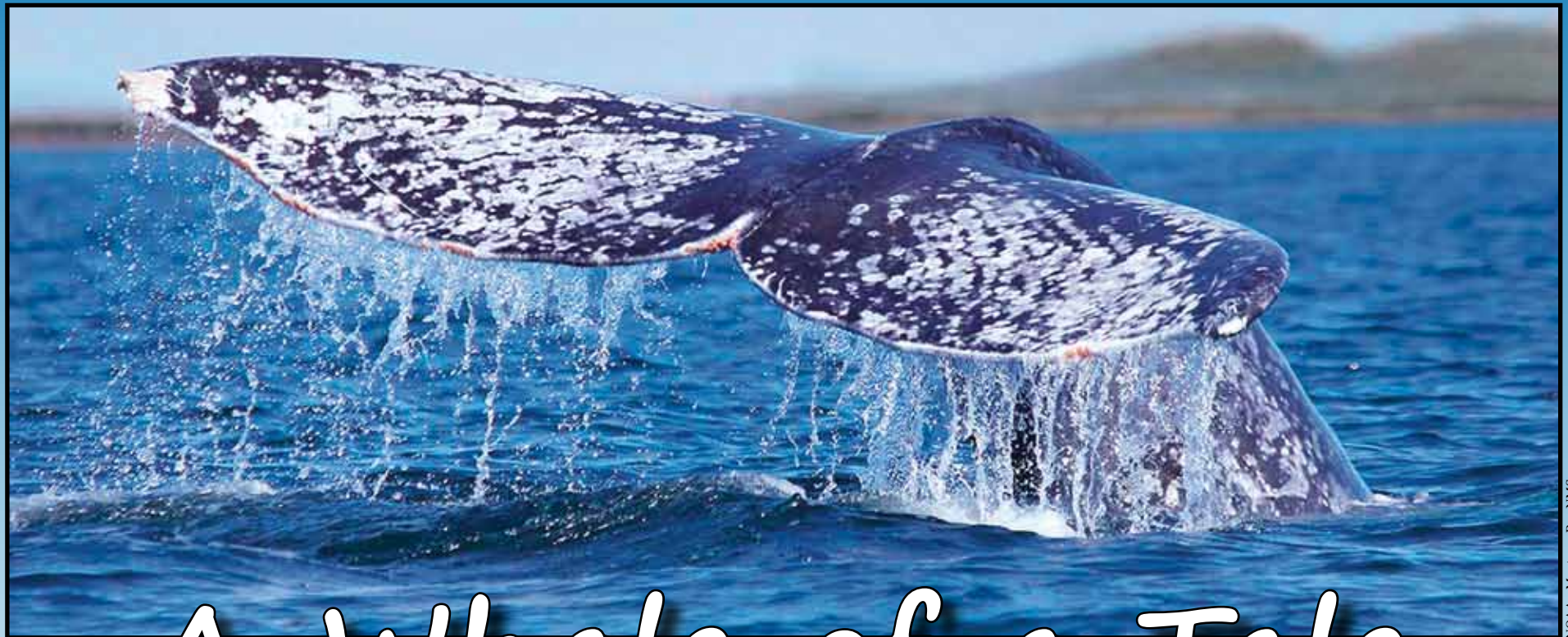


BUGLER

Olympic National Park
Winter 2017-2018



NOAA - Monterey Bay NMS

A Whale of a Tale

Visitors to Olympic National Park erupt with a collective cheer when a heart-shaped spout rises above the mottled back of a gray whale. They are witnessing a small part of the world's longest mammal migration—the journey of Eastern Pacific gray whales from their calving grounds in Baja, Mexico to feeding areas in the Bering and Chukchi Seas off Alaska.

From March to early May visitors to the Washington coast can watch whales surface, spout and dive, with their 10-foot tail flukes disappearing into the sea. Lucky observers might spot a full leap, called a breach, or see spyhopping—when whales raise their heads straight up for a look around. Bluffs near Kalaloch in Olympic National Park, or Cape Flattery on the Makah Indian Reservation, are good spots to scan the protected waters of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary for whales, other marine mammals and seabirds.

Longer than a School Bus

Gray whales, which can grow up to 50 feet long, have distinctive white blotches of barnacles and sea lice on their gray skin. Rather than having dorsal fins, like black and white orcas, gray whales have 6-12 knobby knuckles on their backs. Males and solitary females are the first to migrate north, followed by females with their young calves born in warm lagoons in Mexico. At sites like the mouth of the Quillayute River at La Push, whales often come close to shore to feed on crustaceans and worms in bottom sediments, leaving behind a plume of mud.

Saved From Extinction

It hasn't always been so easy to watch these humbling giants. Gray whales were nearly hunted to extinction over a century ago, mostly targeted in their calving lagoons in Baja. Whaling stations in Washington and British Columbia contributed to the decimation of populations of humpback, blue, sperm, fin and sei whales. But with protection, many whale populations are recovering. Threats still remain from boat collisions, entanglement in fishing gear, ocean acidification, variability in prey, noise pollution and offshore drilling activities, but Eastern Pacific gray whales now number over 20,000. About 200 linger off Washington all summer as part of what biologists call the Pacific Coast Feeding Group. Humpback whales are also returning to Washington waters, with over 200 feeding locally in recent summers, delighting whale watchers.

