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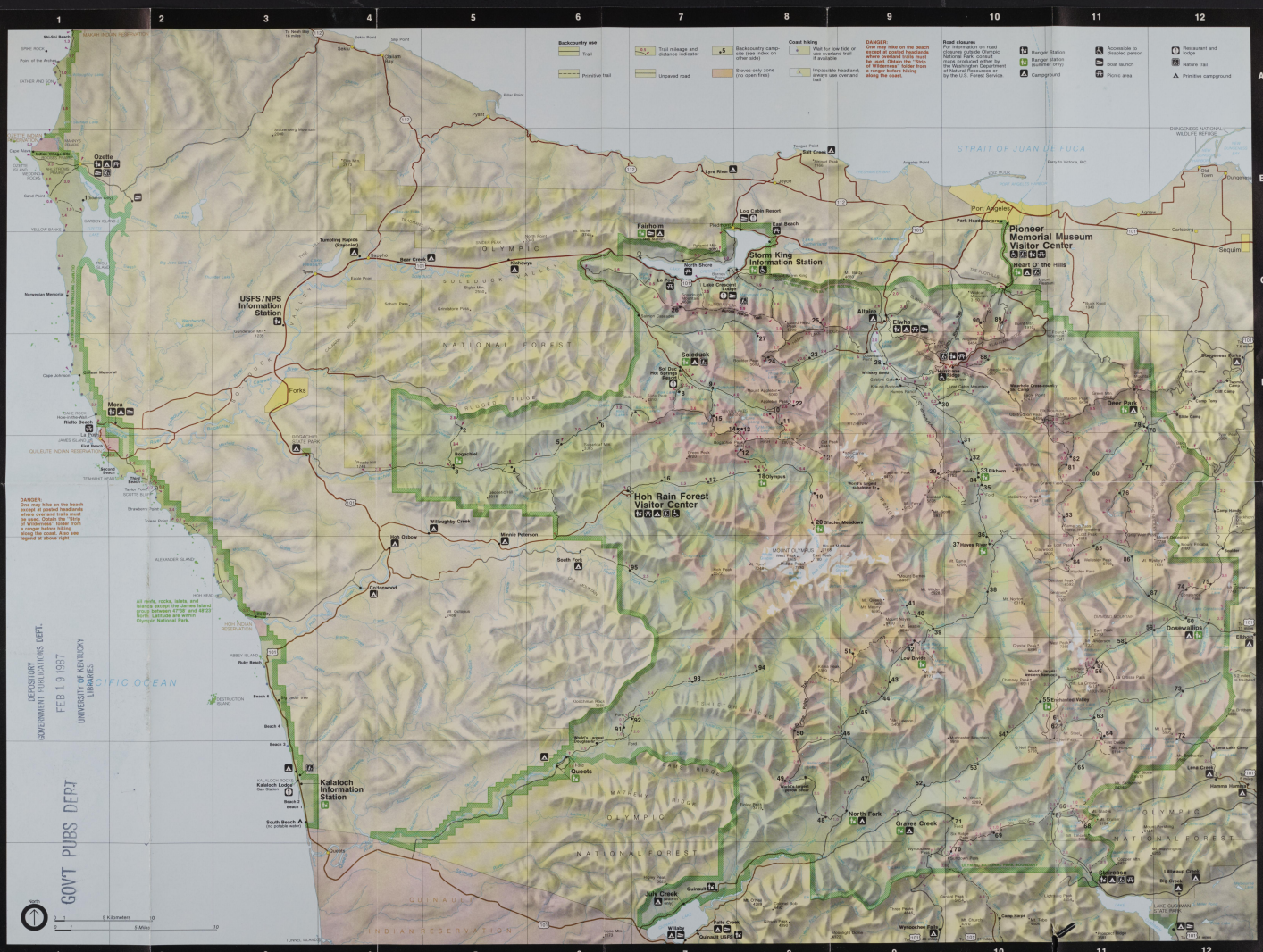
Olympic
Official Map and Guide

