

# OLYMPIC

NATIONAL PARK TRIP PLANNER

Essential  
Tips To  
Plan Your  
Vacation



A Park  
Map



National Park Trips



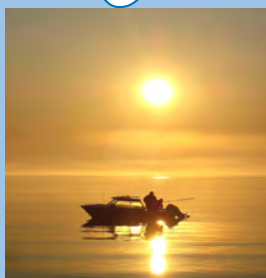


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# GETTING THERE

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Plan your dream vacation with our top things to do and see at Olympic National Park.



**T**ucked on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, Olympic National Park is unique among 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 wild Washington coast where you'll 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. Wildlife, such as owls and rare fishers, rest in branches.

You'll 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're here and head to the alpine zone in the park where peaks almost reach 8,000 feet, and wildflower-dotted meadows are frequented by 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.



# PARK ENTRANCES

Accessed via US 101, which circles the peninsula,  
the park has many entry points.

## 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 CRESCENT AREA

From Port Angeles, take US 101 to Lake Crescent and then access the gorgeous Washington coast. This area is home to Lake Crescent Lodge, built in 1915. This charming lodge has a great restaurant and lodge rooms and cabins. Farther south lies Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort where you can soak in hot pools.

## NORTHWEST OZETTE

To explore a lake near the coast, head from Port Angeles along Hwy. 112 until you reach the Hoko-Ozette Road and then drive west toward the coast. This area is home to a 2,000 years of

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

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. You'll need a separate Makah Recreation Pass to visit, which can be purchased on site. Stop in at the Makah Cultural and Research Center. Then hike two miles from Makah trailhead to Shi Shi 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.

## 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.

## SOUTH LAKE QUINAULT

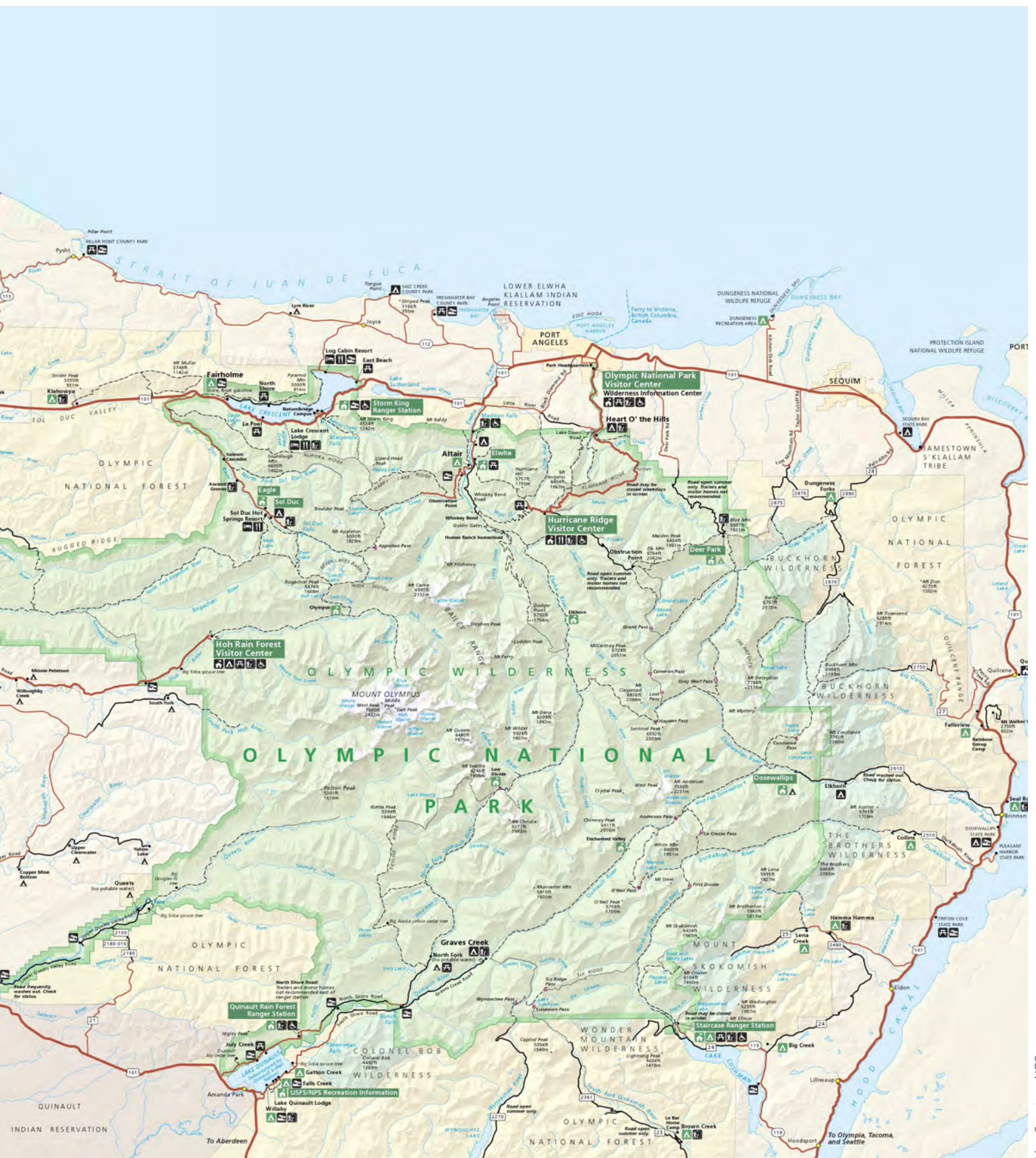
If you're entering the park's southern boundaries from Aberdeen, you'll immediately enter the park at Lake Quinalt where you will find one of the park's famed rainforests, along with the Quinalt Rain Forest Ranger Station. On the opposite side of the lake, you'll find U.S. Forest Service/National Park Service Recreation Information Center.

