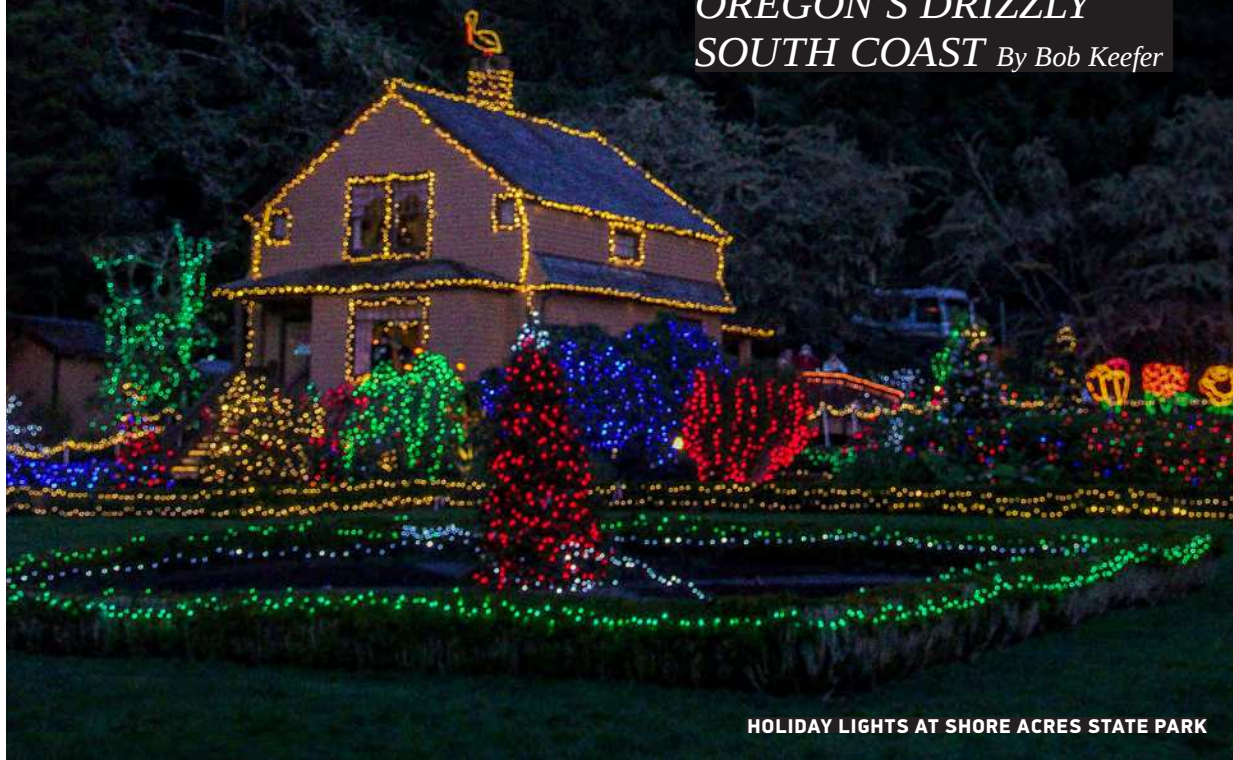


# Dreaming OF A Damp Christmas

*FIFTY-SOME HOURS OF  
HOLIDAY FUN ON  
OREGON'S DRIZZLY  
SOUTH COAST* By Bob Keefer



HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT SHORE ACRES STATE PARK

Oregon's south coast — we're talking Coos Bay, North Bend and Charleston — provides a great holiday getaway for the hardy, with a range of activities from wet weather hiking to candy treats, a holiday light fest like no other, and serious knee-slappin' live cornball entertainment.

Here's the plan for your two-and-a-half-day adventure.

**Before you go:** Book yourself a room for two nights. Our favorite place to stay is the Mill Casino in North Bend, just north of Coos Bay. You don't need to gamble to enjoy a weekend here. The Mill is clean and modern and has a good restaurant right on the property. Service has always been excellent. Ask for a tower room; they're newer and have the best view. Then book yourself seats for a show for the second night of your trip at Little Theatre on the Bay (See Day 2, below) and pack the car. Be sure to bring the Gore-Tex and hiking shoes.

## DAY 1

**9 am:** Head down I-5 for the three-hour leisurely drive to Coos Bay. You'll go west from the freeway on Highway 38, one of Oregon's most quietly scenic byways, through Drain and Elkton to Reedsport. Along the way you can stop for a full-on breakfast at **Arlene's** in Elkton, or just grab a cup of caffeine at the kiosk in town. A few miles before you hit Reedsport, stop at the **Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area** on the south edge of Highway 38 for clean public restrooms and, usually, a view of the semi-tame elk herd lounging in the meadow right next to the road. They're impressive animals, especially if you've never seen one up close. Good photography stop for the wildlife enthusiast.

Just before you hit North Bend and Coos Bay you'll cross the spectacular **Conde McCullough Memorial Bridge**, an Art Deco wonder built in 1936 and named for its designer, an Oregon Department of Transportation engineer who created an entire series of graceful bridges on Highway 101 and elsewhere.

When you reach downtown Coos Bay, stop for lunch. One of our favorite meals is Mexican food at the **Puerto Vallarta**, 230 S. Second Street, a big, friendly, family-oriented place on the main drag downtown. Another good possibility is **SharkBite's Seafood Cafe, Market & Theater** nearby at 240 S. Broadway, which offers good seafood and sandwich fare with a surfer-dude ambience.

After lunch, drive west on the well-marked road that leads from downtown Coos Bay to Charleston, being sure to stop in at **Cranberry Sweets & More**, 1005 Newmark Avenue, where you and any children in your party can eat yourselves absolutely sick on delicious free samples of candy while watching the candy makers at work through plate-glass windows. Best tackled after a healthy lunch.

*Rhythm & Blooms*

...In Tune With Nature

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**SWEETWATERS**  
ON THE RIVER

THANKSGIVING DAY  
**HARVEST BUFFET**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2017  
11AM - 7PM

<p><b>FROM THE CUTTING BOARD</b> GARLIC CRUSTED PRIME RIB VIRGINIA HAM with sweet &amp; sour pineapple glaze</p>	<p><b>SALADS, SEAFOOD &amp; SLICES OF DELIGHT</b> Charcuterie and Cheeses Peel and Eat Shrimp Smoked and Whiskey Cured Salmon with Mini Bagels Crab Louis Shooters Beet &amp; Cucumber Salad Greens with Assorted Toppings Spinach Salad Ambrosia • Fresh Sliced Fruit Assorted Hummus &amp; Vegetables</p>
<p><b>FAVORITES</b> ROASTED TURKEY ROASTED DUCK SEARED SALMON ROASTED PORK LOIN POLENTA CAKES</p>	<p><b>DESSERTS</b> Spiced Bread Pudding • Tortes • Pumpkin Cheesecake Mini Dessert Shots • Chocolate Maple Mousse With Candied Bacon White Chocolate Cranberry Mousse • Vegan Parfaits • Seasonal Cakes &amp; Pies</p>

**Reservations Strongly Recommended**  
Pricing: Adults \$48 • Children (6-12 years) \$19 • Children under 5 FREE  
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