



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Discovery
Trail (WA)**
Washington



Discovery Trail (WA)

Washington

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If you're seeking to explore the spectacular and varied landscapes of the coastal Pacific Northwest, look no further than Southwest Washington's Discovery Trail. It follows portions of the route traveled by the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery as they encountered the Pacific Ocean and set up camp before heading south across the Columbia River.

About the Route

The northern end of the trail leaves off from Long Beach at a parking lot near the end of 26th Street Northwest. Just down the pathway, the trail passes a realistic-looking bronze replica of a 20-foot tree where William Clark carved his name and the date of his expedition's arrival in 1805.

Heading down the meandering trail, trail users should be on the lookout for additional sculptures and monuments dedicated to the area's wildlife and the Corps of Discovery, including a basalt monolith, a bronze sturgeon sculpture, and the remains of a gray whale skeleton.

The trail pleasantly winds through rolling coastal dunes, with several points along the way to access the beach just off to the west. Past a pavilion and parking lot on Bolstad Avenue, the trail parallels an impressive boardwalk. Trail users should watch their speed and their heads as the route passes under the boardwalk around its halfway point.

Continuing along, the predominant grasses and dunes give way to coastal pines and a more shaded landscape as Cape Disappointment looms on the southern horizon. On the final stretch, the trail heads into a more densely forested area at Beard's Hollow in Cape Disappointment State Park. From here, a portion of the trail south of the Beard's Hollow parking lot will take trail users out to the North Head Lighthouse parking area, where the second of the three endpoints is located. This portion of the trail becomes quite hilly in some areas, with challenging grades. From the North Head Lighthouse parking lot, several hiking paths take trail users to the edge of the cape with stunning coastal views.

Heading back up to Beard's Hollow, the trail also branches off over a bridge to the northeast, leading to the third and final endpoint. The next quarter mile or so soon becomes more challenging, best suited for hikers and mountain bikers, as it winds through the forest on a gravelly singletrack. Crossing North Head Road, the trail becomes asphalt once again. The winding and hilly pathway can become slick with moss, so watch your speed and cornering on the steeper descents.

The trail comes to its southern endpoint near the port of Ilwaco at the intersection of Main Street Southwest and Second Avenue Southwest/WA 100.



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States: Washington

Counties: Pacific

Length: 8.3miles

Trail end points: 26th St NW (Long Beach) to
2nd Ave. SW/SR 100 (Ilwaco)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Gravel

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Discovery Trail runs between 26th St NW (Long Beach) and 2nd Ave. SW/SR 100 (Ilwaco), with parking available on both ends.

Parking is also available at:

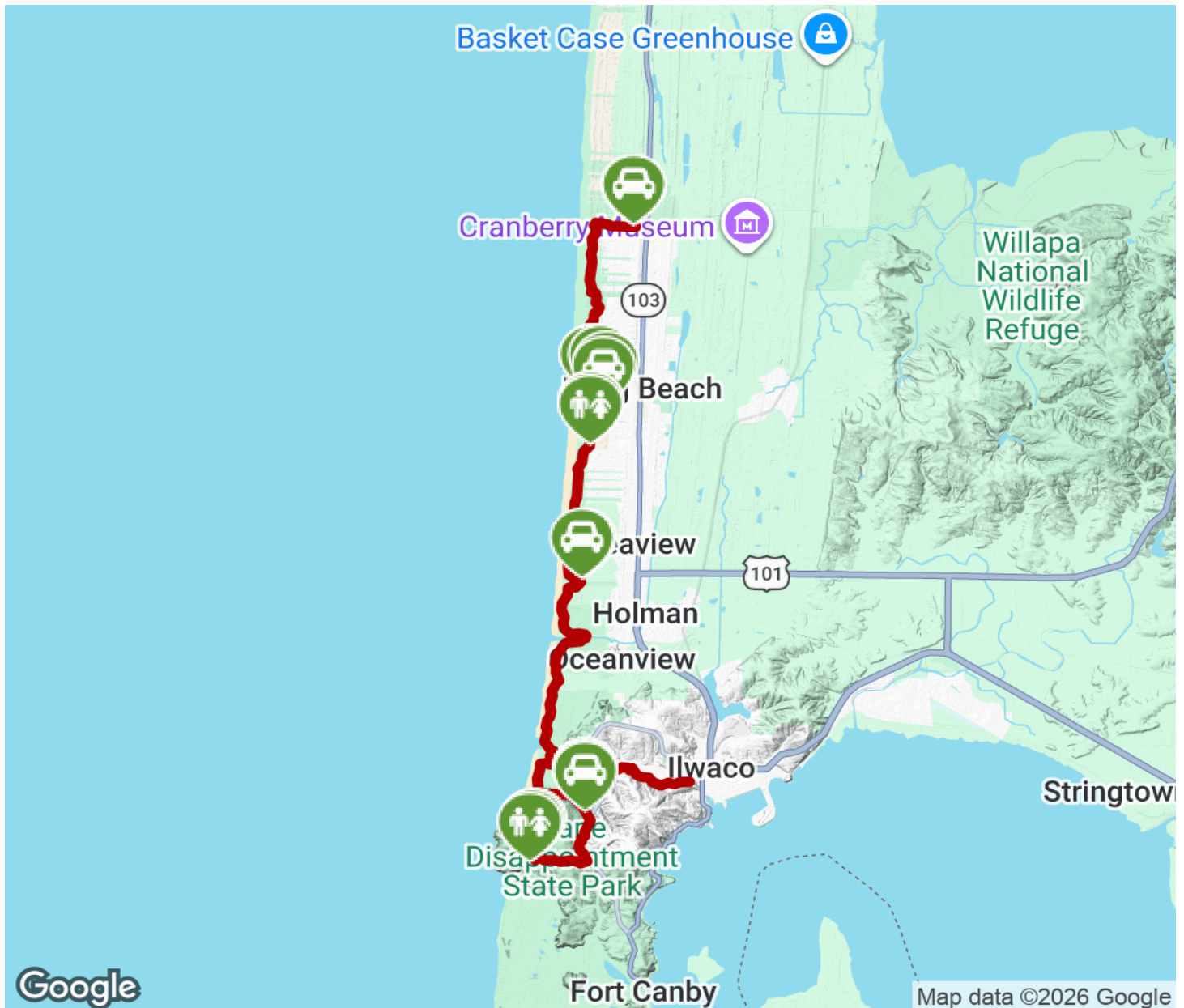
- 410 Sid Synder Dr. (Long Beach)

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Discovery Trail (WA)

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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