## SOUTHWEST KALALOCH

Approaching the park's southern end, continue west on US 101 past Lake Quinalt 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 is the Kalaloch Ranger Station, which sits on the coast near Kalaloch Lodge (see Where to Stay for details).









# OLYMPIC'S TOP SIX

Here are some of our favorite things to do from hiking to exploring some of Olympic's most iconic treasures.



1

## 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, Wash., 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.



2

## 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.



3

## HIKE HURRICANE RIDGE

Hike Hurricane Hill and get killer views of the Olympic Mountains. At the top, you'll be able to spot Port Angeles and Strait of Juan de Fuca, if it's clear.





4

## SPEND THE NIGHT AT LAKE CRESCENT LODGE

Built in 1915 on Lake Crescent's shores, this charming lodge is a beautiful place to spend time. Relax in the lobby in front of the roaring fireplace. Make reservations for the lodge's dining room.

5

## 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.

6

## WALK SHI SHI BEACH

If tides are low before noon, hike Shi Shi Beach to explore tide pools and sea stacks only accessible at low tide. The beach is accessible during all tide levels for hiking unless you venture past Point of Arches. Beyond, you can get trapped if the tides come up.

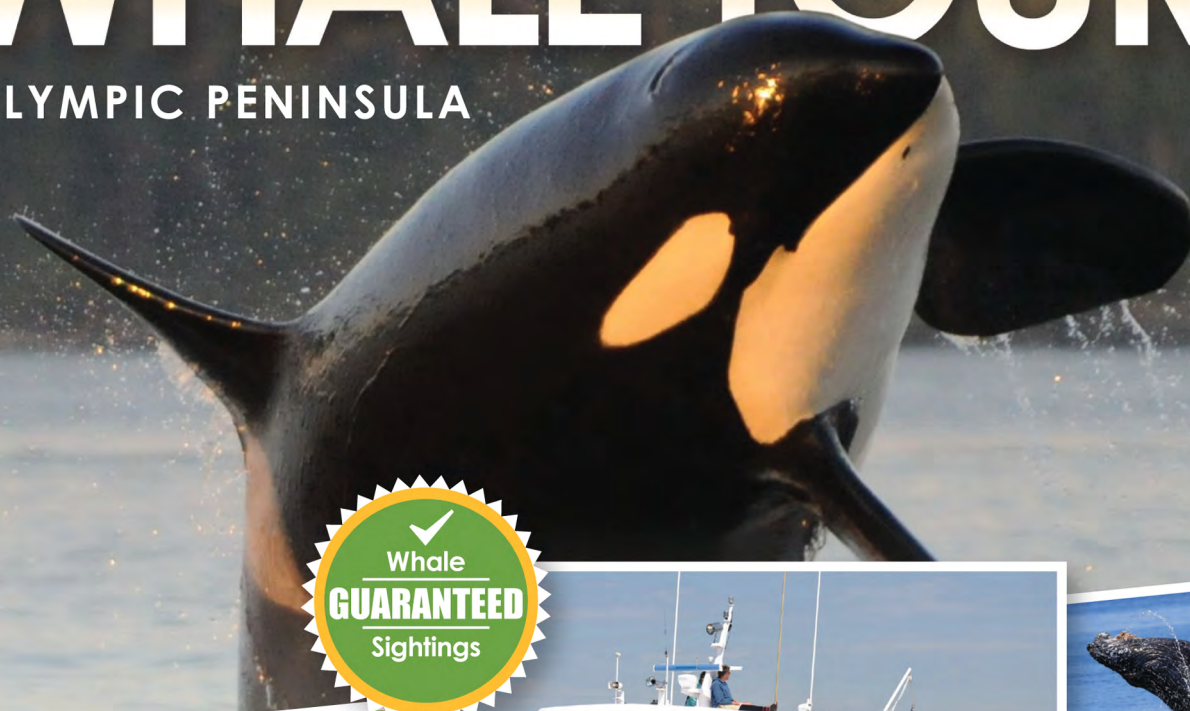
*NOTE: A separate recreation permit is required to visit Olympic's Shi Shi Beach via the Makah Reservation.*

*PHOTOS: Overview of Lake Crescent (Adobe Stock); Rialto Beach (©Adobe Stock); Sol Duc Falls, Hiking Hurricane Ridge, Lake Crescent Lodge, Hoh Rain Forest (Justin Bailie), Shi Shi Beach (Courtesy of NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries)*



# WHALE TOURS

OLYMPIC PENINSULA



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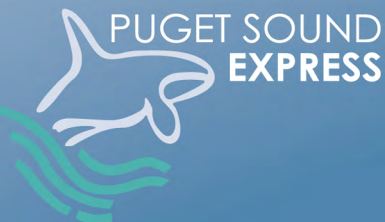
### TOURS

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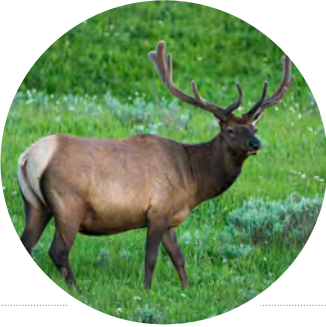
Port Townsend Departures • Point Hudson Marina • 227 Jackson St. Port Townsend  
Port Angeles Departures • Port Angeles Wharf • 115 E Railroad Ave Port Angeles





# 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).

## 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.



## SEA OTTER

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.



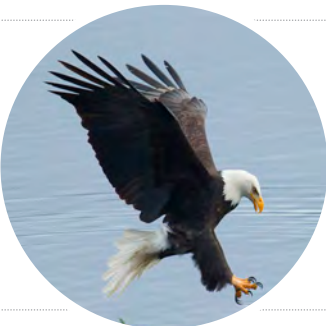
## GRAY WHALE

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.



