

# Cannon Beach Bucket List



The stuff you absolutely, positively must do when you come to Cannon Beach! Your comments and suggestions are welcome. E-mail: [paulknoch@cbcc.net](mailto:paulknoch@cbcc.net)

## The Classics

Many guests of Cannon Beach Conference Center have been attending summer conferences for decades! Coming to Cannon Beach is a cherished family tradition since 1945! For our longtime guests, there are a few “classic” Cannon Beach traditions that haven’t changed much over time. Be sure to include these on your next visit!

- **Ecola State Park**
  - “Visit Ecola State Park with it's breath-taking scenery and great hikes, especially the 1.5 mile hike from Ecola Point to Indian Beach. It winds through a lush coastal forest before opening up to gorgeous view of the rugged Oregon coastline” – Vickey G.
  - “Visit Ecola State Park and take pictures of the iconic Haystack Rock. Hike the trail from the park down to Indian Beach. It is a beautiful hike, and mostly downhill. If you have a friend come pick you up (or leave a car) at the bottom, it is even easier.” – Wendy R.
  - “Go star gazing at Ecola State Park on a clear summer night.” – Matt B.
- **Walking to Haystack Rock**
  - “Be sure to go to Haystack Rock when the tide is out....absolutely fascinating and beautiful...starfish, fish, birds of many kinds, and people there with information on it all!” – Karleene W.
  - “WALK THE BEACH EVERY DAY!!! Go down to Haystack Rock early so you can see the starfish. It's also super fun to rent the banana bikes (or a regular bike) and ride on the beach.” – Holly P.
  - “Get up early and walk to Haystack Rock while everyone else is still sleeping. If the tide is out you might even pick up a sand dollar or two.” – Chris W.
  - “Early morning walk to the rock with God. Claiming an extra bowl of cracked wheat at breakfast. Don't forget the butter, brown sugar, and white sugar!” – Larry L.
  - “Take a walk to Haystack Rock and get engaged. That happened the last time I did it and it was probably the best way to spend my time in Cannon Beach ever.” – Katie
  - “Early morning walk to haystack rock. To enjoy quiet time, pray, and reflect God and His Word. Then as the sun comes up I photograph haystack rock to memorialize the moment, and soak up the splendor of His creation.” – Chrissy A.
  - “You must walk to Haystack Rock (with at least one direction of the route walking the beach). God is so amazing, the beach is not the same; each walk or tide is different. God changes the sandbars, the waves that roll upriver with the high tide or push outward far into the sea at its lowest ebb. Depending on the tide or hour of day, Sand Dollars can be found near the rock or on Crescent Beach. If you get tired on the way to the rock, you can slow down and sit on the warm sand or wash your toes through the surf. Walk or jog by yourself if you need some prayer time with God in the cool morning fog, push the stroller or build a sandcastle with the family in the afternoon, or walk with your wife or fiancée as you hold hands whilst you marvel at the sunset. Lastly you could have a wonderful bonfire and sing

worship songs with your friends and family as you remember old memories of previous times here at Cannon Beach.” – Bryce H.

- **Mo’s chowder**

- “Moe’s-It has a nostalgic feel to it, family friendly, wonderful view, friendly staff. An amazing Peach Cobbler, plus the best clam chowder outside of CBCC’s.” – Liz M.
- “We love to eat at Mo’s! Right in town and beautiful view of Haystack! It’s always busy-but the atmosphere is great!!!” – Abby Y.
- “Of course always go to Mo’s! Ever since I was little we have always stopped there and had the clam chowder bread bowl.” – Emily N.
- “We always hit Mo’s for the relaxed family atmosphere, great food and ocean view.” – Elizabeth C.

- **Tillamook Cheese Factory**

- “Sometimes you get funny looks from people when you talk about visiting a “cheese factory” but it’s one of those things you really must do. Everyone loves the Cheese Factory! Make sure you sample all the different cheeses – especially the squeaky cheese. And a scoop of Tillamook ice cream (or two) is a must!” – Paul K.

