

2016

The West Coast

(The Coast,
Death Valley, and
Mt. Rainier)

The Yaquina Head Lighthouse is part of a series of lighthouses built along the Oregon coast for ship navigation. It has the tallest tower of the Oregon lighthouses (93 feet), and was built out of 370,000 bricks. It was first lit on August 20, 1873, and is still in use today.
(8/30/2015, Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, OR)



Zabriskie Point

Zabriskie Point is one of the well-known viewpoints in Death Valley. It is a favorite of photographers at both sunrise and sunset, as the early and late sun adds texture to the badland formations in the area.

This is a southerly view from the point a little before sundown.

(3/15/2015, Death Valley National Park, CA)

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29				New Year's Day	
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	Martin Luther King Day	19	20	21	22	23
24						
31	25	26	27	28	29	30



Heceta Head Lighthouse

The Heceta Head Lighthouse is another of the Oregon coast lighthouses used for navigation. Each lighthouse has a unique combination of flashes in terms of timing and color so ships know which lighthouse they are seeing (Heceta Head flashes white every 10 seconds). The lighthouse was first lit in 1893, and is still active today.

(8/29/2015, Heceta Head, OR)

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Valentine's Day 14	Presidents' Day 15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



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Clark's Nutcracker

The Clark's Nutcracker is a commonly seen bird in the northwest. In many ways it resembles a gray version of a Scrub Jay. There is an actual Gray Jay, but they typically have some black on the top-back of their head, and have a notably-shorter bill.

(9/7/2015, Frozen Lake Trail, Sunrise area, Mount Rainier National Park, WA)

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Daylight Savings starts				St. Patrick's Day		Spring (9:31 pm PDT)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday						
27	28	29	30	31		



Ohanapecosh River

The Ohanapecosh River runs right past the visitor center and campground at Ohanapecosh, giving visitors easy access to the colorful river.
(9/6/2015, Ohanapecosh, Mount Rainier National Park, WA)

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	Tax Day	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30





Blue Grouse

The female grouse keeps a careful lookout while her children feed nearby. This family of grouse was at over 6,600' on the base of Mt. Rainier.
 (9/11/2015, Skyline Trail, Paradise area, Mount Rainier National Park, WA)

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Father's Day 19	Summer (3:35 pm PDT) 20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Mount Rainier reflected in Bench Lake

Mount Rainier National Park has a Reflection Lake. However, between plants in the water and shores closed due to excessive tourist traffic, actually seeing a good reflection in it can be challenging. For those willing to take a hike, Bench Lake provides spectacular reflections from a nice sandy beach, and away from most tourists.

(9/10/2015, Bench Lake, Mount Rainier National Park, WA)

July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
	Independence Day					
3	4	5	6	7	1	2
10	11	12	13	14	8	9
17	18	19	20	21	15	16
24					22	23
31	25	26	27	28	29	30



Mesquite Dunes

The Mesquite Dunes are the most accessible dunes in Death Valley, and thus receive the most visitors, especially at sunrise & sunset when the low light emphasizes the texture of the dunes. Despite this, with a bit of exploring it is still possible to find places with relatively few footprints.

(3/21/2015, Mesquite Dunes, Death Valley National Park, CA)

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



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Tillamook Rock Lighthouse

Most of Oregon's lighthouses were not easy to get to when they were built, and thus lighthouse keepers and their families had a lonely and busy existence. They had to provide their own food and supplies when they weren't tending the lighthouse. But the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse takes difficult access to new extremes, as it is located on a small island 1.2 miles offshore. It must have been an incredibly lonely job, as well as scary at times. It had the nickname of Terrible Tilly as waves have been known to crash over the top of it (the top of the tower is 140' above the water). Not surprisingly, this is no longer an active lighthouse.

(9/3/2015, Clatsop Loop Trail, Ecola SP, OR)

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
	Labor Day					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	Fall (7:22 am PDT)	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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Fall Color

Typically when people think of fall color, they think of trees. But the color of bushes can be equally spectacular.
 (9/11/2015, Skyline Trail, Paradise area, Mount Rainier National Park, WA)

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24					
30	Halloween 31	25	26	27	28	29



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Hoary Marmot

Hoary Marmots are quite common around the trails on Mount Rainier, and they are conditioned to humans so they don't move far away when you approach. (At least one hiker we met swore he almost stepped on one thinking it was a rock.) They hibernate 8-9 months out of the year, so when they are awake they eat vast amounts of meadow vegetation. Lupine leaves seemed to be the food of choice the day we saw this one.

(9/11/2015, Skyline Trail, Paradise area, Mount Rainier National Park, WA)

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
		1	2	3	4	5
Daylight Savings ends					Veterans Day	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			





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Mount Rainier after sunset with Edith Creek in the foreground (a little above Myrtle Falls)
(9/9/2015, Paradise area, Mount Rainier National Park, WA)