

Tides Can Be the High Point of Your Weekend Trip to the Beach

By Robert B. Frazier
of the Register-Guard

Next time you plan a trip to the beach, look at a tide table before you go. With consideration of the tides, you can enrich a whole trip and turn an ordinary beach weekend into an extraordinary adventure. The tide makes the difference.

The rise and fall of the tide, which ordinarily occurs twice a day, can change a strip of sand into a raging fury, or it can provide a lovely picnic spot around a rock which is submerged and beaten by waves only a few hours earlier.

There are two kinds of tides: high and low. Usually they come together, a day after a new or full moon. These days the Oregon Coast experiences its full 11-foot variation between the highest high and lowest low. At other times, the variation will be less, with the highs not so high and the lows not so low.

TIDE VARIATION

This 11-foot variation along the Oregon Coast contrasts with high tides, sometimes measuring 60 feet, which occur in Bay of Fundy off Nova Scotia, and with the almost non-existent variations in the Pacific. In Hawaii it is not unusual for there to be no more than a tenth of a foot difference in the highest high and the lowest low.

Then, as the full or new moon approaches, the tides get higher and lower, reaching their extreme point a few days after the moon is new or full.

When the tide is at its extreme, it is the true tide. Then he can go to the tide pools and look for sea animals stranded by

the receding of the protective sea. It is not unusual to see a seal or an octopus in regions where people are not too numerous.

CRUEL HOURS

Unfortunately low tides in Oregon come at uncharitable hours of the morning—at times like 4 a.m. An unfortunate combination of geography and astronomy makes this so. The west coast of South America, at similar latitude, is so much farther east than the Oregon coast that South American beachcombers are not similarly handicapped. The Chilean, putting out from Puerto Refugio, at a latitude similar to that of Astoria, will find excellent low tides at about noon.

You don't have to be a scientist to enjoy poking around the tide pools. But it helps if you know something about what you're doing. Read a book first. For a starter try "Between Pacific Tides" by Edward F. Ricketts and Jack Calvin. (Ricketts was "Doc" in John Steinbeck's "Cannery Row," and Steinbeck wrote the introduction to this volume.)

And don't depend upon your tide table too much. For practical purposes it can be wrong. If a storm or underwater disturbance churns up the Pacific, the low tide may fail to materialize. Low tides predicted in winter are less certain than those predicted in summer.

But if the storm or underwater disturbance accompanies a high tide, then you have a sight. Chances of this are better in winter than in summer.

AUGUST POOR MONTH

The same combination of astronomy and geography which puts our low tides early in the morning, often puts our high tides late at night—usually between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. But since high tides often accompany a full moon it is possible, even recommended, to find yourself a nice dry rock or log and watch the



THE DIFFERENCE IN THESE two pictures is tide. The one at the right was taken on a sunny afternoon when high tide combined with a high wind to roll the big waves over the beach across the river from Yachats. The one at the left was taken from the same spot at low tide, and shows rocks and sand where angry water was a few hours earlier. Cape Perpetua is in the distance with a rim of fog around the lower caverns which offer high adventure to tide lovers who don't mind getting up in the morning.



moon on the waves which pound on rocks you may have been sitting on a few hours earlier.

Next winter, oddly enough, the pattern will change and in November and December the highest tides of the year will come at about noon. The tide will measure 8.1 feet at 11:43 a.m. on Dec. 10. And it will be 7.9 feet at 12:02 p.m. on Nov. 11. Lowest tides of the year are past—they were June 1 and 2, and measured a minus 2.1 feet.

August is a poor month for tides this year. Highest of the month will be a mere 6.7 feet at 10:44 p.m. Aug. 12, 11:30 p.m. Aug. 13 and 12:15 a.m. Aug. 15. The month's lows will be measured at minus 0.7 feet at 5:55

a.m. the 13th and 6:33 a.m. the 14th. These times apply at the mouth of the Alsea River at Waldport.

(Zero, the point from which all tides are measured is the midpoint between the lowest low and the highest low ever recorded at a certain spot.)

You will note that the high and low tides are a few minutes later each day. That is because a sun-day, by which we reckon time, is 50 minutes shorter than a lunar or moon-day, by which the tides operate.

IN 10 BILLION YEARS

This has not always been so, nor will it always be so. When the earth was newer and the moon only recently blown from

the great earth scar that holds the Pacific, the day was only a few hours long. High tide came every two hours, followed by a low tide an hour later. That was millions of years ago.

Now the friction of the tides has slowed the rotation of the earth, making a "day" of the length we know now. The days are now a few seconds longer than they were in ancient times, and are growing slowly and steadily longer.

Someday, as the tides slow the earth still more and as the moon is pushed still farther from the earth, the day and the lunar month will be the same length—probably equal to about 47 of our present days.

Then the tide will cease to be and the ocean will be calm save for the wind waves and the currents. Scientists estimate this will happen about 10 billion years from now.

So you'd better get that tide table and plan your trip while time remains.

White Collar

MELBOURNE —The Council of White Collar Associations was formed to represent 10 professional and clerical workers groups here, with a membership of about 54,000. It is headed by E. J. Gillespie, president of the Australian Insurance Staffs Federation.

No Waiting List At TB Hospital

PORTLAND — There no longer is a waiting list at the University State Tuberculosis Hospital here — the first time since the hospital opened in 1939 it was able to take patients on application.

This encouraging word from the biennial report to the State Board of Control points out that there are two reasons chiefly: Opening of a 65-bed wing at the Salem tuberculosis hospital, and requirements for less time in hospitals under changes in treatment the past few years.

Dr. James T. Speros, assistant administrator and director of the outpatient clinic, said Friday. Improved case finding methods, plus confidence in being able to gain admittance, may lead to more applications, he said.

Medicines leading to shorter hospital stays are the antibiotics, which the report says are "particularly streptomycin and viomycin, used in combination with paraaminosalicylic acid and isoniazid, the compound derived from nicotinic acid and hailed as the 'TB wonder drug' when first used about three years ago."

A waiting list may re-appear.

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