- **Bruce’s Candy Kitchen**

- “We love to visit Bruce’s candy shop, get some taffy then head to Geppetto’s toy shop! We then take all of our new treasures back to our room at CBCC and play games. We love to laugh together. Have done this for over 14 years! Awesome memories!” – Rebecca H.
- “You can’t go to Cannon Beach and miss out on daily visits into BRUCE’S CANDY KITCHEN. The Caramel popcorn is off the charts! Plus it’s super fun to find candy that was sold in the stores when I was a kid and that was a long time ago!” – Holly P.
- “I like going to Bruce’s Candy Shop for chocolate covered gummy bears!” – Becky J.
- “A trip to Cannon beach just isn’t complete without a stop at Bruce’s Candy Kitchen! Our kids love watching the taffy pull machine and visiting the wall of jelly beans.” – Anna H.
- “It’s always fun to go to Bruce’s candy kitchen and watch them make fresh salt water taffy. And they hand out samples! Yum!” – Christa M.

- **The White Chairs** – every longtime CBCC guest knows there is no better place to enjoy the sun or share a conversation than the white Adirondack chairs in front of the Coach House. Grab a book or just enjoy the people watching – the white chairs are the central hub of CBCC.

- “Sit in the white chairs between the coach house and the dining room. We sit there every year and each time we have met great people that we have kept in contact with.” – Sarah
- “The white chairs in front of the fountain. My husband, Bill named this area The Do Nothing Zone. It is one of our favorite places to sit, relax and reconnect with family and friends. We enjoy it during the day as well as at night with the view of the lights near the bell tower. Love doing nothing in the Do Nothing Zone!” – Michelle C.

- **The Coach House** – CBCC guests know that one of the best values for snacks, ice cream, and espresso is right on grounds! The Coach House serves great lunches to including summer BBQs and

specials. Open late for when the munchies strike. Remember to ask for a smile! Smiles are always free!

- “The Bagel Monroe in the Coach House might be the best invention ever! Cheddar cheese, on cream cheese, on a bagel. All toasted!” – Katie
- “The coach house is the best place to eat ever! I could eat Bagel Monroes all day. It is not a cannon beach trip without the bagels layered with delicious cream cheese top with the perfect slice of cheddar heaven, just ever so slightly toasted so it is warm when you eat it. If I could I would eat one for breakfast lunch and dinner, go to sleep, wake up and do it all over again.” – Stephen A.
- “The single scoop of Tillamook Ice cream in the Coach House may be the best deal in Cannon Beach!” – Paul K.

## Eats and Treats

Cannon Beach is home to some of the top rated restaurants and eateries in Oregon! Whether you are looking for that perfect dining experience or just something sweet, Cannon Beach has you covered.

- **The Chocolate Café**

- “After lunch, a MUST to visit is Cannon Beach Chocolate Cafe. They are less famous than coffee heavyweights, Bella Espresso or longtime king, Sleepy Monk. But Tim, the owner of the Chocolate Cafe will tell you that it is really all about the wonder of dark chocolate & teas that they offer. Chocolate is the perfect place to go and catch up with a good friend whom you haven't caught up with in a long time. I had my first meet up here last summer with a pen-pal whom I met here in Cannon Beach and we are courting now. Of course, the milkshakes and hot chocolate made that experience (as well as our countless return visits) worth the price. One cannot go to Cannon Beach without trying one of their Legendary Dark Chocolate Milkshakes. If you prefer spice, go for the Mayan Milkshake. Don't let the price scare you; no one who has tried the shakes has regretted them yet. The only tip for the milkshakes: do not get the vanilla flavored one. Chocolate is king here-100% chocolate bars are sold for the purest of chocoholics-and vanilla is a distant 2nd. If you like teas, Chocolate Cafe has fancy Octavia teas and they offer many good suggested pairings with chocolate products. On Tuesdays in the Summer (and select dates in conjunction with CBCC's retreat or spring/fall conferences) a Chocolate 101 class is offered. This cafe is only three summers old, but it is a very special place and this would be the first place I would take a newcomer to Cannon Beach.” – Bryce H.
- “Chocolate Cafe! Great price variety. Staff is friendly and very knowledgeable. Their chocolate shakes are divine.” – Joanne P.
- “The Chocolate Café - it is different, the best chocolate around and reasonably priced for a specialty shop! And the owner is so knowledgeable about his chocolates, fascinating stuff!” – Michelle C.

