

Roads inside and outside Olympic National Park can be closed due to weather, construction, or land management practices. For current road information contact the park visitor center at 360-565-3130 or 360-565-3131 for 24-hour recorded information.

Most reefs, rocks, islets, and islands except the James Island group between 47°34' and 48°23' north latitude are national wildlife refuges that lie within Olympic National Park. They are CLOSED to visitors, and boats must remain 200 yards from the islands.

Use caution when hiking the beaches. Sudden high waves can pick up beach logs and turn them into weapons; they kill. Use the posted headland trails to avoid being trapped by high tides. Get the "Olympic Coastal Strip" folder and current tide chart at a ranger station before hiking on the coast.

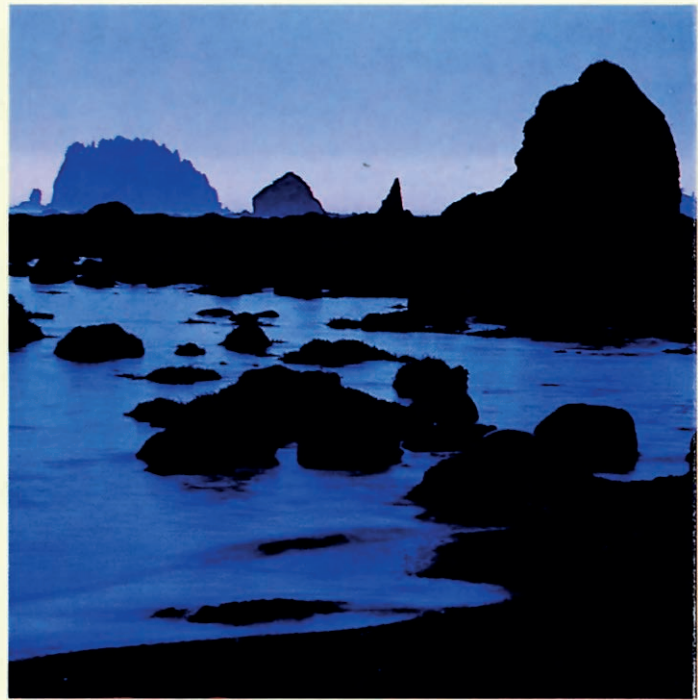
Coast hiking
Wait for low tide or use overland trail if available
Impossible headland; always use overland trail

All Roads Lead to Olympic
Olympic National Park is easy to reach and the number of routes provides great variety with everchanging vistas. Ferries from Seattle take you across Puget Sound where any number of roads connects with U.S. 101, which encircles the park. All roads leading into the park connect with U.S. 101. The diversity of environments found on the Olympic Peninsula and within Olympic National Park offers something for visitors of all ages, interests, and abilities. For information on ferry schedules call 206-464-6400 or write Washington State Ferries, Colman Dock/Pier 52, 801 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA 98104. You can also reach them at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/current.