Olympic National Park
Washington

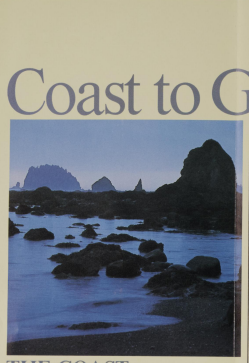
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior


Backcountry use
Trail
Primitive trail
Trail mileage and distance indicator
Unpaved road
Backcountry campsite (see index on other side)
Stoves-only zone (no open fires)
Coast hiking
Wait for low tide or use overland trail if available
Impossible headland; always use overland trail
DANGER:
One may hike on the beach except at posted headlands where overland trails must be used. Obtain the "Strip of Wilderness" folder from a ranger before hiking along the coast.
Road closures
For information on road closures outside Olympic National Park, consult the Washington Department of Natural Resources or the U.S. Forest Service.
Ranger Station
Ranger Station (summer only)
Campground
Accessible to disabled person
Boat launch
Picnic area
Restaurant and lodge
Nature trail
Primitive campground
STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA
PACIFIC OCEAN
Port Angeles
Pioneer Memorial Museum Visitor Center
Heart O' the Hills
Storm King Information Station
Fairholm
Log Cabin Resort
East Beach
Lake Crescent Lodge
Altaire
Elwha
Sol Duc Hot Springs
Soleduck
USFS/NPS Information Station
Forks
Mora
Rialto Beach
Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center
Hoh Oxbow
Willoughby Creek
Minnie Peterson
Olympus
Hoodsport
Kalaloch Information Station
Kalaloch Lodge
South Beach
Queets
Quinault
Quinault USFS
Wilsby
Taft Creek
North Fork
Graves Creek
Hoodsport
Dosewallips
Deer Park
Sequim
Sequim Bay
Dungeness
Carlsborg
Port Angeles
Pillar Point
Pysht
Lake Ozette
Ozette
Shi-Shi Beach
Neah Bay
Cape Alava
Sand Point
Norwegian Memorial
Cape Johnson
Ellipse Memorial
Rialto Beach
First Beach
Second Beach
Third Beach
Ruby Beach
Beach 1
Beach 2
Beach 3
Beach 4
Beach 5
Beach 6
Beach 7
Beach 8
Destruction Island
Kalaloch Lodge
South Beach
Tunnel Islands
Quinault Indian Reservation
Olympic National Park
Olympic National Forest
Hoh Indian Reservation
Makah Indian Reservation
Quileute Indian Reservation
Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
Ferry to Victoria, B.C.
Lake Ozette
Lake Crescent
Lake Quinault
Lake Cushman
Hamma Hamma
Lena Lake Camp
Lena Creek
Littlerap Camp
Big Creek
Lake Cushman State Park
Wynoochee Falls
Camp Harlow
Camp Tony
Camp Hayes
Camp Handy
Camp Cleve
Camp Camp
Camp Cushman
Camp Dosewallips
Camp Hamma Hamma
Camp Lena Lake
Camp Wynoochee

Olympic National Park

Olympic National Park welcomes you to a diverse and stunning world—a fog-shrouded coast with booming surf and wave-manicured beaches, spectacular alpine country dotted with sparkling lakes, lush meadows, glaciers, and North America's finest temperate rain forest. People have lived here for thousands of years, but the earliest inhabitants lived primarily along the coast taking food from the sea and berries, roots, and meat from the land. From the nearby forests they cut cedars that provided hulls for their canoes, building materials for their lodges, and many of the miscellaneous items of everyday life. By any standard the Indians of the Olympic Peninsula lived a sophisticated, well-ordered life in 1592, when the first European—Juan de Fuca—may have come to these shores. Reliable evidence of European penetration 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. Not until 1885 was any real attempt made to explore the interior of the Olympic Peninsula. That year Lt. Joseph P. O'Neil led the first documented expedition into the interior. In 1889-90 the Press expedition led by James Christie made a north-south crossing in five and one-half months. In 1890 Lt. O'Neil returned and made an east-west crossing. Slowly a movement got underway to set aside some of the peninsula as a national park. In 1897 President Grover Cleveland created the Olympic Forest Reserve, a portion of which President Theodore Roosevelt designated a national monument in 1909. In 1938 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation creating Olympic National Park, a place for the soul to expand and for the mind to be refreshed with the beauty of life—a place of serendipitous discovery.