- **Fish-n-chips at Ecola Seafoods**

- “Ecola Seafood fish-n-chips, fish tacos, chowder, it's all soooo good!” –Sherry M.
- “I LOVE Ecola Seafood chicken strips, yummy fries and crushed ice for your drink!” – Tiffanie F.
- “Try the crab and shrimp boat!” – Elaine H.

- “Ecola Seafood-bread bowl clam chowder, crab/shrimp boat and once we splurged on whole crabs which was so fun! Best part the grandparents and little ones can make the walk it is so close.” – Elaine Y.
- **The Great Pizza Debate** – Join in one of the most delicious debates in town: which Cannon Beach pizza reigns supreme? It’s a heavyweight showdown between the gourmet pizza of Pizza A’Feta and the family friendly classic pizza of Fultanos. Check them both out and decide for yourself!
  - “My family and I come to Cannon Beach every year and must visit Pizza A’ Fetta to get their daily special from the ‘by the slice’ window. Whatever it is, it is always hot, decadent and delicious. Oh, and don’t get me started on the crust. I can barely find something better anywhere else! Then one must sit in the courtyard while the little birds prance around you wishing they could get a few crumbs and while the small fountain provides a soothing water sound. What could be better on a summer afternoon?” – Michelle
  - “The very first place our family wants to go eat at is PIZZA A FETTA off Hemlock Street. It’s the small pizzeria near the kite shop and coffee shop. It’s the BEST pizza we have had anywhere. Of course it taste best because it’s in Cannon Beach. You can buy pizza by the slice out of a window or go inside and order yourself a big pie. I like sitting outside and eating so that we can visit with all of the fabulous DOGS that visit Cannon Beach. Last summer we shared pizza with a family and all of their pugs. It’s a great way to meet people and enjoy delicious pizza at the same time!” – Holly P.
  - “The Thai Chicken pizza at Pizza A’fetta is the best pizza I have ever eaten.” – Kathy C.
  - “Fultano’s Pizza – Yummm! It is always fun to grab a pizza slice and sit on a bench outside and people watch. Great family place to eat!” – Denise P.
  - “Fultanos pizza has a teriyaki chicken pizza that is amazing!” – Christa M.
- **Cannon Beach Bakery** - A longtime Cannon Beach favorite, those in the know always head to Cannon Beach Bakery for some of their delicious bread and baked treats. Delicious deli sandwiches are available after 11 am. Don’t be surprised if there is a bit of a line in the morning for fresh pastries!
  - “The haystack bread is amazing. We get the sliced loaf, grab some sandwich meat at a deli and eat at the beach. The bread is soft and chewy and fresh baked every day. Yum! They also make amazing poppy seed or chocolate muffins (served upside down).” – Wendy R.
  - “A sailor jack muffin can be purchased from the Cannon Beach Bakery for about \$2. It is basically a bran muffin with other things added and glazed over the whole thing with a sweet glaze. They also have a great poppy seed muffin that is also glazed over for about the same price.” – Jeff C.
  - “The Cannon Beach bakery...there is no way I can pick one item...I always leave with a box full of assorted goodies!” – Kristi K.
  - “Canon Beach Bakery....the Haystack bread is a must! So many treats to be discovered!!” – Barbara P.
  - “The apple cider donuts at the Cannon Beach Bakery cannot be beat. We love to wash them down with an Irish Kiss latte from Bella Espresso or a Monk's Decadence mocha from The Sleepy Monk! The donuts and coffee travel well on early morning

walks on the beach out to Haystack Rock- that's a huge bonus!" – Kelsey W.