So pack a lunch, warm clothes and binoculars and head to the coast this spring! Celebrate with the Quileute tribe at their annual Welcoming of the Whales at La Push. Scan for the smooth, shiny heads of harbor seals and sea lions, the furry bobbing heads of sea otters, the slicing black dorsal fins of orcas, or the telltale spouts and massive backs of our largest mammal neighbors. All have benefited from human actions to protect and recover their populations. In return we are rewarded with a thrilling and rare glimpse into their ocean lives.

What's Inside

Facilities and Services.....	2-3
Hurricane Ridge Winter Map.....	4-5
Snowshoe/Cross-Country Ski Routes.....	6
Avalanche Safety.....	7
Parkwide Trip Planning.....	8

Public and private agencies worked together to rescue this young gray whale trapped by low tide on a Kalaloch beach in August 2017. They protected its skin with wet sheets. Then, after digging a trench in the sand, rescuers were able to help the whale turn and swim to freedom on a high tide.



INFORMATION

EMERGENCIES

Dial 911 for emergencies or to report a crime. For non-emergency help call (360) 565-3000 ext. 0 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. or (360) 417-2459 after hours.

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

For information see www.nps.gov/olym or call (360) 565-3130. For information on wilderness camping permits, fees and bear cans see the park web site or call (360)565-3100.

ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITONS

Most of the park is open 365 days a year, but roads and facilities may close due to snow, high water, downed trees or reduced staffing. Call (360) 565-3131 or see nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/currentconditions.htm for road and weather updates.

PETS AND WILDLIFE SAFETY

Pets are not allowed in buildings, on trails or in winter use areas, and must be on a leash elsewhere. Do not approach or feed any park wildlife, including birds. It is illegal, harmful to animals and hazardous to you. Violators are subject to a fine.

FEES AND PASSES

Your fees support facilities and services at Olympic National Park. This year projects include repair of damaged trails and roads, and new exhibits at the Hoh Visitor Center. Thank YOU!

ENTRANCE FEES: (Single visit, 1-7 days) \$25 — Vehicle (private) or \$10 — Individual (age 16+ entering by bus, foot, bicycle)

CAMPING FEES: Most campgrounds are \$20 a night per site, but range from \$15 to \$24 depending on season and facilities. 50% discount with Interagency Senior/Access, Golden Age/Access Passes.

WILDERNESS USE FEES: Overnight trips require a permit; \$8 per person per night.

PASSES:

- \$50 Olympic National Park Annual Pass
- \$80 Interagency Annual Pass
- \$80 Lifetime Interagency Senior Pass (for U.S. seniors age 62+); yearly pass \$20
- Free - Interagency Annual Pass Military (certain military personnel and dependents)
- Free Interagency Access Pass (lifetime, disabled U.S. citizen/resident)

NOTICE - Marijuana is illegal in Olympic National Park. While limited recreational use is legal in the state, possession of any amount of marijuana or other illegal drugs remains illegal on all federal lands.



PARK CONCESSION SERVICES

LAKE CRESCENT LODGE

Open through January 2, 2018. Remainder of winter Roosevelt Cabins open weekends (no food service). Lodge fully reopens April 27, 2018 to January 1, 2019 with lodging and food service; (360) 928-3211, www.olympicnationalparks.com.

LOG CABIN RESORT

Closed in winter. Lodging, RV park, food service and store open May 25 to September 30, 2018; (360) 928-3325, www.olympicnationalparks.com.

FAIRHOLME STORE

Closed in winter. Open daily 9-7, from May 25 to September 3, 2018.

SOL DUC HOT SPRINGS RESORT

Closed in winter. Pools, cabins, restaurant and RV park open March 23 to October 28, 2018; (360) 327-3583, www.olympicnationalparks.com.



KALALOCH LODGE

Lodging and food service open all year, (360) 962-2271, www.TheKalalochLodge.com.

SERVICES OUTSIDE THE PARK

Local communities offer lodging, restaurants, trailhead shuttles and other services year-round. Contact the Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau at (800) 942-4042, www.olympicpeninsula.org.

VISITOR FACILITIES

VISITOR CENTERS/RANGER STATIONS

Olympic National Park Visitor Center (360) 565-3130	During renovations, these are temporarily located at 600 East Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA 98362.	Open 9-4 daily, closed November 23 and December 25.	Information, staff to help you plan a visit, bookstore with map sales, portable toilets
Wilderness Information Center (360)565-3100		Open 9-4 Friday-Monday, other days as possible.	Wilderness trip planning and hiking information, camping permits, and bear cans
Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center (see page 3 for downstairs deli/gift/rental shop schedule)	Open 10-4 Friday-Sunday and holiday Mondays (January 1, 15 and February 19) from November 24 thru April 1. Closed December 25. Starting May 5, 2018, open weekends (and other days as possible). Open daily May 25, 2018 to mid October. Foyer restroom and warming area always open.		Restrooms, exhibits, movie, warming area and staff to help you plan your visit, ranger-guided snowshoe walks
Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center (360)-374-6925	Open 10-4 Friday-Sunday November 1 thru January 7 and March 2 into May. Closed January 8 thru March 1. Open daily starting in late May.		Restrooms, information, staff to help you plan your visit, wilderness permits, bear cans, exhibits, bookstore with map sales
Kalaloch Ranger Station (360)962-2283	Closed in winter. Reopens 10-4 Tuesday-Saturday May 15. Open daily starting in mid June.		Information, exhibits, bookshop, maps
Quinault USFS/NPS Recreation Information (360)288-2525	Open 8-4 Monday-Friday (closed for lunch and federal holidays)		Information, bookshop, maps, wilderness permits, bear cans

