

Discover Cape Falcon Marine Reserve

Located between Cannon Beach and Manzanita, off Oswald West State Park, Cape Falcon Marine Reserve offers incredible hiking and wildlife watching opportunities.

The Cape Falcon site is made up of three areas with varying regulations. See the map for details. Oregon's marine reserves are managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Learn more by visiting oregonmarinereserves.com

While Oswald West State Park has numerous trails, this guide invites visitors to sample a variety of hikes to experience gorgeous beaches, old growth rainforest, sea cliffs and rocky headlands all overlooking Oregon's northernmost marine protected area.

Photos by Karen Driscoll, Paul Engelmeyer, Charlie Plybon, and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.
Brochure design by Elise Wahl | Timberdoodle Studio.

Hiking Safety & Etiquette

Over a million people visit Oswald West State Park each year. What you do makes an impact. Please set an example for responsible recreation and stay safe.

- In case of an emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Stay on maintained trails.
- Pack out all trash and help pick up litter, including cigarette butts.
- Leash pets and pick up all waste.
- Do not cross fences, climb cliffs, or walk out onto rocks or headlands.
- Be prepared for sudden weather changes.
- Watch for sneaker waves and rolling logs on beaches.
- Bike, bus or carpool whenever possible.





Earthquake & Tsunami Safety

Beware of tsunami evacuation signs. If you feel an earthquake and/or see the ocean suddenly recede from the shoreline, head inland and uphill quickly. On headlands, immediately go inland in case of landslides.



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Hiking Cape Falcon Marine Reserve

Oregon Marine Reserves
North Coast

Between Cannon
Beach & Manzanita



What is Cape Falcon Marine Reserve?

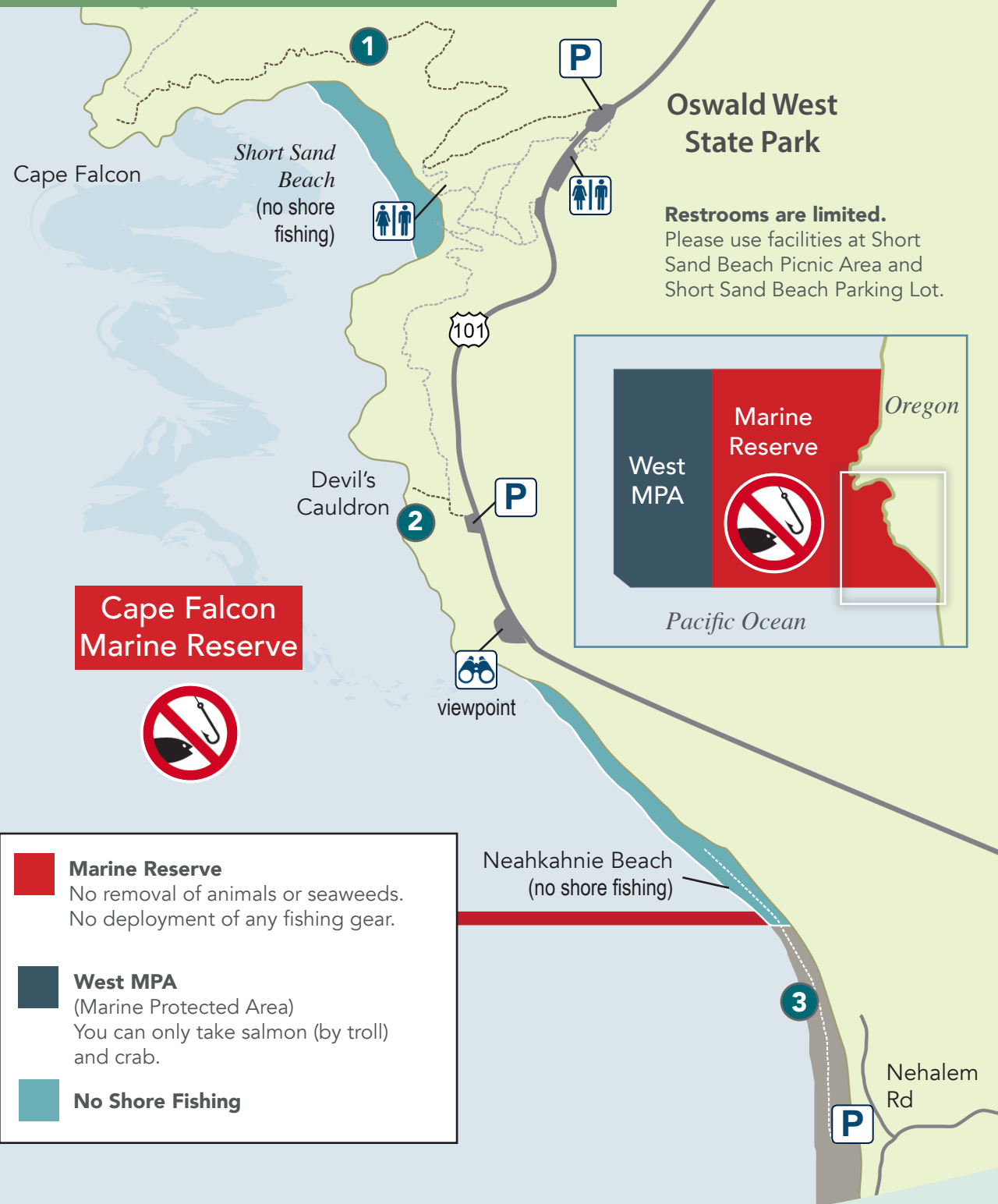
Cape Falcon Marine Reserve is a 20 square mile area dedicated to conservation and scientific research. Just like parks and protected natural areas on land, there are multiple benefits of protected areas in the ocean. They conserve ocean wildlife and biodiversity.



