

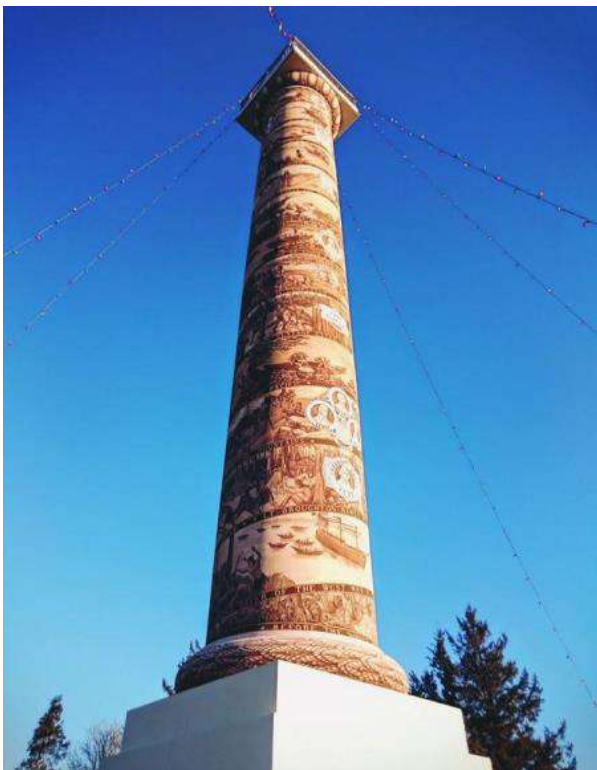
# North Coast Itinerary: Astoria to Tillamook (Day 1-2)

## Day 1: Astoria & Fort Stevens State Park

### Astoria: Explore the Historic Waterfront, Astoria Column, and Columbia River Maritime Museum

Astoria, Oregon, nestled at the mouth of the Columbia River, is a city rich in history and natural beauty. As the oldest American settlement west of the Rocky Mountains, it offers a unique blend of maritime heritage, Victorian architecture, and stunning Pacific Northwest landscapes.

**Astoria Column:** Perched high on Coxcomb Hill, the Astoria Column is a monumental tower offering panoramic views of the city, the Columbia River, and the Pacific Ocean. This 125-foot column, built in 1926, features a spiral fresco depicting significant events in Oregon's history. Visitors can climb the 164-step spiral staircase to the top for breathtaking vistas, making it an ideal spot for photography and soaking in the expansive scenery.



**Historic Waterfront:** Stroll along Astoria's vibrant waterfront, where historic cannery buildings have been repurposed into charming shops, restaurants, and art galleries. The Astoria Riverwalk, a paved path stretching for miles, offers a pleasant way to explore the area, with interpretive signs detailing the city's past. You might even catch a glimpse of sea lions basking on the docks or large ships navigating the Columbia River.

**Columbia River Maritime Museum:** Delve into the region's seafaring past at the Columbia

River Maritime Museum. This acclaimed museum showcases the rich history of the Columbia River and the Pacific Northwest, featuring engaging exhibits on fishing, shipbuilding, navigation, and the treacherous bar at the river's mouth. Highlights include a full-sized fishing vessel, a Coast Guard motor lifeboat, and interactive displays that bring maritime history to life.



### **Fort Stevens State Park: See the Peter Iredale Shipwreck and Miles of Beaches**

Just a short drive from Astoria, Fort Stevens State Park offers a diverse range of attractions, from historical military batteries to expansive beaches and a famous shipwreck. This sprawling park, once a military defense installation, is now a haven for outdoor enthusiasts.

**Peter Iredale Shipwreck:** A must-see at Fort Stevens is the skeletal remains of the Peter Iredale, a four-masted steel barque that ran aground in 1906. The shipwreck, a hauntingly beautiful sight, is easily accessible at low tide and provides a dramatic backdrop for photos. The shifting sands and tides constantly reveal and conceal different parts of the wreck, making each visit unique.



**Miles of Beaches:** Fort Stevens boasts miles of pristine, sandy beaches, perfect for beachcombing, kite flying, or simply enjoying a leisurely stroll. The wide-open spaces offer a sense of tranquility and endless opportunities for recreation. Keep an eye out for diverse birdlife and, if you're lucky, you might spot some marine wildlife.

