

# BEST BEACH WALKS IN CANNON BEACH

## CANNON BEACH'S OUR BEST BEACH WALKS

It's right there in the name of our town, but Cannon Beach is so much more than just another stretch of sand. You can take in views of the appropriately named Bird Rocks of Chapman Point toward the north end of the beach, wander past iconic Haystack Rock and the Needles at the center of it all or take a jaunt past less crowded tidepools at Silver Point toward sphynx-like Lion Rock in the south, enjoying bird watching, tidepools and even a taste of history as you go. Here are our favorite Cannon Beach walks:

### NORTH OF ECOLA CREEK TO CHAPMAN POINT

Regardless of season, this walk will reveal a rocky shoreline, pristine beach, gorgeous dunes, great bird watching opportunities and a bit more solitude than more popular sections of our beach. In any season, you may discover Ecola Creek teeming with waterfowl and shorebirds and the rocks at Chapman Point overflow with a noisy Common Murre colony in the summer. In the winter, you might see huge waves crashing against the shore. You could even come within sight of the local elk herd, depending on the season and weather. If you're up for it, climb one of the sand dunes for some great photos complete with beach grasses, the dunes themselves and either Chapman Point to the north or Haystack Rock in the distance to the south. If the tide is particularly low, you can even cross the point on foot and venture to secluded Crescent Beach. Getting there: Snag a parking spot in Les Shirley Park, then walk south from either end of the lot and drop down onto the bank of meandering Ecola Creek. Follow the flat beach around the dunes to the right and you'll get your first glimpse of Chapman Point. Distance: 1.5 miles, out and back.

### DOWNTOWN TO HAYSTACK ROCK

The most popular approach to our favorite landmark takes you briefly along the south bank of Ecola Creek presenting the opportunity for great views to the north of Chapman Point and a nice walk south to Haystack Rock for tidepooling, birdwatching, beachcombing or photos. During low tides from February through October, look for the red Haystack Rock Awareness Program truck near the Rock. These interpretive volunteers are stewards of the Rock who are happy to answer questions about everything from tidepool critters to local birds

and often have binoculars or spotting scopes on hand for you to use. If you're visiting between April and August, ask for help catching sight of the comical Tufted Puffins that return every year to nest and raise their young. Getting there: Venture west on 2nd Street from Downtown and head south to catch glimpses of Haystack Rock from the north. Distance: 2 miles, out and back.

### TOLOVANA WAYSIDE TO HAYSTACK ROCK

This scenic walk offers an alternative look at Haystack Rock's south side, along with pretty views of lovely beach houses and gorgeous resorts a little farther off the beaten path. As a bonus, this walk also features the opportunity for the best views of the historic West-Bouvy cabin on the hillside just above the Rock. This cabin was originally built in 1913 as a summer retreat by Governor Oswald West who played a major role in laying groundwork for the iconic Beach Bill, declaring Oregon beaches public lands for all to enjoy. The current home is a private residence and an almost exact reproduction, down to the materials used, that was built after a fire claimed the original. Getting there: Park at the Tolovana Wayside and walk north along the beach. Distance: 1.75 miles, out and back.

### TOLOVANA WAYSIDE TO ARCADIA BEACH

In this direction, you'll find fewer crowds and some eye-catching (if slightly smaller than Haystack) sea stacks with tidepools of their own in the summertime. As you near Silver Point and Jockey Cap Rocks, pay close attention and you may catch sight of a pair of Bald Eagles that frequent this area. Wander far enough south and you may find yourself at Arcadia Beach where Lion Rock stands as a sphynx-like sentinel at the edge of the beach with Cape Falcon looming in the distance to the south. Getting there: Park at the Tolovana Wayside and walk south along the beach. Distance: 2 miles, out and back to Silver Point and 3.5, out and back to Arcadia Beach.

### THINGS TO REMEMBER

All of these walks can be combined for longer adventures, but always check the tide tables and plan walks that involve crossing creeks or traversing around points accordingly. Remember to never turn your back on the ocean and to check beach information signs and local news for any potential warnings or hazards before any day at the beach.

[cannonbeach.org/things-to-do/beaches-and-parks/best-beach-walks-in-cannon-beach-oregon/](https://cannonbeach.org/things-to-do/beaches-and-parks/best-beach-walks-in-cannon-beach-oregon/)

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