

Points Of Interest
Along the way
On The
Run To The Rogue

Introduction

Our Siletz ancestors came from Western Oregon and parts of Northern California to create the **Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians**. These ancestors came together at a time when our people were faced with some difficult choices. Some of these decisions that had to be made had only one clear answer...accept reservation life, or die.

When the Coast (Siletz) Reservation was created in 1856, it meant the end of a way of life thousands of years old. No longer would our people have their first salmon ceremonies on each of the rivers that were home to our people. No longer would they travel freely in their own lands to collect acorns, basket materials, medicine plants, or whatever they needed, or even feel free to express (in our traditional way) thanks to our creator for all that has been placed here for us.

Our people have been on a difficult path since that time, with many terrible things happening to us (taking our lands & resources with a total disregard for our rights, forced labor & whipping posts, outlawing of traditional ceremonies, boarding schools and other assimilation policies, etc.). Yet we have survived! And it is that survival that we celebrate here with this symbolic return to what is for many of our people-our homelands.

Along the way, we pass many village sites, cemeteries, hunting & fishing grounds, prayer places, food gathering places, shinney grounds, etc. We will pass the off shore rocks that were the sea lion hunting places, the beaches, bays and shorelines that offered their shellfish to our untold generations. We will pass all these places where our people have celebrated, prayed, laughed, and mourned since the beginning of time.

That is what we should remember when we pass on our way, that we are here because our old people were strong, smart and respectful, and they wanted the generations to carry on. Sometimes there are sacrifices that have to be made, and that is what our ancestors have done for us. Some of them made the ultimate sacrifice and did not make it to the reservation – our new home, others endured and have shown us the way to today.

