Visit the Hoh Rain Forest and experience one of the finest remaining examples of temperate rain forest in the world. Fed by an average annual rainfall of 138 inches, magnificent layers of life await your exploration. From the seen worlds of the river and forest to the unseen worlds of the canopy and soil, the Hoh Valley showcases countless realms of natural wonders. How will you begin your adventure?


This year something is new in the ancient forest, thanks to your recreation fees. The recently created interpretive exhibits in the Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center invite you to uncover secrets of the seen and unseen worlds of the Hoh. Expansive paintings, photos and lifelike models offer multiple tiers of discovery for diverse audiences of all ages.

And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places.  Roald Dahl

Touch a hand-crafted model of a Townsend’s mole burrowing underground, or a river otter heading upstream. Immerse yourself in a nook of artwork revealing life from treetops to soil. Peek into a diorama featuring a coho salmon swimming amid river rocks.

With renewed curiosity, venture outside and explore more. What will you encounter in the enchanting, world-renowned Hoh Rain Forest?
TRIPS
For your Olympic adventures

1. Stop by park visitor centers or ranger stations for information and park brochures.

2. Plan your trip using the area descriptions below and the map and chart on page 3.

3. Check park program schedules on pages 4 and 5 for ranger-guided walks and talks.

MOUNTAINS

Hurricane Ridge (3) is the most easily accessible mountain area in the park. At 5,242 feet, it is located 17 miles up a gently winding road from Port Angeles. Expect delays due to work on the lower five miles of the road. Hurricane Ridge visitor center offers information, exhibits, a 20-minute film, cafe and gift shop. Parking area provides a chance to relax and admire the breathtaking scenery. Along the trails you can view captures of glacialchildren and wildlife in an area of white spruce. Three miles and stunted subalpine trees. Highpitched whistles announce the presence of the Olympic marmot, found only on the Olympic Peninsula. Black-tailed deer feed in summer meadows and migrate downhill when cold weather returns the high country.

Top by park visitor centers or ranger stations.

Elwha Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center
Spilway Overlook, with dramatic views and exhibits about spruce trees. Moss draped bigleaf maples create a magical scene that exhilarates all senses. Roosevelt elk may linger along riverbanks at dawn and dusk.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER AND WILDERNESS INFORMATION CENTER (1)
Olympic National Park Visitor Center and Wilderness Information Center (1) provide information, exhibits, Discovery Room, wilderness camping permits, horseshoe, park passes, boathouse and trails. Hone 'O the Hills campground, five miles south, has old-growth forest and nearby trails.

CoE ST

The wilderness coast provides a dynamic scene. Lower tides expose sea anemones, sea urchins, sea stars, and limpets scatteredly arranged on the rocks. It is important to leave it intact, for these limited resources are not replaceable. In some areas, tide pools and intertidal flats provide opportunities to observe tidepools and intertidal flats near the water. Woods and grasslands are also part of the Olympic coast. diced

Sol Duc (5) has many trails including Sol Duc Falls, a 1.6-mile round-trip walk from the end of the road. The campground has some reserved sites. Call (360) 614-4777 or visit www.recreation.gov for reservations. Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort offers warm and cool pools, food and lodging. Odiorne (1) offers boating opportunities, a small campground on the lake and trails to the coast.

Staircase (1) offers a roadside campground, old-growth forest and several trails.

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TEMPERATE RAIN FOREST

Dotted in over 12 feet of rain a year, west side valleys nurture giant western hemlocks, Douglas-fir and Sitka spruce trees. Moss-draped trunks and branches create a magical scene that exhilarates all senses. Roosevelt elk may linger along riverbanks at dawn and dusk.

Hoh Rain Forest (6) offers a visitor center, exhibits, boathouse, cafe, self-guiding nature trails through pristine temperate rain forest, and a campground.
The Secret Life of Fish

Can you imagine the life of a fish? It can be hard for humans to relate to underwater species, let alone study them. New technologies are helping overcome that challenge for Olympic National Park fisheries biologists.

