



Photos by M.J. Cody

LEFT: People pass Don Nisbett's art gallery on the boardwalk at Port of Ilwaco. **RIGHT:** A man hauls in Dungeness crab on the charter boat Coho King.

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Downtown Ilwaco is not the hub it once was, and that department store is no more, but after a long stretch of fishing industry decline and near abandonment, the port is reviving. Fishing boats and leisure craft crowd the marina again and exciting new ventures are taking root.

What to do

You can book a fishing charter to catch

bottom fish, salmon, tuna, sturgeon or Dungeness crab. There's something about that early morning eagerness to get out on the water that really gets you going ... or maybe it's that first blast of cold mist and fog.

Several charters, including Coho Charters and Beacon Charters, have affable, experienced skippers and deck hands that will supply all the fishing gear you'll need. Weather can change quickly, so dress in layers.

Along the waterfront, there are art galleries to peruse and a bookstore, Time Enough Books. You can also gear up for fishing at Englund Marine and check out the bustling Ilwaco Saturday Market the rest of September.

There's plenty to do just out of town, including visiting the marvelous Cape Disappointment State Park, North Head Lighthouse, sandy beaches or hiking or biking the 8.5 mile Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail from Ilwaco to Long Beach. Interpre-

tive signs and art installments commemorate Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Capt. William Clark's famous expedition along the trail, as well as two Maya Lin "Confluence Project" pieces at the lower park: a stunning granite fish cleaning slab on the river and the concrete path leading to Waikiki Beach.

The area's rich history might seem to start in the early 1800s with the arrival of Lewis and Clark. But the Chinook people

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Recreating on limited time in Ilwaco

BY M.J. CODY

If you only have a morning: Grab coffee and a breakfast sandwich or smoothie at ROOTS Juice, Java, and Salad Bar. Then, stroll along the waterfront to watch waterfowl, gulls and boating activity. Go fishing on Black Lake, a couple of miles out of town on U.S. Highway 101. Or go bird watching at Beards Hollow.

If you only have an afternoon: Order lunch to go from Salt Pub, Waterline Pub or ROOTS, then head out to North Head Lighthouse or Waikiki Beach. Or browse bookstores and art galleries at the Port of Ilwaco, then enjoy lunch harbor side.

If you only have an evening: Stroll the waterfront at sunset or dine at Salt or Waterline pubs and enjoy their outdoor fire pit. Watch the sun set over the ocean at Beards Hollow.

M.J. Cody

From left, employee Hannah Wirkkala and owner Melissa Cutting at ROOTS Juice, Java, and Salad Bar.

