



CANNON BEACH, OREGON

GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT CANNON BEACH: Cannon Beach is one of the premier vacation destinations in the Northwest, a small town beach resort experience on the North Oregon Coast. It offers an unmatched combination of iconic Oregon Coast scenic sightseeing, immediate access to natural areas, outdoor recreation and high quality choices in lodging, dining and shopping. Cannon Beach is known as one of the Northwest's top art towns and romantic getaway destinations. It is popular for its long stretch of sandy beach, scenic shoreline with rock formations and its small, picturesque, walk-able downtown.

LOCATION: Cannon Beach is located on the Oregon Coast, 80 miles West of Portland and 25 miles south of Astoria. It is 90 miles from Portland International Airport and 200 miles from Seattle.

GETTING TO CANNON BEACH: Most visitors drive to Cannon Beach, which is located four miles south of the junction of US 26 (Sunset Highway) and US 101 (Pacific Coast Highway). It is approximately a 90-minute drive from Portland. Most visitors from the Seattle area connect to US 101 west of Olympia or follow US 30 west of Longview for a total driving time of about four hours. Public transportation is available in the form of a twice-daily bus from Portland to Cannon Beach, which is provided by NorthWest Point.

POPULATION/SIZE: The population of Cannon Beach is approximately 1700, though the city website states that it hosts an estimated 750,000 visitors annually. The city has a total area of 1.54 square miles.

HISTORY THUMBNAIL: Cannon Beach was occupied by Native Americans when the area was explored by the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1806. It was established by American settlers in the late 1800s and incorporated as a city in 1957. The city's namesake is a cannon from the USS Shark, which was shipwrecked in 1846 in the treacherous Columbia River Bar. The cannon was later recovered near Arch Cape. (See our history timeline for a more detailed history of Cannon Beach.)

LODGING: There are over 40 hotels, motels and resorts in and around Cannon Beach. The largest lodging properties include the Hallmark Resort & Spa, Surfsand Resort and Tolovana Inn. In addition, there are a number of businesses that offer everything from camping to vacation home rentals.



CANNON BEACH TOP ATTRACTIONS

THE BEACH: The town's main four-mile stretch of beach, like all Oregon beaches, is designated as a public recreation area, free for everyone to use and enjoy with 44 public beach access points. Oregon's iconic shoreline with sea stack rock formations begins in the Cannon Beach area near Tillamook Head and several prominent near shore and offshore rock formations are visible along this stretch of beach. Haystack Rock, the most recognizable landmark on the beach is located approximately midway along the four-mile stretch between Chapman Point in the north and Silver Point in the south.

HAYSTACK ROCK: Haystack Rock is one of the most recognizable landmarks in Oregon. It rises 235 feet from the ocean's edge and is famous both for its vibrant intertidal area and its bird life. Its intertidal area is protected as a State of Oregon Marine Garden and it is part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. During the spring and summer, it provides nesting ground to the Northwest's most easily viewed colony of Tufted Puffins. Other birds that can sometimes be observed on or around Haystack Rock include Pelagic Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots, Western Gulls, Black Oystercatchers and Bald Eagles.

ECOLA STATE PARK: Located just one mile north of downtown Cannon Beach, Ecola State Park winds through thick rainforest and emerges at one of the best viewpoints on the North Oregon Coast. The main parking area is just steps from an expansive view of the coastline to the south including Cannon Beach, Haystack Rock and Cape Falcon more than 10 miles to the south. The Tillamook Rock Lighthouse can be seen just offshore to the west. The park offers excellent wildlife, bird and sea life viewing; and is one of the coast's best vantage points for watching Gray Whales during their twice-yearly migrations. Roosevelt Elk are frequently seen in the park's meadows and Bald Eagles are often spotted here. The park offers picnic areas, paved walking trails and several miles of hiking trails. A road also leads to the Indian Beach parking area and viewpoint with beach access and hiking trailheads. A \$5 day use fee is charged by Oregon State Parks.