- **Tom's** – Need a quick bite but don't want to spend a whole lot? Nothing fancy at Tom's but you can get a decent lunch without spending a fortune.
  - "Boost your little burger by asking for lettuce!" – Paul K
  - "Friendly folks there at Tom's and reasonable prices." – Bill J.
- **The Driftwood** – Long known by locals as one of the best places in town for a meal, The Driftwood is no longer a Cannon Beach "secret". Since opening their patio with lighting and an open fire, the Driftwood is one of the best places to grab a bite to eat while people watching.
  - "My very favorite place to eat that I save for special occasions is the Driftwood Restaurant. I just celebrated my 15th wedding anniversary there and enjoyed the best rib eye steak, asparagus, salad, wine, and marionberry pie I have ever had. What a feast!" – Val M.
  - "The Driftwood Inn fish & chips & clam chowder the best you will find anywhere!" – Al K.
- **Soups and Sandwiches at Season's Café**
  - "When in Cannon Beach there are many places worth your time and appetite. For lunch, Seasons Cafe easily is worth a prized place on the Cannon Beach Bucket List for the amazing clam chowder and sandwiches served excellent each and every day. Seasons Cafe strikes a balance between good food and great affordability for lunch. You can eat inside with a bowl of Doug's famous chowder in hand as you give thanks to God that you are inside on a stormy December afternoon. If you so choose, outdoor seating is available while you soak up the sunshine as your taste buds and wallet savor the thought of a 1/2 "Californian" turkey sandwich and a cup of soup for just \$10. I can't imagine coming here without going to Seasons. I've met many new friends over lunch, had a few lovely lunches with my significant other, and have met her parents here on a wonderful spring afternoon over soup and salad. My parents look for bargains as well as p rice, so when they visited from California, they fell in love with Seasons just as they did for Haystack Rock and our famous tufted puffins. Visit Seasons for a great lunch and fellowship." – Bryce H.
- **Best Burger At The Beach?** – Burger aficionados have several choices in Cannon Beach. But you better be hungry! These aren't your dollar menu bite size "burgers" – these are man-sized monstrosities of mammoth measurements!
  - **The Lumberyard** - If you are really hungry, and I mean REALLY hungry, head across the street from CBCC to the Lumberyard and take the "Head Rigger Challenge" – earn your spot on the Wall of Fame by taking down the classic Lumberyard 4x4 burger (that's four patties!), French fries, and a 16 oz. drink in 30 minutes.
  - **Bill's Tavern**- Eat on the family friendly side of Bill's Tavern and enjoy what may be the tastiest burger in town. Try their tasty fries too!
  - **The Driftwood**- Eat where the locals eat! Try Ye Olde Driftwood Burger – you won't be disappointed. One-third pound Black Angus beef with lettuce, onion, pickle, tomato & relish!
  - **Dairy Maid, Warrenton Oregon** – feeling adventurous? Love In-N-Out burger? Check out the closest thing you'll find on the North Oregon coast to the famous In-N-Out Double

Double here. Remember to bring cash – no plastic accepted here!

