

Before you enjoy the beach, please review these safety precautions.



## Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor



### Oregon Coast Trail



Large, unexpected waves are common. Stay dry and safe by keeping well above the waves.



Logs and driftwood are slippery and unstable, especially near the waves. Enjoy the sandy beach instead!

Cliffs are not stable places to walk. Enjoy the view from behind guardrails and fences.



Tides can roll in rapidly! Offshore rocks are not safe places to explore.



Strong ocean currents and cold water are dangerous. Swim only in designated areas.



As you explore the beach, be aware that cliff edges are sometimes unstable.

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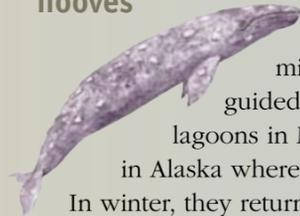


## A world class route with historic roots

The Oregon Coast Trail is a hiking trail that stretches the entire 362-mile length of Oregon's coast. Begun as a special project by some very forward-thinking people, the trail protects and preserves public access through some of the most unique and scenic landscape in the world.

As you enjoy your experience on the trail, imagine the future generations that will walk here, and consider the multitudes who have gone before.

### Fins, wings and hooves



Wildlife have used the coastal route for millions of years. For millennia, gray whales have guided their young from calving lagoons in Mexico to the Bering Sea in Alaska where they will feed and grow. In winter, they return to the warm water to mate and give birth.

The coastal route is also part of the Pacific flyway. Every year, millions of birds use this migratory route to travel from their summer breeding grounds in the Arctic to the warmer wintering grounds in the south. In spring and fall, countless shorebirds and seabirds can be seen making the journey. Hundreds of thousands remain to nest on the rocky cliffs and islands along the coast.



The first human feet on the trail were most likely the ancestors of southwest Oregon's Native Americans. For at least 8,000 years, they enjoyed the plentiful resources of the coastal environment. From their small villages, they followed ancient deer or elk trails along the coastal headlands, prairies and forests to visit and trade with other villages.

### The world gets a little smaller ...

In the 1500s, Spanish explorers began sailing up the Pacific Coast, looking for treasure and the fabled Northwest Passage. Cape Ferrello is named for an explorer who arrived in 1542, although he probably never landed on the rocky, dangerous shore.



### ... the footsteps grow louder

The first non-Indian to explore the coast trail on foot was Jedediah Strong Smith. In 1828 he led a party of mountain men who explored the area for fur trapping opportunities. Smith's detailed journal accounts describe many sections of the trail and camping places that are still popular today.



### ... and some go sadly

The coast trail was a sad trip during the traumatic removal of Native Americans from their ancestral homelands. Many were forced at gunpoint to march up the coast trail to distant reservations.



The map on the right is possibly the earliest map of the Pacific Northwest Coast, made in 1593 by a Dutchman, Cornelius de Jode. It combines known geography with speculative fantasy.



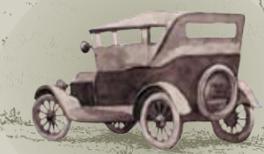
The map behind, drawn in 1860 by J. W. Lowry, reflects more accurate geography.

Source: "Historical Atlas of the Pacific Northwest" by Derek Hayes

Ayer Collection, Newberry Library, Chicago



By the 1830s, the overland trail was established along the coast from California to Oregon Territory. Indians helped ferry people across rivers in return for trade items. At first, mostly men in search of gold came, but eventually people came to stay, settling on small farms or ranches.



Throughout the 1920s, travel up the coastal route was slow and difficult, mostly by horse and wagon. The new Roosevelt Highway, completed in 1927 between Brookings and the Pistol River, allowed easier travel in the newly-popular automobile. The highway and the Model T opened up the coastline to visitors and to tourism.

present day Oregon Coast



# Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor

## Oregon Coast Trail

### Lone Ranch

Parking and picnic areas overlook a lovely sandy beach with offshore rocks, sea stacks, and tide pools.

### Cape Ferrelo

From Lone Ranch, climb the grassy slope to the top of Cape Ferrelo for a breathtaking view of the jagged coastline. Or, park at the small parking area and take the trail to the viewpoint, excellent for whale watching in fall and spring.

### House Rock Viewpoint

The section from Cape Ferrelo to House Rock takes you through some beautiful stands of old growth Sitka spruce. At House Rock, there is a memorial to the founder of the park, Samuel H. Boardman. North from here, the trail drops steeply down to the beach, with wonderful views on the way.

