

# Cape Arago Beach Loop

*The Cape Arago Beach Loop explores Charleston Marine Life Center, three state parks, the largest haul-out of seals and sea lions on the Oregon Coast and breathtaking vantage points. The drive itself does not take long, but save some time to soak in the natural beauty.*



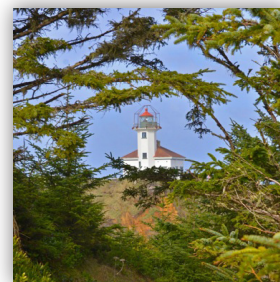
Located on the edge of the harbor in Charleston, the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology's **Charleston Marine Life Center** is an exciting place for discovery. Aquaria highlighting different coastal ecosystems, a tidepool touch tank, whale and sea lion skeletons, underwater video from deep reefs and undersea volcanoes, and a variety of specimens reveal the hidden and remarkable diversity of life off Oregon, from the coast to the deep sea. Open Wednesday through Saturday 11am-5pm. [www.charlestonmarinelifecenter.com](http://www.charlestonmarinelifecenter.com)

**Bastendorff Beach** is a favorite among surfers, kilters, beachcombers, locals and tourists alike. You'll find uninterrupted beach and ocean views can be enjoyed here. Bastendorff Beach is defined by Yoakam Head and the south jetty at the entrance of the bay. Located ¼ mile off the Cape Arago Highway. Never crowded and always beautiful, Bastendorff Beach is a must see for beach enthusiasts.



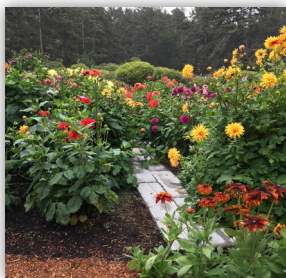
**Sunset Bay State Park** features beautiful sandy beaches protected by towering sea cliffs. A favorite among locals and tourists, Sunset Bay State Park is protected by towering sea cliffs and features beautiful sandy beaches, amazing tide pools, picnic facilities, restrooms, and campgrounds. Beach goers will find easy access for beach combing, bird watching swimming, and boating.

**Cape Arago Lighthouse Viewpoint** provides a great vantage point as there is no public access to the Lighthouse. The original structures were built on this site in 1866 and 1908 but were damaged by the weather and waves. The current tower was first illuminated in 1934 with a unique fog horn.



**Shore Acres State Park** is the ideal location for a stroll along the rugged cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean. And the hidden treasure of the park's botanical gardens all abloom with roses, rhododendrons and a bounty of other beautiful flowers, plants and trees. If your travels bring us here around the holidays, the gardens become a winter wonderland from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve, complete with 325,000 lights, lighted sculptures and animated features.

**Simpson Reef** is situated directly below Shore Acres. A winding path takes you to this secluded ocean cove. You'll find crashing waves, migrating whales, and views of hundreds of seals and sea lions and other wildlife. Please do not bother the seal pups you may find on the beach. They are not lost, only waiting for mom to return.



Part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, **Shell Island** and the surrounding reefs provide breeding and rest areas for sea birds and Marine mammals. Gray whales, Northern Elephant Seals, Harbor Seals, Sea Lions, Stellar Sea Lions, Black Oystercatchers, Great Blue Herons and Pelagic Cormorants can all be viewed at the **Shell Island Interpretive Stop**. There is no public access to the island itself, but viewing points can also be found here and at Shore Acres State Park.

Located at the end of Cape Arago Highway, you'll find **Cape Arago State Park**. Tucked away below the cliffs, a short walk along the steep trails will take you to a secluded cove where tidepools and fossils can be found on Cape Arago Beach. Visitors can also enjoy whale watching, fishing, and scuba diving. Two trails can be found here for excellent hiking opportunities; the south trails leads to tidepools full of a variety of sea life, and the north trail lets visitors view offshore colonies of seals and sea lions. The north trails is closed from March - June to protect the seal pups during birthing season. Picnic and restrooms and available.



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*Save lots of time in your travels for some of our local fare. From Cranberry treats, to tuna, oysters, clams, and of course Dungeness Crab. Here are some of our favorite stops. And don't worry if you're traveling, they'll pack your goods in ice, if needed.*



**Cranberry Sweets**  
1005 Newmark Ave  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
(800) 527-5748  
[www.CranberrySweets.com](http://www.CranberrySweets.com)  
Candies & Gifts

Cranberry Sweets has developed literally hundreds of unique fruit candies and chocolates, relying on time-honored recipes and traditional candy making methods. All candies are made by hand, using only the finest natural ingredients. Free samples of products are always in good supply.



**Chuck's Seafood**  
91135 Boat Basin Drive  
Charleston, OR 97420  
(541) 888-5525  
Seafood Market

**Cap'n Jack's Crab Shack**  
91122 Cape Arago Hwy  
Charleston, OR 97420  
(541) 888-3433  
Seafood Market & Restaurant

## Driving Directions

From Hwy 101, head west on Newmark Avenue (just south of The Mill Casino). Follow the road until you reach the big curve to the left onto Cape Arago Hwy. Follow this road to Charleston. Turn right on Boat Basin Road to head for the docks, or continue straight to follow the Cape Arago Beach Loop. This road will eventually loop back around. Enjoy the views and pull over often!

**Visit [www.OregonsAdventureCoast.com](http://www.OregonsAdventureCoast.com) for a complete list of lodging properties!**