- **The Coffee Trail** – Finding a good cup of coffee in Cannon Beach is easy. Deciding which coffee place is your favorite isn't! Try them all for the ultimate caffeine buzz!
  - **Insomnia**
    - “Insomnia. Delicious coffee. Cool environment. Location is superb. I find it hilarious that their name doesn't reflect their hours.” – Joanne P.
    - “The hottest cup of coffee in Cannon Beach right now! Very friendly folks and good coffee!” – Paul K.
    - “Great atmosphere. Great coffee!” – Carol K.
  - **Bella Espresso**
    - “Bella Espresso for great coffee & cream cheese coffee cake. It's not only great food & service but it's close to CBCC for that early morning devotional time.” – Elizabeth C.
    - “Bella espresso. And for good reason! Not only is the coffee the best EVER, but when the employees hear your having a tough time, and they give you your drink for free, that is total kindness. I will always be thankful for such a caring gesture!” – Stephanie V.
    - “Bellas coffee is amazing! Not only great menu items but the staff is amazing! Nothing can compare to the friendly staff. Awesome experience every time we are there!” – Rebecca H.
    - “An absolute essential on a cloudy morning on the coast is a French kiss latte from Bella Espresso.” – Katie
  - **Bald Eagle**
    - “Check out their fresh home-made soups and baked good. Very friendly local owners.” – Paul K.
    - “Starbucks coffee in Cannon Beach! Grab your espresso and visit the art gallery next door.” – Shelly P.
  - **Sleepy Monk**
    - “Sleepy Monk's Coffee! A wee bit of a walk from the Conference Center, but there isn't a better roast or crafted coffee ANYWHERE! You enter and are instantly a friend. Expect a line, but use the time to consider what delectable baked good will accompany your delicious latte... perhaps a blue cheese and bacon scone, a gigantic cookie (snickerdoodle is my favorite) or something else that calls your name. Generally, we make it down twice a day most days and we always leave Cannon Beach with bags of roasted beans.” – Debra T.
    - “The chocolate whip cream is amazing on a Mocha!!” – Jeff W.
    - “Great place to drink coffee, read the newspaper, or people watch!” – Dillon T.
  - **The Coach House** – stop by the Coach House for Sleepy Monk coffee and espresso!

# What To Do

- **Hikes, Hikes, and More Hikes**
  - Short Sands (Easy) – Enjoy a nice, moderate stroll through old growth forests on a paved path along bubbling brooks to one of the more stunning beaches in the area. About a ½ mile each way, this gentle hike is truly one of the best kept secrets on the Oregon coast.
  - Cape Falcon (Moderate) – one of the lesser known gems of the North Oregon Coast, the Cape Falcon trail is a 2.5 mile out-and-back trail with stunning views of Smuggler’s Cove, a waterfall, and more.
  - Clatsop Loop from Indian Beach (Moderate) – Park at Indian Beach and follow the signs to the Clatsop Loop. Half of the loop is moderate in difficulty with stunning views of the coast and Tillamook light house. The return half of the loop is a gently graded service road. At the halfway point you will find the Hikers Cabins and lookout. (Watch for the WW II bunkers which are visible to your left on the trail to the lookout from the Hikers Cabins)
  - Saddle Mountain (Difficult) – Easily the most challenging and rewarding hike on the coast. The Saddle Mountain trail is just 2.25 miles but you will gain 1,600 feet in elevation while traversing misty old growth forests and sub-alpine wildflowers. Your reward will be breathtaking (literally) views of the Pacific Ocean, Mount Ranier, Mount St. Helens, and Mount Hood. Leave around 3 am if you want to watch the sunrise from the summit (take a warm jacket and flashlight). The final ascent to the summit is steep and would not be recommended for children under 15.
  - Tillamook Head (Difficult) – arrange a ride from to the trailhead in Seaside and hike back to Cannon Beach over Tillamook Head. This 9 mile trail will test your endurance and reward you with stunning views along the way. The trail is muddy in areas most of the year so dress appropriately!
- **Relive the Goonies!**
  - “When I visit Cannon Beach my favorite thing to do is go up to Ecola State Park and act out the scene from the Goonies word for word where they are investigating the old restaurant. One Eyed Willy is still out there....you just have to believe.” – Stephen A. |
- **Cannon Beach Spa** – “We had a couples massage for our anniversary there & it was heaven, we floated out of there!!!” – Sherry M.
- **Catch a show** – enjoy live, local theater during the summer at Coaster Theater. Originally a roller rink in the 1920’s, the Coaster Theater has developed a reputation for showcasing fine local talent and top notch productions.
- “Go to the Coaster Theater for any live production. Sound and seats are quality. Actors are local and professional!” – Val M.
- **Fly A Kite**
  - “Fly my kite.... I just love to fly my kite on the beach!” – Barbara P.

