



LARRY ANDREASEN

A couple enjoys watching a display of octopus kites at the D River Wayside.

Late Fall Fun in LINCOLN CITY



Lincoln City offers plenty to do in the off-season, so head to the coast to enjoy a myriad of indoor and outdoor activities.

STORY BY JUDY FLEAGLE

Glassblower Kelly Howard creates a vase at the Jennifer Sears Glass Art Studio.

“LET’S BLOW YOUR own float,” said glassblower Kelly Howard. I was thrilled as she placed the blowpipe in my gloved hands.

We went to the “glory hole,” the glass-melting furnace, and dipped up a gather of glass. We pulled it out and Kelly said to keep it turning. Then back for a second gather before squashing the hot glass into the colored clumps of small glass pieces that I had already selected. Back and forth we went to the glory hole. Sometimes I had the blowpipe, other times she did. The glass got rolled, shaped, and pinched to give swirls to the colors, and then she started a bubble in it. Always we kept it turning.

After she inserted a tube and mouthpiece, I got to blow. She handled the other end. I blew when she said blow and stopped when she said stop.

“If you blow too hard,” she warned, “you can blow the end right out—then it won’t be a float anymore.” Before I knew it, the blob of glass had transformed into a large, round float—in my mind, the most beautiful one in the whole studio. After she scored the end and I knocked it off onto a soft cloth landing, it was placed in a cool-down furnace. It will cool slowly there for 18 hours before I can take it with me.

Glassblowing is only one of many ways to have fun in the winter in Lincoln City.

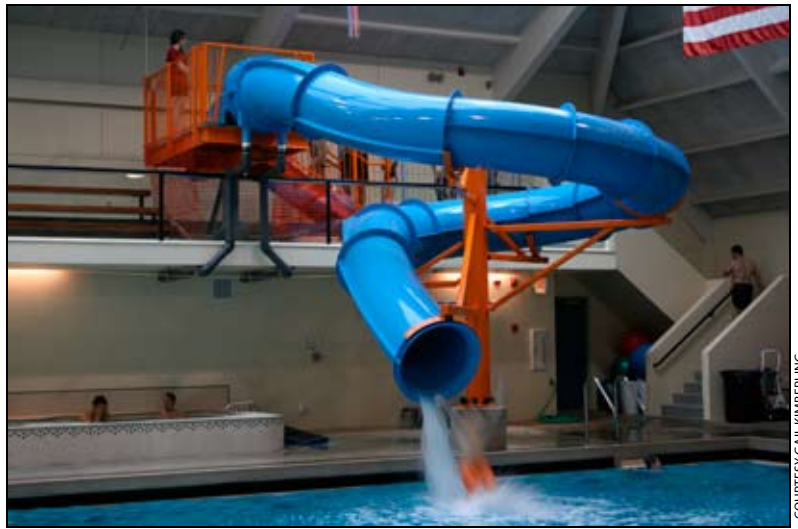
Some people hunker down in winter and don’t venture far, unless they have to. Others don’t mind braving the winter weather for a coastal adventure. If that sounds like you, read on. This article provides more than a dozen excuses to visit Lincoln City in the wintertime.

AMAZING INDOOR ACTIVITIES

The **Jennifer Sears Glass Art Studio** (541-996-2569; www.JenniferSearsGlassArt.com) is so popular that appointments are necessary. While floats are the most popular item, fluted bowls are a close second. Blowing bowls began serendipitously when someone accidentally blew out the end of their float and liked the resulting bowl shape. Visitors can also blow paperweights, starfish, or hearts. The studio is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The glass art cannot be picked up until the next day, but if you’re heading out of town, you can have it mailed to you. Howard is one of four glassblowing artists at the studio, and nothing they create is on sale there. Across the street at Volta glass art gallery, their floats, vases, fish, and more are on display and for sale.



