

LAKE OZETTE

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 Scandinavian origin arrived in the 1890's. Vestiges of their homesteads can still be found around the lake. The lake is the second largest natural body of fresh water in the state of Washington and the most westerly large lake in the conterminous (48) United States.

Lake Ozette may be reached from Port Angeles by taking State Highway 112 from Port Angeles a distance of 67 miles to a point 2 miles west of the town of Sekiu. There the Hoko River Road leads a distance of 21 miles to Lake Ozette.

Lake Ozette is bordered along the western side by the Pacific Coast Area of Olympic National Park. Two trails leave the end of the road for the ocean beaches. The more northerly trail is the Indian Village Nature Trail which leads 3.3 miles through typical oceanside forest to the beach. This trail also passes through Ahlstrom's prairie, an old abandoned homestead. A self-guiding booklet is available for this nature trail and can be obtained at the trailhead.

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 are a series of archaeological excavations being conducted on the old Ozette Indian Reservation by Washington State University.

A second trail leaves road's end and leads 3 miles through the coastal forest to Sand Point. There are 2 shelters at the end of the trail. Trail shelters are available on a first come, first serve basis and will probably be occupied when you arrive. It is wise to carry a plastic tarp for shelter. Please pack the tarp and all non-burnables out with you when you leave. Keep your wilderness clean. A fire permit is required for all overnight trail travel and may be obtained at the trailhead. Pets are allowed on trails on a leash. Bears are common, so hang your food up out of their reach.

A 9.3 mile 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 road's end. These trails are generally muddy in spots and it is wise to hike with waterproof footwear or sneakers that can be washed off and dried. Rocks, islands and seastacks lie off the wilderness coast. Investigating life in tidepools is a favorite sport.

A third trail leads from Allen's Bay at the lower end of the lake 2.3 miles to the beaches near the Norwegian Memorial. The trail may be reached by boat or beach hike only. The memorial commemorates the shipwreck of the Arther of Norway which ran aground on the treacherous rocks on January 2, 1903. There is a shelter south of the trail's end.

Lake Ozette is good for all kinds of boating. Many canoe enthusiasts enjoy the lake. It is wise to take care during high winds as the lake's waters can become very rough and hazardous. A small, primitive campground is located about midway down the lake at Ericson's Bay and can be reached only by boat. There are no