

# After the table

## A guide to spending Thanksgiving weekend outdoors

BY ANDY CAMERON

Once the feasts are finished, dishes are clean and naps have been taken, families deal with the same question every Thanksgiving weekend.

“What should we do now?”

While some businesses may be closed, the great outdoors is always open. Here are a few different ways to spend a holiday weekend on the North Coast.

### Find feathered friends

Though many species have migrated to warmer climates, the North Coast currently harbors a myriad of resident and transient birds.

The community-driven online portal, eBird, managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, lists a real-time report of species currently found in the area.

Intrepid birders willing to brave the weather will find Dark-eyed Juncos, dun-

lins, surf scoters, Great Blue Herons and plovers. Ideal spots for viewing include Seaside Cove, the western terminus of the Astoria Riverwalk, Willapa Bay Wildlife Refuge and the Twilight Eagle Sanctuary east of Astoria.

### Take a hike

Inland hikes may be overtaken by snow, mud and raging creeks, but the North Coast offers numerous chances to hit the trail and experience nature in a secluded setting.

Hikers can easily find an excursion fitting of the day's goals, be they focused on exercise, relaxation or aimless explorations.

Local favorites include the Cullaby Lake Trail, the Coffenbury Lake Loop at Fort Stevens, the Fort to Sea Trail at Fort Clatsop and the Discovery Trail linking Cape Disappointment State Park and Long Beach. The latter features the added bonus of pit stops featuring public art.

### Spin up an appetite

In a long weekend best known for caloric consumption, a bike ride offers the

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Photos by Andy Cameron

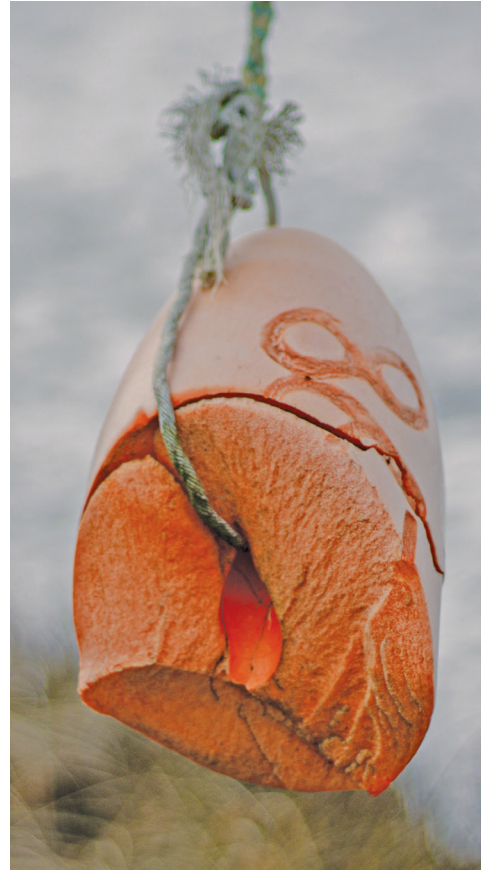
**A cormorant yawns while perched on a Columbia River piling.**



**A heron remains still as it waits for fish to swim by.**



**Hérons are quite skilled in catching fish. They stand motionless until a fish comes by and stick out their long neck to seize their prey.**



**Beachgoers are likely to find a variety of treasures along North Coast shores.**



**Fort Clatsop will be open every day, including Thanksgiving from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

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