BARB GRANO



COURTESY GAIL KIMBERLING



COURTESY GAIL KIMBERLING



COURTESY GAIL KIMBERLING



JUDY FLEAGLE



COURTESY FREED GALLERY

Learning how to cook fabulous dishes and getting to eat them brings folks to the **Culinary Center in Lincoln City** (541-557-1125; www.OregonCoast.org/culinary) year-round to attend classes. Executive Chef Sharon Wiest and guest chefs teach at the demonstration kitchen, and at the larger hands-on kitchen where everyone gets involved. “We try to have our classes fit seasonally with what’s available,” says Wiest. “And I enjoy doing a lot of small dish classes, where participants stop to eat several times.” Classes are usually Friday evenings or mid-day Saturdays. Check online for a list of November/December classes. Four different cook-offs, plus a charity cook-off, are held during the year and the next one, the Mushroom Cook-Off, takes place in November.

The **Lincoln City Community Center** (541-994-2131; www.lincolncity.org/CityDepartments/ParksRecreation) is the place to be for indoor exercise. Eight-year-old Mason Garding scaled

ABOVE LEFT: Executive Chef Sharon Wiest teaches in the demonstration kitchen of the Lincoln City Culinary Center.

ABOVE RIGHT: The Lincoln City Community Center offers many opportunities for indoor activity.

BELOW RIGHT: An eclectic mix of artwork can be found at the Freed Gallery.

BELOW LEFT: Enjoy the lovely garden walkway at the Wildflower Grill.




a 24-foot-high wall, the tallest indoor climbing wall on the Oregon Coast, over and over, making it look as easy as walking across the room. He was strapped into a harness with a rope connected to belay him down after he reached the top, and a Center lifeguard was standing by. If swimming fits the bill, the 25-meter, six-lane pool has an incredible 14-foot indoor water slide. The smaller instructional and therapy pool has Tipper, a water-dropping pelican, and fountains that stretch from one end to the other, much to the delight of youngsters. For soaking, the hot tub is large enough to hold a dozen people. There is also a full-size basketball court, an elevated indoor walking/running track with a rubberized base, and weight and cardio rooms. Visitors are welcome with a minimal drop-in fee and can even drop in on classes, such as tai chi and yoga.

One of the major casinos on the Coast is located on the northern end of Lincoln City—**Chinook Winds Casino Resort** (888-CHINOOK; www.chinookwindscasino.com). The casino offers 24-hour Las Vegas-style gaming as well as several dining options, a fitness center, a children's Play Palace/Arcade, lodging with indoor pool, and an 18-hole golf course.

And then there's the **All-American Putt-N-Bat** (541-994-7888; 1255 NW Hwy 101) where families can play on a unique miniature golf course, dad can show junior how it's done at the batting cages, and kids can show dad how it's done at the arcade. And it's all indoors. This Lincoln City funhouse is for kids of all ages.

FASCINATING PLACES TO VISIT

The **North Lincoln County Historical Museum** (541-996-6614; www.northlincolncountyhistoricalmuseum.org) resides in a building that was first a firehouse and then the city hall before being deeded to the North Lincoln Pioneer Association in 1994. A decade later, an addition was added, more than



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CHRIS MARKES



A hike to Cascade Head might give you the opportunity to view elk in the wild.



The North Lincoln County Historical Museum.

JUDY FLEAGLE

When You Go—

Lincoln City Visitor & Convention Bureau (800-452-2151; www.oregoncoast.org)

MORE GREAT PLACES TO STAY

Blue Pacific Vacation Rentals—Oceanfront condos and luxury vacation homes on the beach. (877-459-3287; www.bluepacificvacationrentals.com)

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The Breakers Beach Houses—Ten luxury beach houses in Neskowin. (503-392-3417; www.breakersoregon.com)

WHERE TO EAT? JUDY'S PICKS ...

