

ALBANY FITWALKERS
Port Orford, Historic and Scenic
Port Orford, Curry County Walk
10k (7.5k & 2.5k), rated 1B, Y2757

Walk Start Location: This is a two-part walk. First part: Battle Rock State Wayside Park, 540 Jefferson St., Port Orford, OR, on the south end of Port Orford. After completing this section, drive to Boat Station Museum for the second section. 92331 Coast Guard Hill Rd. Port Orford, OR 97465. Directions to the second part will be provided in the walk directions.

Driving Directions: Take Oregon Coastal Highway 101 to Port Orford. Drive through Port Orford, turn right onto Jefferson St. This ends in the Battle Rock State Park parking lot. Please note that: *“AVA insurance does not cover the drive between the two segments of this event.”*

GPS Coordinates: 42.7450 N, 124.49285 W

Park: Wayside Park parking lot.

Restrooms: At parking lots/starting points, boat ramp area at step 11 & Buffington Memorial Park at step 16 of directions.

Walk Completion and Credit: Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including that the event was walked, the distance walked and the selection of applicable special programs that a person is participating in. (A fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when they submit the event completion info as a payment for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days).

These maps and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Emergencies call: 911. POC: Don Reed at 541-974-5780, donreed1946@yahoo.com

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PORT ORFORD area historic facts, Curry County OR

Port Orford is the oldest town in Oregon and the most westerly town in the continental US.

At Battle Rock Wayside you have now entered the site of Fort Orford, bounded on The east by Oregon Street, on the north by an extended 7th Street, by Graveyard Point on the west and by the Pacific Ocean on the south. The fort was established on September 14th, 1851 by 2nd Lt. P.T. Wyman and a detachment of Company 1, 1st US Artillery from Astoria and was named after the town of Port Orford.

The fort was constructed with local cedar logs and lumber; fixtures and fittings were shipped from San Francisco. Initially, 14 buildings were constructed. A blockhouse and wall were erected later during the Rogue River Indian War of 1855-56. When the war ended and the Indians were placed on reservations, the fort was no longer necessary and was abandoned on August 22nd, 1856. In September Of 1856, much of the fort was dismantled and shipped for use at fort Umpqua which protected the southern end of the coastal reservations. The remnants of Fort Orford were destroyed in fire that consumed most of Port Orford on October 10th, 1868.

As you leave your vehicle, look toward the ocean, viewing the site of the historic "Battle of Battle Rock" where, in 1851, Captain Tichenor left 9 men as an advance party to found a town. It is said that the men made a gallant stand on the rock before being routed by Native Americans. Battle Rock sits on the grounds of the former Fort Orford.

Historical Port Orford

For thousands of years, the Tututni people lived here, and their tribe stretched over the south Oregon Coast and lower Rogue River.

First European visitors

In 1792, George Vancouver, one of the first Europeans to come into contact with these natives, described them as being curious, mild, and peaceable.

However, in 1850, the US Congress passed the Oregon Donation Land Act. This Act allowed white settlers to file claims on Indian land in Western Oregon although no Indians Nations had signed a single treaty.



Battle Rock Park

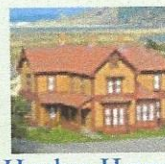


Cool & Unusual Lifeboat Station



Cape Blanco

Lighthouse



Hughes House

Captain Wm Tichenor

When Captain William Tichenor of the Steamship Sea Gull arrived in June 1851 and left nine men with muskets and a cannon to establish a European settlement right in their village, the native Qua-to-mah band reacted with hostility. They felt the newcomers were encroaching on their territory; this resulted in deadly conflict between the two cultures.

After the men disembarked with their weapons and supplies, Tichenor sailed south to San Francisco on his regular run. The men climbed a rock at the edge of the beach, set up camp and waited. When natives approached and began to climb the rock, the would-be settlers opened fire. Accounts differ, but, apparently, there were skirmishes over several days. Some natives were killed. One or two of the white men were injured but not seriously.

Captain Tichenor did not return in two weeks as he promised because his ship was impounded in San Francisco due to debts. When tension and numbers of natives increased, the nine men climbed off the rock – known since as Battle Rock – and left in darkness, traveling north on foot. They kept going until they arrived at a settlement on the Umpqua River. When Tichenor did arrive at the rock, he thought there must have been a massacre of his men, though no bodies were found. The nine men eventually found their way back to Portland.

Later in the summer Tichenor delivered another, larger contingent of men recruited in San Francisco who set about building a fort and dwellings that were the beginning of Port Orford, founded in 1851.