Note: Ozette, Mora, Staircase, Storm King, Eagle, Elwha, and Quinault Rain Forest (on North Shore Rd.) Ranger Stations are not regularly staffed.

CAMPGROUNDS (Call (360)-565-3131 or check nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/campgroundstatus.htm for current status)

All campgrounds are first-come, first-served except Kalaloch and Sol Duc. Reservations can be made for those campgrounds by calling (877) 444-6777 or at www.recreation.gov. Kalaloch reservations are only taken for June 13 thru September 23, 2018 no more than 6 months ahead.

Heart O' the Hills, Mora, Hoh, Kalaloch	Weather permitting open year-round with restrooms and water. Note Heart O' the Hills may be walk-in only if snowy.
--	--

Staircase, Sol Duc, Ozette, North Fork, Graves Creek, Queets	Weather permitting, open year-round but primitive with pit toilets and no water in winter. (Queets and North Fork primitive year-round. Sol Duc closed if winter storms close the road; reopens March 23, 2018.)
Deer Park, Fairholme, South Beach	Closed in winter. Reopen in spring/early summer.
ROADS (Call (360)-565-3131 or check nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/current-road-conditions.htm for current status)	
Staircase, Elwha, Hoh, Mora, Ozette, Queets, Quinault	Roads in these areas remain open year-round weather permitting. Note: Olympic Hot Springs Road in the Elwha is subject to winter flooding and may close with short notice.
Hurricane Ridge Road (360)565-3131 or twitter.com/HRWinterAccess	For safety, all vehicles (including 4WD) traveling above Heart O' the Hills on the Hurricane Ridge Road between November 1 and April 1 must carry tire chains. From November 24, 2017 thru April 1, 2018, it is open 9-4 weather permitting Friday-Sunday, plus holiday Mondays (January 1, 15 and February 19, 2018), as well as December 26-28. Closed Monday-Thursday and December 25. During this winter plowing schedule, the road closes to uphill traffic at 4:00 p.m. and all vehicles must be below the Heart O' the Hills gate by 5:00 p.m. After April 1 the road may be open as weather, staffing and road conditions allow. By early May the road is usually open 24 hours a day.
Sol Duc Road	Closed (closes after the first winter storm). Reopens March 23, 2018.
Obstruction Point, Hurricane Hill	These roads close for the winter. They reopen in early summer depending on snow melt.
Deer Park Road	Closed at the park boundary (9 miles from Highway 101, 2000 feet elevation) mid October to early summer depending on snow.

HURRICANE RIDGE

Hurricane Ridge, the focus of winter recreation in Olympic National Park, earns its name in winter. Storms, high winds, snow drifts or high avalanche conditions may delay crews working to plow the road, or force an early closure. The Hurricane Ridge parking lot often fills early, causing long delays at the Heart O' the Hills entrance station. Please carpool and park close to other vehicles at Hurricane Ridge. There are businesses that provide shuttle service to Hurricane Ridge. Inquire at the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center (360) 452-2363, www.portangeles.org for contact information on reservations, schedules and prices.

Hurricane Ridge Road and Visitor Center: See table above.

Hurricane Ridge Deli & Rental Shop: From December 8, 2017 through April 1, 2018, food and ski/snowshoe rentals are available at Hurricane Ridge 10-4 Friday thru Sunday and holiday Mondays, as well as December 26 through January 1. Closed December 25 and April 2-May 4. Starting May 5, 2018 gift shop/deli hours will be 10-6 weekends only through May 20, then daily starting May 25. May open other days as conditions allows.

Hurricane Ridge Downhill Ski, Snowboard & Tubing Area has two rope tows, a poma lift and tubing park, and is operated by the Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Club, www.hurricaneridge.com. It operates 10-4 weekends and holiday Mondays (January 1 and 15, February 19) from December 3, 2017 through April 1, 2018, as well as December 26 to 29 and March 16. Closed December 24 and 25. Full day rates are \$34 for all runs, \$32 half day. Rope tows for full and half day are \$26 and \$24. **Tube park rate** (including tubes) is \$10 per hour. **Only tubes furnished by the ski area will be permitted in their tube park.** Cross country skiers in the ski area must use ski leashes.

Skiing/Snowboard/Snowshoeing Lessons: Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Club offers winter sports lessons for ages four and up. Private lessons are also available. For more information see www.hurricaneridge.com or (848) 667-7669.



