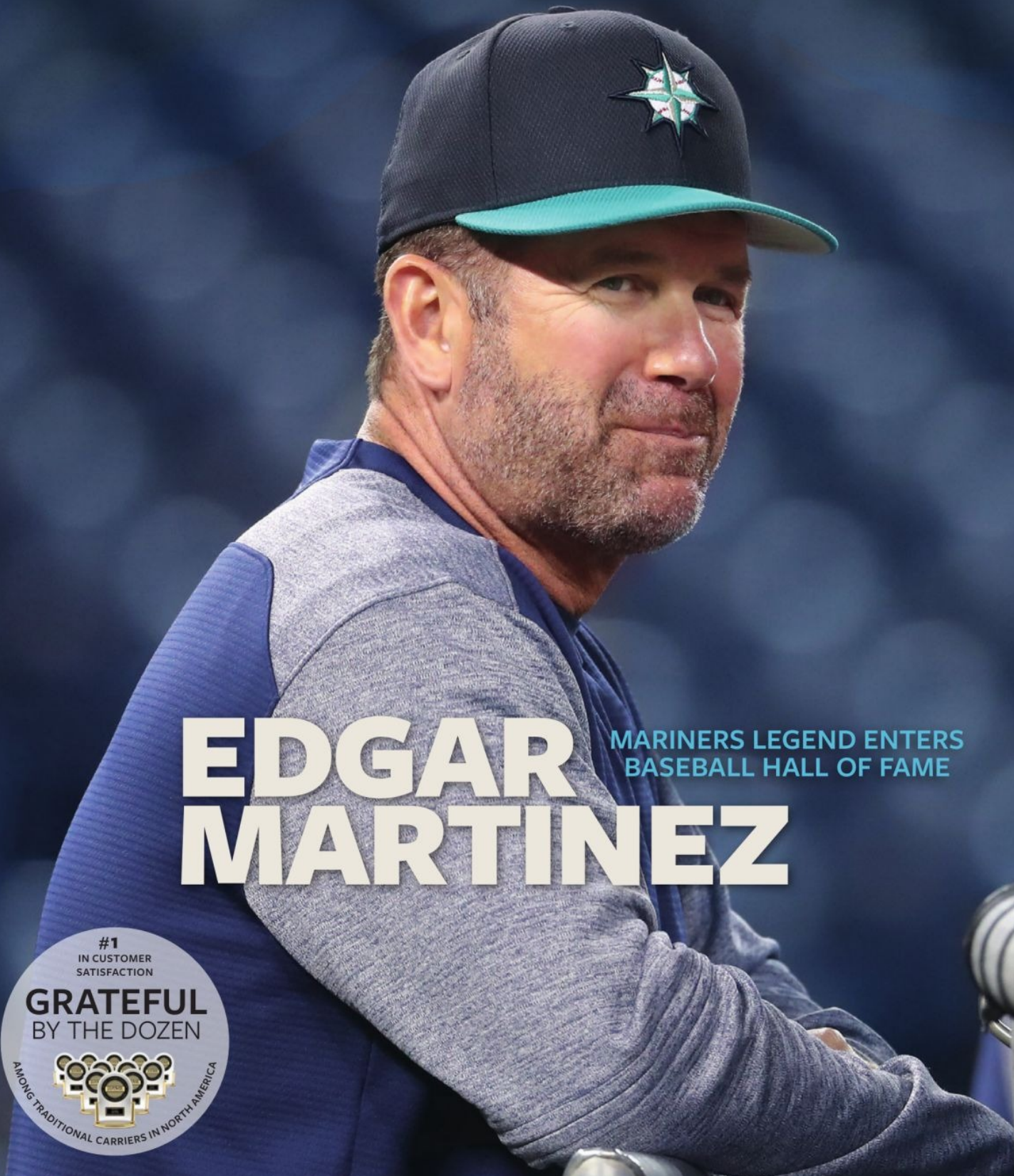


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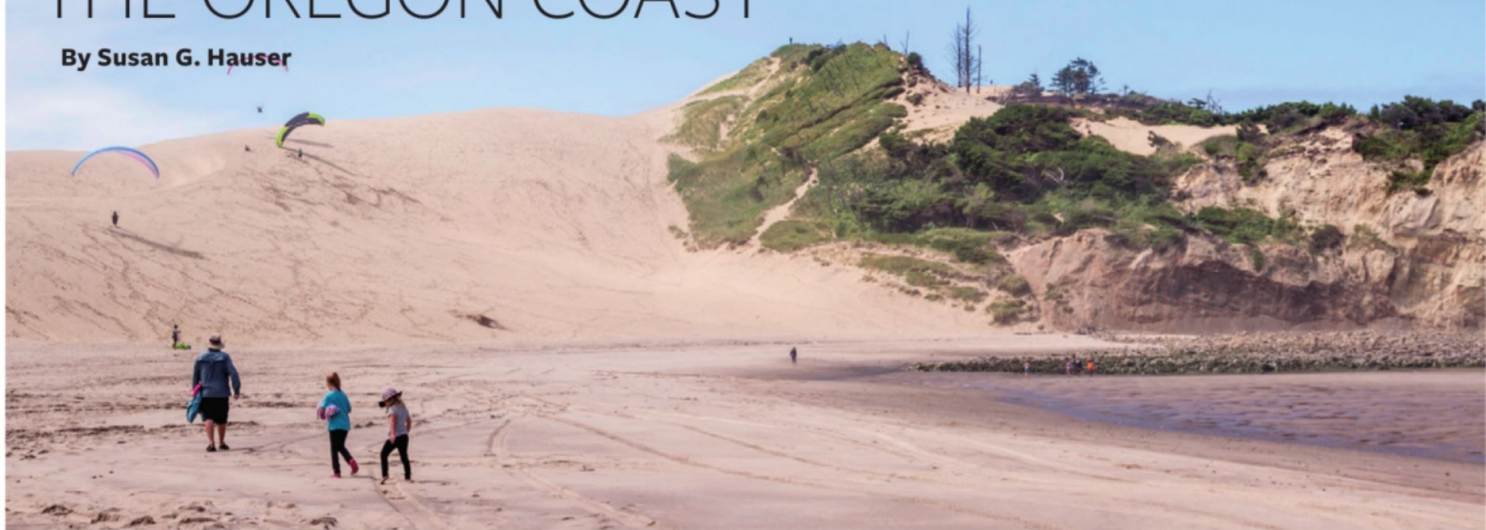
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THE OREGON COAST

By Susan G. Hauser



● **Visitors to the Oregon Coast** are often guided by their sense of adventure. And there are various types of adventure to be had along this coastline of many towns and terrains. You might stroll sandy beaches punctuated by tide pools, or hike craggy headlands while watching for offshore wildlife, or simply explore the unique aspects of each seaside community along the way.

On one recent trip, I let my appetite for good *cheese* steer a north-to-south route, along which I visited four creameries that sell cheeses they make from the milk of local cows, goats and sheep.

My trek began in Tillamook, home since 1909 to the Tillamook Creamery. Last year, the site's 1949 visitor center



was remodeled to include a large dining hall, general store and pantry. Inside the front doors—above which is a giant portrait of a contented-looking cow—stairs lead to a viewing gallery with descriptive signage and windows overlooking the factory at various stages of the cheesemaking process. The self-guided tour ends with samples of cheese, including the beloved orange-hued Tillamook Medium Cheddar. Before heading south, I had a scoop of Oregon Hazelnut & Salted Caramel Ice Cream, my other favorite Tillamook product.

