

TRIP



IDEAS

SOUTH COAST
ADVENTURE TOUR
4-7 DAYS



Bandon, bear8photo.com

This itinerary can be experienced heading north or south, and is best enjoyed over 4–7 days, using any of the sweet little towns on the Southern Coast as your stopping points.

GETTING ORIENTED

Nothing quite prepares you for the epic oceanscapes and sheer diversity of the 140-mile stretch of Oregon's Southern Coast. It takes less than three hours to drive without stopping, but why zoom through when there are secret coves to be paddled, pristine beaches to comb, lighthouses to explore and more crab shacks, vista picnic spots and animated port towns than you can shake a piece of driftwood at? Take four days, or better yet, a week. You won't regret it.

DAY 1: REEDSPORT / NORTH BEND / COOS BAY

Reedsport is the southern gateway to the **Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area**, a rare landscape of windblown sand dunes reaching up to 500 feet high. The heart-pumping **John Dellenback Dunes Trail** (accessed at **Eel Creek Campground**) is a 5.4-mile out-and-back hike over the dunes to the beach. Ride the dunes with **Spinreel Dune Buggy & ATV Rentals** in North Bend.

Umpqua River Whale Watching Station has platforms with binoculars to watch passing gray whales.

Heading to **Coos Bay/North Bend**, don't miss **Shore Acres State Park** on the former estate of shipbuilder Louis J. Simpson. Stroll among greenery from around the world or see holiday



Spinreel Dune Buggy & ATV Rentals, North Bend
Erik Urdahl



Paddleboarding at Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor, Facing Waves

magic with its renowned Christmas display. In **Charleston**, visit the local commercial fishing fleet, throw crab rings off "Dock D" or book a fishing charter to catch salmon, halibut and rockfish. Detour 30 miles inland to **Golden and Silver Falls State Natural Area** for a scenic hike through old-growth fir to a 100-foot cascading waterfall.

DAY 2: BANDON

Historic **Bandon** boasts one of the prettiest beaches in all of Oregon, plus soaring spires jutting up from its 1.5-mile shoreline. Look for likenesses that inspired the names Face Rock, Howling Dog and Elephant Rock. Two must-stop beach access/viewpoints: **Coquille Point** and the **Face Rock State Scenic Viewpoint**.

Bandon's Old Town is a charmer: a pretty little port with a riverfront boardwalk, seafood shack, chocolatier, restaurants and boutiques make for a great basecamp. Plus five of the best public golf courses (according to **Golf Digest**) in the country reside at **Bandon Dunes**. Grab some Vampire Slayer cheddar at **Face Rock Creamery** then visit **Coquille River Lighthouse** in **Bullards Beach State Park**.

DAY 3: CAPE BLANCO LIGHTHOUSE / PORT ORFORD

Forty minutes south of Bandon, **Cape Blanco Lighthouse** commands the westernmost point in Oregon. Jaunt down the trail near the main gate to visit the scenic bluff of **Cape Blanco State Park**.

Be sure to linger in the fascinating town of **Port Orford**. The town is home to a small fishing fleet and is protected by a natural headland. Port Orford's boats are dropped into the Pacific by

STAY:
Winchester Bay: Salmon Harbor Landing – comfy spot near Umpqua Lighthouse
North Bend: Itty Bitty Inn – cozy inn with complimentary bikes
Coos Bay: Sunset Bay State Park – bayfront campground near Cape Arago
Bandon: Bandon Inn – lovely spot overlooking Old Town & the water
Port Orford: WildSpring Guest Habitat – Pacific views & a woodland habitat
Port Orford: Cape Blanco State Park – pretty campground with trails to beach & lighthouse
Gold Beach: Tu Tu' Tun Lodge – riverfront luxury
Brookings: Lowden's Beachfront Bed & Breakfast – warm hospitality & secluded beachfront locale

EAT:
Coos Bay: 7 Devils Brewing – tasty seafood & pints
Port Orford: Redfish – PNW bounty with great views
Gold Beach: Woof's Dog Bakery – freshly baked doggie treats
Brookings: Chetco Brewing & Misty Mountain Brewing
Brewing & Tap Haus – local beer scene mavericks

DON'T MISS:
Rogue Coast Sport Fishing – salmon & steelhead fishing trips on five scenic rivers
Washed Ashore – local artists turn ocean plastics into whimsical public art (Bandon)
Whiskey Run Mountain Bike Trails – epic series of single-track, forested trails (North of Bandon)

GET READY & GET GOING
Plan your adventure at travelsouthernORcoast.com

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Crabbing in Coos Bay



Port Orford, Gary Hayes

a crane. Watch the dolly dock in action and the resident whales spouting off the port.

For great vistas and beach access, head to **Battle Rock Park**. Miles of beaches arc to the south with views of the **Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve** and **Humbug Mountain**. **Port Orford Heads State Park** features lovely, short hiking trails plus the **Lifeboat Station Museum** housed inside the historic station with exhibits on little-known WWII history. **WildSpring Guest Habitat** is a truly unique lodge in Port Orford, nestled in the forest but with Pacific views.

DAY 4: GOLD BEACH / ROGUE RIVER

From Port Orford, it's about a 40-minute drive to **Gold Beach**, and it's a spectacular one. A good portion of the highway hugs the Pacific with many turnouts for the hundreds of photos you'll want to take. Take a selfie with the giant **Tyrannosaurus rex** at **Prehistoric Gardens**, a classic roadside attraction with life-size dinosaur replicas.

Gold Beach is a beach lover's town, with miles of wild, sandy stretches. Ride the awesome rapids of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River on **Jerry's Rogue Jets** boat tours; Jerry's also offers a 32-mile, wildlife-viewing river trip on the historic Mail Boat route operating since 1895. Treat yourself to a special stay at the beautiful, riverfront **Tu Tu' Tun Lodge**.

Cover photo: Elephant Rock, Bandon, Susan Dimock

DAYS 5–7: SAMUEL H. BOARDMAN STATE SCENIC CORRIDOR / BROOKINGS

Between Gold Beach and Brookings, you're in for more "wows" with incredible views, arched rocks and lush, protected coves. This stretch of coast deserves a day of its own. Highlights include **Turtle Rock**, a great hike that heads over **Cape Sebastian**, and the near-shore, basalt sea stacks at **Meyers Creek Beach**.

Explore the **Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor**, a 12-mile stretch with loads of must-stops: **Arch Rock Picnic Area** has a short walk to views of tiny islands topped with windswept trees; at **Natural Bridges** follow the wooden platform to see a secluded cove framed by arch rock formations connected to the shore. The best walk is to the fairytale-like **Thunder Rock Cove**; or turn this into a short hike by continuing north to **Secret Beach** before looping back to the trailhead on the highway. You'll likely have **Whaleshead Beach** all to yourself for a picnic. Make time for **Harris Beach State Park** near **Brookings**, with captivating intertidal areas to check out during low tide.

GET IN TOUCH

Say hello@travelsouthernORcoast.com.

We'd love to help you plan your trip.

TAKE YOUR TIME

140 miles/225 km of adventure, tiny towns, coastal farms, working ports and trails for every type of explorer.



Coguille River Lighthouse in Bandon, Erik Urdahl