

OREGON COAST JOURNEY · FREE GUIDE

Oregon Coast Family Trip Planner

A simple fill-in framework to plan
your whole coast trip in an evening.

*A clear, step-by-step planner: set your dates and budget, choose your
base, map your days, and pack with confidence — with checklists you
can print and reuse.*

YOURS FREE

Melinda · Oregon Coast Journey

Your Oregon Coast & Cruise Guide

oregoncoastjourney.com

START HERE

Plan it in one evening

A simple framework that turns “we should go to the coast” into a real, booked trip.

Planning a family trip can feel like a second job. It doesn't have to. Work through these four steps — dates, base, days, packing — and you'll have a complete plan in about an hour. Print it, fill it in, and you're done.

HOW TO USE THIS PLANNER

Go in order. Each step has a short checklist and a decision to make. By the last page you'll know exactly what to book.

The four steps

01 Set your dates & budget

02 Choose your home base

03 Map your days — a simple rhythm

04 Pack & go — and a cruise idea

STEP 01

Step 1 · Dates & budget

Decide the when and the how-much first — everything else follows.

Answer these

- **Travel window:** which weeks work? Weekdays and September save the most.
- **Number of nights:** 2–3 for a quick getaway, 4–5 to really settle in.
- **Who's coming:** ages of kids, and anyone with mobility or dietary needs.
- **Total budget:** lodging + gas + food + activities. Camping and rentals stretch it furthest.

THE SEASON LEVER

Shifting a summer trip to **mid-September** often means warmer, quieter beaches *and* a noticeably smaller lodging bill — the single biggest money-saver on the coast.

Tip: jot your answers right on a printout of this page — it becomes your booking brief.

STEP 02

Step 2 · Home base

One good base beats hopping hotels — pick the region that fits your family.

EASIEST FROM PORTLAND

North (Seaside / Cannon Beach)

Short drive, classic beach town fun, tide pools. Great for first trips and younger kids.

DO-EVERYTHING

Central (Newport / Lincoln City)

Aquarium, lighthouses, lots of lodging at every price. The most flexible family base.

SPACE & SUN

South (Bandon)

Quieter, sunnier, dramatic beaches and dunes nearby. Best for families who like room to roam.

STAY TYPE

Rental vs. hotel vs. yurt

Rentals for space and a kitchen; hotels for ease; state-park yurts for a fun, cheap adventure (book early).

Want this done for you?

Tell me your Step 1 answers and I'll come back with two or three vetted places for your dates and budget — free. That's the whole planning headache, gone.

STEP 03

Step 3 · Map your days

A loose rhythm beats a rigid schedule with kids.

MORNING

One big thing

Beach + tide pools, the aquarium, or the dunes — while energy is high and the fog is lifting.

MIDDAY

Lunch & reset

A relaxed meal, taffy or ice cream, and a little downtime back at your base.

AFTERNOON

One easy thing

A short hike, a town stroll, or more beach. Keep it flexible — weather votes too.

EVENING

Sunset & dinner

Chowder, a beach fire (where allowed), and an early night. Repeat.

ONE-BIG-THING RULE

Plan just **one** anchor activity per day and let the rest be spontaneous. It's the surest way to keep everyone — including you — happy.

Step 4 · Pack & go

A few easy next steps — and how I can help.

DREAMING OF A CRUISE, TOO?

Or let me plan the whole thing

Coast trip or cruise, I build simple family plans at the best price — free. And when you're ready for a bigger adventure, a family cruise is the easiest vacation there is.

[See Today's Cruise Deals »](#)

Let me plan it for you — free

Whether it's a coast getaway or a cruise, tell me your dates and who's coming and I'll build you a simple plan at the best price. No fee, no obligation.

[Plan our coast trip for us »](#)

Or just reply to any email from me — I read every one myself.

Refer a friend — you both win. Know someone planning a coast trip or a cruise? When they book with me, **you both** get a thank-you. Just have them mention your name.

Melinda · Oregon Coast Journey

Independent Travel & Cruise Advisor · oregoncoastjourney.com

Affiliate disclosure: some product links in this guide are Amazon affiliate links and tour links are Viator (Tripadvisor) affiliate links; I may earn a small commission at no additional cost to you. I only recommend things I'd suggest to my own clients. Details, seasons and prices change — confirm before you go or book.