Blackfish Café, 2733 NW Hwy 101 (next to Dorchester House)

For years, I had heard that this was the place to eat, with its reputation for really fresh seafood and local, seasonal produce. I finally got the chance to try

it, and it lived up to expectations. I had an unusual carrot-ginger bisque that was delicious. And the large fillet of locally caught Parmesan-crust rockfish was equally good, with spinach and little red potatoes. A glass of Oregon pinot was the perfect complement. Reservations recommended. (541-996-1007)

Wildflower Grill, 4250 NE Hwy 101 (northern end of town)

While many people rave about their breakfasts and in particular the French toast, I had lunch at this popular eatery. Having been forewarned about their large portions, I asked for a half-order of wilted spinach salad with a cup of tortilla soup. It turned out to be a great combination and more than enough. Upon entering and leaving, I enjoyed the lovely garden walkway. (541-994-9663)

The Bay House, 5911 SW Hwy 101 (southern edge of town)

An institution since 1978, this upscale restaurant located on Siletz Bay added a wine bar/cocktail lounge in 2007. One of my most memorable meals ever was at The Bay House, with each course a wonderful culinary experience. It's still my restaurant of choice to celebrate really special occasions. Reservations recommended. (541-996-3222)

doubling the building's size. Visitors can pick up an audio player or an exhibit guide for a self-guided tour. Nestled between the permanent exhibits of local history downstairs are changing exhibits. Of special interest upstairs are the exhibits on the Pixie Kitchen and Pixieland, which—years ago—were Lincoln City landmarks. After touring the museum, take a seat in the Little Theater and pop in some of the numerous videos related to the history of the area. Upstairs is a playroom for the little ones, and downstairs is a gift shop. The museum will be closed December 15 through January 31 for maintenance.


The Lincoln City area is home to some of the most prestigious galleries on the Coast. At the Shops at Salishan is **The Lawrence Gallery** (541-764-2318; www.lawrencegallery.net), on the southern end of town is the **Freed Gallery** (541-994-5600; www.freedgallery.com), and on the far northern end is the **Ryan Gallery** (541-994-5391; www.ryanartgallery.com). Each gallery displays a wide variety of paintings, sculptures, metal work, glass art, clay work, and the unusual, in settings that are a visual delight.

The building that previously housed the Earthworks Gallery is now home to the **Artists' Co-Op Gallery** of the Pacific Artists Alliance. Expect to see lots of paintings, photographs, clay work, felt work, and the unexpected. It's located across a side street from the **Lincoln City Cultural Center** (541-994-9994; www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.com), which houses the **J.P. Chessman Gallery** with its ever-changing exhibits.


The new **Lincoln City Information Center** (541-994-3302), within the Cultural Center building, is staffed seven days a week by volunteers who answer questions, provide directions, and pass out brochures on just about everything in the area.

Antiquing is another way to stay dry on a rainy day. South of town is **Streetcar Village**, where **Sweet Bee**

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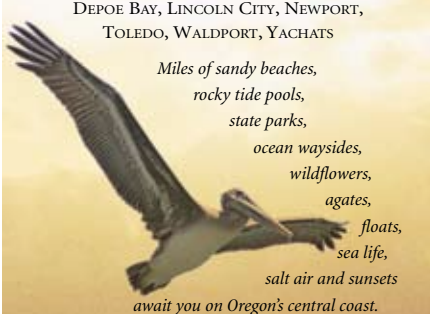
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Antiques (541-996-6800), specializing in quilts, linens, china, and vintage clothing, has expanded. And Sheldon McArthur of North by Northwest Books and Antiques (541-994-3087) is excitedly preparing a new exhibit of items he recently obtained from the former Red Cross Drug Store Museum in Wapato, Washington. The exhibit is scheduled to open November 1.

In the Oceanlake District near the public parking on 17th Street are several antique shops, including **Rocking Horse Mall** (541-994-4647) and **Carousel by the Beach** (541-994-2264). On the northern end of town is the **Little**

Antique Mall (541-994-8572), representing many dealers. Go online at www.oregoncoast.org and click on "Things to Do" to get to antiquing and a list of stores, a map, and information about this February's more-than-weeklong Antique Week. Each year, TV personality Harry Rinker attends and offers workshops and an Appraise-a-thon at Chinook Winds Casino Resort. This year's theme will be Lincoln City's long-gone, but well-remembered, **Pixie Kitchen**.

