

LAKE OZETTE  
Olympic National Park

Revised 1983

Lake Ozette was variously known as Lake of the Sun on early maps, and as Ka'houk, or a large body of fresh water, by the Makah Indians. The first Caucasian recorded to have seen Lake Ozette was James Swan, an Indian Agent from Neah Bay, who went there in 1864. Settlers of Scandanavian origin arrived in the 1890's. Vestiges of their homesteads still remain near the lake.

The lake is the third largest (7,787 acres) natural body of fresh water in the State of Washington and is over 300 feet deep. Lake Ozette is the most westerly large lake in the conterminous (48) United States.

The Pacific Coast area of Olympic National Park borders the western shoreline of Lake Ozette. Two trails leave the Lake Ozette Ranger Station for the ocean beaches. The more northerly trail is the Indian Village Nature Trail which leads 3.3 miles through typical lowland coastal forest to the beach. This trail passes through Ahlstrom's Prairie, site of an old abandoned homestead.

Just north of this trail's end is Cape Alava, the most westerly point of land in the conterminous United States. A short distance north of Cape Alava is the site of the archeological excavations which were conducted throughout the 1970's on the Ozette Indian Reservation by Washington State University. The site provided most of the artifacts that are on display at the Makah Cultural Center in Neah Bay. Presently, the site is closed and buried.

A second trail leaves the ranger station and leads 3 miles to Sand Point. There are two shelters at Sand Point available for "Emergency Use" only. It is wise to carry a tent or plastic tarp for shelter. Please pack the tarp and all nonburnables out with you when you leave. Keep your wilderness clean.

**CAUTION:** THE CEDAR PUNCHEON WALKWAY IS SLIPPERY WHEN WET OR FROSTY.  
RECOMMEND TENNIS SHOE OR OTHER SOFT-SOLED SHOE.

A 9.3 mile loop hike may be made by taking one of these trails to the beach, hiking along the beach for 3 miles, and returning by the other trail to your car. Tennis shoes or other soft-soled shoes are recommended for the puncheon walkway, while waterproof footwear or hiking boots may be better along the coast. Rocks, islands and seastacks lie off the wilderness coast. Investigating the life in tidepools is a favorite pastime.

Two additional trails lead from Lake Ozette to the beach, but these trailheads may be reached by boat only. These trails are usually muddy in spots and caution must be exercised on slippery cedar puncheon footbridges. The first of these trails is located 3/4 mile south of the Ericsons Bay campground. A 2.2 mile hike leads to the south end of Sand Point's broad sandy beach.

The other trail leads from Allens Bay, at the lower end of the lake, 2.3 miles to the beaches near the Norwegian Memorial. The memorial commemorates the shipwreck of the Prince Arthur of Norway which ran aground on the treacherous rocks on January 2, 1903.



Lake Ozette is good for boating of all kinds. It is wise to take care during high winds, as the lake's waters can become very rough and hazardous. A small campground is located about midway down the lake at Ericsons Bay and can be reached only by boat. Water at Ericsons Bay is shallow with a sandy bottom that some find ideal for wading and swimming.

All drinking water from lake or streams should be boiled one full minute or otherwise treated to destroy Giardia protozoans which could cause illness.

Fishing is a popular sport on Lake Ozette. There is a closed season on the lake for salmon and steelhead. Lake waters are not inside the boundaries of Olympic National Park, so a Washington fishing license and applicable punch cards are required, and state fishing regulations are applicable. Fishermen may pit their skills against largemouth bass, yellow perch, cutthroat trout, kokanee, squawfish, plus seasonal runs of silver and sockeye salmon and steelhead. (The Ozette River may be fished within the park boundaries.) Within the park boundaries no license is required; however, applicable punch cards must be in possession and the park's fishing regulations consulted for season, size and bag limits. The Ozette River features cutthroat trout, squawfish, and seasonal runs of silver and sockeye salmon, plus steelhead. A copy of the Park's fishing regulations is available from ranger stations or from the Superintendent, Olympic National Park, 600 East Park Avenue, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Overnight camping for tents or trailers is available at the campground near the Ranger Station.

More detailed information about the coastal area and beach hiking may be obtained from the following books available from:

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
2800 Hurricane Ridge Road  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

<u>Roads and Trails of Olympic National Park</u> , by Leissler.....	\$ 8.60
<u>The Olymoic Seashore</u> , by Kirk.....	\$ 6.60
<u>Indian Village Nature Trail</u> , by Kaune (Trailhead cost 25¢).....	\$ .50
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Sheet of Lake Ozette.....	\$ 2.55

Note: Above prices include mailing costs. Washington State residents, please add 7.8% sales tax.