Huge drifts can block the Hurricane Ridge parking lot, challenging plow crews.

Equipment Rentals: Several businesses on the Olympic Peninsula and in the Puget Sound area rent winter recreational equipment. Hurricane Ridge Rental Shop (hours and dates below) packages include skis, boots and poles. The shop requires a driver's license to rent equipment.

Location	Cross-Country	Downhill	Snowshoes
Hurricane Ridge (no phone)	\$32/day	\$37/day \$42/day w/ helmet	\$18/day \$23 w/ poles

Camping: The closest vehicle camping is at Heart O' the Hills. Backpackers must get a permit at the WIC. Because of storms, overnight winter parking is not allowed at Hurricane Ridge. You must park 3.3 miles below the Ridge at Third Peak (see map pages 4-5). Camps must be 1/2 mile away from the Hurricane Ridge parking lot and out of sight of ski/snowshoe trails. Be prepared for a snowy drive down in case a storm forces a road closure on your return day.



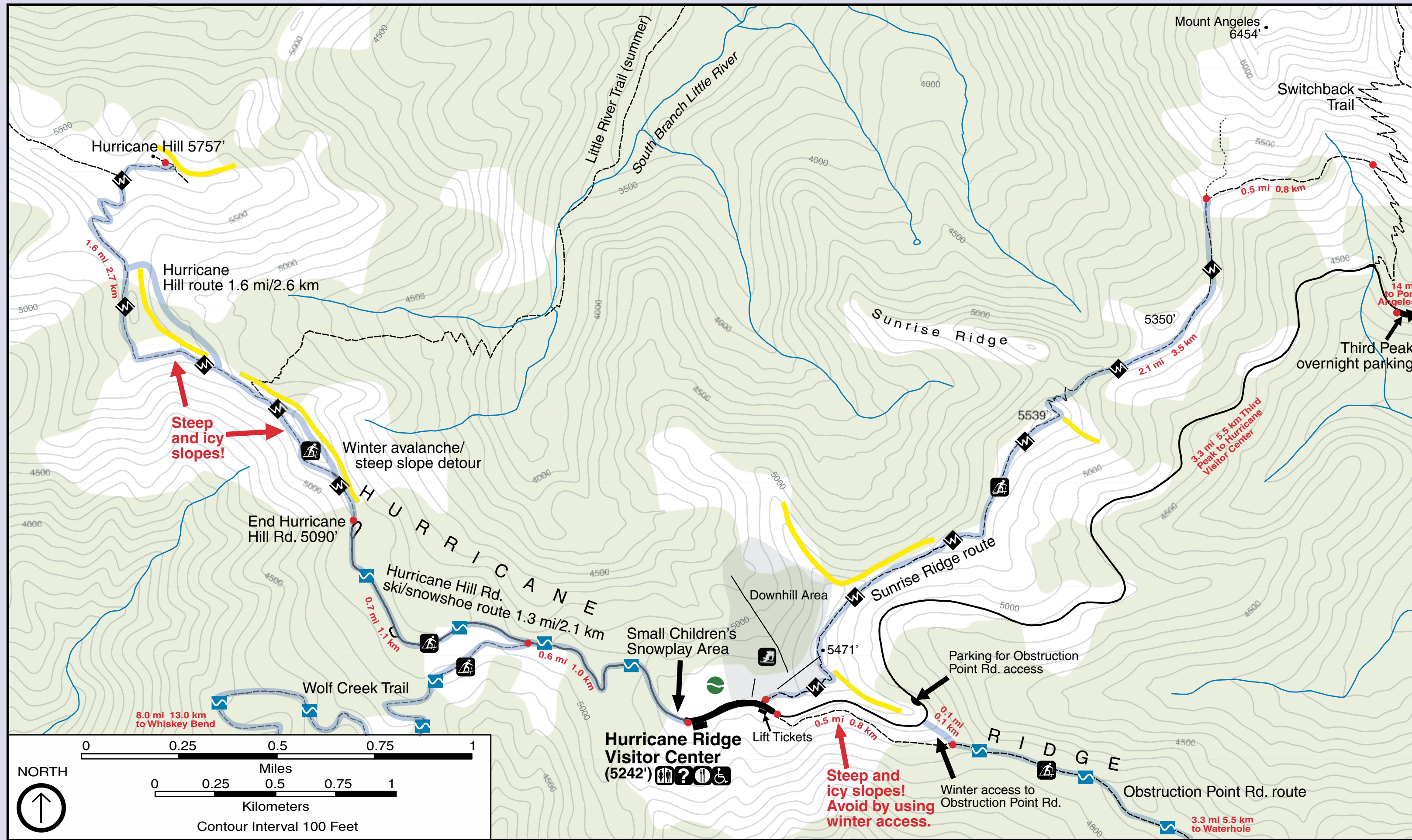
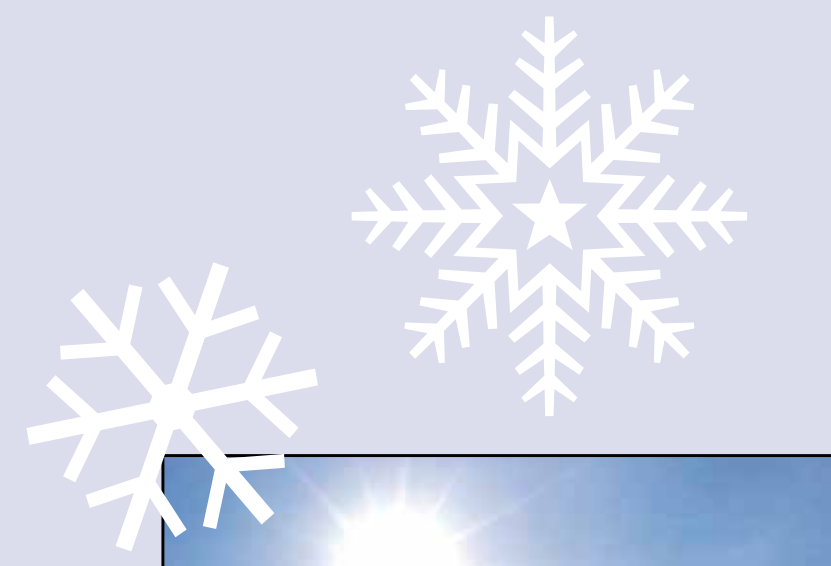
Snowshoe With a Ranger

