

Ruddell's Smokehouse - Featured in the September 2009 Issue of Sunset Magazine

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Rachel Levin
Senior Travel Editor



The West at its best 20 coastal discoveries

From roadside fish shacks to secret campgrounds, our picks for the coolest (and tastiest) finds by the sea

Food/wine

1 | Drake's Beach Cafe, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA A meal here is worth the twisty 35-minute drive from Olema to the Pacific; the view alone can rekindle date night. \$15; lunch Fri-Sun, dinner Fri-Sat; reservations required. 415/569-1237. —CHRISTINE RICHARD, FEATURES EDITOR

2 | Mariscos Guillen La Playita, Santa Monica Five minutes from Venice Beach, this stand has the most perfect shrimp tostadas. \$; 310/452-0090. —ALLISON RAYOFF, HOME EDITOR

3 | Olympic Peninsula wine country, WA My faves in this up-and-coming area near Port Angeles: Harbinger Winery (360/432-4362) and Camaradene Cellars (71-504; 360/417-3964). —SARA SCHNEIDER, WINE EDITOR

4 | Oysterville Sea Farms, Oysterville, WA Oysters are handpicked daily and sold by the bushel; scoop up a jar of pepper jelly too. willsbay.com —RACHEL LEVIN, SENIOR TRAVEL EDITOR

5 | Ruddell's Smokehouse, Cayucos, CA I drove two hours from I-5 for these wild salmon tacos, smoked in-house and wrapped in a warm tortilla. \$; 805/793-6923. —RACHEL LEVIN, SENIOR TRAVEL EDITOR

6 | Sushi on the Sea, Sooke, B.C. This offbeat restaurant in Sooke Harbour has communal dining on a 1930s teak fishing boat. \$; Fri-Sat; reservations required; 250/442-6553. —CHRISTINE RICHARD, FEATURES EDITOR

Fresh air

7 | Cape Flattery Tribal Scenic Byway, Neah Bay, WA Paved two years ago, this road winds 11.5 miles to the northwestern tip of Washington. Take the trail to incredible land's-end scenery. \$10 permit required, available at Malah Cultural & Research Center; malah.com —MARGARET ELGAN, PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

8 | Hobbit Trail, Carl Washburne State Park, Florence, OR The trail meanders through a mossy forest, ending at a beach that, with luck, you'll have all to yourself. oregonstateparks.org —NIGANJA JONES, STYLE EDITOR



9 | Humboldt Bay, CA I love this still-wild bay; it's great to rent a kayak at Harbours Kayak Adventures and paddle with harbor seals along the Eureka waterfront. Kayaks \$15 per hour; harbours.com —MARGARET ELGAN, PRODUCTION COORDINATOR



Ephemera

10 | Manchester State Beach, Manchester, CA I can't believe I'm sharing one of my best-kept camping secrets—but here it is: Hidden in the sand dunes, just a mile's hike from the main campground, are 10 almost-always-empty environmental sites (i.e., no cars). parks.ca.gov —AGNIEL LEVIN, SENIOR TRAVEL EDITOR

11 | Thousand Steps Beach, Santa Barbara Reach my no-distractions beach for relaxing via the Thousand Steps (don't worry, there are only 241). Check the tide schedule before heading down. santabarbara.gov/parks/index.html —CHRISTINE RICHARD, FEATURES EDITOR

12 | Treasure Island Park, Laguna Beach, CA The slender park, swash in Mediterranean flowers, evokes the 1934 movie Treasure Island, which was filmed right on this strip of coast. laguna-beachinfo.com/beaches —JILL MICHAELSON, SUNSET CONTRIBUTOR

Shops

13 | Beach House Style, Fairfax, CA I like the reclaimed boat-wood frames here—my go-to place for beachy cottage finds. Closed Mon, frames from \$36; 415/454-9708. —JILL CHAMBERLAIN, HOME EDITOR

14 | Mollusk Surf Shop, San Francisco Even the wetsuit-averse (like me!) feel welcome. Check out books, limited-edition T-shirts, and original art. mollusksurfshop.com —SAMANTHA SCHNECH, CONTRIBUTING TRAVEL EDITOR

15 | Sesame and Lilies, Cannon Beach, OR Two floors overflow with antiques, petshiled sand dollars (pictured on map), seabird watercolors, and more. sesameandlilies.com —NIGANJA JONES, STYLE EDITOR

