Getting There
Discover the highlights that make a road trip through Olympic National Park so magnificent.

Olympic’s Entrances
Get an overview of Olympic National Park with a map and information on how to get there.

48 Hours in Olympic
Enjoy a vacation of a lifetime with our favorite things to do in Olympic National Park.

Wildlife Guide
Learn about Olympic’s fantastic wildlife and the best places to spot these animals.

What to Expect
Check out our Olympic vacation packing list and learn more about entrance fees and weather.

Where to Stay
Choose from five different places to stay in the park from historic lakeside lodges to cabins.
OLYMPIC PENINSULA WINERIES

9 Wineries & Cideries

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Check our website for more info & our hours
OlympicPeninsulaWineries.org
Tucked on Washington’s Olympic Peninsula, Olympic National Park is unique among the 415-plus national park sites. Not only is it home to four of the world’s few remaining intact temperate rainforests, but it has a breathtaking coastline and craggy alpine peaks. Elevations range from sea level to 7,983 feet at Mt. Olympus.

Explore some of its 73 miles of the wild Washington coast where you will find tide pools filled with sea creatures, towering sea stacks and rock arches. You also may spot whales, seals, sea lions, otters and eagles.

East of the coast, you’ll discover huge trees older than 200 years growing in the park’s lower elevations, accentuated by big rivers and scenic lakes. Species like Douglas fir and western hemlock provide a canopy over huckleberries, salal and trillium and wildlife, such as owls and rare fishers, rest in branches.

You’ll also discover four separate rainforests scattered throughout the park. The best-known rainforest to visit is the Hoh, but Bogachiel, Quinault and Queets are equally as stunning with more solitude. Walk among Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, western hemlock and western redcedar, some of which grow higher than 250 feet and are hundreds of years old. The largest Sitka spruce in the nation is 191 feet tall and lives in Quinault. The largest western redcedar is 159 feet high and can be found along the Quinault Big Cedar Trail. The largest Douglas fir stretches 281 feet in the sky in Quinault.

But get some altitude while you are here and head to the alpine zone in the park where peaks almost reach 8,000 feet and wildflower-dotted meadows are frequented by mountain goats and marmots. The easiest way to get into the mountains quickly is to drive up to Hurricane Ridge. From the visitor center, you can choose from a number of hiking trails.
NORTH
HURRICANE RIDGE AREA
Along a narrow thread of the park boundary jutting up north into Port Angeles, Wash., is the Olympic National Park Visitor Center. Get your park pass and map, shop the bookstore and get a lay of the land from staff. This road leads to Hurricane Ridge, which is about 17 miles south of Port Angeles. Along the ridge, you'll find Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center, with a snack bar, gift shop and a staff offering programs and guided walks in summer.

LAKE CRESTENCE AREA
From Port Angeles you can take US 101 to Lake Crescent and then access the gorgeous Washington coast. In July 2017, weekend construction began on 12 miles of road around Lake Crescent that's expected to be completed in September 2019. Go to nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit to learn about delays. Farther south lies the Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort, a camping area and ancient groves.

NORTHWEST
OZETTE
To explore a lake near the coast, head from Port Angeles along 112 until you reach the Hoko-Ozette Road and then drive west toward the coast. This area is home to a 2,000-year human history largely discovered after a storm surge in 1970 eroded banks revealing remarkably preserved artifacts. Archaeologists have unearthed more than 50,000 artifacts. During whale migration, spot gray whales when you walk on one of two three-mile boardwalk trails to the coast.

NEAH BAY
Seventy-one miles from Port Angeles, explore pristine beaches and the rainforest on the northwestern tip of Olympic Peninsula at Neah Bay. An estimated 1,500 Makah people live in and around Neah Bay today. Visit the Makah Cultural and Research Center to learn more about Makah traditions and history. Hike two miles from the Makah trailhead to Shi Shi Beach.

CENTRAL WEST
MORA
Access the northern coast via the Mora area by taking US 101 to Hwy. 110. You'll find the Quileute Indian Reservation here, along with the park's stunning Rialto Beach, First Beach, Second Beach and Third Beach.