In the 1850s gold was discovered in several places along the Rogue River and the coast. Miners went where they pleased without respect for native dwellings, fishing or hunting sites. Mining caused damage to streams and fish runs. Tension mounted and fighting broke out in several places up and down the Rogue, started alternately by whites and natives. Major fighting in 1855-56 was called the Rogue River Indian War and ended with the surrender of Chief John and his band. Survivors were captured and forced to go on foot or by sea to reservations in the northern part of what is now Oregon.

Port Orford

Port Orford served as a receiving port for mercantile and fishing. The Port District was formed in 1911. Port-Orford-Cedar and other logs and lumber were shipped to distant ports. After an up-and-down existence, the port was sold to Gilbert Gable. Later another private party purchased it and the current Port District was established in 1956. After some very good years, both fishing and the timber industry declined.

The same Gilbert Gable became very active as a leader of the State of Jefferson movement which would have had several southern Oregon and northern California counties form a new state. The intention was to better manage transportation systems to aid the regional economy. In December 1941 the effort ended with the death of Gable and, a few days later, the entrance of the United States into World War II.

Today

Today, Port Orford is a small, working fishing town with an active arts community. Residents have a serious resistance to the gentrification many small towns are experiencing and a real dislike of homogenized strip malls and franchised businesses. People here are independent, iconoclastic and protective of the area's untamed charms. Much of the city and its many organizations are managed by hard-working volunteers.

You can visit interesting sites from Port Orford's past, and looking at the many unspoiled views, or exploring the natural, undeveloped areas, it's easy to imagine being one of those people from our history.

(Much of this history was provided by Shirley Nelson, a local author and historian.)

These directions may be used only upon registration at a currently sanctioned IVV/AVA event. For emergencies contact 911. Walk owner is Don Reed and he can be reached at 541-974-5780.



Port Orford Historic and Scenic Walk
Sponsored by Albany Fitwalkers
10K (7.5k & 2.5K) Rated 1A/1B, Stamp # 2757



1. **7.5k Section:** Walk to Highway 101 and turn **LEFT** to Jackson St.
2. **LEFT** on Jackson to 5th St.
3. **RIGHT** on 5th to Port Orford Dock Road (no sign).
4. **LEFT** down Port Orford Dock Road, bearing **LEFT** past the Fisherman's Memorial to the busy dock area.
5. **RETURN** up Port Orford Dock Road to 5th St.
6. **LEFT** up 5th to Oregon St (2nd St on **RIGHT**) Stop at the colorful tiled viewpoint. **CONTINUE RIGHT** downhill on Oregon St to 8th St.
7. **LEFT** on 8th St to Idaho St.
8. **RIGHT** on Idaho St to 9th St.
9. **LEFT** on 9th, go one block to the intersection then go slightly **RIGHT**, **THEN STRAIGHT** where 9th St becomes Agate Beach Road.
10. **CONTINUE** down Agate Beach Road to California St (no sign) at State Park sign.
11. **RIGHT** on California St, passing a public boat ramp with **RESTROOMS** and picnic facilities.
12. **CONTINUE** on California St as it curves **RIGHT** to 12th St, then **LEFT** to stay on California St to Lakeshore Drive.
13. **RIGHT** on Lakeshore Drive to Pinehurst St.
14. **RIGHT** on Pinehurst St for about 1 block to stone steps to enter Buffington Memorial Park.
15. **RIGHT** in park to pass a covered area and with fenced-in area on the **LEFT**.
16. **CIRCLE COUNTER CLOCKWISE** around the park, passing old locked up restrooms. Follow the tree line **LEFT** with horse arena still on your **LEFT**, then **LEFT** again nearing the skate park and **LEFT** again to return to the steps to return to Pinehurst St. Newer **RESTROOMS** are available near the basketball court.
17. **RIGHT** on Pinehurst to Arizona St.
18. **LEFT** on Arizona St to Madrona St.
19. **RIGHT** on Madrona St to Idaho St.
20. **RIGHT** on Idaho to 20th St.
21. **LEFT** on 20th St passing City Hall and the Police Station. Carefully **CROSS** Hwy 101 to Washington St.
22. **RIGHT** on Washington St to 18th St (it's the 2nd street, no sign.)
23. **LEFT** on 18th St one block to Jackson St (no sign.)
24. **RIGHT** on Jackson, part of old Hwy 101, past the Senior Center and former stagecoach stop between 9th and 10th St to 7th St.
25. **LEFT** on 7th St to Jefferson St.
26. **RIGHT** on Jefferson to Hwy 101 and carefully **CROSS** Hwy 101 to return to Long Gone Port Orford and your car.