Join a ranger to experience winter wonders on snowshoes. If you can walk, you can snowshoe! Snowshoes and instructions provided. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for youth 6-15 years old, free for children 5 years old and under. Participants should prepare for cold, snow, wind or even rain. Dress in layers, wear warm, waterproof boots and bring hats, mittens, sunscreen and sunglasses. If the road is closed, walks are cancelled.

Snowshoe Walks: From December 16, 2017 through April 1, 2018, snow permitting, this easy to moderate walk is offered at 2:00 p.m. on weekends and holiday Mondays (January 1 and 15, February 19). The walk lasts 1.5 hours and covers less than a mile. Group size is limited to 25 people. Signup starts at the Hurricane Ridge information desk 30 minutes before the walk.

Snowshoe Walks for Community Groups: Clubs, youth groups or schools can reserve a 10:30 a.m. walk for groups of 7 to 25 people. From December 16, 2017 through April 1, 2018, these 1.5-hour walks are offered on weekends and holiday Mondays (January 1 and 15, February 19), snow permitting. Reservations **must be made in advance** by calling (360) 565-3136.

Hurricane Ridge Area in Winter



Legend

- Ski/snowshoe routes (unmarked & ungraded)
- Easiest
- More difficult
- Most difficult
- Summer trails
- Prevailing wind cornice areas (locations vary with wind patterns)
- Downhill ski area boundary
- 1.0 mi 1.6 km Distance between points

! Before heading out, check at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for current avalanche conditions. Wear an avalanche beacon, carry a probe, snow shovel and the 10 essentials (see page 8), and avoid avalanche terrain such as cornices, gullies and steep lee slopes.

Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

With its easy access and 15 to 20 miles of routes, Hurricane Ridge is the focus of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in Olympic National Park. Though winter explorers of all abilities can enjoy the area, flat, easy, beginner ski terrain is limited to the meadows above the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. Backcountry skiers can explore several slopes and bowls in the area. No trails are groomed or marked; however, two routes use unplowed roads which can usually be navigated.

NOTE FOR SNOWSHOERS, WALKERS, SNOWBOARDERS AND SKIERS: Do your part to help everyone enjoy this area. Snowshoers, walkers and snowboarders, please stay to one side to avoid damaging the ski tracks on trails, and do not snowshoe or walk through the downhill ski area.

Before heading out on any trip remember to register at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center and check current avalanche conditions. Below are descriptions of routes in the Hurricane Ridge area.

🟢 Easiest

The Meadows

The meadows above the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center offer gentle, easy terrain for everyone and excellent views in fair weather. Because the meadows are exposed to the sun and wind, they can be icy or wind packed.

🟡 More Difficult

Hurricane Hill Road

1.3 mi/2.1 km one way

Beginning just west of the visitor center, this trail first descends steeply, then follows the rolling, moderate ridgeline along the unplowed Hurricane Hill Road. Experienced skiers can use this trail to reach the Hurricane Hill Route (see Most Difficult), as well as several bowls for backcountry skiing. In clear weather there are good views to the north and south, especially at the trail/road terminus at the Hurricane Hill trailhead. Much of this ridgetop trail is sheltered by a subalpine forest, making it a good choice in windy, inclement weather or when there is elevated avalanche hazard.

Wolf Creek Trail

8 mi/12.9 km one way to Whiskey Bend

This route begins 0.6 miles west of the visitor center along the unplowed Hurricane Hill Road (see above) and descends through meadows and forests into the Elwha Valley. There are several south-facing slopes near the beginning which are good for backcountry skiing. The Wolf Creek Trail is seldom snow-covered at lower elevations. Users usually just descend a few miles through forest and several meadows with nice south views, then return the same way.

