

PORTTLE

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Iron Springs

A few rainy weekends ago, I piled my whole family, including pug, into the car and headed to the beach for a stay at [Iron Springs Resort](#), a historic property recently rescued and renovated by the creative and philanthropic True family of Seattle. Iron Springs is in Copalis Beach, a lesser known beach town outside of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, just south of Grays Harbor, about 2 and a half hours from Seattle and actually equidistant from Portland.



Iron Springs was purchased in 1947 by Olive Little, by all reports, a cantankerous women who ran the place lovingly with an iron fist. The property originally had 8 cabins, with 17 more built throughout the years. Up until the 1980's there was a lodge and swimming pool with a restaurant that sold Olive's famous clam chowder and cinnamon rolls.

The True's were longtime guests of Iron Spring – and had been since the 1970's – before the property fell into such disrepair that it was no longer fun to visit. So when the 65 years old resort went up for sale in 2010, they snatched it up with plans to restore it to the ocean-front getaway they remembered.

After an extensive year-long renovation gone is the lodge and swimming pool (too heavily damaged to be saved) as well as one cabin out of the 25. But what remains is an amazing place that retains the magic of the past while embracing the comforts of today.



The private, well placed cabins are perched on a cliff side, with breathtaking views from almost every window. Interiors are stylishly rustic, and lovely, with original wood paneling, comfy, swiveling easy chairs upholstered with vintage Hudson Bay and Pendleton blankets that the family owned and all the hanging light fixtures are super cool – some made using recycled materials from the remodel and some coming from Ruth True's Capitol Hill store, [Nube Green](#). Tables and shelves are made from the spruce trees that were cut down to put the power lines underground and all units have fireplaces to doze in front of.



Units all have full kitchens (there is no restaurant on site or nearby, save the Green Lantern Tavern, which is 21 and up, but is supposed to serve amazing bar food), so your best bet is to bring fixings for meals from home. The General Store has a great selection of food, frozen pizzas, soups, eggs, milk – the basics – as well as a great selection of wine – which makes me love the place even more.



Dogs are welcome at Iron Springs with amenities just for them like Dog Washing Stations at each cabin to rinse the sand and saltwater from paws after a day of chasing waves and dog towels to dry them down with. My pug is much too lazy to frolic on the beach, but she LOVED those custom swivel chairs.

Copalis and surrounding beaches are known for their razor clams, and we lucked out to be there on a rare daytime dig day (they're usually at night, I guess). The True's invited us to go out with them on Saturday morning, promising to show us how to get those wily creatures up out of the sand and ready to eat. My

intrepid husband bravely rose at 6:15 am to meet them down at the Clamming Station (where the clams are brought after being procured for a de-shelling and a rinse off).



After a couple of hours of soaking wet work (wear waders if you want to be comfortable and dry-ish while doing this activity), Chris returned with a bag full of boogery clams that cook up into some really delicious chowder.



Iron Springs is just awesome. There's so much and nothing to do at the same time, depending on your speed. Walking trails are available for those who wish to hike, comfy couches in front of roaring fires await those who long to lounge around watching the waves crash, expansive beach calls to those eager to splash in the ocean and 20 acres of gorgeous scenery await those who wish to explore the beauty of the coastal woodland.



Almost everyone I told that I was going to Iron Springs exclaimed, “oh I LOVE Iron Springs!” or “We went there all the time when I was a kid.” And I see why. It’s just the kind of place where great memories are made. I can’t wait to come back in the summer to have bonfires on the beach and frolic in the freezing waves. Many of the cabins are adjoining, which means you can come with another family and enjoy eating and drinking communally, while having your own private spaces to retreat to.

Iron Springs is a spot where I long to return year and year – can’t wait to make it a family tradition!