

## Photographing a winter's day on the coast

By **LISSA BREWER**  
COAST WEEKEND EDITOR

The North Coast is a photographer's dream.

Its dramatic sea stacks, marine species, wind-sculpted forests and angles of light set an endless array of beautiful scenes to capture.

For me, packing to set off on a road trip along the coast means being sure I have all the photo gear I want to take with me. I recommend packing extra batteries, memory cards and chargers. For interchangeable

lens cameras, I also can't recommend a UV protection filter enough.

But just as the coast is known for its scenic vistas, it's also noted for its inclement winter weather, including high winds and heavy rain. Planning for the elements on a photo hike or afternoon beach walk here is essential, and weather patterns can change quickly throughout the day. As cameras, rain, wind and sand don't tend to get along well, it's a good idea to always have a secure camera bag with you, even on bright, sunny days.

The coast's high winds can bring about some exciting interactions of land and sea,

from waves crashing against the rocks to white caps against the ocean gusts, but watch for dangerous conditions. Pay attention to falling debris and rip tides. And be sure to look out for erosion control zones. As long as you stay safe, there are many neat sights to see, even in the wind and rain.

Don't forget to check the tides, too! Depending on the time of day, you may

be able to take a peek at some colorful sea anemones and starfish, as well as mollusks, seaweed, shells and other life in the sea. Try exploring at low tide for some beautiful images of the tide pools and their inhabitants. If Ecola State Park or Cape Disappointment is just too treacherous, try heading inland to explore Astoria, where photo opportunities await by the Astoria Column, on the Riverwalk and more.

# our coast weekend

ON THE COVER

A trail at Fort Clatsop.  
ANDY CAMERON



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