# Best Beaches

- **Hug Point**

- “Afternoon of cave spelunking, stagecoach track walking, sand castle building, and getting as wet (and cold) in the surf as I dare at (where else) Hug Point!” – Larry L.
- “Hug Point at low tide. High tide is fun also, when the water is crashing the rocks. However going at low tide you really get to see history and so beautiful! To think of wagons battling the waves and the sea. Or even just hugging the side of a cliff, they were a brave bunch. It is a must see!” – Michelle C.
- “Hug Point just may be one of the most interesting natural areas on the coast. There really is nothing like it. Definitely worth a visit!” – Louise S.

- **Indian Beach**

- “Indian Beach is worth the short drive. Some of the most stunning sea stacks along the Oregon coast. Pack a picnic and watch the surfers.” – Paul K.

- **Crescent Beach**

- “From the conference center, walk or ride a bike to the trailhead to Crescent beach. Appropriate footwear is recommended as it’s a fairly steep trail up and down. Your efforts will be rewarded when you reach the beach. Often, you may be the only person there! You can pretend you are a castaway on your own deserted stretch of the coast!” – Larry J.

- **Chapman Point**

- “Chapman Point feels secluded but its just a short walk from downtown Cannon Beach. A great beach to visit any time of year.” – Teresa L.

- **Arcadia Beach**

- “We love to go to Arcadia beach and collect shells early in the morning! So many sand dollars there!!” – Abby Y.
- “Arcadia Beach is one of my favorites. It has everything you need: easy parking, bathrooms, picnic tables, and a lovely beach. Usually less crowded than a lot of the other beaches.” – Paul K.

- **Short Sands**

- “The trail to Short Sands beach is one of the prettiest trails you’ll find. A bubbling creek follows most of the way. Short Sands is the beach where a lot of locals go to surf and relax. The parking lot can look crowded but there is plenty of beach to share. A beautiful cove so definitely check it out.” – Sandra S.

## Beach Bucket List Honorable Mentions

- “Osburn's for ice cream! They have a cup of coffee with a scoop of ice cream called the "Cannon Ball" Yum!” – Karen C.
- “Whenever I come to Cannon Beach, I absolutely HAVE to get a Yummer Bar from Cheri's Cafe & Cannon Beach Cookie Co. on Hemlock. Once you try them, you will come back for more too.” – Jodi D.
- “On my “must do” list is a visit to the Jeffrey Hull Art Gallery. He captures the sea like no one else in watercolor and a genuine nice guy too.” – Elizabeth C.
- “Morris Fireside Inn - comfort foods for the whole family! Pies there are amazing!!! Scratch food & great atmosphere!” – Sherry M.
- “The Cannon Beach library is a fun place to visit. Check out a good book and sit by the crackling fireplace. Very friendly local volunteers staff the library. Good selection of books for sale too if you need some summer reading.” – Paul K.
- Farmer's Market – ” If you are in Cannon Beach on a Tuesday, you must visit the Cannon Beach Farmers Market. It is located in Midtown, across from the Family Market and conveniently near Haystack Rock. The bus to Portland also stops here so you can take your produce home if this is your last stop before leaving town. The local city hall offices can issue tokens if you have SNAP card or don't have cash. The farmers market is a wonderful place to break bread literally with friends over good country or bluegrass music. The stands also sell a variety of items from salami and goat cheese (which taste delicious on a baguette) to Oregon blueberries or peaches. If you are looking for creative ideas on lunch or dinner but don't know where to start, the farmers love soliciting cooking tips. When you are done shopping for produce, why not slowly sip a fruit smoothie as you look westward at the crashing waves? Thank you Lord for wonderful produce and quality time with your friends that you run into each week at the market in small town, Cannon Beach. Life is a blessing here by the sea with the farmers market in town. However, it ends with the Summer (Oct) so hurry and visit while you can or make plans to meet me here next year.” – Bryce H.
- “The Lazy Susan - for breakfast everything is super duper” –Jeff W.