

## The Cliffs Overlooking Manzanita, OR

Although I can not remember the exact date, I first drove down the 101 heading South from Washington to Manzanita I can perfectly describe my emotions and sensations on that day and every other day I have stood on top of those cliffs. Located just off of the highway about 800 feet above the ocean there is a viewpoint that allows the eye to see the town of Manzanita along with the mountains and beaches that stretch for what seems like forever. I have shown many friends this view because I cherish it and hope that the memory sears itself into their mind as it has done mine.

The Fall of 2015 was the first time I had traveled to Manzanita, my parents and I pulled off the highway because we had been told by a friend the view was incredible. As our car leaves the smooth road and drives onto the loud gravel we come to a stop next to a small rock wall that marks the cliff edge. I exit our truck and proceed towards the wall, it is at this moment I hear the faint noise of waves breaking upon the rocks below and I gather a slightly salty sea breeze that rushes up from the ocean. But this is nothing compared to what my eyes were about to see. I climbed up onto the small rock wall, now standing above an 800ft drop to ocean and rock below I gazed upon the greatest beauty that the Pacific Northwest has to offer. I could see the waves breaking in sets off the point, traveling and crashing by the surfers. The beaches that appeared to stretch on forever only being broken by mountains that kissed the sea. The same mountains that were covered head to toe in luscious evergreen trees and chiseled rock faces. "Hey, Adam lets go" My concentration was broken, and I looked back to see my father beckoning me back to the car. Although I only stood on top of that cliff for all of 30 seconds it felt like an hour.

Thankfully my parents ended up getting a small beach house in the town of manzanita below, so this view would be something I stopped and saw every time I entered the city limits. Now I took it upon myself to share this view to those who came to visit the same way our family friend told us the first time we had entered the town. The first people I showed were my closest friends Ali, Cameron, and Harri (attached at the end is a picture). We were heading down the Summer of 2018 for four days at the beach. It was a sunny Oregon afternoon when we arrived I pulled off the highway to show them the view. The wind was blowing a little harder and the waves were smaller but the sky was even clearer allowing the viewer a near-perfect view of the coastline. We spent around five minutes admiring the scenery watching the waves roll by along with the seagulls circling the waters below. They all agreed that it was probably the most beautiful view they had ever seen. This place, more specifically the view gives me a sense of pleasure not only because I love it but because it gives me the ability to share it. My heart warms with the pleasure a little every time I can show a friend or family member this view. I feel as if I have been able to gift them with something that will stay with them forever.

Stepping back out of my memories I can safely say that my experiences on this Oregon Coast cliff have definitely changed over time. I have especially since my time spent living in Los Angeles realized that the beauty that the Pacific Northwest has to offer should never be taken for granted. I often recall this place when I long for cool droplets of rain and my friends back home. It is somewhere that will always stay with me not only for the beauty but also as an experience that I have shared with my parents, brother, sister, hometown friends, and my girlfriend. While writing this paper I looked back over past photos of time spent in Manzanita and at these cliffs and with them memories of good times flowed back. In conclusion, I can say

that this simple cliff overlooking a small Oregon coastal town and the sea is by far the most cherished place that I can find beauty not only visually but in the relationships of people who have shared it with me.

Not part of my essay but I thought I would share a few pictures so you can get the idea!



View from the cliff, From left to right it is Me, Ali, Harri, then Cameron, sorry we are kind of covering most of the view.

Next is a view from the beach and the mountain in the distance is where the cliffs I have been talking about are located.