CENTRAL
HOH RAIN FOREST ENTRANCE
Located 31 miles south of Forks off US 101, the Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center offers visitor information, a bookstore and exhibits, along with self-guided nature trails. It is open daily in the summer and open weekends during the off-season. It closes for January and February.

SOUTH
LAKE QUINAULT
If you are entering the park’s southern boundaries from Aberdeen, you will immediately enter the park at Lake Quinault where you will find one of the park's famed rainforests, along with the Quinault Rain Forest Ranger Station. On the opposite side of the lake, on the east side, you'll find U.S. Forest Service / National Park Service Recreation Information center.

SOUTHWEST
KALALOCH
Approaching the southern end of the park, you can continue west on US 101 past Lake Quinault and enter the park via Hwy. 21 to the Queets area or continue further west to the coast, entering the park at South Beach, followed by Beach 1 and Beach 2. Just north of this string of beaches is the Kalaloch Ranger Station, which sits on the coast near Kalaloch Lodge (see Where to Stay for details).
48 Hours in the Park

Here's how to make the most of 48 hours in Olympic.

SOAK AT SOL DUC
Head down Hurricane Hill to your car and drive to Sol Duc Valley to soak in the hot springs pools. Then hike to Sol Duc Falls, a triple waterfall.

HIKE HURRICANE RIDGE
Hike Hurricane Hill and get killer views of the Olympic Mountains. At the top see mountain goats, but keep 25 yards between you and them and get a bird’s eye view of Port Angeles and Strait of Juan de Fuca, if it’s clear.

SPEND THE NIGHT AT LAKE CRESCENT LODGE
Built in 1915 on the shores of Lake Crescent, this charming lodge is a beautiful place to spend the night. Spend some time in the lobby reading in front of the roaring fireplace. Make advanced reservations for the lodge’s dining room that serves Pacific Northwest fare.
EXPLORE RIALTO BEACH
If tides are low in the afternoon, head west to the coast to explore the tidal pools at Rialto Beach. Rialto Beach is 27 miles from Forks and directly accessible from Hwy. 101. Dangerous areas at high tide include Hole in the Wall 1.5 miles north of the Rialto Beach parking lot. Bring a tide chart.

WALK SHI SHI BEACH
If the tides are low before noon, hike Shi Shi Beach in the morning to explore tide pools and sea stacks only accessible at low tide. The beach itself is accessible during all tide levels for hiking and camping unless you venture past Point of Arches. Beyond, you can get trapped if the tides come up. Call the nearest ranger station, Ozette at 360-565-3130 for more information about tides and where you can pick up a tide chart. There are no visitor centers near the Shi Shi Beach trailhead.

HEAD TO HOH RAIN FOREST
Explore one of the last remaining temperate rainforests in the world and one of four in Olympic: the Hoh Rain Forest. Stroll the .8-mile Hall of Mosses after visiting the Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center.

DINE AT KALALOCH
Watch the sunset from the deck of Kalaloch’s dining room that sits right on the coast. It’s a spectacular spot to see the sun sink behind the Pacific Ocean.
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Wildlife Field Guide

Look for these animals as you explore Olympic National Park.

**Roosevelt Elk**

These dark brown ungulates are the largest subspecies of elk in North America, with bulls sometimes reaching 1,100 pounds and cows more than 600 pounds. The largest wild herd of Roosevelt elk in the Pacific Northwest lives in Olympic. Small herds of about 30 cows and calves band together and browse on ferns, lichens and meadow grasses year-round, while bulls tend to live alone. In September, listen for the eerie bugling of bulls during the rut (mating season).

**Sea Otters**

These lovable mammals can be found on the Pacific coast from Alaska to northern California. Sea otters are larger than river otters, and unlike the river otters, rarely come ashore. Thick, brown fur protects sea otters from cold water. Males in the area can weigh up to 65 pounds and reach 4 feet in length. Playful and smart, sea otters are the only mammals besides primates known to use tools. They use small rocks to pry shellfish, from underwater boulders and to hammer the shells open.