PICTURESQUE WALKABLE DOWNTOWN: The main downtown area of Cannon Beach is easily walkable at only about half a mile long. There are over a dozen art galleries situated in Cannon Beach; more than 40 hotels, motels and resorts; and more than 30 eateries. In addition, a short walk or ride takes visitors to additional shops, dining establishments and lodging options in Midtown or Tolovana Park, south of downtown Cannon Beach.

WILDLIFE & NATURE VIEWING: Roosevelt Elk often wander through the town and surrounding areas of Cannon Beach. Gray Whales pass through neighboring Pacific waters on the way south to breed in the winter and back north in the spring; and can be spotted during these migrations from the heights of Ecola State Park. Additionally, a variety of birds both live and pass through this area by the thousands. The most visible colony of nesting Tufted Puffins in the Northwest, Bald Eagles, Pelagic Cormorants and all manner of migrating shorebirds can be found in Cannon Beach, either along the sands of the ocean, on rocks and sea stacks or in the wetlands along Spruce and 2nd Streets.

TILLAMOOK ROCK LIGHTHOUSE: Commissioned in 1878, lit in 1881 and decommissioned in 1957, Tillamook Rock Lighthouse, also known as Terrible Tilly, still sits atop the rugged basalt formation just off the Cannon Beach coastline. When first lit, it was the most expensive West Coast lighthouse ever built. It is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The best views of Tilly are from Cannon Beach and Ecola State Park.



CANNON BEACH FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN I BUILD A FIRE ON THE BEACH? Fires are allowed on the beach as long as they are no larger than three feet, are in the open sand area and are away from shoreline vegetation and wood debris or log accumulations. Fires must not be left unattended and must be extinguished completely with water and broken apart by the user before leaving.

IS MY DOG ALLOWED ON THE BEACH? Dogs are allowed on the beach and must be on a leash or under the voice control of the owner, though pets must be on leash in the immediate vicinity of Haystack Rock, a National Wildlife Refuge and State of Oregon protected Marine Garden. Owners must prevent their animals from harassing people, wildlife and other domestic animals and are responsible for the removal of the animal's waste. Dogs must be on a leash at all times when in town or in Ecola State Park.

CAN I CAMP ON THE BEACH? Overnight camping is not allowed on the beach or in any non-designated area within the city limits of Cannon Beach including public streets, public sidewalks, public parks and public parking lots. There are two private campgrounds that offer tent camping sites: Sea Ranch Resort Park & Stables and Wrights for Camping.

CAN I DRIVE MY CAR ON THE BEACH? Motor vehicles are not permitted on the beach unless a permit has been issued by either the Cannon Beach Police Department or the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation. The Police Department issues short duration beach access permits at no cost for persons with disabilities.

WHY ARE FIREWORKS NOT ALLOWED ON THE BEACH?

By state law, fireworks of any kind are not allowed on Oregon beaches and this ordinance is enforced by Cannon Beach law enforcement and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in part due to

Cannon Beach's close proximity to Haystack Rock and other near shore rocks that are part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Fireworks legally sold in the State of Oregon are allowed in other suitable public spaces within the city limits of Cannon Beach, but use of illegal fireworks can result in confiscation or be punishable by fine.

CAN I KEEP THE TREASURES I FIND ON AND AROUND THE BEACH?

It is legal to remove small quantities of loose natural products such as driftwood, shells or rocks from the ocean shore state recreation area for personal use with the exception of within 300 feet of the base of Haystack Rock, which is a State of Oregon designated Marine Garden protected area. In other areas, there are some legal restrictions to quantities and size of materials, but, in general, collecting a small bucket or baggie full of souvenirs is not a problem. Limited collection of living creatures is allowed for scientific purposes and fishing bait, though common etiquette dictates that no living creatures should be removed from the beach or intertidal area so that these vibrant ecosystems can be preserved and enjoyed by all.

IS CLIMBING ALLOWED AT HAYSTACK ROCK?

No. Haystack Rock and other near shore rocks in Cannon Beach are part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge and climbing is not allowed to protect the seabird populations that use the rocks and small islands as nesting grounds. Respect of these natural areas is encouraged to preserve them for all to enjoy.