Olympic National Park

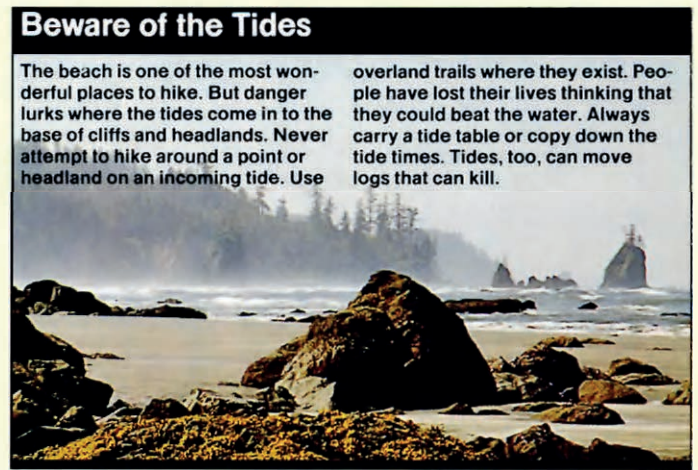
Coast to Glaciers



THE COAST

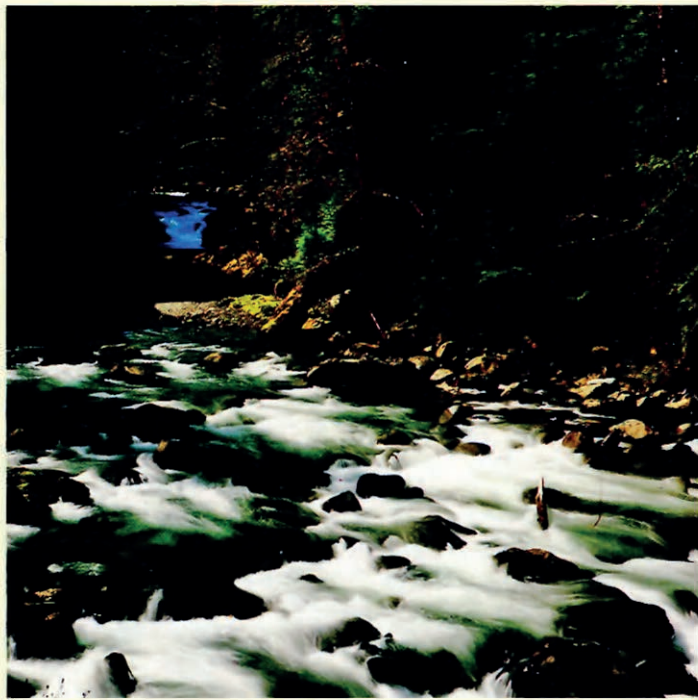
More than 60 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline form a vital component of Olympic National Park. This coastline has remained little changed except for the impact of the pounding surf and storms. It looks much as it did when American Indians built their first villages thousands of years before European explorers arrived. Today the Hoh, Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Skokomish, Quileute and Quinault continue to live along the peninsula's shores where their ancestors arrived so long ago. The coast is where the land meets the sea, vibrating with life and energy. Arches and sea stacks; the roar of crashing waves; the calls of gulls, bald eagles, and black oystercatchers; dramatic sunsets; the vastness of the ocean and a myriad of other elements impress themselves upon you.

Scooping up a handful of sand, you discover that it is virtually impossible for you to count the shades of colors or to classify shapes, so varied are the grains. At low tide you can walk toward the surf stopping at tidepools along the way. If you squat down and spend some time just looking, you will be amazed at what you see as your eyes start ferreting out objects that look like rocks, but which in fact are small sea animals. Slowly extending your horizon, you may see some raccoons feeding on shellfish that are reachable now that the tide is out and the danger of the surf is withdrawn. You are likely to find the footprints of shore birds all over the beach, but you will also find those of bear, deer, raccoons, river otters, and a host of other creatures.



The sheer quantity of flotsam and jetsam cast upon the beach is astonishing. Probably the most exotic are the glass floats that Japanese fishermen use to support their nets. It takes the ocean currents about one year to carry the floats across the Pacific to the Washington coast. Among the debris cast upon the shores are huge trees felled from inland stream bank sites by rushing rivers and washed out to sea. They are repeatedly thrown and banged against sand and rock. Limbs are removed and trunks are sanded smooth by the action of the waves. Finally a great storm toss them high on the beach to join many others.

The Olympic coast is a wild place, a place for endless exploration.



FORESTS

Superlatives about the trees abound, for several specimens reach record sizes. In some locations, the forest canopy is so thick that falling snow is caught in the trees and never reaches the ground.

There are four basic types of forests on the Olympic peninsula: Temperate rain forest, lowland, montane, and subalpine. Temperate rain forest is found at low elevations along the Pacific Ocean coast and in the western-facing valleys of the peninsula where lots of rain, moderate temperatures, and summer fogs exist. Sitka spruce is the dominant tree, but trees typical of the lowland forest also grow here, including western redcedar.