Marine reserves also serve as living laboratories, where we can learn about marine reserve protections and Oregon's ocean environment to help us maintain our ocean for future generations.

Pigeon guillemot and California sea lions
Pictured on cover - Black oystercatcher

Cape Falcon Marine Reserve Trails



1 Cape Falcon

5 miles round trip


The Cape Falcon trail begins at the Cape Falcon west parking lot along Highway 101, just north of the main Short Sand Beach parking lot with restrooms.

A quick 1/2 mile hike to the Kramer Memorial gives way to a brilliant overlook of Short Sand Beach and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. Continue the rest of the way through old growth forest out to Cape Falcon, where on a clear day you can see north all the way to Tillamook Head and south to Cape Lookout. Keep an eye out for gray whales.



2 Devil's Cauldron

0.2 miles round trip

The Devil's Cauldron trail starts at the gravel Elk Flats parking lot off Highway 101, south of the main Short Sand Beach parking lots, north of the paved Neahkahnie overlooks. Look for the North Nehakahnie Mountain trail sign 

Take the short trail to a shaded clearing at the top of a cliff, complete with a bench to sit on and take in the view of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. The ocean feeds into a small cove between two sheer cliffs, surging against the rocks. Keep an eye out for nesting seabirds on the cliffs and offshore rocks.

Safety: Trails can be slippery and crumbing. Wear hiking shoes and tread carefully, especially when wet. Stay on trails and back from dangerous cliffs. No restrooms at Devil's Cauldron.



3 Neahkahnie Beach

2-3 miles round trip

Walk the beach to the incredible Neahkahnie Mountain sea cliffs north of Manzanita. Cape Falcon Marine Reserve's southern boundary is 1/2 mile north of Nehalem Road. At very low tides, explore secret tidepools along the rocks. Depending on where you begin along Ocean Road, the hike can range from 2 to 3 miles round trip (from the Nehalem Road or Laneda Avenue beach entrances).

Safety: Check the tides before you go and prepare to walk south as tides come in. Take care when walking on boulders. Beware of sneaker waves and rolling logs.

Tidepool Etiquette:
Only walk on the sand or bare rock. Touch animals gently with one wet finger. Do not pry anything from the rocks. It is illegal to remove any wildlife or plants from Cape Falcon Marine Reserve tidepools.