Obstruction Point Road: To Waterhole

3.4 mi/5.5 km one way

Rather than descend the exposed, steep, often drifted and icy route of the summer Obstruction Point Road, the winter route starts at the sharp curve along the Hurricane Ridge Road, 0.5 miles below the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. Park in the pull-off below the curve, cross to the east side of the road and walk the snow bank back uphill to the curve. After descending a steep but short meadow, the route intersects and follows the unplowed Obstruction Point Road.



A backcountry skier enjoys fresh snow at Hurricane Ridge.

Other than the initial descent, the first 1.5 miles are relatively easy and sheltered by forest. After a steep climb, the route crosses below Steeple Rock and onto a short section of exposed slopes which can be drifted, icy and difficult to traverse. After that, the trail flattens and meanders through sheltered subalpine forest. Beyond Waterhole, it climbs steeply (see below).

🔴 Most Difficult

Hurricane Hill Route

1.6 mi/2.6 km one way

This route starts at the end of the Hurricane Hill Road route and climbs 700 feet to the summit of Hurricane Hill. There are several very steep sidehills if users follow the summer trail route, so use extreme caution under icy or elevated avalanche hazard conditions. As an alternative, skiers and snowshoers can follow the ridgeline, which has fewer steep sections. Be careful to stay off cornices that build up along the lee side of the ridge. Under good conditions, advanced skiers or snowshoers will find this a rewarding trip with good views and some nice slopes.

Obstruction Point Road: Waterhole to end

4.3 mi/6.9 km one way

(Obstruction Point Road is 7.8 mi/12.5 km one way)

This route begins midway out the unplowed Obstruction Point Road (see description above for the first 3.4 miles to Waterhole). After Waterhole, the route gains 900 feet, climbing steadily for 0.5 miles to open slopes on Eagle Point. In clear weather, views can be spectacular but steep sidehills and exposure to storms make this a difficult route. It is recommended only under good conditions for experienced skiers. Travel beyond Obstruction Point can entail steep terrain with high avalanche potential.

Sunrise Ridge

2.1 mi/3.4 km one way

Begin this route by crossing below the intermediate rope tow and tube park, then climbing to the right of the ski hill (stay right of the trees). After crossing under the top of the ski area's intermediate rope tow, this route follows a narrow ridge toward the south side of Mount Angeles. There are several avalanche prone areas along the way, so check conditions and use caution under unstable conditions. Be especially careful to stay off cornices that form along the ridge and side ridges. Several nice slopes on the east side descend to the Hurricane Ridge Road.

Other Areas

Depending on the snow level, other roads and trails in the park and in Olympic National Forest may be snow-covered. Check at the visitor center for current snow levels. The Deer Park Road may provide opportunities. For safety, this steep, narrow road is closed to cars at the park boundary, 9 miles from Highway 101, at around 2,000 feet of elevation. The road climbs steadily about 9 more miles from the park boundary up to Blue Mountain. If the snow level is low enough, the road may be skiable from the boundary; but users usually need to hike several miles before reaching snow.

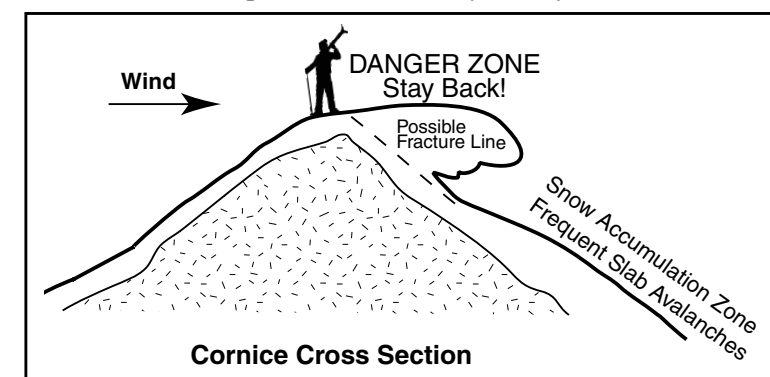
For other routes on the Olympic Peninsula, refer to guides such as *100 Best Cross-Country Ski Trails in Washington*, by Tom Kirkendall and Vicky Spring, *Snowshoe Routes: Washington* by Dan Nelson, or *Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Routes: Washington* by Martin Volken.