The lowland forest grows further inland from the coast, and above the rain forest valleys. You will not find Sitka spruce here, but you may see grand fir. Western hemlock will probably be the most common tree, although stands of Douglas-fir may prevail where fire or drier conditions caused by the rain shadow give these trees an advantage. Western redcedar is never an abundant tree, but its gradual disappearance is a true indicator that the upper limits of this zone have been reached.

Gradually the lowland forest gives way to the montane forest. Unless you are an expert you may have difficulty recognizing when the change occurs. If silver fir is present you know that you have moved into the montane zone, but in drier parts of the park, the montane zone may look much like the lowland forest, with the exception that the western redcedar will no longer be present.

As elevation increases, temperatures cool and more moisture falls as snow; growing seasons get shorter and the subalpine zone takes over. Silver fir grows here as well as in the montane zone, and in the western portion of the park may be prevalent. The presence of subalpine fir, mountain hemlock, or Alaska cedar groves assure you that this is the subalpine zone. The lower portion of the subalpine zone consists of continuous forest, but in the upper part of this zone the forest thins out. Delightful alpine meadows graced with wildflowers and glacial lakes often intermingle with stands of firs. Subalpine fir is especially well adapted to the heavy snows and cold temperatures experienced here. Its spire-like shape sheds snow. It also extends its lower branches under the snow, often putting down roots from them where they touch the ground. When the snow melts the trees may be surrounded by skirt-like arrangements of longer, lower branches.

Increasing elevation causes even more severe climatic conditions. Trees become fewer, shorter, and more misshapen. Trees may be mere shadows of their cousins living lower down the mountain. Here a 100-year-old tree may be only three feet tall. Eventually tree line is reached, beyond which trees do not grow, but a profusion of wildflowers often rewards your eye in a vivid display that is an effective foil to the scenery below, now visible because the trees no longer block the view.

From seashore to mountaintop Olympic is blessed with an incredibly rich plant community created by varying environments.



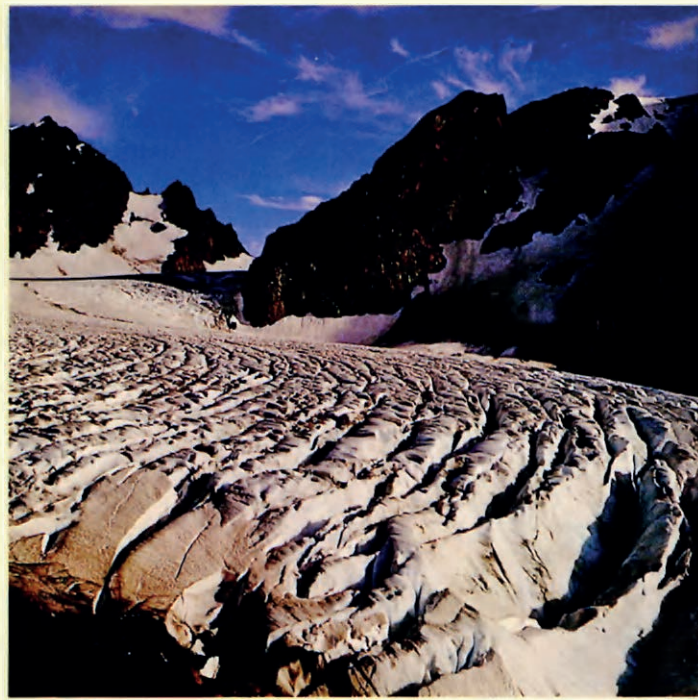
The temperate rain forest in the valleys of the Quinault, Queets, and Hoh rivers are protected and contain some of the most spectacular examples of the Sitka spruce community. This ecosystem stretches along the coast from Oregon to Alaska; other temperate rain forests are found in several isolated areas throughout the world. What defines a rain forest quite simply is rain—lots of it. Precipitation here ranges from 140 to 167 inches—12 to 14 feet—every year. The mountains to the east also protect the coastal areas from severe weather extremes. Seldom does the temperature drop below freezing in the rain forest and summer-