**Gray Whales**

In spring and summer, Olympic’s largest animal can be spotted off the coast. The gray whale can stretch up to 60 feet long and weigh more than 30 tons. Gray whales migrate from their summer feeding grounds off the coast of Alaska to their winter range in Baja California, an annual distance of more than 10,000 miles. As baleen whales, they filter bottom sediments to eat the small crustaceans and tube worms that live on the ocean bottom.

**Black Bear**

Black bears (but not grizzlies) live throughout Olympic, roaming in search of ripe berries, spawning salmon, tree bark and insects. Look for them in high-elevation fields, subalpine zones, forests and along the coast. Black bears can be black, brown or even blond. Though bear attacks are extremely rare, bears can be dangerous. Never approach one, and scare it away by shouting and banging pots and pans if one wanders into your campsite.

**Bald Eagles**

These huge birds of prey—they can weigh more than 14 pounds, with a nearly 7-foot wingspan—are most frequently spotted roosting in trees along the Olympic coast. Adults are easy to recognize. Look for a dark brown body with white tail feathers and a “bald” white head. Juvenile eagles are brownish with brown heads. Bald eagles hunt for fish, waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians, but they’re also frequent and opportunistic scavengers, sometimes stealing the prey of other animals.

**Mountain Goat**

Non-native to the park, mountain goats most likely were introduced in the park during the 1920s for hunting purposes. Today, there are about 600. Stay at least 50 yards away from them (half the length of a football field). Never surround, crowd, chase or follow a mountain goat. They have been known to approach humans probably because they have a taste for salt. Humans deposit salt on their clothing as they sweat. Goats will especially seek out salt in late spring and early summer. If you encounter a billy goat during the fall rutting season, its first instinct may be to defend its territory.
What to Expect

From what to pack to entrance fees and weather, here’s the scoop.

WHAT TO PACK

Here’s what to put in your suitcase for your Olympic vacation during spring through fall.

- **Refillable water bottle/hydration system**: Reduce your park footprint by bringing your own water bottle to refill.
- **Bug spray**: Spend more time enjoying the scenery and less time swatting insects.
- **Tide chart**: Because the tides can rise up and trap unsuspecting beach hikers, it’s critical that you stop by a park visitor center or ranger station to get a tide chart.
- **Rain gear**: Even on sunny mornings, there is a chance of afternoon rainstorms.
- **Sturdy hiking boots**: Pack a pair of supportive and breathable hiking boots.
- **Daypack**: Be prepared on your hike with snacks, clothing layers and extra water.
- **A sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen**: These are a must to protect yourself from the strong sun.
- **Sturdy water shoes**: If you plan on boating, bring water shoes, not flip-flops that get stuck in mud and fall off easily.
- **Headlamp**: Carry this when going to evening ranger talks or on hikes in case you get lost or are out later than expected.
- **Binoculars**: Spot bighorn sheep and elk on nearby mountain sides.

Our complete packing list at myolympicpark.com.

WEATHER

Expect variable conditions in Olympic National Park.

OLYMPIC ENTRANCE FEES*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fee for 7-day Walker or Biker Pass</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Fee for Vehicle 7-day Pass</td>
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<td>Fee for 12-month Olympic Annual Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fee for America the Beautiful Pass for All National Park Sites</td>
<td>$80</td>
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</table>

*Fees subject to change

DISCOVER MORE

See gorgeous photos of Olympic and join the conversation about this stunning national park on our social media channels:

FACEBOOK.COM/MYOLYMPICPARK
TWITTER.COM/MYOLYMPICNP
PINTEREST.COM/NATLPARKTRIPS
INSTAGRAM.COM/NATIONALPARKTRIPS

PHOTO BY JUSTIN BAILIE

PHOTOS BY GRANT ORDELHEIDE (ELK, BEAR), SHUTTERSTOCK (OTTER, WHALE, MOUNTAIN GOAT, EAGLE)

ANCIENT GROVES NATURE TRAIL
Where to Stay

With five different places to stay in the park, it can be difficult to decide whether to stay beachside, lakeside or next to a hot springs. Find your match.

