101, 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. The lighthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. It is now owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

Cape Arago is not open to the public, but an overlook a quarter mile south of the Sunset Bay campground entrance offers a good view. When you visit the area, listen for the lighthouse's unique fog horn.



8 Coquille River Lighthouse

Located in Bullards Beach State Park two miles north of Bandon on the north bank of the Coquille River, the 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 and restored as an interpretive center in 1979. The light shines from atop a 40-foot octagonal tower. New historic restoration efforts began in 2007 and are ongoing.

The lighthouse is open seven days a week from mid-May through mid-October, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers conduct daily tours in season; for large groups, please call ahead (541-347-2209).



9 Cape Blanco Lighthouse

Located nine miles north of Port Orford off U.S. 101, Cape Blanco's conical tower is perched on the westernmost point in Oregon above a noted wildlife viewing area. Its cliff-top location places the focal plane 256 feet above sea level. 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 by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1980.

Visitor services and tours at Cape Blanco are cooperatively managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, local Native American tribes, and the Cape Blanco Heritage Society. The lighthouse is open April through October (closed Tuesdays) from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; the last tour tickets are sold at 3:15. Call (541) 332-2207 (greeting center) or (541) 332-6774 (office) for more information.



All schedules are subject to change without notice. Please call the numbers provided or the Oregon State Parks Information line at 1-800-551-6949 to get the most up-to-date visitor information.