

CAPE D CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT IS A POPULAR WASHINGTON VACATION DESTINATION



Waikiki Beach in Cape Disappointment State Park is a favorite place to photograph gigantic breaking waves. — JANE WEBB PHOTO

Cape Disappointment is one of Washington state's most famous and popular parks. Some of its favorite features include: a premier campground, beautiful beaches, public artworks, two lighthouses, an interpretive center and miles of hiking trails.

CAMPING: Cape Disappointment State Park has 152 standard campsites, 83 utility sites, five primitive campsites, one dump station, eight restrooms (two ADA) and 14 showers (four ADA). Maximum site length is 45 feet (may have limited availability). Camping is available year-round. To reserve a campsite, call 888-CAMPOUT or 888-226-7688.

BEACHCOMBING: Take your pick from three beaches for your beachcombing or strolling. Waikiki Beach is located where the

North Jetty meets the rocky cape. This beach is one of the locals' favorite spots for storm watching because the waves crash on the cape here with the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse in the background. Benson Beach is the sandy stretch from the North Jetty to North Head. Hikers can enjoy the lack of vehicles, the huge driftwood trees and a great view of the North Head Lighthouse. Beards Hollow, the southern stretch of the Peninsula, offers visitors a chance to view tide pools at low tide near the historic "Fishing Rocks" or take the Discovery Trail north to Long Beach or east to Ilwaco.

THE CONFLUENCE PROJECT: The Confluence Project site is one of seven locations on the Columbia River where artist Maya Lin has created places to think. Using

the language of the Chinook people and members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, these artworks put the Bicentennial into a larger perspective, encouraging the visitor to re-consider the cultural and natural layers of history found on the Lower Columbia River. The site at Cape Disappointment includes a basalt fish-cleaning table, a Baker Bay viewing platform, several short trails and an amphitheater with a view of the ocean.

TWO LIGHTHOUSES: The park offers access to two historic lighthouses. Cape Disappointment Lighthouse was lit in 1856, making it the first in the Pacific Northwest. The view from the Cape Disappointment light is astounding. It is reached by a trail starting at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. North Head Lighthouse is perched on a



LEWIS AND CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER:

Overlooking the mouth of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center features new exhibits and ranger-led interpretive programs.

Original exhibits, which include hands-on activities, trace the entire expedition with particular detail on the Corps of Discovery's explorations of the Columbia River.

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center is open daily, year around from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission for adults is \$5, \$2.50 for children ages 7 to 17, kids 6 and under are free. Tours, programs, and guided hikes are available with an appointment made in advance. Call 360-642-3029 for more information.

headland surrounded by the ocean in all its glory. In 2017, North Head is undergoing major renovations and was closed to tours at the time of this publication. Call the park for updated information at 360-642-3078. younger than 7 may not climb up into the light.

HIKING TRAILS: The cape has over eight miles of hiking trails to choose from. These trails lead hikers through multiple ecosystems, from coastal fog forest to the saltwater marsh to grass-covered dunes. The rustic trails cut through some impressive huge old spruce and hemlock trees and often end up either at a lighthouse or at the abandoned military structure Fort Canby. Pick up a hiking trail map from the park — office or the interpretive center.