Olympic Wilderness Trip Planner

Olympic National Park Washington

A Remnant of Wild America

In 1988, Congress preserved a remnant of wild America by designating 95% of Olympic National Park as wilderness. To learn more about wilderness designation or for trip planning information, visit the park's Wilderness Information Center (WIC) in Port Angeles, go to www.nps.gov/olym or call (360) 565-3100.

Welcome to The Olympic Wilderness!

Come explore Olympic's dramatic coast, forest-cloaked valleys or rugged mountains. Whether you choose an easy day hike or a challenging overnight trip, you are sure to be transformed by this special place known for its spectacular scenery and its primeval character.

Getting Started



Wilderness **Stewardship Plan** ympic National Park is developing a Wilderness Stewardship Plan. For more info visit: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/olymwild.

Where to Hike?

With so many options, planning the right hike might seem overwhelming. Narrow down your options by considering the questions below.

Maps and books to help you plan are available from Discover Your Northwest bookstores at park visitor centers, the WIC, by calling (360) 565-3195, or at www.discovernw.org.

What do you want to see? Would you like to explore crashing waves and quiet tidepools along the park's wilderness coast, or follow a river under a rain forest canopy of

Why do I need a permit?

Wilderness Use Permits are required for all overnight stays in the park's backcountry.

Permits can help us find you should you become lost or injured. Permits also allow park staff to monitor use in different areas. This information is used to plan and design wilderness projects including food storage methods, toilet locations and restoration.

ancient evergreens? Perhaps you love to gaze down on valleys of fog from high in a mountain meadow.

As you plan, remember this area is protected not only as a national park, but also as wilderness where the forces of nature predominate and "the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man." (1964 Wilderness Act)

Consult Olympic's website or the WIC for trip planning advice and trail descriptions. For your safety and to protect the park, please follow the guidelines and regulations outlined below.

How to Get Your Permit

To obtain your permit, visit the WIC. If you are not passing through Port Angeles enroute to the trailhead or will not arrive during business hours, call the WIC for more options.

Use Limits and Reservations Overnight use limits are in effect from May 1 through September 30 in the park's most popular camp areas. Reservations (required in some areas; recommended in others) for these destinations are available by calling the WIC up to 30 days before the first day of your hike.

What's your experience level? Are you a beginning hiker, or getting ready for the latest in a long series of wilderness adventures? Olympic offers options for almost any skill level.

If you're a beginner, hiking with children or looking for an easier hike, consider exploring a lowland valley or sandy beach. Trail and off-trail experiences from rocky coasts to craggy ridges offer greater challenges.

Where to Camp?

Check the other side of this brochure for wilderness camp details and locations. Primitive toilets are available at

Reservations are required for the Ozette Coast, Lake Constance and Royal Basin and must be made through the WIC.

Reservations are recommended (but not required) for Elk Lake, Glacier Meadows; Flapjack Lakes; Grand Valley, Badger Valley; Seven Lakes Basin/High Divide, Mink Lake, Hoh Lake Trail; and Upper Lena Lake. Reservations can only be made by calling or visiting the WIC.

Reservations are available for groups of 7 to 12 and for stock users in the Hoh Valley as large sites are limited.

some sites but not others. Some areas have bear wires for food storage; others require bear canisters. Always camp at least one mile from trailheads and use existing, bare-ground sites.

How large is your group?

Maximum group size for overnight wilderness trips is 12 people and 8 head of stock. Larger groups are not permitted. Affiliated groups with a combined total of more than 12 people must camp and travel at least one mile apart.

Reservable group sites for parties of 7 to 12 are provided in the Sol Duc,

A reservation guarantees that a site will be available for you. Specific campsites within an area cannot be

Wilderness Use Fees

Registration and nightly fees are charged for overnight stays in Olympic's wilderness. Proceeds help fund wilderness projects like trail maintenance, revegetation and wilderness information services.

Registration Fee: \$5 per permit

Nightly Fee: \$2 per person per night (16 years and older)

Hoh, Grand Valley, Lake Constance, Royal Basin and Upper Lena areas. Groups of 7 to 12 people must use the designated group sites when traveling in these areas. To reserve group sites, call the WIC.

Traveling with Stock

Many trails in the Olympic Wilderness are suitable for stock animals. Groups with stock may be required to camp in designated stock camps. Always check with the WIC for trail conditions, stock regulations and camp locations.

Olympic Wilderness Pass: \$30 (\$15 per additional household member). Good for one year from date of issue; covers permit and nightly fees for pass holder.

Entrance fees are collected at many park areas: \$15 per vehicle for a 7-day pass or \$30 for an annual Olympic National Park Pass.

