

Remember

- Large, unexpected waves are common. Stay dry and safe by keeping well above the waves.
- Logs and driftwood are slippery and roll, especially near the waves. Enjoy the sandy beaches instead.
- Cliffs are unstable places to walk. Enjoy the view from behind guardrails and fences.
- Tides can roll in rapidly! Offshore rocks are not safe places to explore.
- Strong ocean currents and cold water are dangerous. Swim only in designated areas.
- Pack it in; pack it out.
- Leave footprints only—please do not carve or dig anywhere, including on sandstone, cliffs, or park structures.

For more information:

Harris Beach Management Unit

1655 Highway 101 N.

Brookings, OR 97415

541-469-0224

State Park Information Line: 800-551-6949



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Call 1-800-551-6949. Oregon Relay for the hearing impaired: dial 711.

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Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor

Trails and Viewpoints



Craggy bluffs,

secluded beaches, and offshore rock

formations await visitors along

the 12 ocean-hugging miles of

Samuel H. Boardman State

Scenic Corridor, located between

Brookings and Gold Beach

along Highway 101.

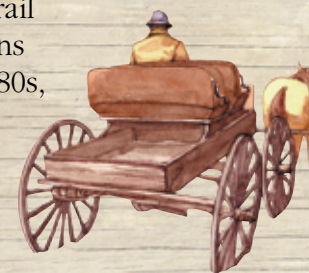


Come for a picnic and watch waves crash from easily-accessible viewpoints, or take one of the corridor's many hikes, ranging from an easy ¼ mile to all 18 miles. Bring your binoculars, as the park lies in the Pacific Flyway, a bird migration route linking summer breeding grounds and warmer wintering grounds. Likewise, the park's many viewpoints are perfect for spotting gray whales migrating between Mexico and Alaska each winter and spring.

Boardman's beaches, bluffs and trails make up one of the most secluded and picturesque sections of the Oregon Coast Trail that spans the entire 362-mile coastline, from the California border to the mouth of the Columbia River.

Stepping into history

Today's Oregon Coast Trail was completed in sections during the 1970s and 1980s, but Native Americans carved the first trail along the coast thousands of years ago to hunt and trade.



Explorers, gold seekers and settlers all traversed parts of the same worn path—over packed sand along the shoreline, through streams, via ferry crossings, and on muddy, narrow and perilously steep roads through thick forest. It wasn't until 1936, when the new Roosevelt Highway (later renamed Oregon Coast Highway) was completed, that motorists could easily access the remote south coast.

As you experience Sam Boardman's trails, consider the multitudes who have gone before and the future generations who will walk here, seeking connection to the past.

Hit the trail

See reverse for details.

1 Cape Ferrelo loop: A 1-mile loop trail climbs the grassy slope (carpeted with wildflowers each spring) to the top of the cape for breathtaking views of the rugged coastline and photo-worthy Oregon sunsets. The cape is also an excellent spot for whale watching in fall and spring.

2 Cape Ferrelo to House Rock: For those looking for a longer hike, park at Cape Ferrelo Viewpoint, named for a Spanish explorer who is believed to have passed by in 1542. Head north four miles along the bluff through beautiful stands of old growth spruce and red alder to House Rock Viewpoint, where a memorial commemorates Samuel H. Boardman, the first Oregon Parks superintendent. Many trails lead to secluded beaches.

3 Whaleshead Beach: Access this iconic beach from the north on a flat, easy path from the Whaleshead Beach Picnic Area (the road is rough gravel). Or, take a steep trail from the south Whaleshead Viewpoint pullout.

Whaleshead Beach



4 Indian Sands to China Beach: For a full day hike (7 miles round trip), park at the Indian Sands parking lot and take the old cat trail at the south end of the lot. At the bottom of a short, steep hill, take the Oregon Coast Trail north to Indian Sands, and admire the rolling dunes perched high above the ocean. The sand comes not from the ocean, but from sandstone in the rock strata.

Because of the blowing sand, the trail seems to disappear here. Keep heading north to reconnect with the trail. Follow this trail as it hugs the steep hillside north to Thomas Creek Canyon, which plunges some 350 feet and is spanned by the highest highway bridge in Oregon.

