



VISITING COOS COUNTY

[HTTP://WWW.OREGONSADVENTURECOAST.COM/ACTIVITIES/CATEGORY/HISTORICAL/](http://www.oregonsadventurecoast.com/activities/category/historical/)

Cape Arago Lighthouse

Charleston, OR 97424

Cape Arago is located in Charleston just west of Coos Bay, and is easily noticeable due to its distinct fog horn. It was first illuminated in 1934, and stands at 44 feet above sea level. The Lighthouse is located on an island and is not accessible...

Coos Historical & Maritime Museum

1220 Sherman Ave.
North Bend, OR 97420

Founded in 1891, this is one of the oldest continuously operating local historical societies in Oregon. It boasts more than 250,000 historic photographs (reproductions are available) and more than 40,000 artifacts. Visitors to the Coos Historical

Marshfield Sun Printing Museum

1049 N Front St
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Features original equipment of The Sun Newspaper (1891 –1944) and exhibits on printing and local history. Hours: Open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Tues-Sat 1pm – 4pm

Oregon Coast Historical Railway Museum

766 South 1st St
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Railroad and logging equipment in an outdoor display area, and a mini-museum with photos and railroad memorabilia. Signature piece is a restored 1922 Baldwin steam locomotive that worked for many decades in the region's forests.

Shore Acres State Park

Shore Acres State Park

Golden and Silver Falls State Park
Coos Bay, OR 97420

http://www.oregonsadventurecoast.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/goldenfalls_DSC0022LOW.jpg

Sawmill & Tribal Trail

North Bend Information Center
North Bend, OR 97459
(541) 756-4613

The Sawmill & Tribal Trail is 5.6 miles one way and can be walked, bicycled or driven. Just look for the trail logo on numbered cedar post or on streets or sidewalks

Trail of Ten Falls Loop Hike

http://www.portlandhikersfieldguide.org/wiki/Trail_of_Ten_Falls_Loop_Hike

- Start point: [South Falls Lodge Trailhead](#) 🚗
- End point: [Upper North Falls](#)
- Trail Log: [Trail Log](#)
- Hike Type: Loop
- Distance: 8.7 miles
- Elevation gain: 1,300 feet
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Seasons: Year round (better in spring)
- Family Friendly: Yes
- Backpackable: No
- Crowded: Yes

• Hike Description

- Silver Falls State Park is the crown jewel of the Oregon State Parks system, being both Oregon's largest State Park (9,000 acres) and boasting one of America's most impressive waterfall day-hikes. There are no less than ten falls on this 8.7-mile loop (which can be reduced via two cutoff trails), and most of them are flat-out gorgeous. Unfortunately, while the hike is not very strenuous (most folks will handle the rolling elevation, with about 1,300 feet of total accumulation, in three to five hours), dogs are not allowed on the Canyon Trail portion of the hike -- which is where the waterfalls are found. Unless it's a foul-weather day in the middle of a week in winter, count on seeing plenty of other visitors on the trail.
- Visitors also are bound to appreciate South Falls Lodge, which isn't particularly large and doesn't provide accommodations, but features a café and seating in a rustic space that smells of firewood smoke and stone walls. Silver Falls was designated as a "Recreational Demonstration Area" by President Roosevelt in 1934 and developed as a park by the Civilian Conservation Corps, which included the lodge's construction. And before that, it was the life's passion of June D. Drake, a Silverton-area photographer who led a 20-year campaign to designate the area a park. For his efforts, one of the ten falls here bears his name.
- For this hike, start at the [South Falls Lodge Trailhead](#), in parking lot A. You'll start out in a generally eastward direction on the Rim Trail. At mile 0.1, you'll cross a side road, and at mile 0.5, you'll cross the bike trail. From here, you'll parallel the bike trail and Highway 214. At mile 0.7, you'll walk on the bike path for a short distance and at 0.9 there's a side trail connecting to the highway. When you get to the [Winter Falls Trailhead](#) at mile 1.1, the roadside strolling is half over. Continuing on the Rim Trail, there's not a whole lot to note other than a 30 inch tall anthill next to the trail. In another half mile, you'll come to the [North Falls Viewpoint](#). From here, you can look deep into the canyon at North Falls. (The view may be better if you make a quick scramble up to the highway turnout.) From here it's a quick walk to a couple of trail junctions and the [North Falls Trailhead](#). Follow the signs toward Upper North Falls and head under the highway bridge.
- [Upper North Falls](#) is only a quarter mile up this trail. This isn't the largest waterfall in the park, but it's remoter than most and it makes a fine morning introduction. Here you can see all of the standard features of Silver Creek waterfalls. The water cascades of a basalt cliff formed by ancient lava flows. You can see pieces of rock that have fallen from above and the beginnings of a cave like grotto behind the waterfall. As pretty as "Upper North" is, don't get too distracted. You've got nine more to go!
- Return to the highway and the trail junctions. Take the second right, signed as the Canyon Trail and start down. There are a lot of stairs here going down, but