**Historic Military Area:** Explore the remnants of Fort Stevens, which served as a coastal defense installation from the Civil War through World War II. Visitors can wander through concrete bunkers, gun batteries, and learn about the fort's role in protecting the Oregon coast. The historical exhibits provide a fascinating glimpse into military life and the strategic importance of the area.

## Day 2: Seaside, Cannon Beach & Tillamook

**Seaside & Cannon Beach: Walk the Promenade, Photograph**

**Iconic Haystack Rock**

Continuing south along the Oregon Coast, Seaside and Cannon Beach offer distinct yet equally captivating experiences, from classic beach town charm to iconic natural landmarks.

**Seaside Promenade:** Seaside is known for its historic Promenade, a 1.5-mile paved walkway stretching along the beachfront. Perfect for walking, jogging, or biking, the Prom offers stunning ocean views and access to the bustling town. You can find the famous Turnaround at the end of Broadway, marking the end of the Lewis and Clark

Trail. The town itself offers a variety of shops, arcades, and eateries, making it a lively stop.



**Cannon Beach & Haystack Rock:** Just a few miles south of Seaside lies Cannon Beach, home to the iconic Haystack Rock. This magnificent 235-foot sea stack is one of Oregon's most recognizable landmarks and a designated marine garden and wildlife refuge. At low tide, visitors can walk out to the rock to explore tide pools teeming with marine life and observe nesting seabirds, including puffins during certain seasons. The beach itself is wide and sandy, ideal for leisurely strolls and photography.



### **Ecola State Park: Hike Through Old-Growth Forests to Stunning Viewpoints**

Nestled between Seaside and Cannon Beach, Ecola State Park offers breathtaking coastal vistas, lush old-growth forests, and access to secluded beaches. It's a

perfect spot for nature lovers and hikers.

**Scenic Viewpoints:** The park features several stunning viewpoints, including the main Ecola Point viewpoint, which offers panoramic views of the coastline, Haystack Rock, and the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse offshore. Indian Beach, a popular surfing spot, is also accessible within the park and provides a more secluded beach experience.



**Hiking Trails:** Ecola State Park is crisscrossed with a network of hiking trails that wind through ancient Sitka spruce forests and offer glimpses of hidden coves and dramatic cliffs. The Clatsop Loop Trail, part of the Oregon Coast Trail, provides a moderate hike with rewarding views.

## **Tillamook: Tour the Famous Creamery and Explore the Three Capes Scenic Route**

Our final stop on the North Coast itinerary is Tillamook, a town synonymous with dairy, but also a gateway to some of the most scenic coastal drives.

**Tillamook Creamery:** No visit to Tillamook is complete without a stop at the Tillamook Creamery. This popular attraction offers a self-guided tour where you can learn about the cheese-making process, sample delicious cheese, and, of course, indulge in their famous ice cream. There's also a large gift shop and a cafe serving a variety of dairy inspired treats.





**Three Capes Scenic Route:** Just west of Tillamook, the Three Capes Scenic Route is a spectacular drive that winds along the coastline, connecting Cape Meares, Cape Lookout, and Cape Kiwanda. This route offers dramatic cliffside views, secluded beaches, and opportunities for wildlife viewing, including migrating whales during certain times of the year. Each cape offers unique geological formations and stunning photographic opportunities.

## Planning Your North Coast Journey

### Best Time to Visit the Oregon North Coast

The Oregon Coast experiences a temperate climate, but weather can vary significantly by season. While beautiful year-round, here's a general guide to help you plan your visit:

- **Summer (June - August):** This is the most popular time to visit, offering the warmest temperatures, least rainfall, and longest daylight hours. Ideal for beach activities, hiking, and exploring. However, it's also the busiest and most expensive season, so book accommodations well in advance.
- **Fall (September - November):** Often considered a 'secret season,' fall brings fewer crowds, pleasant temperatures, and stunning clear days, especially in early fall.

The ocean can still be warm enough for some activities, and storm watching begins later in the season.

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**Winter (December - February):** This is prime storm-watching season, with dramatic waves and powerful winds. While colder and wetter, it offers a unique, rugged beauty. Many accommodations offer off-season rates. Be prepared for rain and wind.

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**Spring (March - May):** Spring sees the return of wildflowers, migrating whales, and gradually improving weather. It's a good time to visit for fewer crowds than summer and more moderate temperatures than winter, though rain is still common.

