

Sunset Bay to Shore Acres and Back.



Start in the day use area parking lot at Sunset Bay. Take the trail to the right of the restrooms (the north side of the parking lot).

You'll cross the bridge and then the trail heads off to the left, and uphill.



It winds north, and after short time there will be an intersection. Take a right turn to go out to the point for good views to the north.



When you get to the end, turn around and follow the trail straight ahead where you turned before. You'll be walking around the group campground, which will be on the left, with the ocean and great rock formations on the right.



You'll walk completely around the campground, and shortly before you get to the road you'll see a trail to the right. You can follow that trail down to the bottom (Norton Gulch...red arrow), or you can skip this side trip (there's a good view of the gulch from the road). Whichever you do, you'll eventually get to the road, where you'll turn right.

For a short distance you'll be following the road, until the trail heads off to the right.



Follow the trail to the point where you see a small parking lot off to the left. At that time there's a short trail off to the right that takes you to a viewpoint. Enjoy the view there.

After that side trip, continue along the trail until you get to the next fork. Take a right turn (red arrow), and admire the incredible tree that's on your right shortly after the turn. Note—A left turn (blue arrow) will take you up the old Shore Acres Driveway. You'll come home via this trail, but it is an option now.

Continue following the trail, stopping frequently to admire the view and to photograph Cape Arago Lighthouse and the rock formations along the way.





You'll follow this path until you get to a viewpoint looking South toward the shore across Observation Building, and, further along, Simpson Reef.

From the viewpoint, take a left, following the trail, and then take every right turn, which will take you down into a ravine, and then back up. When you reach the top, take a left,

which will take you toward the old tennis courts. Shortly before the tennis courts there's a great tree root on the left. After the tennis courts you'll get another view of the Observation Building. Then follow the trail to the left (the only way to go). Wind around until you get to the Observation Building. There are good views from there, both North and South. Follow the trail (sidewalks) to the restrooms, where you might want to take a break. At this point you can return or continue south on the trail. See the guide from Shore Acres to Cape Arago.



To return, cross the field (that's across the driveway from the restrooms) to the northeast corner (near the entry kiosk). You'll cross the park road and find a trail that's just west of the kiosk. Follow that trail (which is the old Shore Acres estate driveway) until you reach the trail you hiked out on. Follow that trail, reversing the route you followed on the way out.

You can shorten the trip slightly by crossing the group campground (a large field). About two thirds of the way across the field you'll see a path on the right. Take that path and you should run into the trail in about 30 feet. There are several paths to the right, so if one doesn't get you to the trail, go back to the field and try the next. Take a right turn on the trail and follow it to the parking lot.

