Waterways Await You!

Find more than two dozen freshwater tributaries, the Coos Bay Estuary spans nearly 20 square miles, offering kayakers and canoeists a number of year-round paddling opportunities. Paddle the tide sloughs and inlet, launch expeditions along the waterfront and around bay islands, or explore the peaceful reaches of South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Estuaries are protected embayments where rivers meet the ocean. They support a fascinating tapestry of life—from worms, clams and other tiny creatures buried deep in the mud, to multitudes of young fish and crabs, to a variety of resident and migratory wildlife.

Whenever you explore, you'll find a unique perspective.

Waterways have always been an important part of Coos Bay's transportation system, and our coastal rivers and bays serve a wide array of craft.

Waterways teem with wildlife as well, and a quiet approach in a canoe or kayak gives you up-close views. Every season brings its own rewards and fresh experiences in this recreational wonderland. Let's paddle!

Caution

Dress yourself appropriately; cold water temperatures can cause hypothermia within minutes. Carry emergency equipment and wear approved flotation devices. Be alert for logs and other submerged obstacles. Watch for shipping traffic. Maintain a safe distance from motorized crafts and do not interfere with fishing activities. Be aware of tide times and plan paddles on incoming tides. Warning: low tides reveal many areas of soft, sticky mud. Strong winds develop most summer afternoons. Do not enter bay waters during storms or heavy chop. Be respectful of private property and do not trespass.

Maps not intended for navigation. This brochure cannot list or include all precautions and hazards. When you travel any of these waterways, you assume responsibility for your safety. Authors and sponsors assume no liability for accidents and incidents.

Sponsors and phone numbers

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: (541) 756-0100
Oregon International Port of Coos Bay
Charleston (541) 898-2248
South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
Charleston (541) 898-2240
Bay Area Chamber of Commerce (541) 269-3335
U.S. Coast Guard: Charleston (541) 898-3269
U.S. Forest Service: Charleston (541) 898-3102

Coos Bay Estuary Partnership

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Oregon's Coos Bay Estuary Water Trails

Coos Bay, Haynes Inlet
North Slough, Pony Slough, Coos Bay/Boating, North Bend waterways, Charleston, Bay islands, Eastside, Joe Nye Slough, South Slough, Coalbank Slough, Isla Slough, Green Acres, Shinglehouse Slough, David Slough, Catching Slough, Coos River, Dellwood, Millcreek River and Allegany.

fold here for pocket or pack

Coos Bay
Photo by Tom Hauke

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