

## Golden and Silver Falls

Golden and Silver Falls State Natural Area is picnic-perfect any time of the year. Set in an old-growth forest of Douglas fir, Big Leaf Maple and Oregon Myrtle trees, facilities include picnic tables, fire rings and a restroom. Bring your own drinking water.

This park is a favorite for fishing, hiking, enjoying nature and solitude, and photography.

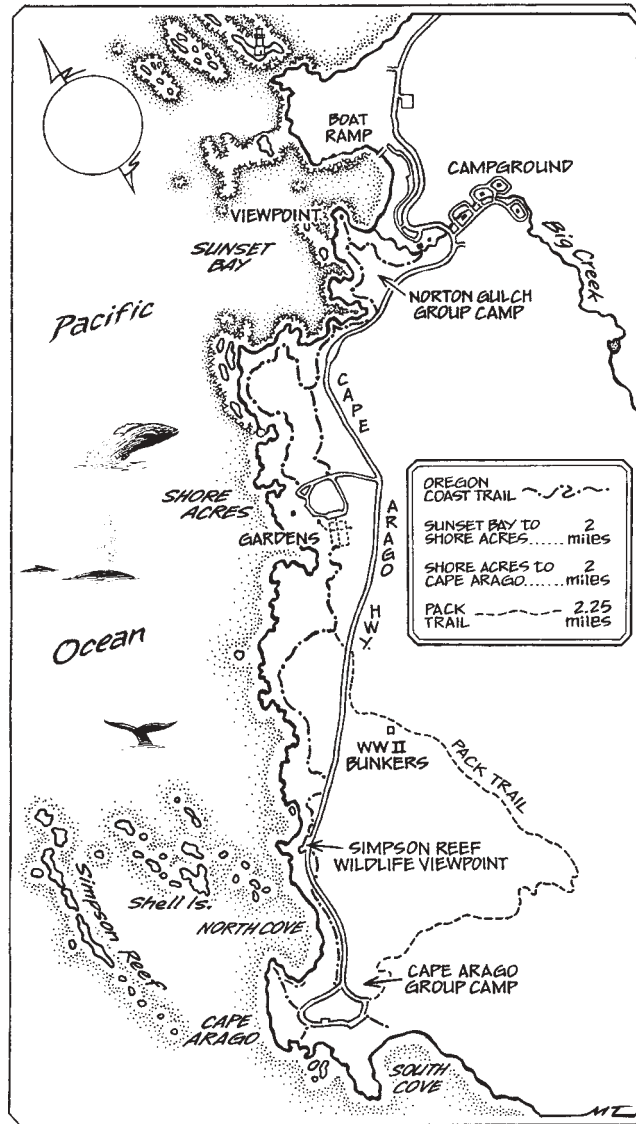


**Hiking:** It's a short hike to the bottom of either spectacular 100-foot-plus falls, or you can hike 1.4 miles through the old-growth fir forest to the top of Golden Falls.

**Getting there:** 24 miles northeast of Coos Bay, U.S. Highway 101 then east on Coos River Road. Follow signs through Allegany. Last three miles to the park are on a gravel road.



Illustration by  
Merrie Holbert



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Nature  
HISTORY  
Discovery

## Sunset Bay

Special places and secrets



## You're surrounded by natural treasures.

Some you can't miss, like the scenery enclosing Sunset Bay and the colorful gardens in nearby Shore Acres State Park. Others, although not exactly hidden, can escape notice, unless you know where to look.

## See how time has left its marks.

Watch for evidence of the powerful forces that have shaped the headlands. Uplifted sandstone beds — displaced by pressure resulting from the movement of offshore tectonic plates — are seen in the horizontal strata (the lines in the rock). Study the linear rock formations near the boat ramp at the north side of Sunset Bay and you'll see examples of sediment deposited horizontally, then thrust upwards dramatically during a massive earthquake.

## Ancient Forests

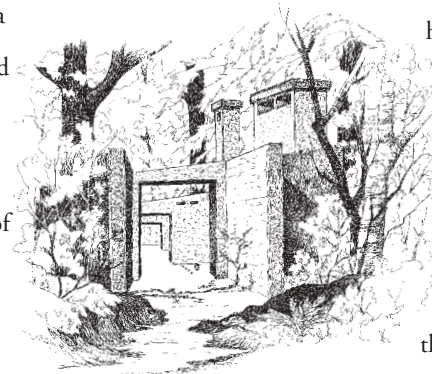
At low tide, the roots of spruce trees become visible in the sandy bottom of Sunset Bay. 1200-year-old remnants of ancient coastal forests, they are evidence of the dynamic and sometimes cataclysmic events that shaped Oregon's coastline. These majestic sentinels that stood against raging windstorms fell victim to the gradually rising sea, as well as the sudden upheaval of the land during a major earthquake.

## Oregon Coast Trail

Explore the 4-mile trail from Sunset Bay to Cape Arago. For a shorter hike (1/2 mile), follow the signs from the mouth of Big Creek to the viewpoint overlooking Sunset Bay.

## Pack Trail

Hike the trail which begins 1/4 mile south of Shore Acres and you'll discover a WWII radar observation post hidden on the hillside 1/3 mile south of the trailhead. The old cement structures formed a link in a chain of lookout posts built to guard the coast against enemy invasion. The trail follows a steep route through the forest along a portion of an old wagon road that led from Shore Acres south to Seven Devils, Whiskey Run Beach and Bandon.



## Watch the wildlife

From the Simpson Reef wildlife viewing area you can see four species of pinnipeds (fin-footed marine mammals) on Shell Island and the offshore rocks. Harbor Seals, California Sea Lions, Stellar Sea Lions and a small population of Elephant Seals use this area as a haul-out, or resting place.

Oregon's offshore rocks are part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.



## Rocky Intertidal Area

Cape Arago and Sunset Bay are home to plants and animals that endure hurricane-force wind and wave action, cycles of drying and flooding, and predators while competing for food and space on the rocks. Use your observation skills to enjoy the strange variety of creatures living in this harsh environment. Tidepools

host thousands of visitors each year. Watch where you step, and if you turn over rocks, return them to their original positions. Removing marine invertebrates such as seastars, limpets, urchins and hermit crabs is prohibited. For more information, contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at

503-872-5268 or online at [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us).