quartz,

other mineral

terns, where-

or semitrans-

uneven bands.

parent

Agate is also harder and

impurities.

### AGATES from page 1A

searching Facebook for rockhounding within "Groups." There, people will find many opportunities to join tering to the communities who do regular meetups.

So what do people do with themselves their bounty? Rock tumblers as the rocks can be inexpensive, and flow from the with a bit of polishing, people can have the materials to to the ocean. make jewelry and various Here is a list crafts. Other people display their local rocks with other to check out objects found at the beach.

### Top places to go rockhounding locally

If people are ready to get down to Heceout there and hunting for their own semi-precious

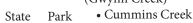
best places to look are along the mouths of creeks enocean, or within the creeks mountains of ideal spots from the north end of the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area ta Head: • Neptune

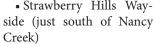
stones.

the

activity to undertake all year at places like Bob Creek State Wayside.

(Gwynn Creek)





- side (Bob Creek)
- Stonefield Beach State Park (Tenmile Creek)
- Muriel O. Ponsler Memorial State Park (Big Creek)
- Carl G. Washburne Memorial State Park (China Creek)

### Rocks people may find

The most common rocks people will find in the area are various types of agates and jaspers, both of which are originated from chalcedony, which is a cryptocrystalline quartz mineral. Both types of rock are formed in igneous (volcanic) rock cavities.

Generally, most agates and jaspers took shape when gases were trapped in lava flows, and as the lava subsequently cooled and hardened, the empty fissures filled up with ground-

• Strawberry Hills Way-

less porous than jasper, and beach agates will be small-• Bob Creek State Wayer in size than those found they are wet and shiny. further inland.

> can be white, gray, orange, brown, pink, green, purple, black or yellow, while blue and green agates are rare to

> > Jaspers contain iron oxides, hydroxides and other impurities which cause them to be found with unique, multicolor combinations and patterns, and they are usually mottled, spotted, ringed or striped. Colors include brown, yelwith blue jaspers rarer to

Perpetua area, people can find moss, sagenitic and carnelian agates, as well as bloodstone jaspers.

## Best tips for a rockhounding trip

water heavy in silica, or to go rockhounding because iquette.

and the beaches are less crowded so they will be less pickedover. There are also more You can tell storms in winter, and just which type of after a storm as tides are chalcedony moving from high to low is

it is based on the best time for beach rockthe presence hounding. of various in-Exposed gravel beds and clusions in the areas where there are basalt rock; jasper is flows are close by, such as the rocky beaches at Bob often darker Creek or the streams in Chiand opaque with spotted

na Creek, are the best locaor striped pattions to search for rocks. When searching for agates as agates are specifically, people should translucent position themselves between the rocks and the sun, with the sun behind them. If the rocks are dry, spray them with a water bottle, as semi-precious stones will be easier to distinguish when

Always remember to stay Agates range in color, and safe on the beach, especially if people go out alone, and watch the tides. People should never turn their back on the ocean and watch out for sneaker waves.

To learn more about rockhounding, pick up a comprehensive book called "Rockhounding Oregon: A Guide to the State's Best Rockhounding Sites" by Lars W. Johnson. People can also visit oregondiscov low, red and green, again ery.com/beachcombing or rockseeker.com/category/ state/oregon/ for more in-Specifically in the Cape formation about local rockhounding.

Download the USDA's Rockhounding Guide at www.fs.usda.gov/sites/de fault/files/fs\_media/fs\_doc ument/rhbrochureFS1091. pdf for rules and regulations Winter is the ideal time regarding rockhounding et-



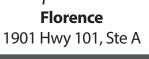
Scouring rocky beaches for unusual stones, shells and driftwood is a calming

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