these shores. Reliable information of European penetration, however, is not available until 1774 when Juan Perez sailed along this coast. In the next 25 years a bevy of British, American, and Spanish explorers visited the area. The most enduring work was done by Robert Gray, an American, and George Vancouver, an Englishman. Both men explored the area thoroughly, establishing rival claims to this land for their own countries. Although American Indians utilized and traveled through the mountains of the peninsula, it was not until 1885 that the first systematic exploration of the interior of the Olympic Peninsula was made. That year Lt. Joseph P. O'Neil led the first documented expedition into the interior. In 1889-90 the Press

time highs rarely exceed 80°F. The dominant species in the rain forest are Sitka spruce (1) and western hemlock; some grow to tremendous size, reaching 300 feet in height and 23 feet in circumference. Douglas-fir, western redcedar, bigleaf maple (2), red alder, vine maple, and black cottonwood are also found throughout the forest. Nearly every bit of space is taken up with a living plant. Some plants even live on others. These are the epiphytes, plants that do not come into contact with the earth, but also are not parasites. They are partly responsible for giving the rain forest its "jungle" appearance. Mosses (spike moss 3), lichens, and

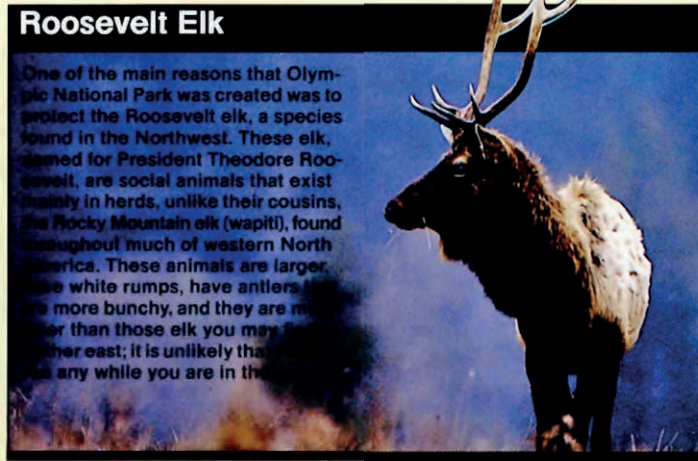


ferns (licorice fern 4 and sword fern 5) cover just about anything else. Sorrel (6) is also a common ground cover. But because of this dense ground cover it is hard for seedlings to get a start. Many seedlings germinate on fallen, decaying trees. As they grow they send their roots down the log to the ground. Eventually the log rots completely away and a row of young trees is left, up on stilts. Like roots, all in a row. The thick and protective vegetation also provides excellent habitats for the animals of the rain forest. In turn, they contribute to the health of the forest by keeping the rampant vegetation under control by browsing.



MOUNTAINS

The Olympic Mountains are not very high—Mount Olympus, the highest, is just under 8,000 feet—but they rise almost from the water's edge and intercept moisture-rich air masses that move in from the Pacific. As this air is forced over the mountains, it cools and releases moisture in the form of rain or snow. At lower elevations rain nurtures the forests while at higher elevations snow adds to glacial masses that relentlessly carve the landscape. The mountains wring precipitation out of the air so effectively that areas on the northeast corner of the peninsula experience a rain shadow and get very little rain. The town of Sequim gets only 17 inches a year,



while less than 30 miles away Mount Olympus receives some 200 inches falling mostly as snow.