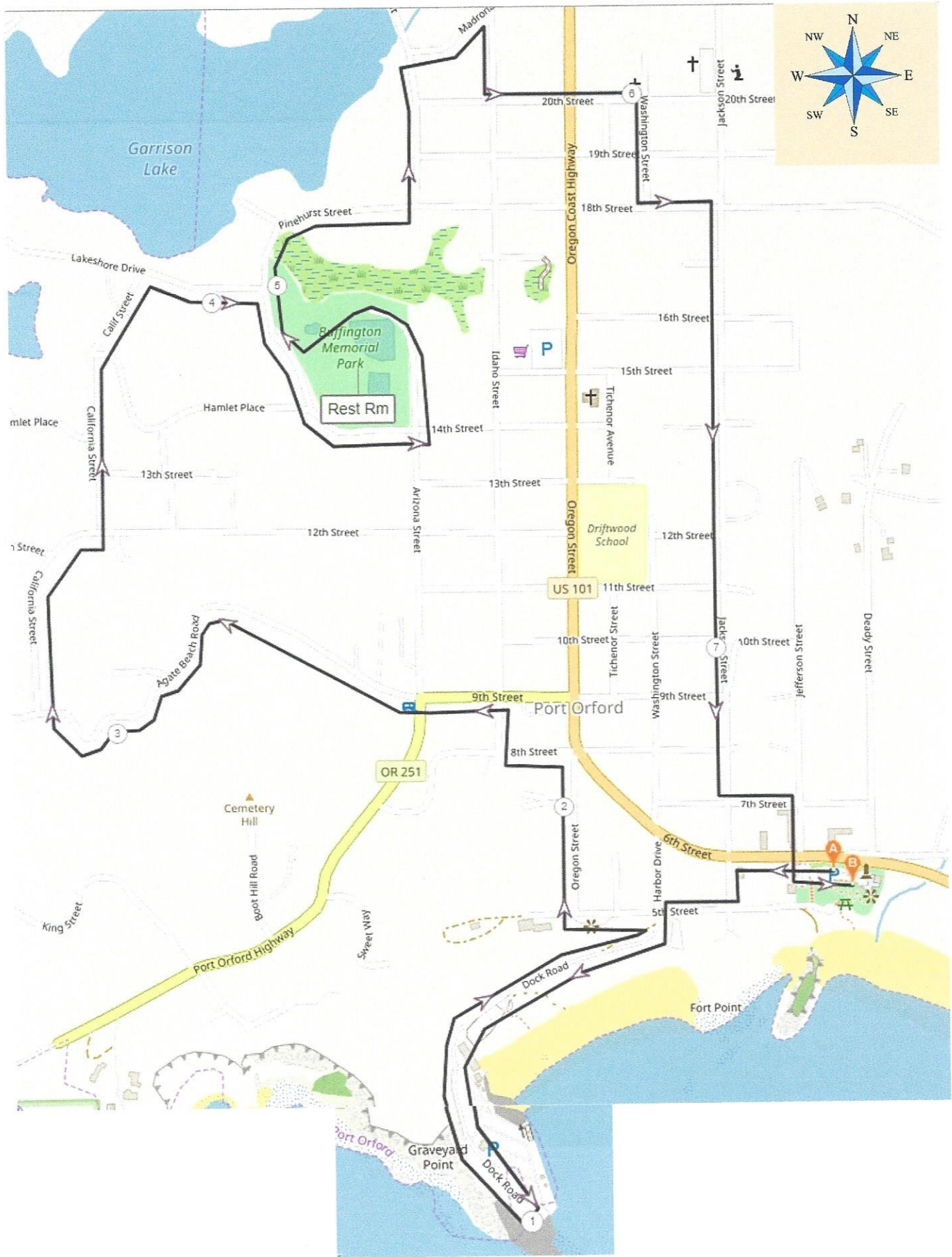
DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Scenic 2.5k Section:
Turn **LEFT** from the Battle Rock wayside onto Hwy 101. Drive about four blocks and turn **LEFT** on 9th St. Go two blocks and turn **LEFT** on Coast Guard Hill Road. Drive to the end of Coast Guard Hill Road to the parking area. The walk starts at the Port Orford Life Boat Station and Museum.

This portion of the walk is all on trails and a nice area for photos.

1. Walk up toward the Museum building area and go **RIGHT** on the Tower Trail.
2. When coming to the "T", go **RIGHT** on the Headlands Trail. Walk to the end of the trail to the viewpoint and **TURNAROUND**.
3. **RETURN** on the Headlands Trail to the junction and **STAY STRAIGHT**. The Headlands Trail now becomes the Tower Trail to the viewpoint.
4. From the viewpoint, go **RIGHT** on Nellies Cove Trail to **RETURN** to the Museum and parking area to finish.

Hope you enjoyed the walk!

Port Orford Historic and Scenic Walk 7.5km route



Port Orford Historic and Scenic Walk 2.5km route

