

The Cape Arago Beach Loop explores Charleston Marine Life Center, three state parks, the largest haul-out of seals and sea lions on the Oregon Coast and breathtaking vantage points. The drive itself does not take long, but save some time to soak in the natural beauty.



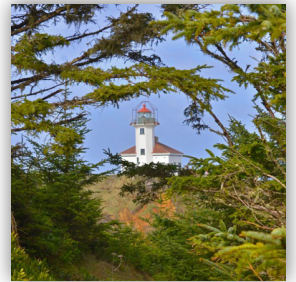
Located on the edge of the harbor in Charleston, the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology's **Charleston Marine Life Center** is an exciting place for discovery. Aquaria highlighting different coastal ecosystems, a tidepool touch tank, whale and sea lion skeletons, underwater video from deep reefs and undersea volcanoes, and a variety of specimens reveal the hidden and remarkable diversity of life off Oregon, from the coast to the deep sea. Visit their website for open days and times - www.charlestonmarinelifecenter.com

Bastendorff Beach is a favorite among surfers, kites, beachcombers, locals and tourists alike. You'll find uninterrupted beach and ocean views can be enjoyed here. Bastendorff Beach is defined by Yoakam Head and the south jetty at the entrance of the bay. Located ¼ mile off the Cape Arago Highway. Never crowded and always beautiful, Bastendorff Beach is a must see for beach enthusiasts.



Sunset Bay State Park is a favorite among locals and tourists. Sunset Bay State Park is protected by towering sea cliffs and features beautiful sandy beaches, amazing tide pools, picnic facilities, restrooms, and campgrounds. Beach goers will find easy access for beach combing, bird watching, swimming, and boating.

Cape Arago Lighthouse Viewpoint provides a great vantage point as there is no public access to the Lighthouse. The original structures were built in 1866 and 1908 but were damaged by the weather and waves. The current tower was first illuminated in 1934 and featured a unique fog horn. The Lighthouse's Fresnel Lens is on display at the Coos History Museum in Coos Bay.



Shore Acres State Park is the ideal location for a stroll along the rugged cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean. And the hidden treasure is the park's botanical gardens all abloom with roses, rhododendrons and a bounty of other beautiful flowers, plants and trees. If your travels bring you here around the holidays, the gardens become a winter wonderland from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve, complete with 325,000 lights, lighted sculptures and animated features. During winter storms, crashing waves along the cliffs rise up to 300 feet in the air.

Simpson Beach is situated directly below Shore Acres. A winding path takes you to this secluded ocean cove. You'll find crashing waves and views of seals and sea lions and other wildlife. Please do not bother the seal pups you may find on the beach. They are not lost, only waiting for mom to return.



Part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, **Shell Island** and the surrounding reefs provide breeding and rest areas for sea birds and Marine mammals. Gray whales, Northern Elephant Seals, Harbor Seals, Sea Lions, Stellar Sea Lions, Black Oystercatchers, Great Blue Herons and Pelagic Cormorants can all be viewed at the **Shell Island Interpretive Stop**. There is no public access to the island itself, but viewing points can be found here, at Shore Acres State Park, and from the north trail of Cape Arago State Park.

Located at the end of Cape Arago Highway, you'll find **Cape Arago State Park**. Tucked away below the cliffs, a short walk along the steep trails will take you to a secluded cove where tidepools and fossils can be found on Cape Arago Beach. Visitors can also enjoy whale watching, fishing, and scuba diving. Two trails can be found here for excellent hiking opportunities; the south trails leads to tidepools full of a variety of sea life, and the north trail lets visitors view offshore colonies of seals and sea lions. The north trail is closed from March to June to protect the seal pups during birthing season. Picnic facilities and restrooms are available.



Cape Arago Beach Loop

Save lots of time in your travels for some of our local fare. From Cranberry treats, to tuna, oysters, clams, and of course Dungeness Crab. Here are some of our favorite stops. And don't worry if you're traveling, they'll pack your goods in ice, if needed.



Cranberry Sweets
 1005 Newmark Ave
 Coos Bay, OR 97420
 (800) 527-5748
 www.CranberrySweets.com
 Candies & Gifts

Cranberry Sweets has developed literally hundreds of unique fruit candies and chocolates, relying on time-honored recipes and traditional candy making methods. All candies are made by hand, using only the finest natural ingredients. Free samples of products are always in good supply.

On occasion, you can purchase fresh fish directly from the fishermen on the docks in Charleston or stop in at Chuck's Seafood for the finest in local seafood finds.



Chuck's Seafood
 91135 Boat Basin Drive
 Charleston, OR 97420
 (541) 888-5525

Charleston Dock D
 Charleston Boat Basin Road
 Charleston, OR 97420

Driving Directions

From Hwy 101, head west on Newmark Avenue (just south of The Mill Casino). Follow the road until you reach the big curve to the left onto Cape Arago Hwy. Follow this road to Charleston. Turn right on Boat Basin Road to head for the docks, or continue straight to follow the Cape Arago Beach Loop. This road will eventually loop back around. Enjoy the views and pull over often!

Visit www.OregonsAdventureCoast.com for a complete list of lodging properties!