

Columbia River Maritime Museum

Open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Adults are \$14 ages 18 and older, seniors are \$12 ages 65 and older, children are \$5 ages 5-17, children under 6 and active military are free.



Photos by Jonathan Williams

CLOCKWISE: Boats at the museum. Diving gear. The music room in the Flavel House Museum.

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start.

Walking through the home can feel like entering the set of an Alfred Hitchcock film. You can see the ornate music room, formal parlor, dining room, kitchen and some of the family's bedrooms on the second floor.

With large, floor to ceiling windows, giant pocket doors and rooms so well-preserved with the furniture, paintings, musical instruments and photographs of the day, you would expect the Flavel's to walk into the house at any moment.

The stately home and highly manicured lawn are maintained by the Clatsop County Historical Society. It is open daily for tours. A short film inside the Carriage House is worth watching to learn about Flavel, a Columbia River bar pilot and an entrepreneur, his children's musical talents and the family's trips to San Francisco and how the house was built.

The house, a Victorian Queen Anne style home, was completed in 1886. The Carriage House next to it was finished in 1887. The exterior of the house features a wrap-around porch, decorative ornamental work above the windows and patterned shingles.

A three-story octagonal tower looms large over the house and allowed Flavel a view of boats in the Columbia River.

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Like the Flavel house, the Columbia River Maritime Museum holds many treasures.

Meshed in with the legacy of the U.S. Coast Guard on the North Coast and the perils of the Columbia River Bar is the story of Astoria's place in the Pacific Northwest.

The museum traces explorers' travels to the Northwest, Astoria's maritime history, immigrants, fur trading and John Jacob Astor's role in it, the Chinook Nation, mapping the Pacific Coast, nautical terms and equipment, whaling, canneries and gillnetting.

The museum, housed in a building shaped like a wave, is full of helpful wall text and artifacts, maps, models of boats (and large, real boats) interactive exhibits, a 3D movie theater and hurricane simulator.

Sounds of waves crashing and Coast Guard crews performing rescues on the Columbia River show the immediacy of life on the river.

Staff recommend allowing for two hours to visit the museum.



Evening activity: Find a hidden park

BY ALYSSA EVANS

One of Astoria's biggest draws among locals and visitors is the town's greenery, which can be found just about everywhere. Yet, if you aren't paying attention, you can easily miss that our town's beloved greenery can be frequently spotted in small, hidden parks throughout downtown.

If you're interested in finding one of these small parks, start by walking along Marine Drive, at the corner of 15th Street. There, you'll find a small park with a plaque for Tidal Rock, a rock with a carved line that was used as a high tide marker for mariners in the 1800s.

From there, walk up 15th Street. Once you're by Fort George, you can view a small garden on the back of the restaurant. There's also a small park up another block on 15th, which commemorates the U.S. Post Office.

Other less traversed parks are located off 14th Street, Marine Drive and by Gray School.