More than eight miles of hiking and walking trails wind through a lush old growth forest at Cape Lookout State Park. Enjoy views of the ocean and shore peeking through Sitka spruce and hemlocks as you hike 2.4 miles along the Cape Trail to the viewpoint at the cape’s tip. On a clear day, you can see south 39 miles to Cape Foulweather and north 42 miles to Tillamook Head. The trail is mostly flat, but muddy and rocky in places.

Looking for more? Two segments of the Oregon Coast Trail— the North Trail and the South Trail—offer additional hiking through the forest above the ocean. Or, explore miles of ocean beaches along the Netarts Spit, north of the campground.

For a short, family-friendly stroll, try the park’s Nature Trail, which begins near the registration booth.

Hike the Cape Trail to reach an excellent viewpoint for whale watching. Volunteers help visitors spot whales here during designated whale watching weeks in December and March. Visit whalespoken.org for information.

POINTS OF INTEREST
Cape Lookout Viewpoint

LOOKING NORTH
- Tillamook Head - 42 Miles
- Cape Falcon - 30 Miles
- Cape Meares - 10 Miles
- Three Arch Rocks - 9 Miles

LOOKING SOUTH
- Cape Kiwanda - 8 Miles
- Haystack Rock - 9 Miles
- Cascade Head - 20 Miles
- Cape Foulweather - 39 Miles
Black Twin Berry
This plant has been known by many different names including bearberry, crowberry and inkberry. Black Twin Berry is a type of Honeysuckle that grows well in moist forests along creeks and the edges of dunes. The berry is very bitter and considered poisonous. Native Americans used it for paint, to induce vomiting, and as a black hair dye depending on the tribe and region.

Tree Rings
The age of a tree can be determined by counting the growth rings as seen here in a cross section of a log. Each ring represents one year’s growth which will vary with the amount of rainfall, sunshine and temperature. Growth rings are wider when weather conditions in a given year are favorable and thinner in times of poor growing conditions like a drought year. Can you determine the good growth years on this log?

Slough Sedge
This plant is a sign of the change in the water table here at Cape Lookout. It is the most common sedge in urban marshes, but also grows well in shallowly flooded forests and coastal swamps.

Changing Face of Cape Lookout
As you look west from here you can see the group camp and Pacific Ocean. Twenty years ago you would have only had glimpses of the group camp and the sand dune protecting it from the ocean. Erosion has removed the old dune and the forest is now predominantly marshland flooded during the winter.

Sasa Spruce
A common tree along the Pacific Coast from California to Alaska, Sitka Spruce is mostly found growing within 10 miles of the ocean. It was extensively used to build early aircraft because of its low weight and strength per cubic foot, but was a poor choice for home construction due to its low resistance to decay.

False Lily of the Valley
Also known as Wild Lily of the Valley, is an herb related to gin-ger. False Lily of the Valley prefers to grow on the floor of Douglas fir, western hemlock and western red cedar forest. The berry is not considered edible. This plant spreads rapidly over moist forest floors.

Fern Ball
Part way up this spruce is a group of ferns that have taken root. These clumps can become quite large and are common in larger stands of trees throughout the park.

Springboard Notch
This western red cedar stump has a springboard notch cut into its side. A plank was put in the notch to give loggers a place to stand while using a two man crosscut saw to down this large tree.

Natural Grafting
The two trees here began their growth at about the same time, using the same fallen log for nutrients as they grew. The roots of the two grew together over time and formed the root bridge you see today.

Western Red Cedar
Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest utilized these trees for many things including homes, canoes, rope, clothing, and fishing nets. Today cedar is frequently used for shingles, siding, and fencing due to its resistance to rot.

Cedar and Spruce Compete
These two trees began growing at about the same time. However, as you can see, the slower growing cedar lost the struggle for survival to the spruce, which was better able to compete for sunlight and nutrients.

Evergreen Huckleberry
Its small blue-black berries ripen in late summer and are used in pies and preserves. Humans are not the only ones who like these berries, they also make excellent browse for deer and elk.

Skunk Cabbage
Skunk Cabbage is easily recog- nized by its large shiny leaves that are one to three feet long. The flowers have a pleasant fragrance, but they are usually overpowered by the skunk-like aroma of the stems and leaves. Native Americans used the roots for food, preparing them much like mashed potatoes.

Nurse Log
This old log is a natural seed bed for young plants. In most forests on the Oregon Coast tree seedlings and other plants utilize the moisture and nutrients in decaying logs for growth.

Salal
The leaves of the Salal are dark and leathery on top and pale underneath. It is the most common shrub found in forests west of the Cascade Mountains. The berry is an important food source for wildlife ranging from small birds to black bears. People generally find the berries rather bland in flavor.

Western Hemlock
Can reach heights of 200 feet and grows along the west coast from San Francisco to Alaska. Hemlock has been used in home construction recently, but is highly vulnerable to decay.