Regardless of the season, always pack layers, as coastal weather can change rapidly.

## Transportation Tips

The most flexible way to explore the Oregon North Coast is by car, allowing you to stop at viewpoints, trailheads, and small towns at your leisure. Highway 101 is the main scenic route that parallels the coastline.

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**Driving:** Renting a car is highly recommended for maximum flexibility. Be aware that cell service can be spotty in some areas, so download offline maps. •

**Public Transportation:** While less comprehensive than driving, public bus transportation is available along the Oregon Coast. The North Coast Express offers weekend shuttle services from Portland to destinations like Astoria, Seaside, and Cannon Beach, providing a car-free option for some visitors. Check schedules and routes in advance if relying on public transport.

## Budgeting Guide (Estimates per person, per day)

Costs on the Oregon Coast can vary widely depending on your travel style. Here's

a general estimate:

- **Budget Traveler (\$75 - \$150):** This budget might include camping or budget motels, cooking some of your meals, and focusing on free activities like beachcombing and hiking.
- **Mid-Range Traveler (\$150 - \$300):** This allows for comfortable hotel stays, dining at local restaurants, and participating in paid attractions or tours.
- **Luxury Traveler (\$300+):** This budget can cover high-end accommodations, fine dining, and specialized tours or activities.

Remember to factor in transportation costs (gas, car rental) and any specific activities you plan to do.

## Safety Tips for the Oregon Coast

The Oregon Coast is beautiful but can be unpredictable. Always prioritize safety during your visit:

- **Sneaker Waves:** These are unexpectedly large waves that can surge much farther up the beach than others, pulling unsuspecting visitors into the ocean. Always keep an eye on the ocean, even when far from the water's edge.
- **Tides and Rip Currents:** Be aware of tide schedules, especially when exploring tide pools or walking near sea stacks. Rip currents can be strong and dangerous; if caught in one, swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current, then swim to shore.
- **Driftwood and Logs:** Large logs and driftwood can be unstable and dangerous, especially when wet or near the water. Never climb on or near them.
- **Cliffs and Rocks:** Stay on marked trails and away from cliff edges, as they can be unstable and prone to crumbling. Rocks can be slippery, so wear appropriate footwear.
- **Hypothermia:** The ocean water is cold year-round. If you plan to swim or engage in



water sports, wear a wetsuit. Even on sunny days, wind chill can lead to hypothermia.

- **Wildlife:** Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not approach or feed animals.

## Things to Bring

Packing for the Oregon Coast means preparing for all types of weather, often in a single day! Layers are key.

- **Waterproof Rain Jacket:** Essential for unexpected showers and wind. •
- **Warm Layers:** Fleece, sweaters, and long-sleeved shirts, even in summer. •
- **Sturdy, Waterproof Shoes:** For walking on beaches, trails, and wet surfaces.
- **Hat and Gloves:** Especially for cooler months or windy days. •
- **Swimsuit and Wetsuit (optional):** If you plan on getting in the ocean. •
- **Sunscreen and Sunglasses:** Even on cloudy days, UV rays can be strong.
- **Binoculars:** For whale watching and birding. •
- **Camera:** To capture the stunning scenery.
- **Reusable Water Bottle:** Stay hydrated and reduce waste. •
- **Snacks:** Especially for hikes or long drives.
- **Beach Towel:** For relaxing on the sand.
- **Small Backpack:** For day trips and carrying essentials.

## Places to Stay in the North Coast

Here are some recommended places to stay in the North Coast region, ranging

from budget-friendly to more luxurious options:

### **Astoria:**

- \* [Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa](#): A luxurious option located directly on the Columbia River, offering stunning views and a unique experience. [Monetization Link Placeholder]
- \* [Lloyd Hotel Astoria Bayfront, Ascend Hotel Collection](#): A well-regarded hotel with bayfront views and comfortable amenities. [Monetization Link Placeholder]
- \* [Norblad Hotel](#): A historic and charming hotel in downtown Astoria, offering a boutique experience. [Monetization Link Placeholder]
- \* [Atomic Motel](#): A retro-themed, budget friendly option with a unique vibe.

