

Ecola State Park, a winter destination

BY MALIA RIGGS

In the Pacific Northwest it seems that the clouds of grey and the sturdy swells of the Pacific Ocean are unwavering in the winter. But in Ecola State Park, the grey and gloom adds to the charm of a typical Oregon day hike.

Ecola State Park is stretched along nine miles of coastline, wrapping around Tillamook Head. The park is nestled between Seaside and Cannon Beach. With eight miles of the Oregon Coast Trail weaving through Ecola to a two-and-a-half mile loop hike called Clatsop Loop Trail, this state park has something to offer for varying experience levels.

The day use fee is \$5, which includes parking and park access from dawn until dusk.

With a proper rain jacket and a good pair of waterproof hiking boots you can do almost anything the park has to offer. The park offers a plethora of diverse outdoor recreational activities including picnicking, surfing, observing wildlife, hiking and tide-pooling. These activities are easily doable year-round.

The park is known for Ecola Point and Indian Beach. Both have stunning viewpoints and opportunities for the perfect picnic any time of year.

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TOP The Clatsop Loop Trail leads to and from Indian Beach. **BOTTOM** Surfers sit at Indian Beach.

Photos by Malia Riggs