### Whaleshead Beach

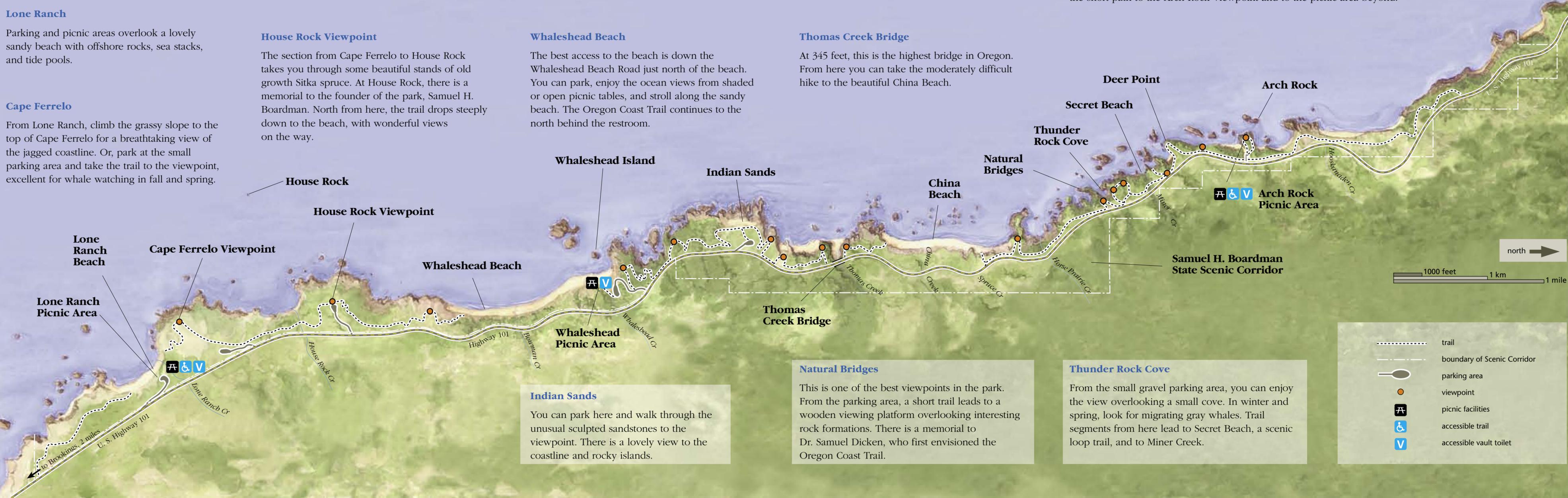
The best access to the beach is down the Whaleshead Beach Road just north of the beach. You can park, enjoy the ocean views from shaded or open picnic tables, and stroll along the sandy beach. The Oregon Coast Trail continues to the north behind the restroom.

### Thomas Creek Bridge

At 345 feet, this is the highest bridge in Oregon. From here you can take the moderately difficult hike to the beautiful China Beach.

### Arch Rock

Park in the gravel lot and enjoy the view of the rugged coastline and small sandy beach below. In the spring, wildflowers brighten the meadows. Take the short path to the Arch Rock Viewpoint and to the picnic area beyond.



**Lone Ranch Beach**  
**Lone Ranch Picnic Area**  
**Cape Ferrelo Viewpoint**

**House Rock**  
**House Rock Viewpoint**  
**Whaleshead Beach**

**Whaleshead Island**  
**Indian Sands**  
**Whaleshead Picnic Area**  
**Thomas Creek Bridge**

**China Beach**  
**Natural Bridges**  
**Thunder Rock Cove**

**Deer Point**  
**Secret Beach**  
**Arch Rock**  
**Arch Rock Picnic Area**  
**Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor**

**Indian Sands**  
 You can park here and walk through the unusual sculpted sandstones to the viewpoint. There is a lovely view to the coastline and rocky islands.

**Natural Bridges**  
 This is one of the best viewpoints in the park. From the parking area, a short trail leads to a wooden viewing platform overlooking interesting rock formations. There is a memorial to Dr. Samuel Dicken, who first envisioned the Oregon Coast Trail.

**Thunder Rock Cove**  
 From the small gravel parking area, you can enjoy the view overlooking a small cove. In winter and spring, look for migrating gray whales. Trail segments from here lead to Secret Beach, a scenic loop trail, and to Miner Creek.

- trail
- boundary of Scenic Corridor
- parking area
- viewpoint
- picnic facilities
- accessible trail
- accessible vault toilet

1000 feet 1 km 1 mile

north →