**KALALOCH LODGE**

Kick back with a front-porch view of the Pacific at Olympic’s only oceanfront lodge located on bluffs above the beach on the park’s western border. The main lodge offers several cozy rooms, while the cabins (some with fireplaces) have the best ocean views. The Seacrest House is a two-story, hotel-style brick building. Every room has a private patio or balcony with views of the Pacific Ocean.

In some ways, staying at Kalaloch, pronounced “Clay-lock,” is like going back in time. There are no TVs on the property, except in the main lodge’s Kalaloch Room and Becker’s Room. And there are no telephones or Wi-Fi in the rooms in the main lodge. This is by design. The lodge’s Creekside Restaurant serves locally sourced meals. There’s also a gift shop and a small grocery store. It’s open year-round; [thekalalochlodge.com](http://thekalalochlodge.com)

**LOG CABIN RESORT**

A night at this resort on the northern shores of Lake Crescent will bring you back to your summer camp days. Known as being situated on the “sunny side of the lake,” this resort offers a variety of accommodations and is easily accessible from Port Angeles.

Lodging options include simple lodge rooms, chalets and cabins. Camper Cabins have two double beds and a communal restroom. Rustic Kitchenette Cabins have two double beds and a private bathroom. The Rustic Sleeping Cabins feature a variety of options, depending on your needs. Choose among one double bed and a futon; one double bed with one twin bed; or one queen bed and a double bed. Each cabin has a private bath.

You can also stay in Lakeside Chalets that have private bathrooms. They feature a main room with a double bed and a double-sized futon and an upstairs loft with a double bed. The resort is home to a restaurant, general store and boat rentals. It’s open May through September; [olympicnationalparks.com/lodging/log-cabin-resort](http://olympicnationalparks.com/lodging/log-cabin-resort)

**LAKE CRESCENT LODGE**

Tucked in the trees at the edge of Lake Crescent, the charming Lake Crescent Lodge, built in 1915, features a fine dining restaurant, a glassed-in porch and a cozy lobby, complete with a roaring fireplace and trophy elk on the walls. Lodging options include small rooms inside the lodge, cabins and motel rooms in several standalone outbuildings. The Roosevelt Cabins remain open through the winter season for overnight stays on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings with a two-night minimum required. The lodge restaurant and gift shop close for the winter season.

At the lodge’s dining room, you can eat breakfast, lunch or dinner from late April through early January. Featuring Pacific Northwest fare, you’ll find dishes like venison ragu served with root vegetables, foraged mushrooms and Washington Cabernet sauce. Reservations are recommended for dinner; [olympicnationalparks.com/lodging/lake-crescent-lodge](http://olympicnationalparks.com/lodging/lake-crescent-lodge)

**LAKE QUINAULT LODGE**

Built in 1926, the Lake Quinault Lodge is a charming place to relax and base out of for your Olympic National Park adventures. Located at the southern area of the park near the Quinault Rain Forest, it’s most easily accessed from the south via Aberdeen.

This beautiful resort on the shores of Lake Quinault is on the fancy side, with a stylish lobby featuring a large fireplace and fine dining, but lodging options include rooms in the 1920s-era main lodge and more rustic rooms in several outbuildings, including the Boathouse and Lakeside buildings. There are 91 rooms total, plus one suite, and a heated swimming pool and restaurant. It’s open year-round; [olympicnationalparks.com/lodging/lake-quinault-lodge](http://olympicnationalparks.com/lodging/lake-quinault-lodge)

**SOL DUC HOT SPRINGS RESORT**

It’s rare to find a national park that has hot springs open to the public for soaking, which is what makes Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort so unique. The resort includes 32 cabins that sleep up to four and 17 RV sites, a spa for massage therapy, the Springs Restaurant, gift shop and small grocery store. It’s open late March to late October, but check the website or call ahead to confirm exact opening and closing dates. If the park entrance fee station is closed, you can pay your entrance fee at the resort.

There are three mineral hot springs and one freshwater pool at the resort. Each mineral pool is emptied, cleaned and refilled each night; [olympicnationalparks.com/lodging/sol-duc-hot-springs-resort](http://olympicnationalparks.com/lodging/sol-duc-hot-springs-resort)
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