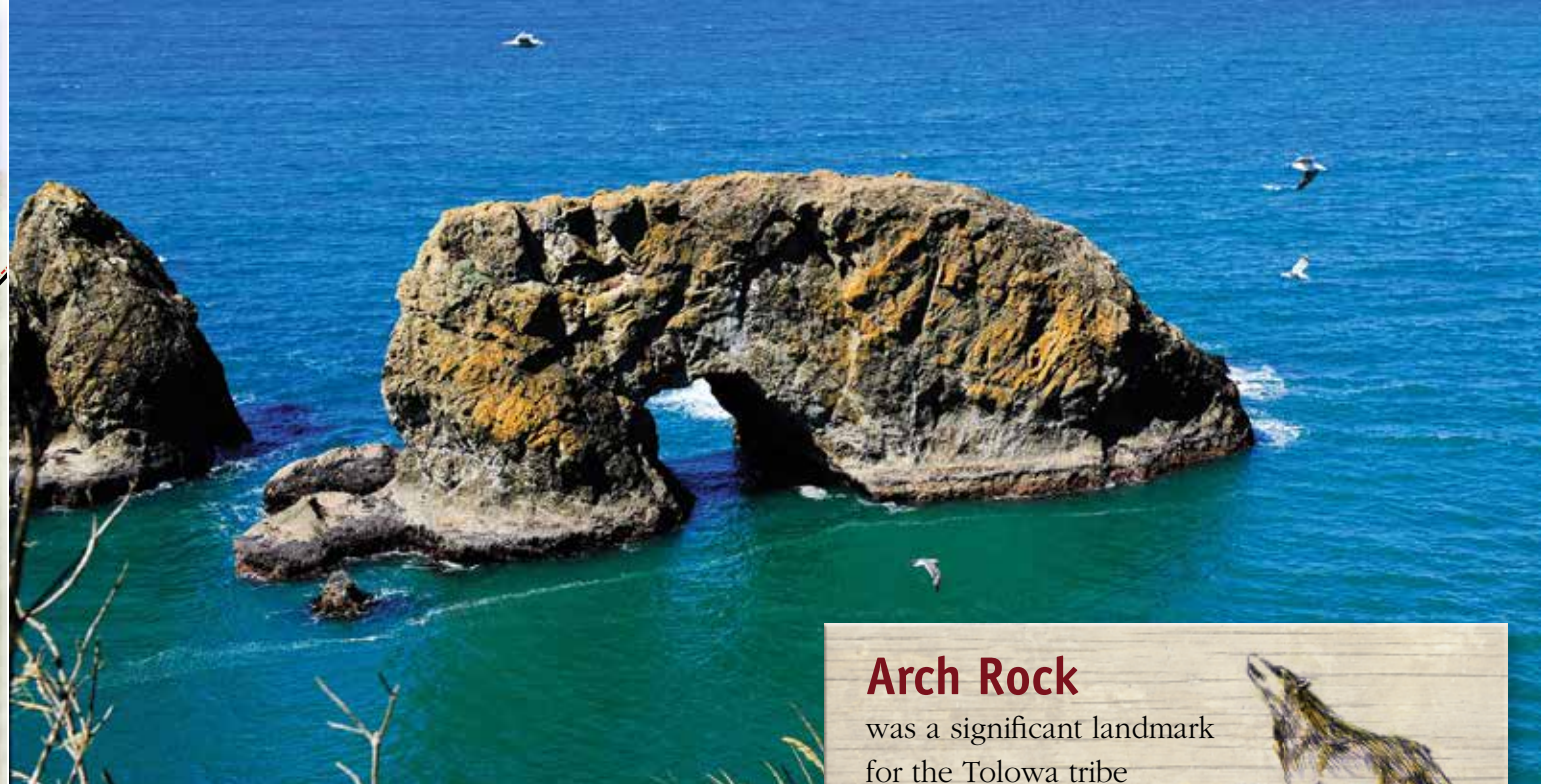
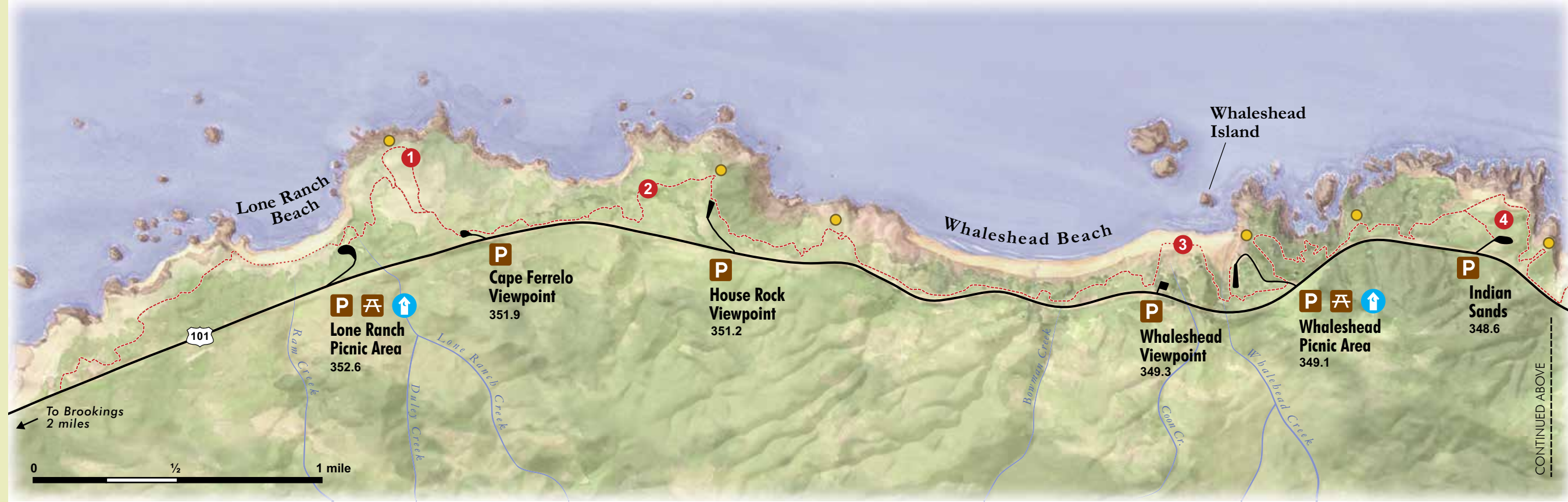
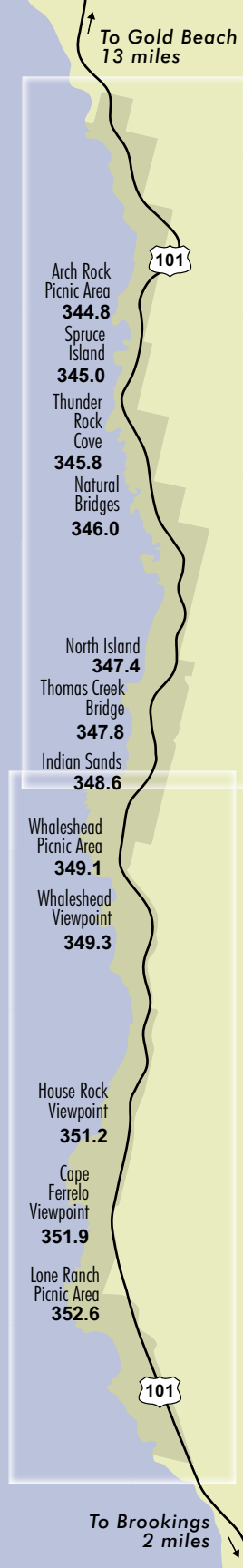
Cross the bridge and pick up the Oregon Coast Trail on the north side behind the guardrail, or continue on to North Island parking. From here, take the moderately difficult trail through Sitka spruce with peek-a-boo ocean views on your way to China Beach.



Trail to China Beach

5 Natural Bridges: Follow a short trail to one of the best viewpoints in the park—the seven iconic arched rocks and blowholes known as Natural Bridges. Here you'll find a memorial to Dr. Samuel Dicken, who first envisioned the Oregon Coast Trail.

Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor



Arch Rock

6 Secret Beach and Thunder Rock Cove: From the small gravel parking area, enjoy the views of the cove while you look for migrating gray whales in the winter and spring. Follow a rough 3/4-mile trail down to Secret Beach. At low tide, head south around the rocks to find a secluded beach with lots of pools for exploring. For your safety, please watch the tides while you explore.

Secret Beach



Arch Rock

was a significant landmark for the Tolowa tribe living in this section of the coast. According to legend, Coyote—a frequent character who teaches ingenuity and explains the inexplicable—was left to starve on Arch Rock after playing a prank on the other animals and people. Undeterred, he cleverly made his way back to land by gathering a basket of mussels and throwing them into the water. Each mussel magically grew into a small island, allowing Coyote to use them as stepping stones to shore.

—Courtesy of Curry Historical Society

7 Arch Rock: From the paved parking lot, stroll down a short paved path to an overlook featuring a series of offshore sea stacks and islands. In spring, wildflowers brighten the meadows.