A half-hour later, I was in Cloverdale, where the charming retail shop of Nestucca Bay Creamery sits next to Highway 101. Through the shop's rear window, I spied the fifth-generation dairy farm and the actual cows responsible for the company's tasty handcrafted cheeses. I happily sampled them all—cheddar, havarti, feta, Gouda and more. And, yes, I tried the ice cream—this time, a yummy vanilla!

At Rivers Edge Chèvre in Logsdon, inland of the coast, about 20 miles northeast of Newport, I did not want to interrupt the busy mother-daughter

cheesemakers' work for a tour of Three Ring Farm, where they keep their goats. Instead, I selected from the convenient self-serve refrigerator on the front porch. My pick: Up in Smoke, a fresh chèvre wrapped in smoked maple leaves and spritzed with bourbon.

The last stop on my tour was the city of Bandon, where Face Rock Creamery has been making cheese from local cows' milk since 2013. The company is renowned for its handmade, small-batch specialty cheddars. Samples abound at the retail shop, of both the regular cheddar and flavored varieties (horseradish, peppercorn, garlic, cranberry/walnut). I washed mine down with a beer sample, though there's also wine. This shop has ice cream, too.

There's more than great dairy on the coast. From Astoria south, the following is a sampling of additional attractions, along with some recommendations for beers and bites along the way.

Astoria/Seaside/Cannon Beach

● **Astoria Column:** Climb the 164 steps of this mural-bedecked monument for expansive views.