Coast to Glaciers



THE COAST

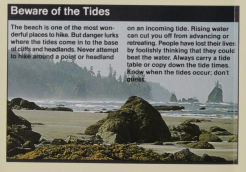
Some 57 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline form a vital component of Olympic National Park. This coastline has remained little changed over time except for the impact of the pounding surf and storms upon the mainland. The coastline looks much as it did when early Indians built their first villages upon these shores, thousands of years before European explorers arrived.

The coast is where the land meets the sea, vibrating with life and energy. Drift logs cast high on the beach; sculptured arches and sea stacks; the roar of crashing waves; the calls of gulls, bald eagles, and black-oystercatchers; three-dimensional clouds; dramatic sunsets; the sheer 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.

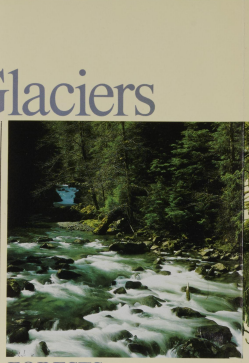
Beware of the Tides

The beach is one of the most wonderful places to hike. But danger lurks where the tides come in to the base of cliffs and headlands. Never attempt to hike around a point or headland on an incoming tide. Rising water can cut you off from advancing or retreating. People have lost their lives by foolishly thinking that they could beat the water. Always carry a tide table or copy down the tide times. Know when the tides occur; don't guess.



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 may toss them high on the beach to join many others.

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



FOREST

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.

Lying above the temperate rain forest along the coast and in the western-facing valleys and growing from the lowest elevations inland from the coast is the lowland forest. You will not find Sitka spruce here, but 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 them 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.

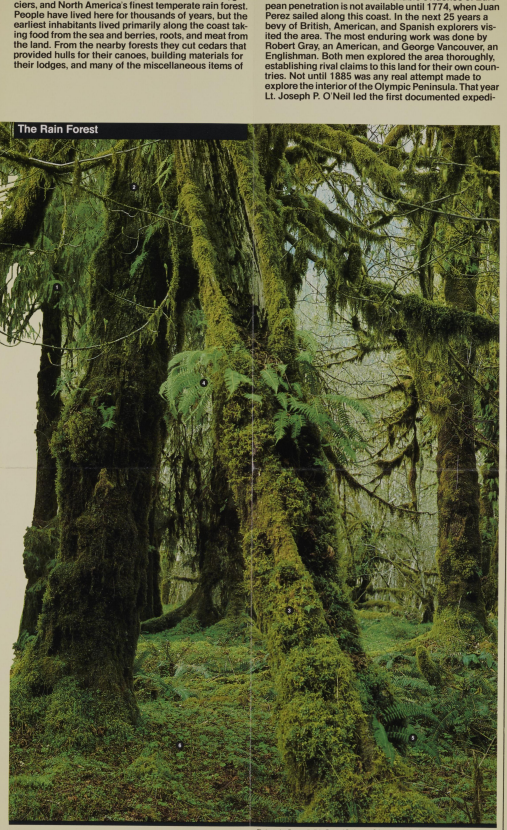
Gradually the lowland forest gives way to the montane forest. Unless you are an expert you may have difficulty recognizing when the change occurs. If silver fir is present you know that you have moved into the montane zone, but in drier parts of the park, the montane zone may look much like the lowland 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 timberline 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.

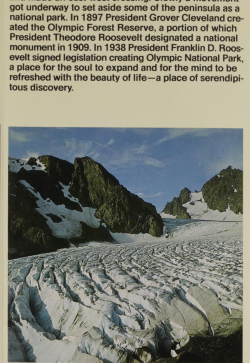
The Rain Forest



Temperate rain forests are rare. They can be found only in New Zealand, southern Chile, and here on the northwest coast of the United States in the valleys of the Quinault, Queets, and Hoh rivers. What defines a rain forest quite simply is rain—lots of it. On the Olympic coast precipitation averages 145 inches, more than 12 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 summertime 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 'jungly' 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, because of the competition for available soil. Many seedlings start out on fallen, decaying trees. They gather nutrients from the decaying vegetable matter, and 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 stilt-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.

