

Sunrise and sunset at the Astoria Column

Astoria's crowning monument features mesmerizing views

BY ALYSSA EVANS

Standing atop the Astoria Column, time stands still. The column creates a sense of peace even while the rest of the world keeps moving.

Eye catching views of the Columbia River, Youngs Bay and downtown Astoria are all visible from the column. The view is mesmerizing, both day and night.

This year, readers chose the Astoria Column as the winner of three Readers' Choice Awards: Best Place to Watch the Sunrise, Best Place to Watch the Sunset and Best Tourist Attraction. As a beloved spot for locals and visitors for nearly a century, it's no surprise to see the column is a favorite of Coast Weekend readers.

The Astoria Column's life dates back to

1898, when city leaders dreamed of building an electric tower, similar to the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Though these leaders had big dreams, the column didn't come to fruition until 1911 when Astoria celebrated its centennial. That year, the Astoria Centennial Committee installed an electric sign commemorating the centennial on Coxcomb Hill, where the column would later be built.

Fundraising for a tower began to kickstart with help from donors, including John Jacob Astor, for whom Astoria was named. Fourteen years passed with few changes and ultimately no tower. In 1925, Ralph Budd, president of the Great Northern Railway, brought forward a new idea.

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Sunset view of the Astoria column.

Lissa Brewer