Craggy cliffs, secluded beaches, and offshore rock formations await visitors along the 12 ocean-bugging miles of Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor, located between Brookings and Gold Beach along Highway 101.

Climb on for a picnic and watch waves crash from easily-accessible viewpoints, or take one of the corridor’s many hikes, ranging from an easy ¼ mile to all 10 miles. Bring your binoculars, as the park lies in the Pacific Flyway, a bird migration route linking summer breeding grounds and wintering grounds. Likewise, the park’s many viewpoints are perfect for spotting gray whales migrating between Mexico and Alaska each winter and spring.

Boardman’s beaches, bluffs and trails make up one of the most secluded and picturesque sections of the Oregon coast. Trail blazes the entire 362-mile coastline, from the California border to the mouth of the Columbia River. Stepping into history
Today’s Oregon Coast Trail was completed in sections during the 1970s and 1980s, but Native Americans carved the first trail thousands of years ago to hunt and trade. Explorers, gold seekers and settlers all traversed parts of the same worn paths—over packed sand along the shoreline, through streams, by firey tangles, and on muddy, narrow and perilously steep roads through thick forest. It wasn’t until 1937, when the new Roosevelt Highway was completed, that motorists could easily access the remote south coast.

As you experience Sam Boardman’s trails, consider the multitudes who have gone before us, including on sandstone, cliffs, or park structures. See reverse for details.

For more information:
Harris Beach Management Unit
865 Highway 101 N.
Brookings, OR 97415
541-469-0224
State Park Information Line: 800-551-6949
1655 Highway 101 N.
Brookings, OR 97415
541-469-0224
Printed on Recycled Paper
All information or fees subject to change without notice.

State Scenic Corridor
Samuel H. Boardman
Trails and Viewpoints
along Highway 101.
Brookings and Gold Beach Scenic Corridor, located between
362-mile coastline, from the California border to the
To the best viewpoints in the park—the seven iconic arched rocks and blowholes known as Natural Bridges. Here you’ll find a memorial to Dr. Samuel Dicken, who first envisioned the Oregon Coast Trail.

Indian Sands to China Beach: For a full day hike (7 miles round trip), park at the Indian Sands parking lot and take the old cat trail at the south end of the lot. At the bottom of a steep, steep hill, take the Oregon Coast Trail north to Indian Sands, and admire the rolling dunes perched high above the ocean. The sand comes not from the ocean, but from sandstone in the rock strata. Because of the blowing sand, the trail seems to disappear here. Keep heading north to reconnect with the trail. Follow this trail as it hugs the steep bluffside north to Thomas Creek Canyon, which plunges some 350 feet and is spanned by the highest highway bridge in Oregon. Cross the bridge and park up the Oregon Coast Trail on the north side behind the guardrail, or continue on to North Island parking. From here, take the moderately difficult trail through Sitka spruce with peek-a-boo ocean views on your way to China Beach.

Natural Bridges: Follow a short trail to one of the best viewpoints in the park—the seven iconic arched rocks and blowholes known as Natural Bridges. Here you’ll find a memorial to Dr. Samuel Dicken, who first envisioned the Oregon Coast Trail.

Hike the trail
See reverse for details.
1 Cape Ferrelo loop: A 3-mile loop trail climbs the grassy slope (carpeted with wildflowers each spring) to the top of the cape for breathtaking views of the rugged coastline and photo-worthy Oregon sunsets. The cape is also an excellent spot for whale watching in fall and spring.
2 Cape Ferrelo to House Rock: For those looking for a longer hike, park at Cape Ferrelo Viewpoint, named for a Spanish explorer who is believed to have passed by in 1542. Head north four miles along the bluffs through beautiful stands of old growth spruce and red alder to House Rock Viewpoint, where a memorial commemorates Samuel H. Boardman, the first Oregon Parks superintendent. Many trails lead to secluded beaches.
3 Whalehead Beach: Access this iconic beach from one of the many viewpoints along the Oregon Coast Trail. A 1-mile loop trail climbs the grassy slope (carpeted with wildflowers each spring) to the top of the cape for breathtaking views of the rugged coastline and photo-worthy Oregon sunsets. The cape is also an excellent spot for whale watching in fall and spring.
4 Indian Sands to China Beach: For a full day hike (7 miles round trip), park at the Indian Sands parking lot and take the old cat trail at the south end of the lot. At the bottom of a steep, steep hill, take the Oregon Coast Trail north to Indian Sands, and admire the rolling dunes perched high above the ocean. The sand comes not from the ocean, but from sandstone in the rock strata. Because of the blowing sand, the trail seems to disappear here. Keep heading north to reconnect with the trail. Follow this trail as it hugs the steep bluffside north to Thomas Creek Canyon, which plunges some 350 feet and is spanned by the highest highway bridge in Oregon. Cross the bridge and park up the Oregon Coast Trail on the north side behind the guardrail, or continue on to North Island parking. From here, take the moderately difficult trail through Sitka spruce with peek-a-boo ocean views on your way to China Beach.
5 Natural Bridges: Follow a short trail to one of the best viewpoints in the park—the seven iconic arched rocks and blowholes known as Natural Bridges. Here you’ll find a memorial to Dr. Samuel Dicken, who first envisioned the Oregon Coast Trail.
**Secret Beach and Thunder Rock Cove:**
From the small gravel parking area, enjoy the views of the cove while you look for migrating gray whales in the winter and spring. Follow a rough 3/4-mile trail down to Secret Beach. At low tide, head south around the rocks to find a secluded beach with lots of pools for exploring. For your safety, please watch the tides while you explore.

At low tide, head south around the rocks to find a secluded beach with lots of pools for exploring. For your safety, please watch the tides while you explore.

**Arch Rock:**
From the paved parking lot, stroll down a short paved path to an overlook featuring a series of offshore sea stacks and islands. In spring, wildflowers brighten the meadows.

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**Arch Rock**
was a significant landmark for the Tolowa tribe. According to legend, Coyote—a frequent character who teaches ingenuity and explains the inexplicable—was left to starve on Arch Rock after playing a prank on the other animals and people. Undeterred, he cleverly made his way back to land by gathering a basket of mussels and throwing them into the water. Each mussel magically grew into a small island, allowing Coyote to use them as stepping stones to shore.

—Courtesy of Curry Historical Society