Oregon's Sentinels

Oregon's coastal lighthouses are visible links to the past—towering monuments to Oregon's maritime heritage and to the hardworking people that kept the lighthouse beacons lit. Although unoccupied since the arrival of modern technology, these classic structures stand as a testament to the history of Oregon's rugged coast.

Most of Oregon's lighthouses were designed and built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1870 and 1896. They were erected on prominent headlands or near major estuaries to support commercial fishing and shipping along the Oregon coast. The lighthouses were originally managed by the former U.S. Lighthouse Board, with the U.S. Coast Guard taking over stewardship duties in 1939.

After installing automated beacons in the 1960s, the Coast Guard began transferring its lighthouse holdings to other government agencies. All nine of Oregon's surviving lighthouse stations have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. They are visited by more than 2.5 million people each year.

Experience the Past

Adorned by interpretive displays, historical accounts and a little imagination, you can learn what life was like for the workers who lit the way for mariners navigating Oregon's perilous coastline. Climb to lantern or tower watch rooms and experience the panoramic sights once enjoyed by the light tenders from their perches high on the cliffs. Hear the sounds of seabirds, wind and waves that accompanied their isolation as they worked through the nights to prevent ships from running aground on the rocks.

Many of Oregon's lighthouses double as excellent wildlife viewing areas. They are great places to spot sea birds, seals and migrating Gray whales. If you're touring lighthouses, check out (or stay at!) a nearby state park. See the map on the reverse.

Year-Round Recreation

Lighthouse Helpers

If you'd like to learn more about Oregon's lighthouses and help with preservation and education efforts, you will be welcomed by any of these nonprofit organizations:

- U.S. Lighthouse Society, Oregon Chapter
  Phone: 415-362-7255
  oreon.uslhs.org
- Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses
  750 Lighthouse Dr. #7, Newport, OR 97365
  Phone: 541-574-3100
  yaquinalights.org
- Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge
  P.O. Box 262, Netarts, OR 97143
  Phone: 503-842-2244
  capemeareslighthouse.org
- Cape Blanco Heritage Society
  P.O. Box 1132, Port Orford, OR 97465
  Phone: 541-332-0521
  capeblancoheritagesociety.com
- Coquille River Lighthouse Keepers Foundation Inc.
  P.O. Box 21, Bandon, OR 97411
  Phone: 503-802-5750
  oregonstateparksfoundation.org

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301
800-551-6949
oregonstateparks.org

Cover: Coquille River Lighthouse

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