SAFETY

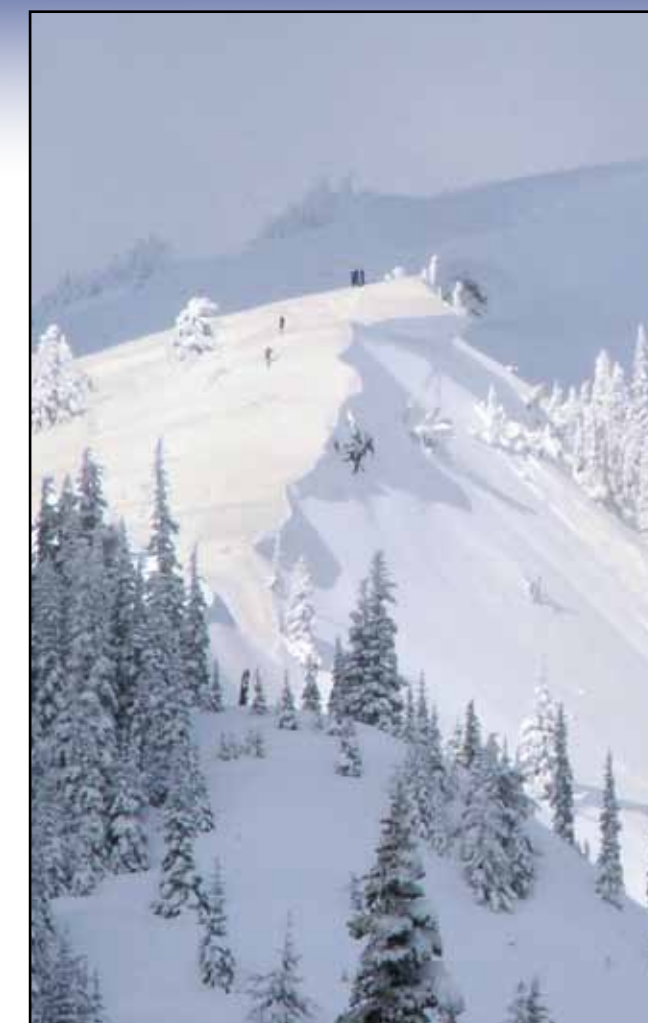
Avalanche!

Olympic Mountain terrain and weather create ideal conditions for avalanches. Before heading out, check the Northwest Avalanche Center forecast at www.nwac.us, and check at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for current local conditions. Wear beacons and carry a probe and snow shovel. The hazard levels range from low to extreme. Even in low hazard conditions avalanches can occur on some slopes. With extreme conditions backcountry travel should be avoided. Certain terrain features like steep gullies that funnel snow, unstable cornices (see below), or dark cliffs on warm spring days, can increase the hazard. The survival rate for avalanche victims is very low. If you or a companion are caught in an avalanche, take these steps in your rescue attempt:

- ❄️ Ensure the safety of survivors.
- ❄️ Mark where victims were caught and last seen.
- ❄️ Quickly search downslope from the last seen points for clues.
- ❄️ Search the debris below the last seen points by probing in a grid pattern with probes, ski tails or poles.
- ❄️ Keep searching! The victim could be inches away from your boots.
- ❄️ Send an extra person for help.
- ❄️ If you are caught, make swimming motions and try to keep yourself on top of the snow. As the snow begins to slow down, push the snow away from your face to create an air pocket.



Overhanging shelves of snow called cornices form on the lee side of windblown ridges. They can be unstable, breaking off far from the edge. Stay back from ridge lines to avoid traveling on unsupported cornices.



Skiers and snowshoers should stay to the windward (southwest) side of unsupported cornices along this ridge en route to Hurricane Hill.

Snow Sliding

Snow sliding is a favorite pastime for some, but it has also been one of the most dangerous activities at Hurricane Ridge. **Serious injuries, seven permanent disabilities occurred when people collided with trees, other sliders, or lost control and ended up in the road.** For your safety, sliding/tubing is permitted in only two locations:

- ❄️ The Small Children's Snowplay Area near the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center where children eight and under may slide. For the safety of participants, metal or hard plastic runner sleds and wooden toboggans are not permitted.
- ❄️ The tubing park operated by the Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Club in the downhill ski area. **Only tubes provided by the ski area are permitted in their tubing park.**

Sliding is not allowed anywhere else in the Hurricane area or along the Hurricane Ridge Road.

PERSPECTIVES

Learn more about your park at the free Perspectives winter speaker series. Talks are at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, November through April. Due to renovation of the Olympic National Park Visitor Center, talks will be at the Port Angeles Library, 2210 South Peabody St., Port Angeles. Refreshments provided by Friends of Olympic National Park.

December 12 - Ozette Archeology: A Retrospective

Paul Gleeson, Chief of Cultural Resources—retired, Olympic National Park
Over 300 years ago a mudslide at the Ozette village crushed buildings and encapsulated a moment of rich village life and Makah tradition. Evidence of this tragedy surfaced in 1966, offering an extraordinary view of the past. Learn about this discovery from Paul Gleeson, who worked on the excavation.

January 9 - Geology and Earthquakes on the Olympic Peninsula

Dann May, Peninsula College
Evidence on the landscape reveals the history of a massive earthquake and tsunami that struck this region in 1700. Learn how these destructive geologic forces have shaped the dramatic and beautiful landscape in our backyard.

February 13 - Fishers on the Olympic Peninsula

Patricia Happe, Ph.D., Wildlife Biologist, Olympic National Park
Fishers were reintroduced to Olympic National Park in 2008-2010 and quickly spread throughout the Peninsula. Dr. Happe will share the latest results from the multi-agency monitoring of this forest carnivore's comeback.

March 13 - A Final Assessment of Elwha Revegetation

Josh Chenoweth, Restoration Ecologist, Olympic National Park
Come learn the results of six years of revegetation efforts in the Elwha reservoirs and hear predictions on future vegetation changes. As active revegetation winds down and nature takes over, learn what worked and what didn't.

