



**Newport Oregon Aquarium & Hatfield Marine Science Center Tour
With
Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC**

Late summer is a great time of year for the Oregon Coast and Newport Oregon is no finer destination. The Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC, tour is on the road again and this time surf and sunshine are our goal.

The Gadabout Serene Adventures bus picked up enthusiastic passengers in Bend for our trip to the historic city of Newport on the beautiful Oregon Coast on a clear sunny day.

Our first stop in Newport was lunch at “Mo’s” for some of their famous Clam Chowder. Mo (Mohava Marie Niemi) entered into the business world with a small tavern in 1940 at the Bay Haven Inn on Newport’s salty waterfront. In 1946 the tavern was sold when Mo joined her friend Freddy Kent, to start a café called “Freddie and Mo’s” (a few years later when Freddie became ill, Mo bought her friend out, thus sealing the legacy of Mo’s.). The newly divorced mother of two growing sons found it necessary to take a second job, so she became an announcer at local radio station KNPT, where she did a neighborhood talk show, a job she kept until the mid-seventies.



Mo married a second time in 1955. Her new husband, Kaino “Dutch” Niemi, was a Finnish fisherman with whom Mo had a happy thirty-six year marriage. In the early years, it was Dutch’s lucrative fishing venture aboard the F/V Sea Lion III that helped make ends meet at the restaurant. Later, when Dutch turned the wheelhouse over to a younger crew, he could be found every morning at a table in Mo’s commiserating with his old fishing pals, solving the problems of the world and smoking his trademark stogie.

The combination of Mo Niemi’s warm, hospitable personality and many unforgettable events gave the “little joint on the waterfront” its unique charm that can still be felt today as you dine on their delicious fare.

After lunch we are off to the Oregon Coast Aquarium to explore a myriad of Sea Life and aquatic creatures. In an underwater adventure we are immersed in Keiko the Whale’s former home through acrylic tunnels surrounded by several feet of sea water. The “Passages of the Deep” has proven to be a unique attraction, as though we were taking a walk into the open ocean, able to come face to face with large sharks, rockfish and bat rays swimming above and below us. Waves surging against the tunnel gave the impression that we are beneath the ocean. And the Oregon shipwreck resting on the bottom of the tank added to the feeling of being early undersea explorers.



The Oregon Coast Aquarium also exhibits two species of sea otter, the Northern and the Southern. Sea otters, extinct on the Oregon coast since the early 1900s, have now returned to the state through the Oregon Coast Aquarium. We learned about the sea otters natural behaviors both from animal husbandry demonstrations and from Aquarium interpreters stationed at the exhibit.

Sea otters were once found along the Pacific coast from California to Alaska. An imperiled population still exists in California, a more vigorous population can be found in Alaska and stable populations live in Washington and British Columbia. Sea otters range from 50 to 100 pounds and have a luxuriant pelt averaging one million hairs per square inch—more in one inch than exists on an entire human head. Voracious eaters, sea otters consume food totaling up to 25 percent of their body weight each day. They are the only marine mammals that do not have a layer of blubber to keep them warm. A sea otter will spend an average of three hours per day performing grooming behaviors and relies on an extremely dense fur coat, which traps air next to its skin to insulate it against cold water. Rolling, combing and blowing air into its fur are all included in a sea otter's grooming methods. Its coat must be extensively groomed in order for it to remain waterproof, otherwise cold sea water can reach the skin and the animal will suffer from hypothermia.

After wandering the many hallways, displays, tanks and interpretation stations and learning a wealth of information and facts about sea life and it's creatures, it was time to turn in for the evening to rest up for our trip to the Hatfield Marine Center. Our accommodations for the evening is the quaint and comfortable Waves of Newport, nestled on a bluff overlooking a rugged and beautiful beach at the south end of Newport.

After a filling continental breakfast in the hotel lounge we boarded the bus again, destination the Hatfield Marine Center for more amazing sea life. Welcome to one of the most unusual centers you'll ever visit. Part aquarium, part laboratory, the HMSC Visitor Center is dedicated to showcasing scientific exploration. Here, world-renowned researchers based right here in Oregon demonstrate how they investigate our amazing world.



An octopus began greeting the public at the Visitor Center shortly after the building opened as the Public Wing in 1965. It hasn't been the **same** octopus, of course. There have been many greeters, each with its own personality and level of enthusiasm for the job - and each with its own name, chosen by our visitors

Oregon's OSU Hatfield Marine Science Visitor Center creates a unique, dynamic environment for lifelong exploration and discovery. The Visitor Center encourages adults and children to enjoy marine science and even allows interaction with some of the animal life in controlled live displays.

The exhibits and programs we saw explained how scientific research enhances our ability to interpret the natural patterns that shape our world and enables us to better appreciate, manage, and sustain coastal and marine resources.

The Visitor Center also provides opportunities to scientists for conducting research on devices, methods, and concepts for informal science education that will advance the art of public education.

The Visitor Center has acquainted visitors such as us with marine species, marine research, and the coastal environment since June of 1965. Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and NASA provided funds to remodel the Visitor Center in 1997.

The “Oregon Sea Grant” foundation currently manages this unique facility, which continues to provide a valuable link between the public and the exciting world of marine research.

After leaving the Hatfield center we drove up the coast to the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse for a visit to one of the few remaining historic lighthouses on the Oregon Coast.



We were delighted with an interpretive tour inside the old lighthouse building and were even allow up to view the “Light” at the top of the building. Outside, after the tour, we watched as a pod of whales passed along the coast, blowing steamers of hot breath between sounding. All in all a wondrous sight!!!

Gadabout Serene Adventures, out of Sunriver, Oregon, provides scenic and recreational tours designed specifically for the senior citizen, including those who may have a limited level of physical ability. We incorporate the beauty of nature and the great outdoors into most of our adventures. We also believe that you should always keep learning, therefore, we include numerous adventures to discovery centers, museums and other places of culture to spark the mind and the heart. We offer weekly adventures from one to three days, between April and December, and have convenient pick-up locations in Sunriver and Bend. Additional pickup locations are sometimes available in Sisters, Redmond, La Pine, Madras, or Prineville depending upon the direction of our tour destination.

Gadabout Adventures can be reached at 541-593-6200 or at our web site at www.gadaboutadventures.com to receive a Calendar of Tours and other information.

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Gadabout Serene Adventure, LLC