



SILENT NIGHT As December days shorten, each minute of daylight becomes a prize. At dusk on Oregon's Cannon Beach, tide and sky glow mystic blue against the cathedral hulk of Haystack Rock. In winter, this stretch of Pacific shoreline offers a solitude especially precious in the holiday season: a chance to consider man's place in a natural world that is wild, beautiful, and vast. Cannon Beach lies only 1½ hours from Portland, but at this time of year, it seems a universe away—which is why residents so value their lonely winter sands. "I love the quiet," says local glass artist James Kingwell. "It's a great place to be stranded."

BY PETER FISH | PHOTOGRAPH BY DIANE COOK & LEN JENSHEL