

Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park

“...from this point I beheld the grandest and most pleasing prospects which my eyes ever surveyed, in front a boundless Ocean...a most romantic appearance.” William Clark

Welcome to one of America's newest National Parks: the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park. Your new national park stretches along 40 miles of the rugged Pacific Coast. For thousands of years the Chinook and Clatsop Indians have made this region their home. More recently (200 years ago!) Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Northwest Discovery visited during the winter of 1805-06.

The Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park, now comprised of 12 individual areas, rings the mouth of the Columbia River. These areas allow you to walk where first the Native Americans and then Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery walked. These sites embody the stories of hardship and danger, of surprising collaboration and adaptations, and of exploration and discovery. If you are a resident or a visitor to the region, bring your family and friends or form your own expedition and come and explore the new Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park!

What You'll Find

The new Park tells the many stories of the Corps' exploration of the lower Columbia River region:

- Near disaster at Dismal Nitch
- Joyful arrival and unusual leadership exhibited at Station Camp
- The exploration of Cape Disappointment and the Long Beach Peninsula
- The people who call this place home and have for thousands of years.
- Preparing for the return home while in winter quarters at Fort Clatsop
- Exploring, hunting and trading. Walking across the landscape on the Fort To Sea Trail
- Re-supply of a precious commodity at The Salt Works
- The arduous hike over Tillamook Head, now a part of Ecola State Park.

Getting Started

Start your trip by stopping at one of the park's 2 main visitor centers located at Fort Clatsop, near Astoria, Oregon and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Cape Disappointment State Park near Ilwaco, Washington.

Friendly and knowledgeable Park Rangers are ready to answer your questions and help plan your trip. You will also find recently expanded stores where you can pick up maps, guide books, journals (Lewis and Clark's or blank ones to create your own!) and the park's Junior Ranger Program.

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Visitor Center at Fort Clatsop

Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM

Fee: \$3 per person

(503) 861-2471

Directions:

Astoria: Head south on Hwy 101 and simply follow the signs to Fort Clatsop and Visitor Center

Seaside: Head north on Hwy 101 and simply follow the signs to Fort Clatsop and Visitor Center

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Cape Disappointment

Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM

Fees: \$3 adults, \$1 children age 7 – 17, free for children 6 and under
(360) 642-3029

Directions:

From Astoria: Take Hwy 101 north across the Columbia River.

Follow the signs to Ilwaco and Cape Disappointment State Park

Once in Cape Disappointment State Park follow the signs to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

Where should we go next?

Fort Clatsop

Fort Clatsop, on the banks of the Lewis and Clark River, was the winter encampment for The Corps of Discovery from December 1805 to March 1806. During this time the Clatsop and Chinook Indians, whom Clark described as close bargainers, came to the fort almost daily to visit and trade. Captains Lewis and Clark maintained a strict military routine. A sentinel was constantly posted, and at sundown each day the fort was cleared of visitors and the gates locked for the night.

Due to the rain, the men not consigned to hunting or saltmaking often stayed indoors engaged in variety of tasks, from servicing their weapons and preparing elk hide clothing for the homeward journey to making elk fat candles as light for journal writing. The captains used the winter encampment to bring their journals up to date, making copious notes on the trees, plants, fish and wildlife around Fort Clatsop. Clark, the cartographer of the party, spent most of his time refining and updating maps of the entire country through which they had traveled.

Today you will also find a replica of Fort Clatsop, National Park Service Rangers dressed as re-enactors in the fort, other Ranger lead programs, an exhibit hall and a (new!) orientation film. You will also find the trailheads for the Fort To Sea Trail and Netul River Trail. The Fort To Sea Trail is a 6.5 mile trail that runs from Fort Clatsop to Sunset Beach. The Netul River Trail is a 1.5 mile trail that runs from the Visitor Center at Fort Clatsop to Netul Landing. (See Hiking Through History side bar.)

Cape Disappointment State Park

It was at the sandy base of Cape Disappointment that the Corps of Discovery achieved the principal mission of finding a water connection between the Missouri River and the Pacific Ocean. Beginning in 1792, dozens of fur traders had anchored in the sheltered bay inside the cape. A visible sign of these visits were the many names of crewmen and captains carved into the trees near this anchorage site. While Clark was in this area, he noted a brand left by Captain Lewis from his earlier exploration of the cape. Clark added his name, including the words, "By Land," as a message to the other traders who visited this trading site.

After crossing Cape Disappointment and ascending a nearby sea stack now known as McKenzie Head, William Clark noted the satisfaction of the eleven men that accompanied him in his survey of the coast. Seeking more than just a view, this survey was necessary to fulfill President Jefferson's directions. In his instructions, the president directed the captains to determine the extent of international trade occurring at the mouth of the Columbia River. Surveying the mouth of the river would promote the United States' claim to the resources of the Pacific Northwest. Clark and the men spent this memorable evening camped at the ocean near the base of McKenzie Head. After 18 months of exploration, it was time for the Expedition to start thinking about their return to the United States.

