

NORTHWEST

● **SECLUDED BEACH:** Salt Creek Recreation Area, WA

An avalanche of lush, temperate forest sweeps down from the foothills of Washington's Olympic Peninsula, crashing into the north shore at Salt Creek, where the beaches, tidelands, and trailheads provide an ideal staging area for camping hikers and kayakers looking to lose themselves in untamed Pacific Northwest wilderness. To get to this Clallam County park, drive about 15 miles west of Port Angeles. Camp under the stars to watch the lights of British Columbia flicker across the Strait of Juan de Fuca (*clallam.net*).



Salt Creek Recreation Area, WA

● **PARTY BEACH:**

Wreck Beach, Vancouver, B.C. It's well worth the quick trip across the border: This clothing-optional strip of sand at the base of the University of B.C. attracts beachgoers eager to indulge in a freer lifestyle. Regulars include Watermelon, a sultry burlesque performer and baker (think pot cookies), and a naked chef named Norman who grills up buffalo burgers. A free-enterprise atmosphere means just about anything's available, from mixed drinks to massages. Nights begin with a bonfire and a hootenanny-style jam. Be careful how fully you enjoy yourself — the 417-stair climb back to reality can take its toll.

● **FAMILY BEACH:**

Cannon Beach, OR The frigid water is honestly never swimmer-friendly here, some 80 miles northwest of Portland, but the kids don't care. There's plenty to do on land, including combing for sand dollars at low tide and watching comical puffins nesting in a sea stack just offshore. Try Ecola State Park

a mile north of town for a walk among the sitka spruce and hemlock forests to tide pools (*oregonstateparks.org*). After sunset, bonfires break out up and down the Cannon Beach dunes, sites of mellow marshmallow roasts and stargazing sessions.

DON'T MISS: NIKE HOOD TO COAST RELAY August 28–29, Mount Hood, OR. 12,000 runners trek 197 miles from mountains to ocean in Earth's largest relay. Music and food follow (*free; hoodtocoast.com*).



BEST BEACH HOTEL:
WHALE COVE INN, OR

Raw and unspoiled, the Oregon coast is one of the world's most jaw-dropping locales, and this hotel just off Highway 101 offers the best spot to take in its craggy beauty. The posh eight-suite inn features floor-to-ceiling windows, private waterfront balconies, fireplaces, and Jacuzzis — perfect for embracing the serene Northwest summers (and storms on Depoe Bay) (*from \$395 per night; whalecoveinn.com*).



BEST SUNGLASSES:
COSTA DEL MAR 580 GLASSES

Finally, looking good and getting the best eye protection from the sun aren't mutually exclusive. Costa del Mar's polarized lenses are coveted by fishermen (who know a thing or two about staring at the water all day without burning their retinas). But these frames also bring the style: The Wingman (\$279) is an upgrade over classic aviators, and the plastic-framed Grand Catalina (\$249) is a classic nod to Steve McQueen (*costadelmar.com*).

● **SPORTS BEACH:**
Lime Kiln Point S.P., San Juan Island, WA

Midway up the current-swept west coast of San Juan Island, Lime Kiln Point State Park overlooks the swirling stretch of emerald-green water that rushes through Haro Strait — a submarine canyon separating the San Juan Islands from Vancouver Island. Gangs of orcas congregate here to hunt the seasonal influx of salmon, making this one of the best places in the world to kayak alongside these aquatic wolf packs. Outfitters such as Sea Quest Expeditions lead kayakers on day and overnight trips to Lime Kiln Point and other whale hot spots along the island's west coast (\$89; *sea-quest-kayak.com*).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ROBB CASEY; ALIX MARTINEZ; COURTESY WHALE COVE INN