you'll be amply rewarded by the views of [North Falls](#). North Falls is one of the very large falls in the park at 136 feet. Just as amazing is the huge grotto behind the waterfall. Millennia ago, lava flows buried softer soils here and even the trees that grew here. In more recent times, the waterfall has eroded away the softer material, while the hard basalt remained intact, creating the cave like area behind the falls. There are vertical holes extending up from the grotto where the lava cooled around the trees as they burned. The trail circles behind the waterfall through the grotto, then heads down the north side of the creek.

- In about a mile, you'll come to [Twin Falls](#), a nice, if smaller waterfall that gets its name from a large block of rock in the center of the stream that splits the flow into two forks.
- Next come another trail junction, this time with the Winter Trail. [Winter Falls](#) is only 3/10 of a mile across the creek on this trail. Winter Falls is a great show in the winter and spring, but it merely trickles in late summer. It's well worth the side trip, if the water levels are high enough.
- Returning to the main loop, head down the Canyon Trail. Now, you're in the highest density of waterfalls anywhere in the northwest. It's only a few steps to the top of [Middle North Falls](#). The cliffside lookout here is currently closed do to tree damage, but the view from below is fine from the trail. In another tenth of a mile, there's a side trail that goes behind the falls. A bit further down the trail is your last view of Middle North Falls, but it's a dramatic one. Just around the corner is [Drake Falls](#), best viewed from a wooden viewing platform next to the trail. Take a few more strides and you'll be on a footbridge over Hullt Creek. Looking down the creek, you'll see the lip of [Lower South Falls](#). Pause here and look up the side canyon to the right and you'll see [Double Falls](#). There's a side path that leads the short 1/10 of a mile to Double Falls. Back on the Canyon Trail, you'll continue past a gorgeous look back at Lower South Falls and then you'll cross another [footbridge over the North Fork](#).
- Next comes a brief climb, followed by a leisurely stroll down the creek. After the rush of all the falls, the pleasant, yet non-dramatic creekside stroll is almost a welcome relief. There's a beautiful side waterfall falling from the cliff across the creek that only flows in the winter and spring. Eventually the trail climbs a bit to a [junction with the Maple Ridge Trail](#). Go straight ahead here, drop to the South Fork of Silver Creek and proceed up the South Fork Canyon.
- Soon, you'll come to Lower South Falls. The creek plunges off of a lava lip in a wide sheet here. Like most waterfalls, Lower South Falls is more dramatic in the winter and spring when water flows are highest. Maps make it seem that there is a nearby trail bridge here. The reality is much more interesting as the trail loops behind the waterfall itself in a large cave like grotto. After crossing behind the waterfall, the trail climbs several switchbacks of stairs and continues upstream.
- After a long half mile, the trail comes to the most popular waterfall in the park, South Falls. South Falls is the second highest waterfall in the park and it's the highest single drop. Though the Canyon Trail crosses a bridge here and heads up the canyon wall, an alternate route crosses behind the waterfall in yet another natural grotto. There's even a bench here, to rest on, inside the grotto. South Falls rates as one of the most photographed waterfalls in Oregon, along with [Multnomah Falls](#) and [Punchbowl Falls](#). After passing the falls, the trail climbs the side of the canyon, providing several beautiful looks back at South Falls. There's a short spur trail to Frenchie Falls, which is a tiny drop that stops completely in the winter. Soon you'll come to the trail junction you passed earlier and a quick stroll brings you back to your car.