Oregon



The Oregon Coast features varied terrain and activities that include strolling the beach or paragliding in Pacific City, above; climbing the Astoria Column for a view, right; hiking near Cannon Beach, left; and touring the Tillamook Creamery, opposite page, bottom.

style barbecue inside the restored Old Seaside City Jail. Also in Seaside, **Osprey Cafe** dishes up globally inspired breakfasts and lunches. In Cannon Beach, **Public Coast Brewing Co.** has tasty ales and housemade root beer. For an elegant meal in the area, visit the **Stephanie Inn Dining Room**.

Tillamook/Pacific City/ Lincoln City

- **Three Capes Scenic Route:** From Tillamook's city center, this 40-mile coastal route stretches south to the beach town of Pacific City before looping back inland. Check out the Cape Meares Lighthouse and hike in Cape Lookout State Park, from which you might see whales (year-round, but peaking in late winter and late spring).
- **Chinook Winds Casino Resort:** This Lincoln City venue has live entertainment, dining and gaming by the ocean.
- **Beers & Bites:** Beer geeks flock to Tillamook for **de Garde Brewing's** wild-fermented ales. In nearby Wheeler, overlooking Nehalem Bay, **Salmonberry Saloon** boasts locally sourced produce, meat, cheese, seafood and wine. Enjoy a beachfront beer and a sunset at the **Pelican Pub & Brewery patio**, which juts out into the sand near Pacific City's Haystack Rock (not to be confused with Cannon Beach's rock formation). For fine dining, try **Meridian Restaurant & Bar** at Headlands Coastal Lodge & Spa.

- **Columbia River Maritime Museum:** At this Astoria venue, learn about the challenges of navigating on one of the world's most treacherous river bars.
- **Fort Clatsop Visitor Center and Lewis and Clark National Historical Park:** About 6 miles southwest of downtown Astoria, explore a replica of the Lewis & Clark Expedition's 1805–06 winter quarters.
- **Funland Arcade:** This Seaside venue's 1950s bumper cars are a hit with kids.
- **Seaside Promenade:** Walk or bike the city's 1.5-mile scenic beachfront walkway, known locally as The Prom.

- **Ecola State Park:** Enjoy ocean panoramas at this destination between Seaside and Cannon Beach.
- **Cannon Beach Art:** Browse the many excellent art galleries, including **White Bird Gallery**, open since 1971.
- **Beers & Bites:** Housed in a former cannery, Astoria's **Buoy Beer Co.** offers meals and brews with river views, even through the floor. **Fort George Brewery** distributes only in the Pacific Northwest and has become a regional craft powerhouse best-known for IPAs and stouts. **Bowpicker Fish & Chips** serves popular beer-battered albacore tuna and steak fries from a fishing boat parked on a trailer in downtown Astoria. **Seaside Brewery** focuses on local ingredients, and serves Central Texas–



Oregon

Oregon's Adventure Coast (Coos Bay/North Bend/Charleston)

• **Cape Arago Beach Loop:** This driving route accesses three state parks, several scenic beaches and more. Highlights include Bastendorff Beach and Cape Arago State Park. And less than 20 miles south of the town of Charleston is the renowned Bandon Dunes Golf Resort.

• **Beers & Bites: 7 Devils Brewing Co.** has handcrafted beers available only within a 100-mile radius of Coos Bay. Also in Coos Bay, **Blue Heron Bistro** serves traditional German fare. ✈

Susan G. Hauser writes from Portland.

Alaska Airlines (alaskaair.com) provides daily service to Portland (PDX), Eugene (EUG) and Medford (MFR), gateways to the Oregon Coast.

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Views of Cape Arago Lighthouse, located on an offshore island, are a highlight of the Cape Arago Beach Loop.

At **Rusty Truck Brewing Co.** in Lincoln City, a summer favorite is Moonlight Ride Blackberry Ale. Six miles south of Lincoln City, **Salishan Resort** offers fine dining, a spa, a golf course and an aerial adventure park.

Newport/Yachats/Florence

• **Oregon Coast Aquarium:** Located in Newport, this center for marine education and conservation has fish, mammals and birds from the Oregon Coast.

• **Cape Perpetua:** In this area just south of Yachats, the road reaches the

highest Oregon Coast viewpoint accessible by car. Pick up a trail map at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center and hike through old-growth forest.

• **Sea Lion Caves:** About 11 miles north of Florence, take an elevator down to this year-round home of the sea lions.

• **Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park:** Just south of Florence, this park has camping, dunes and lakes.

• **Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area:** This coastal parkland extends for 40 miles and features dunes as high as 500 feet above sea level.

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