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TRAVEL & LIFE

THE OUTDOOR Adventure ISSUE



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- * EXCITEMENT IN SOUTHERN OREGON
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PLUS: EVERY DAY IS AN ADVENTURE
FOR A MARINE PILOT

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BONUS Pull-Out Guide NW Food Traveler *inside >>*



Betsy Images © Heliotrope Hotel

fire pit, a variety of yard games and an abundance of natural beauty. A community living room called The Hub offers modern furniture, a welcoming fireplace, books, a coffee bar and other amenities. The guest rooms, which range in size, include modern furniture and cabinetry designed specifically for the property, creating warm, comfortable and modern environments with unique touches.

The result? The Heliotrope Hotel is a hip, modern, Pacific Northwest oasis with great local insight, thoughtful design and warm hospitality, and contemporary and comfortable rooms and suites.

For reservations or more information, visit heliotropehotel.com. To find out more about visiting Bellingham, go to bellingham.org.

the historic Balfour Dock building (built in 1900) on downtown Tacoma's Foss Waterway, celebrates that tradition. The Seaport is not only a family-friendly maritime heritage museum, but also a locus of waterfront activities that include maritime-focused festivals and events.

Visitors to the Foss Waterfront Seaport learn about the ecology, human history and maritime industries of Tacoma and the Puget Sound region. Today, the Port of Tacoma is one of the most active on the Pacific Rim.

Exhibits and displays tell these stories through historic artifacts and boats. Visitors experience the sights, sounds and classic beauty of the historic building, the maritime exhibits, a Heritage Boat Shop and scenic views from the facility's waterfront esplanade.

A variety of summer events range from a day of paddle boarding to a summer camp for kids and even a play about Thea Foss (*The Other Country*, August 10–13), the namesake of the Foss Waterway.

For information about visiting the Foss Waterway Seaport, go to fosswaterwayseaport.org. To plan a visit to the historic waterfront city of Tacoma, go to traveltacoma.com.

Heliotrope Hotel, Bellingham

It takes vision, calculated risks and hard labor most of us can't even imagine to transform a moldering vintage motel into a bright, welcoming inn. But there are examples of such thorough renovations all over the Northwest—Portland's Inn at Northrup Station, Bozeman's The LARK, Boise's The Modern Hotel & Bar, to name a few. So goes the story of the 1950s-era Lions Inn Motel in Bellingham, Washington, as it recently became the Heliotrope Hotel.

According to co-owner Dylan Green, one of the community members who purchased the property, "The partnership acquired the building with the vision of pouring our love for the Pacific Northwest into the design and to provide a lodging facility that served both the local and tourist communities."

The aging motel had become an eyesore in Bellingham and had attracted a crowd of residents that Dylan characterizes as "very disturbing."

The owners gave the 17-room hotel a major facelift, inside and out. Now, an expansive front lawn features a community space with a solid-fuel

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Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Central Oregon Coast

On the Central Oregon Coast, dairy pastureland on Siletz Bay was once encircled by dikes to keep tides at bay. In 1991, with a donation of 46 acres of tidal salt marsh, the Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge was born. Since then, projects to breach and even remove dikes have reclaimed marshlands, expanding critical habitat for many species.

Like many efforts to conserve land for wildlife habitats, Siletz Bay is a success story. Today, Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge covers 568 acres of salt and brackish marsh, sloughs, mudflats and coniferous and deciduous forests. Red-tailed hawks and bald eagles perch on snags. Great blue herons, egrets and many species of waterfowl forage in the waters. The refuge has also become nursery grounds for salmon, steelhead and trout.

Visitors to the Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge can hike the Alder Island Nature Trail or paddle in the bay and tidal sloughs. The refuge is located just south