"Waterfall Hikes"

A

[Abiqua Falls Hike](#)
[Aldrich Butte-Cedar Falls Loop Hike](#)
[Alsea and Green Peak Falls Hike](#)
[August Mountain Loop Hike](#)

B

[Battle Creek Shelter Hike](#)
[Beaver Falls Hike](#)
[Bell Creek Loop Hike](#)
[Bird Creek Meadows Loop Hike](#)
[Bridal Veil Falls Hike](#)
[Butte Creek Falls Loop Hike](#)

C

[Cape Horn Loop Hike](#)
[Cedar Flats Hike](#)
[Clackamas River Trail Hike](#)
[Cooper Spur Hike](#)

D

[Defiance-Starvation Loop Hike](#)
[Devil's Rest via Wahkeena Hike](#)
[Drift Creek Falls Hike](#)
[Dry Creek Falls Hike](#)

E

[Eagle Creek to High Bridge Hike](#)
[Eagle Creek to Punchbowl Falls Hike](#)
[Eagle Creek to Tunnel Falls Hike](#)
[Eagle Creek to Wahtum Lake Hike](#)
[Eagle-Benson Loop Hike](#)
[Elk Lake Hike](#)
[Elowah Falls Hike](#)

F

[Fairy Falls Hike](#)
[Falls Creek Falls Loop Hike](#)

H cont.

[Hart's Cove Hike](#)
[Hood River Meadows Loop Hike](#)
[Horseshoe Ridge Loop Hike](#)
[Horsetail Falls Loop Hike](#)
[Huffman Peak Loop Hike](#)
[Hug Point Hike](#)

I

[Ice Lake Hike](#)

J

[Jawbone Flats Hike](#)

L

[Lancaster Falls Hike](#)
[Larch Mountain Hike](#)
[Larch Mountain via Oneonta Trail Hike](#)
[Latourell Falls Hike](#)
[Linton Falls Add-on Hike](#)
[Little North Fork Hike](#)
[Little Zigzag Falls Hike](#)
[Lower Starvation Loop Hike](#)
[Lucia Falls Loop Hike](#)

M

[Maple Ridge Loop Hike](#)
[Mark O. Hatfield Trail Hike](#)
[Moulton Falls Hike](#)
[Mount Defiance from Columbia River Hike](#)
[Muddy Fork Hike](#)
[Multnomah Falls Hike](#)
[Multnomah-Wahkeena Loop Hike](#)
[Munra Point from Yeon Trailhead Hike](#)
[Munson Creek Falls Hike](#)

N

[Niagara Falls Hike](#)

G

[Gnat Creek Hike](#)

[Gorton Creek Falls Hike](#)

[Green Lakes via Fall Creek Hike](#)

H

[Hamilton Mountain Loop Hike](#)

[North Siouxon Creek Hike](#)

O

[Oneonta Gorge Hike](#)

P

[Ponytail Falls Hike](#)

[Pool of the Winds Hike](#)

GOLDEN AND SILVER FALLS STATE NATURAL AREA

Park History

In 1936, Waterford Lumber Company gave the the original land for the park after Coos County and the state made the road a secondary highway. For this, the Oregon Highway Commission agreed to spend \$10,000 to make the road suitable for log trucks. In 1938, Coos County deeded 17.27 acres to the state, including Silver Falls, which had been given to the county for park purposes by Weyerhauser Timber Company in 1935. An additional 28 acres was given by Coos County in 1955. Golden Falls was named for Dr. C. B. Golden, first grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias of Oregon and an early visitor to the falls.

Acreage: 157.27

Annual dayuse attendance: 14,974