

MEDIA RELEASE | SPRING 2020 | BANDON OREGON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Birds are among the most fascinating wildlife species on the Southern Oregon Coast. And species diversity sets Bandon apart as a birdwatching destination. Outdoors p. 1



A SHOP WITH A VIEW

With Oregon grown (or caught, or made) products offered year round, Farm & Sea is a specialty food store for shoppers with a West Coast palate. Dining p. 3



NATURE'S WONDERS

Connect with Bandon's natural wonder! Professional guides share their passion for nature on guided exploration of trails and waterways. Outdoors p. 2



SHINE A LIGHT ON HISTORY

Built to stand the test of time, Oregon Coast lighthouses are among the region's most iconic architectural attractions. Make a day of it- or two- and visit all four Southern Oregon Coast lighthouses. History & Culture p. 4

March 2020 Release

To our friends in the media, including publishers, editors, writers and photographers- Thank you for your interest in Bandon and the Southern Oregon Coast! We are excited to highlight unique and timely tourism and recreation opportunities in 2020, including new business partners and the 150th anniversary of the lighthouse at Cape Blanco.

The timing of this media release packet coincides with protective measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. Many of our area businesses have temporarily adjusted services or changed business hours, events have been cancelled or postponed, and many public venues are closed or have delayed seasonal opening.

When you're ready to visit or follow up on a story, please contact us. We're here to help with your travel and research. Contact information for the Bandon Chamber of Commerce is included on page five of this packet.





Bird's Eye View: Birdwatching in Bandon

Birds are among the most fascinating wildlife species on the Southern Oregon Coast. Miles of rivers, streams, marshes and oceanfront habitats make the region a haven for native and migratory birds.

Species diversity sets Bandon apart as a birdwatching destination. With more than 100 unique bird species documented between Bandon and Coquille, the area boasts the highest number of species in Oregon, according to the annual Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Migratory shore and sea birds add to the diversity, with birds such as murres and tufted puffins nesting each year on the protected offshore rocks.

Birders can start exploring right in town. The Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge is a tidal marsh system

providing habitat for salmon and shorebirds. The marsh is an excellent birdwatching destination, and the observation deck on Riverside Drive is walking distance from Old Town.

The local Audubon Society, and Shoreline Education for Awareness, offer indoor and outdoor events year round. Meet fellow birding enthusiasts and learn more about stewardship of natural environments.

Visit our website Birding Page for Bandon bird-watching locations and tips, bandon.com/birding.



Nature's Wonders: Outdoor Guide Services

To enhance your nature experience, spend time with local outdoor enthusiasts. Professional guides share their passion for nature on guided exploration of trails and waterways.

Connect with Bandon's natural wonder! Walks, hikes, kayak and boat tours are available for groups large and small.

Coos Boat Tours provides guided history and nature tours of the Coquille River. Meet "Captain" Brian Kraynik at the Bandon waterfront, and board the O'Flynn for a two-hour cruise along Bandon's earliest highway. Reservations are available online at coosboattours.com, or phone 541-999-6575.

Pineapple Express Adventure Tours caters to cyclists. Book a beach or trail cycling tour; rent or purchase cycling gear, or get help with repairs. Contact Pineapple Express for appointments, by phone 772-633-7385, or on the web pineappleexpress.bike.

South Coast Tours introduces outdoor enthusiasts to guided adventures on the Southern Oregon Coast- from casual kayaking to epic whale-watching boat rides. Owner Dave Lacey invites groups to customize outings with hiking, cycling, or water sports. Make reservations online at southcoasttours.net, or call 541-373-0487.

Wavecrest Discoveries customizes walks, hikes, and kayak or canoe outings for all ages. Guide Marty Giles designs nature-based activities to stimulate the mind and refresh the spirit. For reservations, visit wavecrestdiscoveries.com, or call 541-267-4027.



A Shop with a View

Farm & Sea is a shop with a view of Oregon's bounty. On the Coquille River waterfront in Bandon, the shop supports the tradition of south coast fishing and keeps pace with the fresh-and-local farmers market vibe.

With Oregon grown (or caught, or made) products offered year round, Farm & Sea is a specialty food store for shoppers with a West Coast palate. Choose from a variety of Pacific harvest seafood, including fresh fish in season, along with frozen, canned or smoked products. Protein selections also include Oregon beef and eggs. This summer, look for lamb, pork and poultry as well.

Meal planning is made easy with shelves of sauces and jams, salts and spice blends, pasta and rice, even fresh bread. Browse a tempting selection of wines. On tap are beer and soda from 7 Devils Brewing plus hard cider from Bandon Rain. (Purchase a

Farm & Sea growler, or bring your own.) A few items are imported, such as Italian balsamico, but Oregon products make up most of the shop's inventory.

Finishing touches in the Farm & Sea store reveal owners Lori and Barry Osbornes' attention to detail. Decorative wood accents with custom counter tops and product displays create a warm, inviting atmosphere. And the riverfront view is picture-perfect.

Farm & Sea is located at 250 1st St. SW, in Bandon. The shop is open daily starting at 10 a.m. For more information, call 541-347-3474 or visit facebook.com/freshseafoodinbandonoregon.



Shine a Light on History: South Coast Lighthouses

Built to stand the test of time, Oregon Coast lighthouses are among the region's most iconic architectural attractions.

For history enthusiasts, this year is a great time to plan a first-time or return visit to Cape Blanco. The Cape Blanco Light turns 150 in 2020. Built north of Port Orford in 1870, it's the oldest lighthouse in continuous operation on the Oregon Coast.

A new table-top model of the lighthouse and grounds, circa 1910, was commissioned for the anniversary. The diorama is available for viewing in the interpretive center and offers visitors a realistic, 3-d orientation to the lighthouse and accompanying buildings as they were a century ago. Find anniversary mementos and apparel for sale in the interpretive center gift shop through the year.

Bandon visitors can explore four lighthouses within comfortable driving distance of Bandon. Make a day of it– or two– and visit all four Southern Oregon Coast lighthouses.

Umpqua River Lighthouse, built 1890, Winchester Bay
The Umpqua River Lighthouse and museum are open for tours year round at Umpqua River Lighthouse State Park.

Cape Arago Lighthouse, built 1866, Charleston
The lighthouse is closed to the public, but is still a favorite local landmark. Catch a view of the lighthouse from the vehicle pull-out off Cape Arago Highway south of Charleston.

Coquille River Lighthouse, built 1896, Bandon
Bullards Beach State Park is open all year, and lighthouse tours are offered mid-May through September.

Cape Blanco Lighthouse, built 1870, Port Orford
Cape Blanco State Park is open all year. The lighthouse and interpretive center are open April through October.

MEDIA RELEASE | SUMMER 2020 | BANDON OREGON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Enclosed text copy approved for release and publication. Media queries welcome. Print resolution photos available on request– please contact us!

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Text prepared by Geneva Miller and approved for release by Margaret Pounder, March 2020. Find additional media info. and press releases at bandon.com/media.

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