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Cape Disappointment

Perched on a cliff 200 feet above the mouth of the Columbia River, the recently remodeled Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center tells the story of the Corps of Discovery's journey from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. The new exhibits focus on the expedition's discoveries and experiences along the Columbia River with special attention given to the Corps' arrival at the mouth of the Columbia River and their overland journey to the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Note: Parking is limited at the Interpretive Center. Washington State Parks provides a free shuttle within Cape Disappointment State Park during the summer months. Plenty of parking can be found near the boat ramp. Simply park your vehicle and hop on the park shuttle.

Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM

Fees: \$3 for adults, children 7-17 \$1, under 7 free)

(360) 642-3029

Fort Columbia State Park

For thousands of years this area was home to the Chinook Indians. The open hillside with great views of the Columbia River also made this place a prime location for United States coastal military fortifications. Today, Fort Columbia is one of the few intact coastal defense sites in the U.S. With over 1 mile of shoreline, the park still provides beautiful views of the Columbia River estuary. Visitors can enjoy strolling around the

fort's grounds while touring the old gun batteries. Great hiking trails wind up the hillside through mature stands of spruce and hemlock trees.

Summer: 6:30 AM to 9:30 PM

Winter: 8 AM to 5 PM

Fee: \$5 parking fee

Ecola State Park

Wrapping around Tillamook Head between Seaside and Cannon Beach, Oregon, Ecola State Park is a hiking and sightseeing Mecca with a storied past. Trails with cliffside viewpoints above nine miles of Pacific Ocean shoreline overlook picture postcard seascapes, cozy coves, densely forested promontories and even a long-abandoned offshore lighthouse.

One of Ecola State Park's first attractions was a beached whale. In 1806, Capt. William Clark and twelve members of the Corps of Discovery, including Sacagawea, climbed over rocky headlands and fought their way through thick shrubs and trees to get to the whale near what is now Ecola State Park. Today, a paved road from Cannon Beach and a trail network makes your trek to the park much easier.

There's more to the park than this rich history and you don't have to be on a trail to explore the wonders of the park. You also have excellent hiking, two spacious, sandy beaches to choose from; Crescent Beach and Indian beach. Surfers ride the waves at Indian Beach and tide pools await your discovery. Or watch the wildlife. Keep a watchful eye open for the many species of wildlife and birds that call Ecola home and Whale Watching is spoken here! During the winter and spring spot migrating gray whales from one of the promontories overlooking the ocean.

Directions:

Take Hwy 101 to Cannon Beach, Oregon. Take the first Cannon Beach exit and follow the signs to Ecola State Park. Entering the park you will be winding your way through towering Sitka spruce, and suddenly emerge upon a breathtaking view of the Pacific Ocean. Be sure to have your camera ready!

During July and August parking can be crowded. Look for the Lewis and Clark Explorer Shuttle that will take you from the public parking in Cannon Beach to the park.

(503) 436-2844

Fees: \$3 per day/\$25 per year

Fort Stevens State Park

For thousands of years the Clatsop Indians lived on Point Adams, the southern tip of land that marked the entrance to the Columbia River. After this land became part of the United States, the same geography that served the needs of the Clatsop Indians also served the United States military. From the Civil War through the end of WWII, Fort Stevens Military Reservation guarded the mouth of the Columbia River. The park has a year round campground, miles of ocean beach, more than 5 miles of hiking trails, 7 miles

of bike trails, and sweeping views of the mouth of the Columbia River, Youngs Bay, Astoria and the surrounding countryside. A replica of a Clatsop Indian longhouse is located on the grounds of Fort Stevens Historical Site (to the west of the WWII barracks.)

Directions:

From Hwy follow the signs to Fort Stevens

The Salt Works

Can you imagine living on a diet of spoiled elk meat? If you can, than you understand why salt was important to most of the members of the Corps of Discovery. By the time the Corps had arrived at the Pacific coast, they had run out of salt. Though Captain Clark was indifferent to salt, the rest of the Corps wanted it as seasoning; salt improved the taste of the food and with better tasting food, the morale of the men would be higher.

The Salt Works is near the site where the Captains sent a party of five men to establish a camp to make salt. Using five kettles, the men were constantly at work as they boiled seawater over the course of a month to produce salt. Three and one half bushels of salt were prepared for the return trip before the camp was abandoned on February 20, 1806. Can you imagine what it must have been like to do this work in the middle of winter on the coast?

Hike Through History AND Enjoy The View!
Hiking in the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park

Ecola State Park, Cannon Beach and Seaside Oregon

Explore the Oregon Coast on the Clatsop Loop Trail at Ecola State Park. The route, forged by Native Americans and followed by members of the Corps of Discovery, is a segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Oregon Coast Trail.

The Clatsop Loop Trail is a steep, 2 ½ mile loop trail through lush forest and along steep cliffs with magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean. The loop trail starts at the Indian Beach parking lot and ascend 800 feet to Hiker's Camp, part way to the top of Tillamook Head. From the halfway point at Hiker's Camp a short trail takes you to an overlook with a view of Tillamook Rock Lighthouse.

