

Cape Blanco SP

Cape Blanco is Oregon's westernmost point on the mainland and the site of one of the state's 12 lighthouses, constructed here in 1870. The Cape is also the first documented part of Oregon recorded in European exploration: in 1603, Martín de Aguilar, part of a Spanish expedition, sighted the headland and named it for its light-colored 250-foot cliffs. The Cape Blanco Lighthouse is about as close as you'll get to that western point, as the end of the headland is part of a Coast Guard Reserve, not in the state park, and out of bounds to the public. However, there are many miles of walking in the state park itself, including to beaches north and south, a couple of river mouths, and trails to link them all. Offshore are numerous sea stacks, all part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness. Bear in mind that Cape Blanco, jutting out as it does, often suffers from fierce winds and, even during balmy summer months, may collect a dense fog bank that restricts visibility. Note that some online sources give Cape Blanco as the westernmost point in the lower 48 states, but that distinction actually belongs to Cape Alava in Washington.

You can split this hike into two or more segments:

- Cape Blanco South (including the lighthouse): 3.9 miles + 2.1 miles extra out and back along the beach to the Elk River Mouth
- Cape Blanco North (including the lighthouse): 4.2 miles