Passes are required at many trailheads in Olympic National Forest. Check the website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/olympic for more information.

Plan Ahead to Stay Safe



Be Prepared Risk is inherent to wilderness travel.

Hazards include tides, stream crossings, steep slopes and snowfields, unstable rock, unpredictable wildlife and ever-changing weather.

Carefully consider daily distances and elevation changes. Make sure your hike is compatible with the skills and endurance of everyone in your party.

Once you've planned your trip, leave

Carry extra shoes rather than crossing in bare feet. Use a walking stick or lock arms with a buddy for balance. Cross diagonally; yield to the current.

Safety on the Coast

Hiking the wilderness coast requires special precautions.

Always have a tide table and watch. Carry a detailed topographic map that shows areas that are impossible or hazardous to hike at high tide.

Weather Precautions

Always come prepared for cold, rain and wind! Olympic Peninsula weather is dynamic and often unpredictable. Even summer can be cool and wet.

With cool, wet weather comes the risk of hypothermia, a serious condition in which body temperature drops too low. It may occur quickly if you are wet and cold, or slowly with exposure to the elements. Symptoms include shivering, lethargy, clumsiness and

Food Storage

Your safety and the future of Olympic's wildlife depend on proper food storage! Keep all food, garbage and scented items (toothpaste, sunscreen, etc.) away from wildlife at all times.

Bear canisters are recommended throughout the park and required in many areas, including the entire wilderness coast, Royal Lake/Royal Basin, the Sol Duc/High Divide/7 Lakes Basin area and any other areas where food cannot be hung 12 feet high and 10 feet from the nearest tree trunk.

Bear wires for hanging food are provided in some areas. In other places, food may be hung from trees provided it is 12 feet above the ground and 10 feet from the nearest tree trunk. The following guidelines apply throughout the park wilderness.

reserved.

Always pack these key items and be prepared for a range of conditions.

Ten Essentials for Wilderness Travel

- 1. Extra clothes, including raingear and a warm hat 2. Extra food
- 3. Topographic map of the area
- 4. Compass (know how to use it!)
- 5. Flashlight with extra batteries
- 6. Sunglasses and sunscreen
- 7. Pocket knife
- 8. Matches in waterproof container
- 9. Candle or fire starter
- 10. First aid kit, with prescription medications and bee sting kit if needed

your itinerary with someone. Tell them where you plan to go and when you plan to return. Let them know if your plans change. This is vital information for a search and rescue if you become lost or injured.

Winter trips require even more planning. Be sure to contact the WIC to check on conditions and call (360) 565-3131 for possible road closures.

Always remember, your safety is your responsibility!

Safety Tips

Treat All Drinking Water

Giardia, a micro-organism that can cause severe diarrhea and intestinal cramping, is found here.

Treat all drinking water by boiling one full minute at a rolling boil, filtering or using chemical treatment.

Stream Crossings

Stream crossings can be hazardous, especially during heavy rains or spring snow melt. Check a topographic map for crossing locations and consult the WIC for current conditions.

Unbuckle your pack's waistbelt and loosen the shoulder straps before attempting a stream crossing.

Caring for the Future





A Wilderness Treasure

When Congress designated nearly one million acres on the Olympic Peninsula for protection under the Wilderness Act, it helped protect a unique place. The area includes 95 percent of Olympic National Park, five areas in Olympic National Forest and more than 600 islands in national wildlife refuges.

Wilderness aims to preserve the land's natural conditions forever, as well as opportunities for solitude and recreation; and scientific, educational, scenic, historic and conservation values.

In wilderness we find refuge and can sense our place in Earth's community of life. Protecting wilderness shows restraint and humility. Our care today will help preserve this priceless gift to generations that follow.

Leave No Trace

To protect the Olympic Wilderness, use the principles detailed below, and:

Never attempt to "beat the tide' around a cliff or rock outcrop. People have died trying to do this.

Allow extra time for the tides and for slippery conditions on wet rocks, trails and boardwalks.

Climbing

Olympic's rock formations are mostly fragmented and loose shales, sandstone and basalt. Always wear a helmet, and watch for rockfall.

The Olympic Mountains: A Climber's Guide describes routes in the park and is available through Discover Your Northwest.

Snow and Glacier Travel

Snow can fall any time of year in the Olympics. Winter accumulations up to 20 feet deep can linger well into summer. Always check trail conditions before your trip.

An ice axe, and knowledge and experience in self-arrest techniques, are required to safely cross steep snowcovered slopes and passes.

Safe glacier travel requires specialized mountaineering skills and equipment including an ice axe, climbing rope, crevasse rescue gear and crampons.

