SHIPWRECKS
ALONG THE
DISCOVERY TRAIL

1 Potrhimpos – December 15, 1896
Gale force winds and heavy surf pushed the ship Potrhimpos onto the beach. Several attempts were made to free her, but in the end, the ship tipped on its side where it sank further into the sand.

2 Intrepid – February 23, 1954
A former Naval Training Vessel converted into a barge, the Intrepid was being towed along with another barge. It was cut loose when it threatened to sink the tug bringing it into the river. It came aground just north of Long Beach.

3 Point Loma – February 28, 1896
Enroute to San Francisco, the Point Loma was caught in a huge gale. Damaged and without an engine, the high seas and wind pushed her onto the beach. The crew was rescued but the ship was totally destroyed.

4 Harvest Home – January 18, 1882
Headed north along the coast on a foggy morning, one of the crew heard a rooster crow. It was too late to change course. The bark Harvest Home was too close to land and ran aground on the beach.

5 Frank W. Howe – February 22, 1904
Damaged by a strong gale, the Frank W. Howe, broken and waterlogged drifted onto the beach near the Seaview approach.

6 Columbia River Lightship #50 – Nov. 28, 1899.
During a huge storm, the lightship was torn from its anchor cables. Attempts were made to hold the ship but the storm was too strong. The lightship went aground. It was moved by use of horses and ingenuity into Baker Bay. After repairs, the lightship was returned to the mouth of the Columbia River.

7 Rosecrans – January 7, 1913
Enroute to Portland, the Rosecrans sailed into a 60 mph gale and sank near North Head taking 33 crew with her. After the storm, nothing could be seen but the broken mast.

8 Admiral Benson – February 15, 1930
The American Steamship was stranded on Peacock Spit in the fog. It was thought the ship could be pulled free but she held fast in the sand due to high surf. All passengers and crew were removed from the ship and survived. The ship eventually sank.

9 Iowa – January 12, 1936
One of the most deadly shipwrecks in the Pacific Graveyard. The Iowa headed out over the Columbia bar during a storm. One SOS was heard, but when the Coast Guard arrived, only the mast if the Iowa was visible. All 34 of the crew perished.

10 Vazlov Vorovsky – April 3, 1941
Headed out of the Columbia River in a storm, The Vazlov Vorovsky was pushed onto Peacock Spit where she broke apart. All crew were rescued.

11 Bettie M – March 20, 1976
The tuna seiner, Bettie M ran aground on jetty “A”. The boat and 900 tons of tuna were all a total loss. The remains of the Bettie M can still be seen during low tide against the rocks on the west side of Jetty “A”.

12 George Olson – January 30, 1964
Breaking loose from its tug, the George Olson was run aground on jetty “A” to prevent her from sinking. The ship and all 3.5 million board feet of lumber were lost. A small portion of the ship can still be seen at low tide.

A self-guided tour on Washington’s Long Beach Peninsula.

Learn more at:
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