

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

DAY HIKE SUGGESTIONS

One of the best ways to see a variety of environments within the Park in a limited amount of time is through short day hikes. The hikes listed below are suggestions. See Park map for more ideas.

Before hiking you should know:

1. Pets are prohibited on all Park trails and beaches except at Rialto Beach to Hole-in-the Wall and on the Kalaloch beaches where they are allowed on leash. These regulations insure the safety of your pet, the wildlife, and other backcountry users. Pets are allowed on a leash (up to a 6' in length) in campgrounds and parking areas.
2. Pack out all garbage.
3. Use privies (pit toilets) where available. Otherwise, make your toilet in a shallow slit trench, away from campfires and trails, and at least 100 feet from water. Cover the trench with earth when you are finished.

Trails accessible for wheelchair travel are noted with (*) behind the trail name. Those accessible for wheelchair travel requiring assistance are noted with (**). All others are not recommended for wheelchair usage.

HEART O' THE HILLS AND HURRICANE RIDGE

Heart of the Forest Trail begins at Loop E of the Heart of the Hills campground. Typical lowland forest with dense vegetation. 2 miles one way.

Hurricane Hill Trail (**) begins at the end of the Hurricane Ridge Road. In the 1.5 miles to the top of the hill are mountain peak vistas, a view of Port Angeles, and the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Wildflowers are numerous in early summer. (Wheelchair accessible first .5 mile only. This portion is paved but with steep drop offs and no guard rail).

Meadow Loop Trails (**) begin near Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. They offer strolls through a typical subalpine environment, thick with wildflowers in summer. Watch for blacktailed deer (**DO NOT FEED!**) and listen for the whistle of the Olympic marmot. The trail continues to *Klahhane Ridge*. Paved meadow trails accessible with assistance.

ELWHA

West Lake Mills Trail starts at the Lake Mills boat launch parking area. (moderate difficulty). Two miles one way.

Griff Creek Trail begins behind the Elwha ranger station and has sections of steep switchbacks. 2.8 miles one way. Overlook at mile 1.8 (strenuous).

Krause Bottom Trail begins at the end of the Whiskey Bend Road, a narrow road .1 mile south of the Elwha ranger station. The Elwha trail traverses a wooded ridge above the Elwha River. At 1.5 miles turn off to Krause Bottom, dropping .5 mile to the river. Trout fishing. The main Elwha trail continues south crossing the interior of the park. .5 south of Krause Bottom is Humes Ranch, an old homesteading cabin, where you can loop up to main Elwha Trail. (moderate difficulty)

Madison Falls Trail (*) wanders through meadow and forest grove, then follows Madison Creek through a cleft in the mountainside to splendid falls that cascade a hundred feet down basalt cliffs. The trail wanders through a century of pioneer history, commencing near Smith's timber claim and Sweet's Cedarvale Resort, ending at Matteson's mining claim by the falls. 0.1 mile one way. (easy)

LAKE CRESCENT

Moments in Time Nature Trail (**) is approximately a 1/2 mile loop trail and offers nice views of the lake and winds through old-growth forest and former homestead sites. It is located between Olympic Park Institute and Lake Crescent Lodge. A 1/3 mile trail extends from Storm King Ranger Station parking lot.

Marymere Falls (**) is a spectacular 90' waterfall just one mile from Lake Crescent. The trail leads through old growth forest with flowering plants and mushrooms in season. (Wheelchair: first 3/4 mile to Barnes Creek overlook only. Flat, loose graveled surface).

Mount Storm King Trail climbs steeply for 1.7 miles from the Marymere Falls trail to a point on the ridge. Travel beyond that point to the top is over difficult terrain and the trail is not maintained. Good views of Lake Crescent.

Pyramid Peak Trail begins on the north shore of the lake and climbs 2600' in 3.5 miles. At the summit is a World War II aircraft spotter station. Good views of Lake Crescent and the Strait of Juan de Fuca enroute.

Spruce Railroad Trail connects the North Shore and Lyre River trailheads. Much of this relatively flat 4 miles (each way) trail runs on or adjacent to the World War I Spruce Railway bed and offers excellent Lake Crescent views. It is a designated bike trail. Watch for ticks and poison oak.

SOL DUC

Sol Duc Falls is 0.8 miles from the end of the Sol Duc River Road through dense forest. Sol Duc Falls/Lover's Lane loop (via campground) is six miles. The Lover's Lane section is rough and rocky. **Mink Lake Trail** begins at the Sol Duc Resort and climbs 1400' in 2.5 miles through dense forest to the lake. Trout fishing.

Ancient Groves Nature Trail is a one-half mile loop through an old-growth forest and connects two roadside turnouts. For your safety, return along the loop trail rather than the road.

LAKE OZETTE TO THE PACIFIC COAST

Two trails to the coast begin at the end of the Lake Ozette road. **The Cape Alava Trail**, the northern trail, is 3.3 miles and the southern trail, the **Sand Point Trail** is 3.0 miles to the beach. Both are nearly continuous wooded boardwalk and are tide and weather dependent. Current tide chart and weather is posted at the trailhead. A three mile walk on the beach makes a 9.3 mile loop. Along the coast you will see marine life, Ozette Island, and Cape Alava, the western most point in the contiguous United States.

MORA - LAPUSH

Third Beach Trail begins at the LaPush road, twelve miles west of U.S. 101. A sandy beach is 1.4 miles from the trailhead.

Second Beach Trail begins on the LaPush road, fourteen miles west of U.S. 101. The trail goes .8 mile to a sandy beach with tidepools and views of sea stacks.

Rialto Beach Trail ()** is .1 mile (paved) from the parking lot to a view of the beach, James Island, and Cake Rock. Beach walk 1.5 miles to Hole-in-the-wall.

HOH RAIN FOREST

Hall of Mosses Trail is .75 mile round trip, beginning at the Visitor Center at the end of the Hoh road. Nearby is the **Spruce Nature Trail (**)**, 1.25 miles round trip. Short uneven grades on both trails. Both are excellent examples of rain forests with dense lush vegetation. Elk and deer are sometimes seen in the area. There is also a paved .25 mile mini trail.

KALALOCH

Short beach trails lead from U.S. 101 to sections of beach. **Ruby Beach** is the northern most trail with six other trails to the south. Each beach is distinct. Some offer tidepools, other clamming (in season and with license), and beachcombing.

QUEETS

The **Sams River Loop Trail** is three miles in length and can be started at the Queets Ranger Station or the trailhead one mile east of the station. The trail passes both the Queets and Sams Rivers as well as through former homestead meadows. Elk are often seen early morning or late evening in the meadows.

QUINAULT

Maple Glade Rain Forest Trail is a 1/2 mile loop nature trail that takes about thirty minutes to stroll. Across the bridge from the Quinalt Ranger Station.

Graves Creek Nature Trail begins at Graves Creek campground and is a one mile loop trail through the temperate rain forest.

STAIRCASE

Shady Lane Nature Trail begins across the bridge from the Staircase Ranger Station. Three miles round trip.

Staircase Rapids Loop Trail begins across the bridge from the Ranger Station. It passes through heavy virgin forest along the Skokomish River, crosses Staircase Rapids at 1.0 mile and returns to Ranger Station on the east side of the river.

DOSEWALLIPS

Terrace Loop Trail begins and ends 100 yards from the Dosewallips Ranger Station on the Dosewallips River trail. The Dosewallips River is accessible along this 1.5 mile trail. 2/97



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