

WEEKEND ESCAPE | CENTRAL OREGON COAST



Photographs by STEVE LEN

THE LAMP at the Heceta Head Lighthouse on Oregon's rough central coast casts beams visible up to 21 miles out to sea.

Leave beaming

Rugged meets cozy at the Heceta Head Lighthouse B&B

BY BARBARA ALBRIGHT >>> Where can you stay in a historic sentinel — rumored to be haunted — on a rugged coastline? Or watch a towering beacon cast beams of light that extend 21 miles out to sea? At Heceta Head Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast on Oregon's central coast. My husband and I explored this icon and coastal region for a weekend in November. Besides airfare and car rental, we spent about \$536, including \$133 per night for two nights in a room in the lightkeeper's cottage, dinner at the Waterfront Depot in Florence (1252 Bay St.; [541] 902-9100, www.thewaterfrontdepot.com) and groceries purchased for the cottage.

The bed

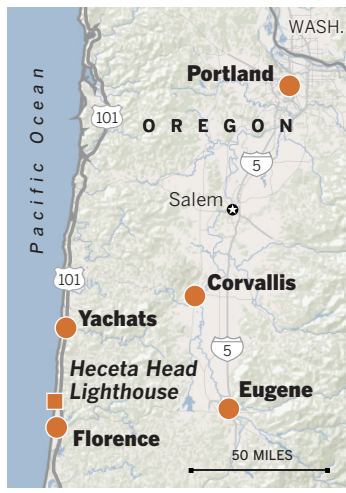
The Heceta Head Lighthouse B&B ([866] 547-3696, www.hecetalighthouse.com). Rooms from \$133 a night Nov. 1-April 30; rates higher May 1-Oct. 3. Includes seven-course breakfast., once the lightkeeper's cottage, is now a six-room inn. There are two large parlors with fireplaces on the main floor as well as a large outdoor deck with seating. Each night we burrowed under the thick duvets on our bed and listened to the crashing surf and howling wind. The shared bathroom across the hall had a porcelain claw-foot tub in which I could sit and gaze at the forest and beach below while soaking. I felt as if I were floating back in time. And yes, thick terry-cloth robes are provided.

The meal

I'm not big on sharing a breakfast table with strangers, but each of the seven courses, introduced by the chef, who explained the source of the local ingredients, was so mouth-watering that it was fun to share the delight with others. "The Lighthouse Breakfast Cookbook" is for sale and loaded with the B&B's recipes, as well as family stories of the innkeepers and a history of the lighthouse.

The find

The Art Deco-style Siuslaw River Bridge and the Cape Creek Bridge, which resembles an aqueduct, are both on Highway 101, the route to the lighthouse.

Sources: Mapbox, OpenStreetMap
Los Angeles Times

latimes.com /weekendescapes

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Both were built in the 1930s, are on the National Register of Historic Places, and are as beautiful from below as they are from above. They rival the natural surroundings they span.

The lesson learned

Stop in Eugene, Ore., on your way to the coast for groceries. Once you're at the lighthouse, you're 15 miles from Florence, the nearest town. The cottage has a full kitchen for guests' use.

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THE CAPE CREEK Bridge near the lighthouse was built in the 1930s and is on the National Register of Historic Places.



THE HECETA HEAD Lighthouse B&B was once the lightkeeper's cottage and beckons visitors with its two large parlors.



OCEAN VIEWS are part of the experience at the Heceta Head Lighthouse B&B. Florence, the nearest town, is 15 miles away.

NEED TO KNOW

NEWS • TIPS • TRENDS

Clocking those border crossings

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has a new mobile app that tells travelers how long they will have to wait at land border crossings to Mexico and Canada. The app won't necessarily make trips faster, but it can give you a heads up on which lanes are moving fastest. The Border Wait Time app provides the status on how many lanes are open, what types of lanes — including those for people enrolled in expedited traveler programs such as SENTRI, NEXUS, FAST and Ready Lane — and how many minutes it will take to get through. The app is free and available on Google Play and is coming soon to Apple App Store.

— MARY FORGIONE

125 years of aloha

An exhibition at Honolulu's historic Bishop Museum chronicles the mind-boggling developments in Hawaii during the last 125 years. The just-opened "Change: 125 Years Through the Eyes of Bishop Museum" takes visitors back through the decades as part of the museum's celebration of its founding in 1889. More than 1,000 historic photographs are used to illustrate 15 themes, including communication, entertainment, fashion and food and transportation. Interactive displays allow guests to flip through vintage Hawaiian restaurant menus, test their knowledge of local sports history and listen in on a party-line call using an antique telephone. "Change" continues through March 16. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Mondays. Admission is \$19.95 for adults and \$14.95 for children ages 4 to 12. Info: (808) 847-3511, www.bishopmuseum.org.

— JAY JONES



R&R Partners

Math in Las Vegas

Las Vegas welcomed its 40 millionth visitor of 2014 on Sunday, making it a record year. At least, it thinks it welcomed that person. No one can determine exactly when that milestone was reached or even if it was, but entertainers including Penn & Teller surprised tourists with prize packages, and Teller singled out two women from Texas as they strolled through the Linq promenade on Sunday as milestone visitors. "We're supposed to know exactly who the 40 millionth is because Teller was supposed to count," the duo's Penn Jillette said. "He was counting from the beginning of the year and then he lost count at 39 million so now we know that someone in this area now is probably the 40 millionth." The women were awarded makeovers at a local salon.

— JAY JONES

Lavish reopening

Diana Ross will perform Feb. 3 in Brooklyn's Kings Theatre, the first performance at the venue in nearly four decades. It opened in 1929 as one of Loew's "wonder theaters" in the New York area. Almost \$94 million was spent on restoring and re-creating the theater's 3,000-seat interior. When it opens next year, the theater will offer live theatrical performances, dance, community events and concerts. Free tours will be offered too. Tickets . Info: www.kingstheatre.com.

— MARY FORGIONE



Eagle Creek

Duffel on wheels

In the beginning, Eagle Creek made no-nonsense duffel bags and backpacks that could survive your far-flung adventures. Its new No Matter What Flatbed Duffel has all the space and toughness of its predecessors, plus rugged tractor-like wheels, a sturdy handle pull system and an open rectangular build that makes efficient use of its space. Flat on its back, the duffel unzips in a U shape for fullest access to contents. The bag is available as a 20- or 22-inch wheel-aboard, or a 28- or 32-inch behemoth, each in black, bright blue or red. The 20-inch duffel costs \$175; 22-inch, \$180; 28-inch, \$200; and 32-inch, \$220. Info: www.lat.ms/13dnKWZ.

— JUDI DASH