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STEPHANIE INN, CANNON BEACH OREGON

America's California coast – especially the rugged stretch south from San Francisco via Big Sur – is often lauded, but further north, Oregon's coastline facing the Pacific Ocean is arguably more spectacular. Tracing a meandering northwards path from the Oregon Dunes Recreational Area through the seafront towns of Florence, Newport and Pacific City, Oregon's Highway 101 arrives at Cannon Beach, a sophisticated and arty town with great foodie credentials and a beachfront resort hotel that's been judged one of the 500 Best Hotels in the World by *Travel + Leisure* magazine.

Nestled into the softly undulating dunes of Cannon Beach, Stephanie Inn combines the charm and casual elegance of a New England country inn with the sophistication and intimacy of a boutique resort. Try to book one of the oceanfront corner suites with private balconies providing a personal perspective on the dramatic expanse of Cannon Beach. Throughout the seasons, 72m-high Haystack Rock stands sentinel at

the beach's northern end, and in summer, hiking, biking and surfing are all possible. Visit in winter for views of migrating grey whales, front-row views of the changing moods of the Pacific, and the comforting knowledge that physical relaxation and restoration is on hand with the Inn's spa and massage services.

Other personal touches in one of America's most romantic couples hotels include private saunas and steam rooms in the bathrooms of some suites, still-warm soft-centred cookies on tap every afternoon, and local seafood, including Pacific sea bass and Dungeness crab and prawn mousse, served in the inn's elegant dining room. Service is smooth and professional, but never overlooks the fact Cannon Beach is a relaxed oceanside town.

A 90-minute drive west from Portland, Oregon's most dynamic city, Cannon Beach is easily reached on Hawaiian Airlines with flights from Auckland via Honolulu. – *Brett Atkinson*

www.stephanie-inn.com

