



Waves wash over basalt rocks on Manzanita Beach with Neahkahnie Mountain in the background.

about 30 inches of tree drip from fog condensing in the canopy, falls here annually.

An 18-mile road into Hoh leads past moss-draped alders, dripping cedars, a 270-foot-tall Sitka spruce, and a soaked sign beside the Hard Rain Cafe (“When you see rain, think of us”). The big-league hike from here is along the Hoh River Trail, a nearly 20-mile tromp to the park’s centerpiece, Mount Olympus. But for a quick natural feast, the forest’s two signature miler-loops, the **Spruce Nature Trail** and **Hall of Mosses**, are brimming with ecological wizardry. Here, thousand-year-old spruce and fir dive skyward into clouds. Emerald big-leaf maples, covered from trunk to treetop in club moss, might at any moment grab lone hikers and transport them to Narnia. Rotted nurse logs lie along the path like old train wrecks, hosting new tree seedlings (one in 10,000 will make it). Microsystems within microsystems are here, growing, dying, breathing new life, making you feel oddly uneasy. Like you’ve suddenly shrunk and teleported to some primordial rainscape.

OREGON: Summit And Sojourn In Manzanita

For crowd-avoiding, saltwater-taffy-declining types, the Oregon Coast starts hitting its stride in tiny Manzanita, just down the road from the Portland-weekender towns of bumper-car-ish Seaside and nicer Cannon Beach. It’s an easy place to miss, hiding beyond an eye-popping set of lofty seaside lookout points along the highway where everyone pulls over a little too early.

STEP ONE: Legend has it that a cache of Spanish treasure is buried somewhere on 1,680-foot Neahkahnie Mountain, which hulks over the Pacific in **Oswald West State Park**. An only slightly less well-hidden payoff is the panorama from the top of the park’s 1.8-mile **Neahkahnie Mountain Trail**, accessed by a gravel road turnoff (look for the “Mount Neahkahnie” sign cloaked with a pine branch) two miles north of Manzanita. The trailhead is another half-mile up the road on the left, and the hike takes about 90 minutes round-trip at a reasonable clip. Three miles south of here in neighboring Nehalem, stop for what Manzanita locals call “the best breakfast in town out of town” at **Wanda’s Cafe & Bakery**. The all-day eggs menu at this quirky but homey stop is the area’s tastiest reward for climbing Mount Neahkahnie. Our pick: the smoked salmon and scallions omelet with dill cream cheese.

STEP TWO: If Bose entertainment systems, Bang & Olufsen phones, fully loaded kitchens with a copy of *The Naked Chef*, heated floors and towel racks, and showers with oversize shower heads and Kiehl’s shampoo don’t meet your exact definition of the word “cabin,” you’ll quickly adjust at the **Coast Cabins**, a quiet, classy enclave of five impeccably furnished units just up the street from Manzanita Beach (my nomination for best beach in Northern Oregon). Cabin No. 5 is the opus, a two-story suite with a stylish earth-tone Zen vibe, complete kitchen, private dry sauna, outdoor spa, and flagstone patio with teak furniture.

OREGON: Rusticate On The Rogue River

Tough as it is to turn your back on the Oregon coast, one of the biggest temptations happens about 30 miles