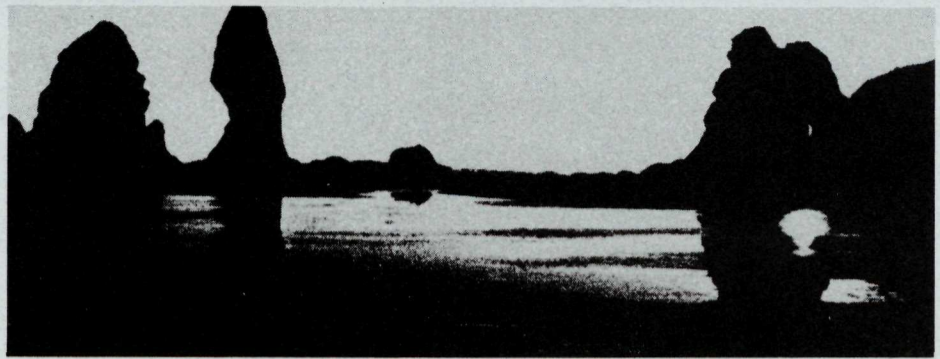


Olympic

National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Olympic Coastal Strip



Olympic National Park offers 57 miles (92km) of the most primitive natural coastline in the 48 contiguous United States. The views of ocean, cliffs, headlands, islands, and seastacks coupled with the dramatic changing sea provide a unique experience. You can drive to Rialto and Kalaloch Beaches, and hiking provides access to the entire coast.

With the rising number of hikers visiting this area, resource preservation efforts are essential. You can help protect this awe-inspiring area by using minimum impact techniques included below.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for all overnight backcountry trips. There are wilderness use fees that must be paid for your trip. These include a registration fee of \$5.00 and \$2.00 per person per night. These may be obtained from ranger stations. A quota reservation system for overnight camping is in effect for the area between the

Ozette River and Yellow Banks from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. For more information, contact the Wilderness Information Center in Port Angeles at (360)452-0300.

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES - Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. Bring to the trailhead only what you will use on your wilderness trip.

GROUPS hiking or camping along the coast are limited to a maximum of 12 persons per group. Organized or affiliated groups must travel and camp at least 1/2 mile (.8km) apart to minimize the impacts that large groups can have on resources in the wilderness.

CAMPING AREAS - No camping is allowed on the coast between Rialto Beach and Ellen Creek and on all beaches south of the Hoh River (including all Kalaloch Beaches). You should use existing bare ground campsites, or the beach above the high tide line.

CAMPFIRES are allowed on and adjacent to ocean beaches, but they must be more than 10 feet (3m) from the nearest beach log and may not exceed 3 feet (1m) in diameter. Driftwood and "dead and down" wood may be

used; do not cut live vegetation or dead standing trees or branches. The use of portable stoves is encouraged. **Fires are prohibited in the Sand Point area.**

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY let a friend/relative know your trip plans and expected return time. They can inform rangers if you do not return. Rescue is not a sure or immediate service. Be prepared to survive on your own by carrying the "ten essentials." If you experience an emergency, notify the closest ranger station: Lake Ozette (360)963-2725, Mora (360)374-5460, Kalaloch (360)962-2283 or call 911 at night. Cell phone service does not extend to the beaches.

VEHICLES (INCLUDING BICYCLES) are prohibited on all coastal trails and beaches.

WEAPONS are not allowed on the coast (including trails and beaches).

PETS are allowed on leash only in the following areas: Rialto Beach from Quillayute River north to **Ellen Creek (1/2 mile)** and the beaches at Kalaloch. They are prohibited everywhere else on the coast and on backcountry trails (except for guide and hearing dogs).



HIKING INFO - Headland trails, marked by orange and black targets, bypass areas that are impassable due to terrain or tides. They receive

minimal maintenance and can be steep and muddy. Some require climbing "cable ladders." On others there are attached aid ropes to assist climbing up or down. Be wary of loose rocks that can fall from above. Parties should climb one hiker at a time to avoid dislodging rocks on members below.

Rocks and logs can be slippery and unstable and can tip or roll. Boardwalk trail surfaces are slippery when wet. Hard lugged sole boots do not give traction on wet or algae-covered surfaces, so stay low, take short steps and keep your hands free to help maintain your balance. Soft soled shoes or boots are better for these surfaces.

HIKE BY THE TIDE - Rising water can cut you off. Current tide tables are posted at trailheads and coastal ranger stations. **DON'T GUESS!** Know when tides occur. Strong winds or off-coast storms make tides higher than tide tables indicate, sometimes making routes impassable even at low tide. If conditions are bad, turn back the way you came.

RESPECT THE OCEAN - Water adjacent to long sandy beaches can develop treacherous riptides. The surf along steep gravel beaches can cause significant undertow. Strong currents, cold water and hidden rocks make swimming hazardous. Waves can move drift logs on the beach that can crush and kill. Be vigilant for large swells.

Many **CREEKS AND RIVERS** (Ozette, Goodman, Falls, Mosquito etc.) can be difficult to cross during high runoff

or high tide situations and may involve deep wading. Swimming is often not an option due to cold and currents so be prepared to turn back.

CHECK WEATHER FORECAST - but, be prepared for unpredicted changes. The weather changes quickly from warm and sunny to cold and wet. Forecasts are usually available at ranger stations or by monitoring the NOAA Weather Advisory on 162.55mhz.

BEWARE OF HYPOTHERMIA (depressed body temperature) which is the #1 killer in the outdoors. It may occur quickly from being wet and cold or slowly from long exposure to cold, rain, wind. To prevent: wear wool or synthetic clothing, bring a cap and rainwear and eat high energy food.