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Fires glow in the twilight at Coho Oceanfront Lodge.

BRAVE THE OUTDOORS

Many folks come to the Coast for **stormwatching**. Since big swells arrive before the storm, plan to do some wave-watching before it hits. The waves can be huge, so stay off the beach and watch from bluffs. And when the

storm hits, head inside and cozy up to a fireplace in your lodging. Lincoln City offers many wonderful lodgings, from hotels, inns, and condos to luxury beachfront vacation homes. I stayed recently at the newly renovated **Coho Oceanfront Lodge** (800-848-7006; www.thecoholodge.com). My fireplace burned merrily, keeping me warm as I watched the horizontal rain batter the windows. Later, I continued stormwatching while soaking in my whirlpool tub. Ahh! After the storm is the time to hit the beach to see what has washed up. But still keep an eye on the waves, as they will continue to be larger than normal.

If there's a sunny day, enjoy some **beachcombing** and in particular be on the lookout for the Finders Keepers floats. Each year since the millennium, handcrafted floats equal in number to the year have been hidden on the beaches of Lincoln City. So 2,011 floats will be hidden little by little between mid-October 2010 and Memorial Day

2011. Besides beachcombing, Lincoln City's miles of flat beaches are perfect for **flying a kite** or watching others do it—if the wind comes up. The beach access at D River is one of the best places to catch kites in the air.

Late in December, whales migrate along the Coast to the lagoons of Baja in Mexico for the winter. **Whale watching** is best from vantage points, such as bluffs or from second and third story rooms in oceanfront lodgings. The last week of December is the annual **Whale Watching Spoken Here** program (541-765-3407; www.whalespoken.org), where volunteers at 26 sites along the Coast are on duty from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. The location in Lincoln City is the lobby on the 10th floor at the Inn at Spanish Head. Great spot and indoors!

SHOPPING

Each district of Lincoln City has one-of-kind shops. At **Toujours Boutique** (www.toujoursboutique.com), with locations in Nye Beach (541-574-6404) and the **Shops at Salishan** (541-764-5254), you'll find stylish clothing that is both sophisticated and comfortable. **The Red Cock Craftsmen's Outlet** offers natural fiber clothing, jewelry, pottery, baskets, and more (541-994-2518). And **Tanger Outlets** (541-996-5000; www.tangeroutlet.com), with 60 stores to choose among, will no doubt be having special holiday sales. Last but not least, check out **Christmas Cottage** (541-996-2230; www.christmascottage.net) with its hundreds of boxes of holiday cards, thousands of ornaments, and numerous displays, wreaths, and decorated trees—an incredible selection. The shop is hard to miss, just look for the two Santas on top.

So shrug off those wintertime blues, brave the weather, and head to Lincoln City for some wintertime fun! □

Winter Events:

November 13—Seafood & Chowder Cook-Off, Culinary Center

November 20—Restoration Pow Wow, Chinook Winds

November 26–27—Sylvia Brown—psyched, Chinook Winds

December 1—Snowflake Fashion Show (North Lincoln Hospital Foundation fundraiser), Chinook Winds

December 1–4—Fantasy of Trees, free public viewing, Chinook Winds

December 4—Angel's Holiday Ball & Auction of Trees, Chinook Winds

December 26–January 1—Whale Watch Week

December 29—"Live From Lincoln City," movies of last summer's

Soundwaves Music Festival Series; fundraiser for Let There Be Arts; at the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

2011 Events

January 29—Mardi Gras Jambalaya Cook-Off, Culinary Center

February 11–21—Antique Week, throughout town

March 5—Ready, SET, Cook (four chefs battle for charity)

March 26–27—Indoor Kite Festival, Taft High School

April 30—Fish Taco Cook-Off, Culinary Center

October 1—Mushroom Cook-Off, Culinary Center