



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Ecola

STATE PARK



Ecola State Park

West of US 101, 2 miles N of Cannon Beach
84318 Ecola Park Rd, Cannon Beach, OR 97110
503-368-5154 (Nehalem Bay State Park)



Latitude: 45.923055 N
Longitude: -123.96777 W

Pack it in, pack it out. Please don't litter.

Wrapping around Tillamook Head between Seaside and Cannon Beach, Ecola State Park is a hiking and sightseeing mecca with a storied past.

Trails for Explorers

Ecola's trails are situated above nine miles of Pacific Ocean shoreline. They offer cliffside viewpoints that look out on picture-postcard seascapes, cozy coves, densely forested promontories, and even a long-abandoned offshore lighthouse. The trail network includes an 8-mile segment of the Oregon Coast Trail (OCT)—the park's backbone—and a 2½-mile historical interpretive route called the Clatsop Loop Trail.



The OCT route over Tillamook Head is also designated as part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Hiking options vary from extended roundtrip adventures to shorter hikes originating from Ecola Point, Indian Beach, and the small parking wayside on the north side of the Head in Seaside. From Ecola Point, visitors can follow the OCT 1½ miles to Indian Beach or descend a steeper, more difficult 1¼-mile trail to Crescent Beach.

On the Clatsop Loop Trail, you can trace a route used by a Corps of Discovery contingent led by Captain William Clark. The party, which included Sacajawea, was looking for a beached whale that they had learned of from area Indians. The explorers found the whale near a Native American village after descending to "a beautiful sand shore" and crossing a stream, which Clark later named Ecola Creek, using the Chinook Indian word for whale (*ekoli*).

The Clatsop Loop Trail follows what is now a road ascending from the Indian Creek trailhead to a hikers' camp. It then leads back to its starting point along a segment of the OCT. Maps are available at the Indian Beach trailhead.

Camping for Hikers

The Hikers' Camp provides an overnight stop for those who are hiking the Oregon Coast Trail. The camping area is primitive in nature, but it does have three small, Adirondack-style shelters. Each of these rustic structures sleeps four on bunk bed-style wooden platforms. They encircle a large fire ring and a central picnic shelter. A vault toilet is nearby, but the camp has no water. Please remember that there is no overnight parking within Ecola State Park.

Play it safe on the beach! Stay off logs, know the tide schedule, and don't turn your back on the ocean.

Year-Round Picnicking

Picnic areas with tables are located near viewpoints at the Ecola Point and Indian Beach parking areas. A covered picnic shelter at Ecola Point is reservable for group use through Reservations Northwest (1-800-452-5687). Ecola Point is 1½ miles above the park's vehicle entrance near Cannon Beach.

Beach Discoveries

Two spacious, sandy beaches—Crescent Beach and Indian Beach—provide opportunities to explore the wonders of Ecola State Park. Both are especially notable for their tide pools.

Play it Safe

Enjoy the beaches, but for your own safety, read and comply with the safety rules posted at all state park beach access points. Be alert to the dangers posed by unexpected waves, and be aware of the tide when exploring caves, offshore rocks, and cliffsides.

Please stay on the trail. Do not take shortcuts. Cutting across switchbacks is not only unsafe, but also causes erosion and damages plant life. Exercise caution on the trail, and take care not to overexert yourself. This is a remote area.

Cliff edges may be unstable. Please stay behind fences and railings to avoid getting too close to the edge. Keep children safely at your side and pets leashed (with a maximum 6-foot lead).

Driving and Parking at Ecola

Please be aware that parking is limited during the busy summer season (June-Sept.), and long lines can form at the park. The road is narrow and there are no places to turn around. The curves and dips in the road also make it unsuitable for RVs and trailers, and these vehicles are not recommended.

Day-use parking permits are required year-round in Ecola State Park. You'll need to display either a daily permit, a 12- or 24-month permit, an Oregon Coast Passport, or a state park camping receipt. Your camping receipt is equal to a daily permit for each of the days that you are registered at any state park campground. You can purchase a daily permit at the day-use fee station near the entrance to the park. 12- and 24-month permits can be purchased at the day-use fee station or at the camp host site when the fee station is closed. Permits can also be purchased at all major state park offices.

Park Information:

1-800-551-6949

www.oregonstateparks.org

63400-8088 (2/13)

Links with History

Ecola State Park is a part of the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park, which includes federal and state parks associated with the history of the Corps of Discovery expedition in both Oregon and Washington.



