

Celebrate New Year's Day with First Day Hikes

State parks are sponsoring First Day Hikes in 21 Oregon parks and 32 in Washington on New Year's Day. Park rangers or volunteers will lead most of the hikes. Day-use parking fees are waived and no Discover Pass is required for all visitors at participating parks Jan. 1 only.

"This is us helping people have a little fun and remember your parks are there for you any time of year," says Lisa Sumption, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department director. "Fun, healthy, memorable ... bundle up and enjoy your first walk of the year with a state park ranger."

Participants should dress

in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water as well as a camera or binoculars for wildlife viewing. In case of inclement weather, the park should be contacted directly to find out about cancellation.

Visit the Oregon State Parks website for directions to each park: www.oregon-stateparks.org.

This year, Oregon parks department is asking participants to share photos of their First Day Hike via social media by using the hashtag #ORfirstdayhikes for Twitter and Instagram or tagging "Oregon State Parks" on Facebook. Images can also be e-mailed to social.oprd@oregon.gov.

Fort Stevens State Park

Hike time: 10 a.m.

Starting location: Area C parking lot at Clatsop Spit

Terrain and length of trail: Easy, one-mile hike on a section of the Oregon Coast Trail, South Jetty Road and unimproved beach dune trails.

Contact information: (503) 861-3170 ext. 21

Additional details: The hike includes expansive views of the mouth of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. Shorebird sightings could include varieties of gulls, pipers and

sanderlings. You could catch a glimpse of a bald eagle, snowy owl, or harrier hawk. Roosevelt elk are often spotted along the east side of the Clatsop Spit near Trestle Bay. Dogs must be on 6-foot leash.

Oswald West State Park

Hike time: 9 a.m.

Starting location: Main parking area at the Short Sands Beach Trailhead

Terrain and length of trail: Moderate, three-mile hike.

Contact information: 503-428-6736

Additional details:

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the historic Beach Bill with a hike along Short Sand Creek and a portion of the Cape Falcon Trail.

Cape Lookout State Park

Hike time: Noon

Starting location: Cape Lookout trailhead parking lot

Terrain and length of trail: Moderate, five-mile hike

Contact information: 503-457-5026

Additional details: One of the most scenic hikes on the Oregon Coast, see views of

the shoreline north and south. This is one of the best times for whale watching from the end of the cape. Dogs must be on a six-foot leash.

Cape Disappointment State Park

Join the park's interpretive specialist for a moderate 3-mile hike along the Benson Beach Trail to explore the wild coastline overlooking the Columbia River Bar. Learn how waves, currents and tides interact with this dynamic environment. Meet at 11 a.m. (Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/E77FeNmvqUv>)

coast weekend

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

arts & entertainment



ON THE COVER

Photos from then and now mark local lives.

See story on Page 8

4

COASTAL LIFE

Close to home

Traveling from Yakaitl-Wimak to Willapa Bay by canoe

8

FEATURE

Who are they now? Plans?

From childhood 'til today, locals share their stories

12

DINING

Mouth of the Columbia

Astoria Stock Co. puts focus on meat

FURTHER ENJOYMENT

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| MUSIC CALENDAR | 5 |
| CROSSWORD | 6 |
| SEE + DO | 10, 11 |
| CW MARKETPLACE | 15 |



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