16 | A Summer Place, Manhattan Beach, CA The bright, fun mix of vintage-inspired signs, apothecary jars, and shells at this oceanside shop reminds me of my childhood. 310/545-7080. —JENNIE MANN, ASSOCIATE HOME EDITOR

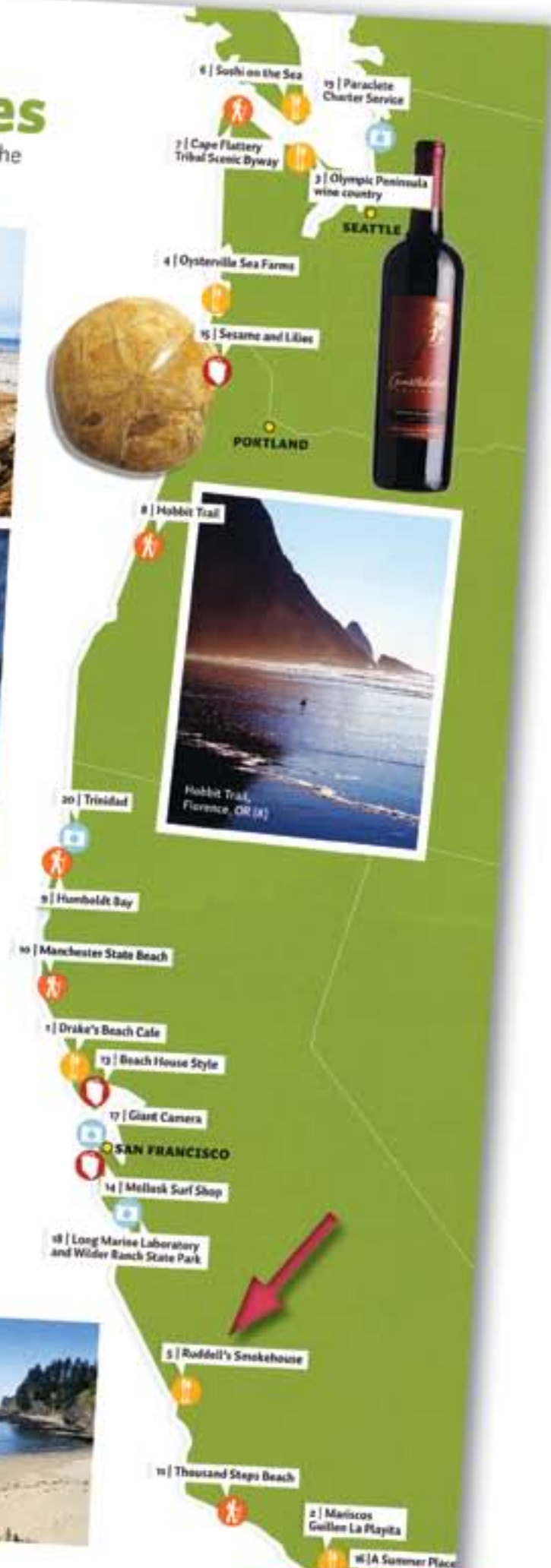
17 | Giant Camera, San Francisco The view from this darkened chamber behind the Cliff House is, for my money, the most mysteriously beautiful vista in the world. \$2. giantcamera.com —PETER FISH, EDITOR

18 | Long Marine Laboratory and Wilder Ranch State Park, Santa Cruz, CA Tour the lab and check out the 87-foot whale skeleton (closed Mon, \$6; seymourcenter.sccc.edu), then head to Wilder Ranch for a seaside stroll that's like walking along the white cliffs of Dover (\$8 per car; parks.ca.gov). —ALAN RICHNEY, NAVIGATING EDITOR

19 | Paraclete Charter Service, Anacortes, WA I wouldn't have discovered the San Juan Islands' less-famous gems, like Cypress Island, without this water-taxi service. From \$36 one-way; reservations required; paracletecharters.com —KATHY BERNES, GARDEN EDITOR



20 | Trinidad, CA This beach hamlet—with its sea stacks poking out of the Pacific and oceanside trails—may be remote, but that's also what makes it great. I love the kitschy Seascope Restaurant on the pier (\$11; 707/427-3762). —CHRISTINE RICHARD, FEATURES EDITOR



Ruddell's Smokehouse has also been featured on the Food Network TV show, *BBQ with Bobby Flay*.