

Cape Meares Loop back open on Oregon coast, a decade after road closure

oregonlive.com/travel/2023/11/cape-meares-loop-back-open-on-oregon-coast-a-decade-after-road-closure.html

Published: Nov. 27, 2023, 2:16 p.m.



A view of the ocean from the south side of the newly reopened Cape Meares Loop on the north Oregon coast. Tillamook County Road Department

By

[Jamie Hale | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

A long-running road closure has finally been lifted on the north Oregon coast, allowing drivers to access one of the [best scenic drives](#) in the region.

The Cape Meares Loop, which runs through Oceanside and Netarts west of Tillamook, is now back open, nearly 11 years after a landslide wiped out a portion of the scenic road.

The Tillamook County Road Department [announced the reopening](#) on Nov. 21, after officially lifting the closure the previous afternoon, as first reported by online news site [Tillamook County Pioneer](#).

Tillamook County officials closed a portion of the loop near Cape Meares in January 2013, after a landslide wiped out the road. Drivers were still able to reach Cape Meares via Oceanside, but have not been able to continue driving north toward Tillamook Bay.



A late fall sunset over Cape Meares Beach near Tillamook on the Oregon coast. Jamie Hale/The Oregonian



A viewfinder offers visitors to Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint a closer look at Three Arch Rocks to the north. Jamie Hale/The OregonianLC- (photo courtesy of Jamie Hale)

The reopening means drivers can once again complete the 40-mile Three Capes Scenic Loop, which runs past Cape Kiwanda, Cape Lookout and Cape Meares, looping back on U.S. 101. It also allows tourists to drive easily between Cape Meares and Cape Meares Beach, just to the north.

Aside from its scenic views, the road is also a much-needed second way out of Oceanside when Oregon Route 131 closes. In 2015, Oceanside residents found themselves trapped in the small town after heavy rains flooded the only road out. It also provides an escape for residents of the nearby community of Cape Meares when Bayocean Road becomes flooded.

Crews spent two winters and two summers working on the road, the Tillamook County Road Department said in its announcement. Because the road is still a steep grade, gates will continue to close during ice and snow storms, the department said. Some light work will continue this fall, though the road will remain open.

— Jamie Hale

503-294-4077; jhale@oregonian.com; [@HaleJamesB](https://twitter.com/HaleJamesB)

OregonLive.com/subscribe