### **Fort Stevens State Park Area (Warrenton/Hammond):**

- \* [Shilo Inn Suites Hotel - Warrenton](#): A popular choice offering comfortable rooms and proximity to the park.
- \* [South Jetty Inn](#): A good option for those looking to stay close to Fort Stevens.
- \* **Fort Stevens State Park Campground**: For those who prefer camping, the park offers a variety of sites for tents and RVs. Book well in advance, especially during peak season.

### **Seaside:**

- \* [Ebb Tide Oceanfront Inn](#): Offers oceanfront rooms and direct beach access, perfect for enjoying the Seaside Promenade.
- \* [Seashore Inn on the Beach](#): Another great oceanfront option with easy access to Seaside attractions.
- \* [Best Western Plus Ocean View Resort](#): A family-friendly hotel with ocean views and a range of amenities.

### **Cannon Beach:**

- \* [The Ocean Lodge](#): A highly-rated luxury hotel with stunning views of Haystack Rock and direct beach access. [Monetization Link Placeholder]

- \* [Hallmark Resort Cannon Beach](#): Offers oceanfront rooms and a prime location near Haystack Rock.
- \* **Stephanie Inn**: An upscale, boutique hotel known for its exceptional service and amenities.
- \* [Surfsand Resort](#): A popular choice for families, offering beach access and views of Haystack Rock.

### **Tillamook:**

- \* [Ashley Inn Tillamook](#): A comfortable and well-located option for exploring Tillamook and the surrounding area.
- \* **Tillamook Bay Resort**: Offers cabins and RV sites with bay views, a good option for a more rustic stay.
- \* **Headlands Coastal Lod**: Check local listings for vacation homes and cottages, especially if traveling with a group or family.

## **Places to Eat in the North Coast**

The North Coast offers a diverse culinary scene, with a strong emphasis on fresh seafood and local flavors. Here are some recommendations:

### **Astoria:**

- \* **Bridgewater Bistro**: Upscale dining with stunning views of the Columbia River, known for its fresh, local ingredients. [Monetization Link Placeholder]
- \* **Buoy Beer Company**: Located on a pier over the Columbia River, offering craft beers and pub fare with great views. [Monetization Link Placeholder]
- \* **Fort George Brewery + Public House**: A popular spot with multiple levels, serving a wide range of beers and delicious food in a lively atmosphere.
- \* **Silver Salmon Grille**: Known for its fresh seafood and classic American dishes.
- \* **South Bay Wild Fish House**: A local favorite for fresh fish and chips.

### **Fort Stevens State Park Area (Warrenton/Hammond):**

- \* **Arnie's Cafe**: A casual spot popular with locals for breakfast and lunch, offering

classic American diner food.

- \* **South Jetty Dining Room and Bar:** Located within the Shilo Inn, offering convenient dining options near the park.

- \* **Buoy 9:** A local pub and grill with a relaxed atmosphere, serving burgers, sandwiches, and some seafood.

## **Seaside:**

- \* **Osprey Cafe:** A highly-rated spot known for its delicious breakfast and lunch options, including crepes and sandwiches.

- \* **Nonni's Italian Bistro:** Offers authentic Italian cuisine in a cozy setting.

- \* **Dooger's Seafood & Grill:** A long-standing Seaside institution, famous for its clam chowder and fresh seafood.

- \* **Finns Fish House:** Another popular choice for seafood, offering a variety of fresh catches.

## **Cannon Beach:**

- \* **Pelican Brewing Company (Cannon Beach):** Offers great food and craft beer with ocean views, a sister location to the one in Pacific City.

- \* **Driftwood Restaurant & Lounge:** A casual, family-friendly restaurant serving American cuisine and seafood.

- \* **Mo's Restaurant:** A classic Oregon Coast seafood chain, known for its clam chowder.

- \* **Public Coast Brewing Co.:** Craft brewery with a diverse menu, including burgers and seafood.

## **Tillamook:**

- \* **Tillamook Creamery:** While primarily a dairy tour, their cafe offers excellent grilled cheese sandwiches, ice cream, and other dairy delights. A must-stop for a snack or light meal.

- \* **Pelican Brewing Company (Tillamook):** Another location of the popular brewery,

offering good food and beer.

\* **Blue Heron French Cheese Company:** Offers a deli with sandwiches, cheeses, and other gourmet items, as well as wine tasting.

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Happy Travels,

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