SHELTER - Carry a tent! Shelters are for emergency use only. If you build a driftwood structure or furniture, at your campsite dismantle it before leaving. Wilderness areas are meant to be free of signs of people.

PURIFY YOUR WATER - "Ice-tea" stain from root tannins in creeks is not harmful, but drinking untreated water is risky. Giardia lamblia, a protozoan, can cause severe intestinal illness. Other bacteria in surface water can also make you sick. Water should be treated by boiling for at least one minute, chemically treating or by filtering.

HANG YOUR FOOD! Raccoons, skunks, bears and other wildlife frequently raid unprotected food (not just at night). To keep food away from animals, hang it at least 12 feet above the ground and 10 feet away from tree trunks. Store it this way whenever you are away from your backpack or camp. Hard-sided buckets with snap down lids are required for food storage between Strawberry Point and Second Beach and from Rialto Beach to the Ozette River. Buckets are available locally.

PACK OUT ALL TRASH - Please do not burn garbage except paper. Do not dispose of garbage by burying or

putting in outhouses. Any help with removal of artificial marine debris (floats, nets, etc.) is appreciated.

SANITATION - Human body waste must be disposed of in outhouses when available. In other areas, it must be buried in organic soil away from campsites, trails, beaches and developed areas; at least 200 feet (61m) from any water source. Dig a shallow hole 6-8" (15-20cm) and dispose of used toilet paper by burying in hole. Do not wash dishes in streams. Soap should be dumped on well drained soil at least 200 feet (61m) from water sources.

MARINE MAMMALS should never be disturbed, including seal pups even if you think something is wrong with them. They are in their natural environment where nature will take it's course. Some marine mammal diseases are contagious to humans.

TIDE POOLS are fascinating places, but don't collect or handle the animals or plants that dwell there. It is easy to disrupt the balance of this unique ecosystem.

LEAVE ALONE metal cylinders or other containers that have washed up on shore. They occasionally contain

hazardous or explosive materials. If you see a suspicious object, notify a ranger with it's exact location.

EDIBLES - Edible fruits, nuts, mushrooms etc. may be collected by hand for personal consumption. The total quantity which may be possessed is limited to 1 quart per day per person. Exotic species (apples, non-native blackberries) are exempt from daily limits.

PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING occurs in humans when they eat shellfish which have concentrated toxic "red tide" algae in their body tissues. Pacific Ocean beaches are closed from April 1 to Oct. 31 to shellfish harvest, except razor clams which have their own regulated season. Seasons are set for the legal taking of clams, mussels, and fish on the coast. Other species may be regulated in the future. Check at a ranger station for current regulations. A Washington State Shellfish license is required.

COLLECTING SHELLS - Collection of unoccupied seashells and beach pebbles is limited to a handful per person per park visit.

Coastal Strip

Makah Indian Reservation Boundary to Ozette River - 7.7 miles (12.4km). South of the 2-mile-long Shi Shi beach lies a rugged, remote section of coast with steep headlands, cobbles and large slippery boulders. Tidal influence requires careful planning and timing of hikes as sections are only passable at low tides. Several headlands are only passable by use of steep, often muddy, minimally maintained trails equipped with hand-assist ropes. Camping sites are widely spaced and limited to areas of higher ground. Ozette river usually cannot be forded in the winter and spring, even at low tide, due to high river flows. During the summer, fording the river is recommended at low tide only.

Ozette River to Rialto 23.1 miles (40.6km). From the Ozette River south to Yellow Banks, the coast consists of sand and cobble beaches punctuated by a few minor headlands that are passable by short, minimally maintained trails equipped with hand-assist ropes. Much of this section (with a few exceptions) is passable most of the time except for high tide periods or when storm surf is present. At higher sea levels, some hiking on beach logs may be necessary. Numerous campsites are present along this heavily visited section of coast. Foraging racoons are a problem; food must be hung at all times when you are not eating. Yellow Banks to Rialto: this difficult section of coast contains a few large beaches and many small ones tucked in coves surrounded by steep headlands. There are extensive areas of slippery cobbles and boulders in the Cape Johnson area; many of the rocks are algae covered. Camping is limited by the terrain in portions of this hike. Several small headland trails require climbing cable ladders or using hand-assist ropes. Sections of shoreline are backed by vertical cliffs; these areas require attention and full knowledge of tides and weather.

Third Beach to Oil City - 17 miles (27km). Watch for seals, sea lions and occasional sea otters. Teahwit Head, Taylor Point, the mouth of Goodman Creek, and Hoh Head are impassable on shoreline; use overland trails. Goodman and Mosquito Creeks are often knee-deep fords, but can be impassable at high tide or high creek flows. Travel on shore south of Mosquito Creek can only be completed at extreme low tides. Oil City trail is .75 mile (1.2km) from the beach to the parking area. Oil City: no oil, no city. Oil City Road is partially paved and 11 miles to Highway 101.

All rocks and islands offshore of the coastal strip are a part of Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Those that cannot be reached by foot at low tide are also National Wildlife Refuges and a part of the sanctuary and are off limits to visitors. This protects nesting wildlife from human disturbance.

KEY

- OUTHOUSE
- NON-PARK LAND
- ROAD
- TRAIL
- RANGER STATION
- MILEAGE MARKER
- CAMPGROUND
- RESERVATION BOUNDARY

DANGER: on map signifies points or areas that cannot be rounded by shoreline at low tide. **Always** use overland trail.

CAUTION: on map signifies points or areas that can be rounded at low tide. If no overland trail exists, hiker may have to wait out tide until it can be safely rounded.

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