Photographs: Roosevelt elk by Tom and Pat Leeson. Salmonberry by Pat O'Hara, remainder by Russell Lamb.

Salmonberry



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.

Roosevelt Elk

One of the main reasons that Olympic National Park was created was to protect the Roosevelt elk, a species found in the Northwest. These elk, named for President Theodore Roosevelt, are social animals that exist mainly in herds, unlike their cousins, the Rocky Mountain elk (wapiti), found throughout much of western North America. These animals are larger, have white rumps, have antlers that are more bunchy, and they are much stiler than those elk you may find farther east. It is unlikely that you will see any while you are in the park.

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 Piett's violet, Piper's bellflower, Olympic Mountain daisy, Olympic chipmunk, Olympic snow mole, and Beardslee and Crescenti trout, as well as others.

Visitor Information

Visitor centers are located at Port Angeles, at Lake Crescent, and at the Hoh Rain Forest. All of the centers have exhibits, publications, maps, and staff members who can answer your questions. Schedules listing evening campfires, nature walks, and other interpretive programs are posted in the visitor centers and the 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, Route 1, Box 1100, Forks, WA 98331, 206-962-2271; Log Cabin Resort, 6540 East Beach Road, Port Angeles, WA 98362, 206-928-3245; Lake Crescent Lodge, Star Route 1, Box 11, Port Angeles, WA 98362, 206-928-3211; Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort (open Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend), P.O. Box 1390, Port Angeles, WA 98362, 206-327-3583. For information about accommodations outside the park write to: Olympic Peninsula Travel Association, P.O. Box 625, Port Angeles, WA 98362; or to the Olympic Peninsula Resort and Hotel Association, Colman Ferry Terminal, Seattle, WA 98104.

Camping
The park has 18 established campgrounds. Most consist of individual sites with tables and fireplaces; piped water and toilets for campers are usually available. Showers, dumpstations, laundries, or utility connections are provided in any of the park campgrounds.

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 rugged heart of the peninsula. Rain forests can be seen along the Hoh, Queets, and Quinault rivers. Hurricane Ridge, accessible via a paved road, affords motorists an excellent opportunity to look into a superb part of the Olympic Mountains. The Pacific Coast area is accessible from U.S. 101 directly at Kalaloch and by spur roads to the mouth of the Hoh, to La Push, and to Rialto Beach.

Supplies
Gasoline and groceries are available at Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Service Area and Kalaloch Lodge; gasoline only can be bought at Sol Duc Hot Springs. Laundries are at Log Cabin Resort and Sol Duc Hot Springs.

Horseback Riding
A list of stables and outfitters can be obtained at visitor centers or by writing the superintendent. There are restrictions or closures to stock in certain sections of the park's backcountry. Check with a ranger.

Mountaineering
Climbing parties are asked to register and to show that they have adequate climbing gear at the ranger station nearest their route. Never climb alone or attempt technical climbs unless you are with experienced climbers and unless you have the proper equipment.

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

Fishing
Licenses are not required, except that a Washington State special punchcard is necessary when fishing for steelhead and salmon. Regulations are generally the same as for inland waters outside the park. Printed 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.

Regulations
To preserve this park for future visitors, we ask you to comply with these regulations.
- Stay on trails; shortcuts cause erosion.
- Be prepared for sudden and extreme weather changes.
- Do not feed animals. Feeding wildlife 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 roads and trails.
- When hiking along the beach, round the headlands only on the outgoing tide to avoid being trapped against the headland cliffs by the incoming tide. Use the overland trails where they exist.