These mountains have arisen from the sea. For eons, wind and rain washed sediments from the land into the ocean. Over time these sediments were compressed into shale and sandstone. Meanwhile, vents and fissures opened upon the ocean floor and lava flowed forth, creating huge underwater mountains and ranges called seamounts. As the plate upon which this portion of the ocean floor was located inched toward North America about 35 million years ago, most of the sea floor went beneath the continental land mass. Some of the sea floor, however, was scraped off and jammed against the mainland, creating the dome that was the forerunner of today's Olympics. Powerful forces fractured, folded, and overturned rock formations, which helps explain the jumbled appearance of the Olympics. Radiating out from the center of the dome, streams, and later a series of glaciers, carved peaks and valleys, creating the beautiful, craggy landscape we know today. Ice age glacial sheets from the north carved out the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound, isolating the Olympics from nearby landmasses. Surrounded on three sides by water and still crowned by alpine glaciers, the Olympics retain the distinctive character that developed from their isolation. Several plants and animals are unique to the Olympics—examples of how genetic diversification occurs when geographical isolation exists. The most striking example is the Olympic marmot, with its distinct chromosomal and behavioral patterns. Others include Flett's violet, Piper's bellflower, Olympic mountain synthyris, Olympic chipmunk, Olympic snow mole, and Beardslee and Crescenti trout, as well as others.

Visitor Information

Visitor centers are located at Port Angeles, Hurricane Ridge, and the Hoh Rain Forest. All have exhibits, publications, maps, and staff members who can answer your questions. Schedules for campfires, nature walks, and other interpretive programs are posted in the visitor centers and campgrounds.

Accommodations Several motel units, cottages, cabins, and lodge rooms are available within the park. It is advisable to make reservations well in advance. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers are: Kalaloch Lodge, 15715 Highway 101, Forks, WA 98331, 360-962-2271. Log Cabin Resort, 3183 East Beach Road, Port Angeles, WA 98363, 360-928-3225. Lake Crescent Lodge, 416 Lake Crescent Road, Port Angeles, WA 98363, 360-928-3211. Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort, P.O. Box 2169, Port Angeles, WA 98362, 360-327-3583. For information about accommodations outside the park call the North Olympic Visitor and Convention Bureau at 1-800-942-4042.

Sightseeing by Car U.S. 101 provides the main access to the park, with numerous spur roads leading to the interior. No roads pass through the heart of the Olympics. Rain forests can be seen along the Hoh, Queets, and Quinalt rivers. Hurricane Ridge, accessible

Horseback Riding A list of stables and outfitters can be obtained at visitor centers or by writing the superintendent. Check for restrictions or closures to stock in certain sections of the wilderness.

Mountaineering Climbers are asked to register and to show that they have standard climbing gear at the ranger station nearest their route. Never climb alone.

Firearms Hunting and firearms are prohibited throughout the park.

Winter Sports Ski and snowshoe rentals, ski tow, and ski instructions are all offered at Hurricane Ridge.

Fishing State fishing licenses are not required for stream and lake fishing, except that a Washington State special punchcard is necessary when fishing for steelhead and salmon. A license is required to fish in the

Developed Campgrounds						
Campground	Total Sites	Fee	Group Camp	Accessible Restroom	Recommended Trailer Length	Sanitary Open All Year
Altair	30	•	•	•	21'	•
Deer Park	14	•	•	•	21'	•
Dosewallips	30	•	•	•	21'	•
Elwha	41	•	•	•	21'	•
Fairholm	88	•	•	•	21'	•
Graveyard Creek	30	•	•	•	21'	•
Heart O' the Hills	105	•	•	•	21'	•
Hoh	88	•	•	•	21'	•
Kalaloch	175	•	•	•	21'	•
Mora	94	•	•	•	21'	•
North Fork	7	•	•	•	21'	•
Ozette	15	•	•	•	21'	•
Queets	20	•	•	•	21'	•
Sol Duc	82	•	•	•	21'	•
Staircase	56	•	•	•	21'	•

Reservations at Kalaloch Campground: 800-365-2267; reservations.nps.gov

Wilderness Camps Listed below and shown on the map (see reverse side) are some of the wilderness camping locations. Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays. For a Wilderness Trip Planner or more information, visit the Wilderness Information Center in Port Angeles or call 360-565-3100.