The Hiker's Camp is primitive in nature, but does have three small, Adirondack-style cabins to provide shelter. Each of these rustic structures sleeps four on bunk bed-style wooden platforms. They circle a large fire ring and a central picnic shelter. The camp is almost halfway between the Ecola Point and Seaside parking lots.

For the more adventurous, combine the trail to Hikers Camp (1 ¼ miles and 800 foot climb) with the 4-mile trail and 600 foot climb over Tillamook Head to the trailhead in Seaside (The trailhead is at the far south end of Seaside at the end of Ocean Vista Drive.)

Ecola State Park
(503) 436-2844
Fees: \$3 per day/\$25 per year

Directions:

From the North or South: Take Hwy 101 towards Cannon Beach, OR.
Take the first Cannon Beach exit and follow the signs to Ecola State Park

Fort To Sea Trail

Fort Clatsop and Sunset Beach, Oregon

Like the Corps of Discovery, come and explore the land that was the home of the Clatsop Indians. The Fort To Sea Trail is a 6.5 mile trail that runs from Fort Clatsop to Sunset Beach on the Pacific Ocean. While wintering over at Fort Clatsop, Captains Lewis and Clark constantly kept parties in the field hunting, gathering food, making salt and trading with the Indians. You too can explore the forests, travel along the coastal rivers and lakes, and traverse the coastal dunes. If you look close, along the way you may see signs of the abundant wildlife like elk, deer, eagle or even bear, bobcat or beaver.

The Fort To Sea Trail starts from the Visitor Center at Fort Clatsop. For the summer of 2005 the first 2 miles of trail will be completed. You can hike up a gentle 350 foot climb to the top of Clatsop Ridge, where on a clear day you can see through the trees to the

Pacific Ocean. Round trip distance is 4 miles. A short ½ mile loop immediately adjacent to the Visitor Center also starts from the same trailhead.

At Sunset Beach the Fort To Sea Trail parking lot will be open for the summer of 2005 with a gentle 1 mile trail that winds through the dunes and along small lakes.

By the fall of 2005 the entire trail will be complete. Join Oregon Governor Kulongoski, members of the Corps of Discovery, National Park and Oregon State Park Rangers for the Fort To Sea Trail Dedication on Monday, November 14th. Hike with the Corps from Fort Clatsop, leaving at 8 AM, or come to the dedication at Sunset Beach at Noon.

Directions:

To Fort Clatsop: From Astoria head south on Hwy 101. From Seaside head north on Hwy 101. From Hwy 101 follow the signs to Fort Clatsop. The trail starts at the park's visitor center.

To Sunset Beach: Between milepost 13 and 14 on Hwy 101 (south of Astoria and north of Seaside) turn onto Sunset Beach Lane. Drive to the Sunset Beach/Fort To Sea Trailhead parking lot.

More Information:

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park
(503) 861-2471

Fees: none for the trail. \$3 per person for the visitor center and Fort Clatsop.

Lewis and Clark River Trail

Fort Clatsop, Oregon

The Corps of Discovery arrived at the site where they built Fort Clatsop by paddling up the Netul River. By the fall of 2005 you will be able to see the same landmarks as you take a gentle 1.5 mile walk along what is now called the Lewis and Clark River. A new trail will open that will connect the Visitor Center at Fort Clatsop with the nearby Netul Landing. Also, at Netul Landing is a kayak/canoe launch that is part of the Lower Columbia River Water Trail. Bring your non-motorized boat or sign up for a guided trip through Columbia River Kayaking at (360) 795-0895 or visit

www.columbiariverkayaking.com). Netul Landing also offers views of wildlife like eagles and river otter and you can visit the life sized bronze statue of Sacagawea too!

Directions:

From Astoria head south on Hwy 101. From Seaside head north on Hwy 101.

From Hwy 101 follow the signs to Fort Clatsop. Drive 1.5 miles past the entrance to Fort Clatsop to Netul Landing.

More Information

Lewis and Clark National Park
(503) 861-2471

Fee: None

Cape Disappointment State Park

From Astoria drive north on Hwy 101 across the Columbia River. Follow the signs to Ilwaco, Washinton.

From Ilwaco follow the signs to Cape Disappointment State Park. Beards Hollow, North Head Lighthouse and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center are all well marked and have small parking lots. During the summer months, parking may be limited. Make use of the free **More Information:**

Cape Disappointment State Park: (360) 642-3078

Fees: \$5 parking fee

There are several miles of hiking trails that retrace the route of Clark and his Expedition party while at Cape Disappointment. McKenzie Head (.5 miles to summit) is a basalt headland that Clark and eleven of the Expedition members ascended for a view of the ocean. They camped just north of this location. Visitors will enjoy not only the spectacular view but also eight interpretive panels describing Clark's exploration of the cape as well as a bronze monument commemorating this event. Across the road and just 100 feet from the North Head Trailhead is the approximate location of the ocean campsite Clark described on November 18, 1805.

The Coastal Forest Loop Trail (1.5 miles) Trailhead is located between the state park office and the boat launch. This loop trail leads through a great example of the forested environment that members of the Expedition would have experienced on their trip to Cape Disappointment. This trail offers views of Baker Bay, Sand Island, and the anchorage site used by fur trading ships.