Administration
Olympic National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. For more information write to: Superintendent, 600 East Park Avenue, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Developed Campgrounds

Campground	Total Sites	Pay	Group Camp	Handicap Restroom	Recommended Trailer Length	Sanitary Dump
Altaire*	29	●			21'	
Dosewallips*	33				21'	
Elwha	41	●			21'	
Fairholm	87	●		●	21'	●
Graves Creek*	45				21'	
Heart O' The Hills	105	●		●	21'	●
Hoh	95	●		●	21'	●
Jolly Creek (walk-in)	31					
Kalaloch	179	●	●	●	21'	●
Mora	91	●	●	●	21'	●
Soleduck*	84	●		●	21'	●
Staircase	63	●		●	16'	

*Open only part of the year

Backcountry Sites
Numbers correspond to the backcountry sites shown on the map on the reverse side. Remember that backcountry use permits are required for all overnight stays.

1 Ericsons Bay (beach-in only)
2 Calawah
3 Bogachiel
4 Flapjack
5 Heckuvemile
6 Hyak
7 Twentyone Mile
8 Mink Lake
9 Soleduck Falls
10 Upper Soleduck
11 Soleduck Park
12 Hoh Lake
13 Lunch Lake
14 Round Lake
15 Deer Lake
16 Cougar Bum Creek
17 Happy Four
18 Olympus
19 Elk Lake
20 Glacier Meadows
21 Boston Charlies Camp
22 Appleton Pass
23 Boulder Creek
24 Boulder Lake
25 Happy Lake
26 Hayes Meadows
27 North Fork Soleduck
28 Lake Mills
29 Dodger Point
30 Lillian
31 Marys Falls
32 Canyon Camp
33 Elkhorn
34 Stony Point
35 Drums
36 Cameron
37 Hayes River
38 Camp Wilder
39 Chicago Camp
40 Happy Hollow
41 Elwha Basin
42 Low Divide
43 Sixteenmile
44 Twelvemile
45 Trapper
46 Francis Creek
47 Tyler Peak
48 Ively Lake
49 Three Lakes
50 Three Prune
51 Lake Beauty
52 Pony Bridge
53 O Neil Creek
54 Pyrites Creek
55 Enchanted Valley
56 Anderson Pass
57 Appleparch Meadows
58 Diamond Meadows
59 Big Timber
60 Dose Forks
61 Hart Lake
62 Marmot Lake
63 Upper Duckabush
64 Home Sweet Home
65 Nine Stream
66 Camp Pleasant
67 Fig Lake
68 Flapjack Lakes
69 Belview
70 Lake Sundown
71 Success Creek
72 Upper Lena Lake
73 Tommie
74 Sunnybrook Meadows
75 Home Lake
76 Falls
77 Camp Ellis
78 Lake Wolf
79 Three Forks
80 Lower Cameron
81 Moose Lake
82 Grand Lake
83 Cameron Basin
84 Dose Meadow
85 Bear Camp
86 Deception Creek
87 Hawk Creek
88 Cox Valley
89 Bogachiel Peak
90 Heather Park
91 Spruce Bottom
92 Smith Place
93 Bob Creek
94 Fallon Creek
95 Big Flat

The Backcountry
As a backpacker you may encounter hazards. Be prepared. Know you could get a blister or two, and you will have to work hard to see all that Olympic National Park has to offer. But if you enter the backcountry as a prepared and informed hiker, you are guaranteed an unforgettable experience. Please help us keep the backcountry by observing the backcountry regulations and by leaving no trace of your stay. Backcountry use permits are required for all overnight stays. They are free and can be obtained at trailheads and ranger stations.

Sanitation Use privies when available; do not dump garbage in them. Otherwise dig a small hole at least 100 feet from a water supply and thoroughly cover when finished.

Campsites Camp in an established site when one is available. Avoid camping in meadow vegetation, where site refitting and small plants have been placed to help revegetate damaged soil. On the coast, camp on the beach rather than in the forest.

Fires The use of stoves is recommended throughout the park. If you choose to build a fire, build it below timberline in an existing fire ring. On the beach be sure to make your fire away from the piles of driftwood. West of the Elwha and North Fork of the Quinault, only stoves are allowed above 3,500 feet. East of this line only stoves are allowed above 4,000 feet. (See map on reverse side.)

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

Firearms Firearms are prohibited throughout the park.

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