April 10 - Whale Rescue

John Calambokidis, Research Biologist, Cascadia Research
A dramatic response by multiple agencies led to the successful rescue of a stranded gray whale from a beach near Kalaloch in Olympic National Park. Come listen to those whose efforts helped rescue the whale and get an update on the latest gray whale research.

TRIP TIPS

for your Olympic adventures

Olympic is a park for all seasons. Visitors prepared for unpredictable weather can experience the beauty and solitude of winter without summer crowds. But winter is also the wet season. Flooding and storms can impact trails, roads and campgrounds. Stop at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center or Wilderness Information Center (WIC) in Port Angeles for current conditions, maps, tide tables and trail reports or check the park website www.nps.gov/olym. If you hike, be prepared and carry the 10 essentials, even for

short hikes: extra clothing, extra food and water, map, compass, flashlight, knife, sunglasses, matches, fire starter/candle, and first aid kit.

If you plan to backpack into the park's wilderness, learn about bear canisters, wilderness permits and fees at the above website, or stop by or call the WIC (360) 565-3100. For you and your pet's safety, pets are not allowed on hiking trails or ski and snowshoe routes in the park.



MOUNTAINS

Hurricane Ridge provides the only winter driving access to the mountains. It is perched at 5,242 feet, 17 miles up a winding road from Port Angeles. See pages two and three for details on the November 24 to April 1 road plowing schedule and hours for the **Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center** and gift shop, cafe and ski/snowshoe rentals. Friday to Sunday and holiday

Mondays visitors can enjoy snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. A downhill skiing and tubing area is open weekends and holiday Mondays from early December to April 1. By early May the road is usually open 24 hours a day and wildflowers are blooming at the edge of melting snowbanks. Snow drifts can linger into summer, so many trails are covered and difficult to find until June or July.



LAKES, LOWLAND FORESTS and RIVERS

Elwha has many low-elevation trails, though the road is prone to closure from flooding. Madison Falls is a 0.1-mile easy, paved walk to a waterfall. Check creeks for spawning coho salmon in early winter. Visit Glines Canyon Spillway Overlook to learn about Elwha River restoration. A nearby trail leads through revegetated areas that were once under a reservoir. Additional trails start at the end of the gravel Whiskey Bend Road.

Lake Crescent is a 624-foot deep glacier-carved jewel. Stroll 0.9 miles to Marymere Falls or take the 0.6-mile Moments in Time Loop. On the north shore of the lake, explore the Spruce Railroad Trail. Fairholme campground reopens in spring. See page two for concession seasons.

Sol Duc has many trails including Sol Duc Falls, a 0.8-mile walk from the end of the road. Check before you go as the road is often closed in winter. The campground is primitive in winter,

but fully reopens in spring. Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort offers pools, food and lodging starting March 23.

Ozette has opportunities for boating, a small lakeside campground and trails to the coast.



Staircase offers a campground (primitive in winter) by the North Fork Skokomish River, old-growth forest, and several trails including the easy 2.0-mile Staircase Rapids Nature Trail along the river. Check before you go as the road sometimes closes in winter.



COAST

The winter coast is a dramatic place. Storms push tides higher, creating huge waves that easily move beach logs or trap hikers on rocks. But it's exciting to see and feel the power of the surf and weather shaping the landscape. Exploration of winter tide pools is limited because the lowest tides are often after dark, but if you're visiting in spring, check a tide table in case there's a low tide during your visit.

Kalaloch offers an expansive sandy beach. Kalaloch Campground and Kalaloch Lodge, with a restaurant and convenience store, are available year-round. Short, easy trails lead to Beach 4 and Ruby Beach, and the 0.8-mile Kalaloch Nature Trail loops through coastal forest.

Mora offers a campground less than two miles from Rialto Beach. Along the beach, you can hike 1.5 miles north to Hole-in-the-Wall. Other opportunities include the 0.7-mile Second Beach and 1.4-mile Third Beach trails near La Push.

Ozette has two trails to the beach: a 3.3-mile trail to Cape Alava and a 2.8-mile trail to Sand Point. Both routes are partially on boardwalk. Be careful as the boardwalk can be very slippery when wet or icy. A popular 9-mile loop combines these two trails with a 3.1-mile beach walk. Near the ranger station are exhibits and a small lakeside campground.



TEMPERATE RAIN FOREST

Drenched in over 12 feet of rain a year, westside valleys nurture giant western hemlock, Douglas-fir, western red cedar and Sitka spruce trees. The verdant understory and moss-draped bigleaf maples create a magical scene year-round. Look for Roosevelt elk in these lowland river valleys.

Hoh Rain Forest offers a visitor center (reduced hours in winter, see page two) and campground. The 0.8-mile Hall of Mosses and 1.2-mile Spruce Nature trails show off towering

old-growth conifers as well as maple and alder communities. Look for spawning coho salmon in nearby Taft Creek in early winter.

Quinault Rain Forest has two nature trails: the 1.3-mile Kestner Homestead and 0.5-mile Maple Glade Rain Forest trails near the park ranger station on the North Shore Road (currently not staffed). The USFS/NPS Ranger Station, lodging, restaurants and additional trails are located on the south shore of Lake Quinault in Olympic National Forest and upvalley.