

and other structures still sit on the cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

In 1912, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers arrived at Cape Disappointment for construction of the North Jetty at the entrance to the Columbia River. With the South Jetty in Oregon, the jetties provided for safer navigation of the Columbia River bar. The 2.5-mile long, three million ton, stone structure was completed in 1917.

Cape Disappointment also housed a Civilian Conservation Corps camp from 1935 to 1938. The men enrolled in the program restored the fort and improved roads and trails. In 1938, the first parcel of land, known locally as "Bell's View," was purchased for \$1 by Washington State Parks for what would become Cape Disappointment State Park.

### Park amenities and facilities

Cape Disappointment State Park offers several amenities and facilities to make your visit more enjoyable and comfortable, including:

- Freshwater watercraft launch
- Freshwater and saltwater fishing
- Park store with gifts, ice, wood, fishing gear, groceries, restaurant, bike rentals and other camping essentials
- Picnic tables in the day-use area, available first come, first served
- Modern restrooms with hot showers
- Trailer dump station
- 7 miles of hiking trails

**The Discover Pass** is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands. The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles.

- Annual pass: \$30 • One-day pass: \$10 (transaction and dealer fees may apply)

The Discover Pass can be purchased online, by phone or in person. For details, visit [www.discoverpass.wa.gov](http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov) or call (866) 320-9933.

**Thank you for supporting Washington state recreation lands.**



### Things to remember

- **Park hours** – 6:30 a.m. to dusk year round.
- **Winter schedule** – Although most parks are open year round, some parks or portions of parks are closed during the winter. For a winter schedule and information about seasonal closures, visit [www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us) or call the information center at (360) 902-8844.
- Wildlife, plants and all park buildings, signs, tables and other structures are protected; removal or damage of any kind is prohibited. Hunting, feeding of wildlife and gathering firewood on state park property is prohibited.
- One camping party is allowed per site. Maximum of eight people per campsite.
- Campsites may not be held for other parties.
- Camping check-in time is 2:30 p.m., and check-out time is 1 p.m.
- Extra vehicle overnight - \$10 per night in designated area for each vehicle in excess of the one allowed per site. Does not apply to vehicle towed by a recreational vehicle.
- Pets must be on leash and under physical control at all times. This includes trail areas and campsites. Pet owners must clean up after pets on all state park lands.
- Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Engine-driven electric generators may be operated only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.



### Cape Disappointment State Park

244 Robert Gray Drive  
Ilwaco, WA 98624  
(360) 642-3078

**State Parks information:**  
(360) 902-8844

**Reservations:** Online at [www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us) or call (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688

### Other state parks located in the general area:

Fort Columbia, Leadbetter Point, Pacific Pines and Loomis Lake



### Connect with us on social media

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Share your stories and photos: [AdventureAwaits.com](http://AdventureAwaits.com)



If you would like to support Washington State Parks even more, please consider making a donation when renewing your license plate tabs. You also may place a check in a donation box when you visit state parks. Donations are a significant part of the State Parks budget and are needed to keep your parks open and operating. For more information, visit [www.parks.state.wa.us/donations](http://www.parks.state.wa.us/donations)

### Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650  
(360) 902-8500  
[www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)



#### Commission members:

Ken Bounds      Mark O. Brown  
Patricia T. Lantz      Steve S. Milner  
Douglas Peters      Rodger Schmitt  
Lucinda S. Whaley

Agency director: Don Hoch

*All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.*

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388. P&R 45-43000-02 (05/17)



## Washington State Parks

# Cape Disappointment

## State Park



EMBRACE YOUR NATURE

[www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us)

Cape Disappointment State Park is a beautiful park located where the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean. The park features the remnants of Fort Canby, one of the first of three forts built to guard the river's mouth.

This 1,882-acre park offers two miles of saltwater shoreline, deep woods and a freshwater lake. The most recent addition includes five Confluence artwork pieces by world-renowned artist Maya Lin. Perched on a cliff top, the newly expanded, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center traces the story of the Expedition, which reached the Pacific Ocean here in 1805. Visitors can tour the historic North Head Lighthouse which was constructed in 1898 to serve as a beacon for vessels approaching the mouth of the Columbia River from the north.



**Overnight Accommodations**

The park offers several options for overnight stays. There are 137 standard campsites, 60 full-utility sites with water, electricity and sewer, and 18 partial-utility sites with water and electricity only that accommodate RVs up to 45 feet long and five primitive campsites that are available to hikers and bikers only.

Looking for comfort in the middle of nature? Cape Disappointment also offers 14 yurts and three cabins. The cabins are on the shore of Lake O'Neil. Each cabin features a 6-foot covered front porch, picnic table, fire pit with grate, electric heat, lights and locking doors. Bathrooms and showers are nearby. Cabins are furnished with bunk beds that sleep three and a futon that folds into a bed for two. Pets are allowed in cabins C1, C2 and C3 with a \$15 (plus tax) pet fee per night.

The yurts are within walking distance of the ocean beach. Each yurt is 16 feet in diameter by 10 feet high and is furnished with bunk beds that sleep three, a full-size futon, lights, small end table and heater. Outside is a picnic table, fire pit with grate and a deck that is accessible to people with disabilities. All yurts are heated, but visitors should take along blankets and warm clothing as evenings can be cool. An RV pad with hookup nearby is available for an additional fee.

Reservations for individual campsites, yurts and cabins are taken year round and may be made online at [www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us) or by calling (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688.

Also available for overnight rental, the Head Lighthouse Keepers' Residence and Assistant Lighthouse Keeper's Residences offer visitors a breathtaking view of the ocean. These century-old, two-story Victorian-period houses features a comfortable living room with TV and DVD player, a spacious tiled kitchen with modern appliances, and three bedrooms with two queen-size and two single beds.

Reservations may be made year round by calling (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688.

**Park History**

Cape Disappointment sits within the traditional territory of the Chinook tribe, known to be sophisticated traders and highly engaged in the maritime fur trade.

Though the cape was first mapped by Spanish explorer Bruno de Hezeta in 1775, its naming is credited to English Captain John Meares, who approached the cape in 1788, but could not locate the river's entrance. Meares, therefore, named the headland Cape Disappointment. In 1792, American Captain Robert Gray successfully crossed the river's bar and named the river "Columbia" after his ship, the Columbia Rediviva. In 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition arrived at Cape Disappointment after their 18-month, 3,700-mile journey from St. Louis, Missouri.

The Cape Disappointment Lighthouse was constructed in 1856 to warn mariners of the treacherous river bar where the Columbia meets the Pacific, known for its many shipwrecks as "the graveyard of the Pacific." This is the oldest operating lighthouse in the Pacific Northwest. Plans for a second lighthouse, North Head Lighthouse, were drafted in 1889 because of poor visibility of the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse to southbound ships. In 1898, the North Head Lighthouse was completed.

In 1862, Cape Disappointment was armed with smoothbore cannons to protect the mouth of the Columbia River from Civil War threats. The installation was expanded to become Fort Canby in 1875, named for Army General Edward Canby. The fort continued to be improved until the end of World War II. Gun batteries

	Hiking		Camping
	Boat launch		Picnic area
	Fishing		RV camping
	Lighthouse		Park office
	Parking		Amphitheater
	Trailer dump		Park boundary
	Store		

**TRAIL LENGTHS**

Bell's View Trail	0.25 miles
Benson Beach Trail	0.45 miles
Cape Disappointment Trail	1.2 miles
Coastal Forest Loop Trail	0.5 or 1.5 miles
Discovery Trail	9 miles
McKenzie Head Trail	0.25 miles
North Head Trail	1.5 miles

