

With Valentine's Day falling on a Thursday, a long weekend to the north Oregon coast is ideal. If you are coupled, a romantic beach weekend will create a lasting memory. For singles, Valentine's Day weekend is the perfect excuse to flee P-town and hoards of couples holding hands and reciting Neruda.

One of Oregon's most charismatic coastal locations is Astoria. Steeped in history and situated at the north tip of the Oregon coast, the town is an enclave of romance, charm and burly fishermen and women. Like San Francisco, the city is often shrouded in mist and fog and has long been an enclave of liberalism for queer residents. In recent years, the city has experienced tremendous growth and a renewed interest in queer community organizing.

With cities across the country vying for queer tourism, Astoria is no exception. Estimated at \$64 billion a year, the lavender dollar is a lucrative market for hotels, resorts, restaurants and other travel-related accommodations. However, we all know that simply because a business will take our money does not mean it has our best interests in mind. Most queer couples have been confronted with awkward comments from hotel staff such as: "There must be a mistake with your reservation. It says here that you only have one queen bed for the both of you. Imagine that, two grown men sharing a bed." This greeting does not get the romantic weekend party started. To alleviate vacation stress, *Just Out* offers insight on traveling to the scenic north Oregon coast.

Astoria has a handful of gay-owned and -operated businesses that welcome and support the queer community. While vacationing, it can be easy to overlook the gems that the small town of Astoria has to offer.

First, you are going to need a place to stay. One of Astoria's historic landmarks, the Rosebriar Inn, is an elegantly restored 1902 classic European-style inn located in a quiet residential neighborhood just four blocks from the Columbia River waterfront. Pack your priest outfit, because the building was formerly a convent. With reasonable nightly off-season rates, the inn is the only bed and breakfast within city limits that advertises its support of the gay community.

Farther up the coast in Ocean Beach, Wash., is a relaxing cabin retreat called Shakti Cove, owned by Harrit Cavalli. The lesbian-owned, gay-operated resort offers modest cabins on three acres of green space. Close to the beach and 30 minutes away from Astoria, this dog-friendly resort provides an affordable weekend getaway. Cove keepers Mark Byrd and Rich Weaver offer hospitality that has long been forgotten by many hotels. Steeped in rustic chic, the accommodations of Shakti Cove offer the quintessential Northwest coastal experience. The cabins are an excellent home base for the queer traveler.

Also located on the Long Beach Peninsula is Anthony's Home Court, which consists of eight brightly outfitted, antique decorated cabins and 25 full hookup RV sites. Close to the ocean, the cabins are quaint, shingle-sided bungalows surrounded by relaxed and well-tended gardens. This location is perfectly suited for those who think wood paneling and RV camping is sexy. If the RV is a-rockin', don't come a-knockin'.

Every vacation morning must start with coffee. The drink is essentially the world's most socially acceptable stimulant. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, it has become well-known for increasing stamina in games of passion. Located in downtown Astoria, Astoria Coffeehouse is owned by Jim Defeo and Tony Danton. Originally from Portland, Defeo previously owned Vita Cafe and Paradox Cafe. The welcoming

Continued on Page 24

ASTORIA AND WARRENTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FREEDOM



CHOICE



LIFESTYLE

**CREATE THE LIFE
YOU WANT TO LIVE**

STACEY MILLS

**Real Estate Broker
Principal Properties**



CELL 503.957.0791

VISIT WWW.STACEYMILLS.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
SEARCH NEIGHBORHOOD
PROPERTY LISTINGS