- 1 Ericson Bay
- 2 Calawah
- 3 Bogachiel
- 4 Flapjack
- 5 Filtseemile
- 6 Hyak
- 7 Twentynemile
- 8 Mink Lake*
- 9 Upper Sol Duc*
- 10 Upper Sol Duc*
- 11 Sol Duc Park*
- 12 Hoh Lake*
- 13 Lunch Lake*
- 14 Deer Lake*
- 15 Mount Tom Creek
- 16 Five Mile Island
- 17 Olympic
- 18 Elk Lake
- 19 Glacier Meadows
- 20 Appleton Pass
- 21 Boulder Creek
- 22 Boulder Lake
- 23 Happy Lake
- 24 Sourdough
- 25 Lake Mills
- 26 Dodge Point
- 27 Lillian
- 28 Marys Falls
- 29 Elkhorn Camp
- 30 Elk
- 31 Elkhorn Island
- 32 Chateau
- 33 Camp Wilder
- 34 Chicago Camp
- 35 Happy Hollow
- 36 Elwha Basin
- 37 Low Divide
- 38 Sixteenmile
- 39 Twelvemile
- 40 Trapper
- 41 Francis Creek
- 42 Wolf Bar
- 43 Irely Lake
- 44 Three Lakes
- 45 Three Prune

Wilderness Travel When hiking in the park make sure you obtain a detailed topographical map—the map on this folder is not sufficient for wilderness travel. Help preserve the wilderness by observing the regulations and by leaving no trace of your stay. Wilderness use permits are required for overnight stays (a fee is charged). Outfit permits at the Wilderness Information Center and at some ranger stations.

Water The water looks cool and refreshing, but it can contain organisms that cause giardiasis, a debilitating intestinal disorder. Pack in your own water, boil stream and lake water vigorously for one full minute, or check with rangers regarding chemical treatment.

Sanitation Use pit toilets when available, do not dump garbage in them. Otherwise dig a small hole at least 200 feet from a water supply or campsite and cover when finished.

Campsite Camp in an established site when one is available. Avoid areas marked for restoration where small plants and excelsior netting have been placed to help revegetate damaged soil. Avoid camping on vegetation.

Fires Wood fires are prohibited in some areas of the wilderness. Only stoves are allowed above 3,500 feet. Build wood fires in existing fire rings. On the beach be sure to make your fire at least 10 feet away from the nearest beach log and, if possible, below the high tide line.

Keep Wildlife Wild! When given the chance many animals will eat food and garbage from your campsite. This can make them aggressive, and they may have to be destroyed. Keep a clean camp; store unused food, garbage, and toiletries in your vehicle. If backpacking ask at the Wilderness Information Center or a ranger station about food storage.

ocean and an additional license is necessary when harvesting shellfish. Regulations are available at visitor centers and ranger stations. Boats can be rented at Fairholm Visitor Service Area, Log Cabin Resort, and Lake Crescent Lodge.

Beach Hiking When hiking along the beach, round the headlands only on the outgoing tide to avoid being trapped by the incoming tide. Use overland trails where they exist. Check at ranger stations for specific information.

Regulations • Stay on the trail, short cuts cause erosion. • Be prepared for sudden and extreme weather changes. • Put cigarettes out. • Feeding animals is prohibited and is unhealthy for them. • Make sure a wood fire is out before you leave it. • Dogs and cats are prohibited except in designated areas. • Vehicles are not allowed off the park roads.

More Information Olympic National Park 600 East Park Avenue Port Angeles, WA 98362 360-565-3100 360-565-3131 (24-hour recorded information) www.nps.gov/olym

National Park Service: www.nps.gov