Many visitors know about the park's temperate rain forests, mountains and coast, but few may realize the park's importance as a fish sanctuary. The park's lakes and over 4,000 miles of rivers and streams are home to 31 species of native freshwater fish, from tiny endemic Olympic mud minnows to Chinook salmon - the size of a child.

In addition, dam removal on the Elwha River re-opened over 70 miles of healthy habitat to migratory anadromous fish like salmon and steelhead. For a biologist, that is a lot to keep track of, but tools like sonar, environmental DNA, ear bone (or otolith) chemistry, radio tagging and even old-fashioned snorkeling are revealing intriguing stories.

For instance, bull trout from the Elwha River are once again going to the ocean now that the dams are gone. "It's a reawakening of anadromy that's been dormant all these years," said Sam Brenkman, park fish biologist. "We give them access and what do you know, they go to the ocean and return."

**Chemical Clues**

The key to this discovery is analysis of carbon and nitrogen isotopes. Some varieties of these elements are only found in the ocean. If they show up in a bull trout in a river, it proves that fish spent time feeding in the ocean.

Tracking of radio-tagged fish (left) has found fish returning 40 miles up the Elwha River after two dams were removed. Bull trout (above).

Otolith chemistry - the makeup of layers in a fish ear bone - also provides a window into the age of a fish and its past, just like growth rings reveal a tree's age. "The earbone is a microchip of information recording where that fish has been, whether it went to sea and how many times it went to the sea," Brenkman explained.

Another tool that is helping unlock the secret life of fish is underwater sonar. The football-size sonar is a fancy fish finder that emits a flashlight beam of sound underwater, and monitors what passes through the beam. It gathers data on how many fish return to a river. It also provides biologists with important information on migration or run timing of Elwha River Chinook salmon.

**It's in the Genes**

Just like in humans, DNA offers an exciting new research tool. Fish eggs, sperm, feces, carcasses and even mucus leave behind an environmental DNA (eDNA) trail. Analyzing river water for these eDNA clues could be a quick, cost-effective way to gather data on species presence and distribution, including non-native trout that may pose risks to native fish and amphibians in the park's mountain lakes.

As we work together to preserve park resources for the future, we first need to document these resources, but gathering data on aquatic life can be challenging. In the abundant waters of Olympic National Park, a growing suite of tools is helping researchers reveal the rich diversity in this critical fish sanctuary.

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**Goats on the Move**

When local sportsmen released mountain goats from British Columbia and Alaska near Lake Crescent in the 1920s, they had no way of knowing the repercussions nearly 100 years later. Along with bighorn sheep, pikas, ground squirrels, lynx and others, mountain goats were never found on the island-like Olympic Peninsula. By the 1980s over 1,000 mountain goats were impacting mountain plant communities.

A park mandate is to protect native species and control or eliminate non-native species, so mountain goats presented a challenge. Over recent decades, the park has managed mountain goats with sterilization, live capture, actively hazing in public use areas, and other techniques.

In 2017, after years of planning and public input, the National Park Service completed a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to address goat impacts on park resources and visitor safety. To best address these concerns, the preferred action is to remove the non-native mountain goats by live capture and/or shooting. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, captured goats would be released in their native range in the Cascades.

If the Final EIS is completed in the spring, live capture could begin this summer. To protect visitor safety during a proposed capture window in late summer, some hiking areas could be temporarily closed to public access, including Klahhane Ridge and the Hurricane Hill area.

Managing non-native species is challenging, whether it's Scot's broom, Burmese pythons in the Everglades or feral pigs in Hawaiian parks. This plan will help Olympic National Park protect unique mountain communities and the visitors who enjoy them, while contributing to mountain goat conservation in their native range in the Washington Cascades.

A helicopter transports a goat in a custom sling during 1988 capture operations in the Olympic Mountains.