## BALD EAGLE

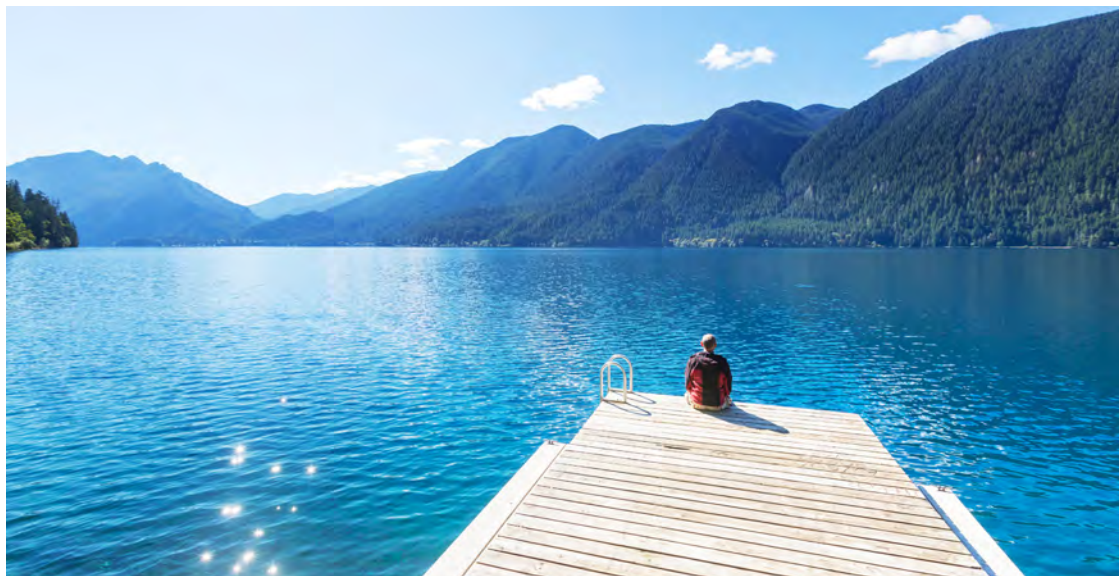
These huge birds of prey—they can weigh more than 14 pounds, with a nearly 7-foot wingspan—are most frequently spotted roosting in trees along the Olympic coast. Adults are easy to recognize. Look for a dark brown body with white tail feathers and a "bald" white head. Juvenile eagles are brownish with 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.





# INSIDER'S TIPS

From what to pack to entrance fees, here's the scoop.



## ONLINE

Visit [MyOlympicPark.com](http://MyOlympicPark.com) to find out where to stay and what to do during your vacation. Interested in exploring other national parks? Check us out at [Nationalparktrips.com](http://Nationalparktrips.com).



## OUTSIDE+ MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of Outside+ to get access to a year of Gaia GPS Premium for trail maps to build trip plans with weather and topo overlays, plus get exclusive content online and on Outside TV. Learn more at [MyOlympicPark.com/OutsidePlus](http://MyOlympicPark.com/OutsidePlus).



## PACKING LIST

- ☐ Refillable water bottles or a hydration system
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Clothing layers to accommodate temperature fluctuations.
- ☐ A sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- ☐ Rain jacket & bug spray
- ☐ Sturdy hiking boots
- ☐ Daypack

Learn more at [MyOlympicPark.com/park/what-to-pack](http://MyOlympicPark.com/park/what-to-pack).



## OLYMPIC ENTRANCE FEES\*

Buy your pass at a park entrance station, purchase a digital pass at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) or order a card online at [REI.com](http://REI.com) (with no shipping costs).

### \$15

fee for 7-day walker or biker pass

### \$25

fee for seven-day motorcycle pass

### \$30

fee for a seven-day vehicle pass

### \$55

fee for 12-month Olympic annual pass

### \$80

fee for America the Beautiful pass for all national park sites

### \$80

fee for U.S. citizens 62 and older for the senior pass

\*Fees subject to change

## SOCIAL

 [facebook.com/NationalParkTrips](https://facebook.com/NationalParkTrips)

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PHOTO: Lake Crescent (Depositphotos)



# PARADISE FOUND

Kalaloch Lodge in Olympic National Park offers up enough unforgettable moments to fill the Pacific. Venture through a temperate rainforest and explore tidepools on pristine beaches.

Enjoy cozy coastal lodging in a fairy tale world come to life.

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# 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 QUINAUT LODGE

Built in 1926, 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)