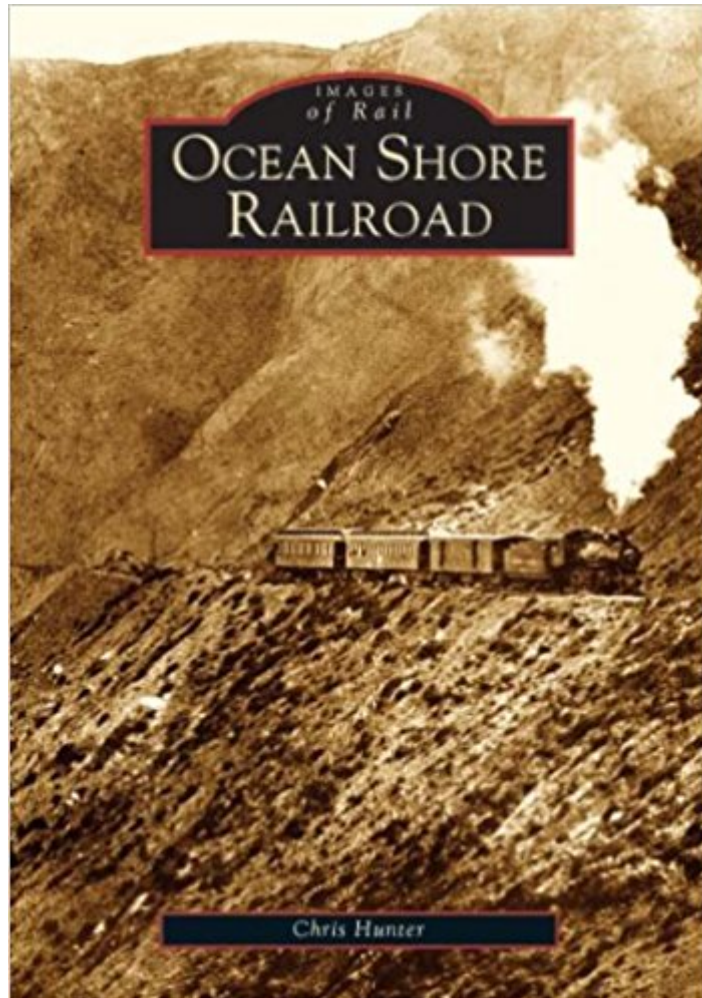




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# Ocean Shore Railroad (Images Of Rail: California)



## Synopsis

With one of the world's most scenic backdrops as a brilliant seascape for passengers, the Ocean Shore Railroad skirted northern California's coastline to service communities south of San Francisco for the first two decades of the 20th century. As impressive as it was idealistic, the line was held prisoner by natural forces that eventually took too much of a toll to keep its striking route churning. Today Highway 1 traces the passage once paved with tracks, and points to the few remnants of one of California's most well-known excursion lines.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Author Chris Hunter, editor and publisher of the Pacifica Tribune, examines the legendary Ocean Shore Railroad with compelling historic images that will bring its brief history back to the forefront for enthusiasts. Delving into sections such as Devil's Slide and the 1906 earthquake, this chronicle paints a vivid picture of the romance the line conveyed as well as the struggle it endured along the western edge of a growing nation.

### GREAT BOOKS

I grew up in Pacifica and always knew of the railroad, always had sight of the ledges on the coast line. Yet I did not know much at all regarding the details. This was a wonderful book of history!

A great collection of historical photos. Enjoyed picking out landmarks from these old photos of areas I played at, on the beach, as a youngster.

Bought as a gift for a railroad buff. He's happy.

There is much of San Francisco and Bay Area history that has become forgotten. But if you look around you'll see bits and pieces of it, remnants of a bygone age. Before the days of urban sprawl, mass transit, and the demise of the railroad, small local railroads were to be found all over the San Francisco Bay Area. One of the most picturesque was the Ocean View railroad which started out in San Francisco and eventually ended up in near Santa Cruz. Started in 1905, the railway was all but obliterated in the earthquake of 1906. Engines from the railway did assist in clearing debris from the city and hauling relief supplies. Construction started again soon, cutting a roadbed along the Pacific coast. It was hoped that with the railroad, some housing development for vacation homes would blossom as well. The train ran through little communities like Salada, Half Moon Bay and Rockaway Beach. Unfortunately its big competition Southern Pacific was always in the background, trying to snuff out the operation. And with the introduction of more highways and automobiles, the days of the railroad were numbered. The last gasp of the line was in 1920, when gas powered railcars were used to haul excursion passengers. Not much of the railway exists today, except for a few station houses, and traces of the right of way. As with all Arcadia publications there is a nice mix of historical photos and modern images to compare the changes over time. A nice feature in the end, is a model railroad that was built to commemorate the railway.

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