

## Worth the Trip: Astoria *continued from front page*

early 1800s. Large populations of Scandinavians and Chinese immigrants arrived to work, cutting down the huge timber and catching and canning the tremendous runs of salmon. The fur, timber and canning industries have left a long lasting and still visible legacy on the community.

Today Astoria embraces its newest industry - tourism. The vibrant waterfront and downtown is packed with old buildings, some renovated into new and thriving businesses, some still waiting to be revived. Restaurants, antique shops, galleries, clothing stores, book shops and more line the streets. Museums, parks, trails, bird watching, live music, and theater provide activities for just about everyone.

And of course there is the ever present view. Every establishment along the waterfront tries to take advantage of the expansive river with huge windows, decks and balconies, allowing guests to watch passing ships and the wildlife while sipping a brew or enjoying a meal. Astoria has also established the Riverwalk, a six mile paved trail that follows the waterfront so visitors can further enjoy the maritime atmosphere.

One thing I noticed during our recent visit to Astoria was the quality of the service everywhere we went. Everyone was extremely friendly, knowledgeable and helpful. They all seemed genuinely pleased to see us walk in, and especially interested in making us feel welcome. It's amazing the impact that a friendly face, authentic smile and welcoming attitude can have in helping a tourist, as well as the locals, enjoy their visit.

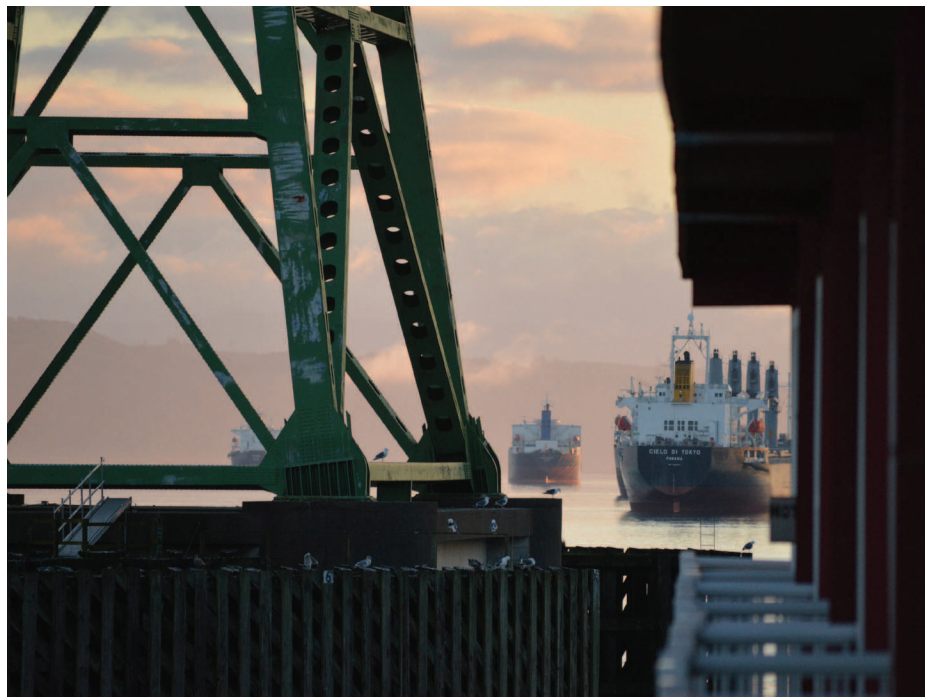
If you are planning a trip to Astoria make sure

to check the local calendar for upcoming festivals and events before you visit. Year round activities happen every month; you may want to either avoid the crowds or plan to join in the fun. There is always something happening in Astoria: the Fisher Poets Gathering in February; the Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival in April; the Tenor Guitar Gathering in May; the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, and the Astoria Music Festival in June; the Astoria Regatta in August; the Pacific Northwest Brew Cup in September, the Astoria International Film Festival in October. These are just some of the events you might want to check out. In addition the Astoria Sunday Market happens May through October, the theatrical "Shanghaied in Astoria" plays Thursdays through Saturdays from July to September, and a Civil War Reenactment takes place in August and September at nearby Fort Stevens.

There are plenty of places to stay overnight in Astoria, from motels on the main street to small bed and breakfasts to luxury hotels. One of the best hotels in town is the Cannery Pier Hotel. Located just west of the bridge and jutting out over the river, the Cannery Pier Hotel offers spectacular balcony river views to go along with all the expected amenities of a top flight establishment.

All of the amenities are great but the Cannery

Pier Hotel takes your comfort and enjoyment further. Rooms feature a large claw foot tub and glass shower - a through window provides a river view while you bathe. There was a pair of binoculars and a Pendleton



*Watching the ships from the balcony of the Cannery Pier Hotel.*

wool blanket to enhance our wildlife and ship watching from the padded window seat and balcony. From our balcony we watched a bald eagle, sea lions, ducks, Canada geese, a Blue heron, gulls and other sea birds pass by, along with small sailboats, fishing boats and giant shipping vessels. In the evening there was complimentary wine and lox tasting. There's a full service spa which features an authentic Finnish sauna and a large hot tub, with, you guessed it, a view of the river. The hotel has three vintage cars available to chauffeur you to and from dinner, free of charge. On our return to the hotel, fresh baked cookies were waiting for guests in the lobby. In the morning we borrowed cruiser bicycles and rode the riverwalk to breakfast. A guest really couldn't ask for much more. Make sure you make reservations early—the Cannery Pier Hotel tends to be full most weekends.

Astoria is bursting with restaurants, cafés, coffee houses and drinking establishments. If Oregon microbrews are your thing, you're in luck. Astoria has a choice of five breweries including, the Rogue Ales Public House, the Fort George Brewery and Public House, the Wet Dog Café, the Astoria Brewing Company Tasting Room and Buoy Beer Company. Don't forget to bring your growler!

The Buoy Beer Company on Pier 8 has great river front seating in the dining room, a great pub, fantastic gourmet pub food – the fries were great and so was the pasta special - and

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