Icy slopes and snow-bridged crevasses are serious hazards. No one should attempt glacier travel alone or without proper training.

• Plan ahead and prepare.

The National Park Service is a partner

program. For more information, visit

Wash yourself, dishes and clothing at

least 200 feet from any water source

or campsite. Avoid soap; even biode-

gradable soap does not break down

in cold water. Strain dishwater and

Pit, composting and vault toilets are

If there is no toilet, dig a six to eight-

inch deep hole in organic soil at least

200 feet from water sources and

campsites. Completely bury human

waste, then fill and disguise the hole.

in the Leave No Trace educational

Dispose of Waste Properly

· Leave what you find.

Respect wildlife.

pack out food particles.

used whenever possible.

www.Int.org.

poor judgment.

Prevent hypothermia by wearing a hat, raingear and multiple layers of wool, polypropylene or fleece that insulate even when wet. Don't wear cotton-it will keep you cold and wet. Be sure to waterproof your boots.

A tent with a rainfly, and a pack cover are always recommended. Protect gear and clothing by putting them in plastic bags inside your pack.

Cell Phones?

Wilderness offers a retreat from busy lives and technology. You may want to leave your phone behind.

If you bring a cell phone, don't depend on it in an emergency. Coverage is unreliable in most of the park.

If you can call out, report only serious emergencies by calling 911. Be aware that your cell service may connect you to a dispatch center in another part of the state or even Canada.

Lost or Injured?

In an emergency, stay calm and stay put-you will be found sooner. Don't be tempted to follow creeks, these are often the most dangerous routes in the Olympics. Use your Ten Essentials. Provide first aid. Stay warm and dry. Create a signal visible from the air. Find a forest clearing if possible; display bright clothing or gear and use a signal mirror.

> stove. Never rely on a campfire for cooking.

Campfires are prohibited in the following sensitive areas:

- anywhere above 3,500 feet
- Elk Lake (Hoh area)
- Three Lakes (Quinault area)
- · Sand Point area from the headland north of Yellow Banks to the headland at Wedding Rocks

If you choose to have a campfire outside of closed areas, use established fire rings where available and keep your fire small. Along the coast build your fire below high tide line and away from drift logs.

Gather only small pieces of dead and down wood and on the coast, gather wood only from the beach. Always make sure your fire is cold before leaving. Only burn items that can burn completely; trash should be packed out.

- Never leave food unattended! Secure all food (including canned and dehydrated food), garbage and scented items from wildlife at all times.
- Never eat or store food in your tent. Animals have entered tents in search of food, even when occupied.
- · Strain waste water and pack out food particles and uneaten food. Wash dishes immediately and away from campsites and water sources.
- · Carry scented items in sealed plastic bags to avoid odor-tainting your pack and clothing.
- Do not abandon your food if a bear enters your camp. Make noises and try to scare it away or leave the area with your food. However, if a bear is intent on getting your food or other property, do not risk injury.
- Raccoons can be very aggressive along the coast. Bear canisters are required for all coastal camp areas.
- Never feed any wildlife.
- Tell a ranger if wildlife eats your food, damages your property or threatens you in any way.
- Bear canisters are available for loan from the WIC and some ranger stations. A suggested \$3 donation per canister helps support this program.



Be Considerate of Others

You can help all visitors have a quality wilderness experience, while protecting the park's plants and animals.

- Respect others' desire for solitude by talking quietly and not walking through other campers' sites.
- Help park wildlife stay wild by keeping a safe distance and never feeding or enticing any animals.
- Leave your pet at home. To protect wildlife, your pet and you, pets are not allowed on any park trails.
- Vehicles, bicycles and other wheeled devices are not permitted on any park trails, boardwalks, beaches or backcountry areas of the park. Check at the WIC for places where pets and bicycles are allowed.

Explore this precious wilderness heritage with respect and care so that future visitors can also experience its rare splendor.

Always pack out toilet paper or burn it completely in fire rings if fires are allowed. Diapers and feminine hy-

Use Durable Surfaces

or storing your gear on plants. Be especially careful in high elevation areas and revegetated sites.

When traveling cross-country, try to camp on rock or snow. If these aren't available, dry meadow sedges and grasses are the most resilient. Avoid damaging vulnerable heather and huckleberry, which may never recover.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

You can help protect soils and vegetation and reduce the risk of wildland fire by using a backpacking

giene products must be packed out.

Protect plants by focusing activities in your campsite. Avoid walking, sitting

available in many areas and should be Gravel bars and ocean beaches are also low-impact options. Be sure to pitch your tent above high waterline!

Wilderness Campsite Information

