

Happy 100th Birthday!

BARB MAYNES, Public Information Officer

This summer, the National Park Service marks its 100th birthday and we're glad you're here to help celebrate! Birthdays give us a chance to reflect on the past, think ahead to the future and celebrate our most important friendships and connections.

We're proud and grateful to have served the nation for 100 years, protecting and helping people connect with the treasures of the national park system. When the National Park Service was established in 1916, there were 14 national parks and 21 national monuments. Today, there are 410 national park areas including large natural areas like Olympic, added in 1938, and sites that tell the stories of our nation's people. Places as diverse as Everglades, Selma to Montgomery Trail, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and Cesar Chavez National Monument share the continuing, multifaceted and sometimes messy stories of our land and people.

We hope you'll take a few minutes to reflect on this year's birthday. What's your connection to national parks? What do national parks mean in your life? What will national parks mean in the future?

Perhaps you'll find ways to form your own connections to Olympic. While you're in the park, join us for a guided walk or evening program. A schedule of fun and interactive programs can

be found inside this newspaper, and bulletin boards around the park provide more information.

To keep your connection going, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Use #FindYourPark and #NPS100 to add your stories and images to the party! Go to FindYourPark.com and share your story; read how parks have affected others across the country.

Our birthday wouldn't be a party without friends to help celebrate! We're glad you're here and hope your visit will deepen and strengthen your connection with Olympic.



An early 1900s horseback rider at Mount Christie (above); the next generation in the Quinault Rain Forest (right).

FIND YOUR PARK

TRIP TIPS

for your Olympic adventures

- 1 Stop by park visitor centers or ranger stations for information and park brochures.
- 2 Plan your travel using the park 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 accessed mountain area in the park. At 5,242 feet, it is located 17 miles up a gently winding road from Port Angeles. **Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center** offers information, exhibits, a 20-minute film, snack bar and gift shop. Picnic areas provide a chance to relax amid the breathtaking scenery. Along the trails you can capture

views of glacier-clad mountains crowning miles of wilderness. Avalanche and glacier lilies, lupine, bistorts and tiger lilies dance beneath stunted subalpine fir trees. High-pitched whistles announce the Olympic marmot, found only on the Olympic Peninsula. Black-tailed deer feed in summer meadows and migrate downslope when cold recaptures the high country.

LAKES, LOWLAND FORESTS and RIVERS



Olympic National Park Visitor Center and Wilderness Information Center (1) provide information, exhibits, Discovery Room, wilderness camping permits, bear cans, park passes, bookshop and trails. Heart O' the Hills campground, five miles south, has sylvan beauty and nearby forest trails.

Elwha (2) has many trails. Madison Falls, an accessible self-guiding trail, provides an easy interlude. Visit Glines Canyon Spillway Overlook to learn more about Elwha River restoration. **Check current road status as winter floods damaged the road and closed the campgrounds.**

Lake Crescent (4) is a 624-foot deep shimmering glacier-carved jewel. Stroll the shore or hike the Marymere Falls, Spruce Railroad or Moments in Time trails. Stop by historic Storm King Ranger Station. Lake Crescent Lodge and Log Cabin Resort offer restaurants, boat rentals and overnight lodging. Visitors enjoy Fairholme Campground and a nearby convenience store with boat rentals.



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 (877) 444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov for reservations. Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort offers warm and cool pools, food and lodging.

Ozette (9) offers boating opportunities, a small campground on the lake and trails to the coast.

Staircase (11) offers a riverside campground, old-growth forest, a ranger station with exhibits, and several trails.

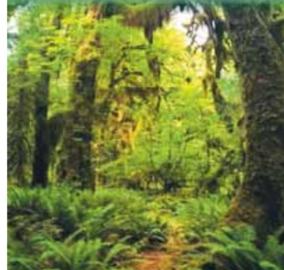
COAST



The wilderness coast provides a dynamic scene. Lower tides expose sea anemones, sea urchins, sea stars and limpets strategically arranged on the rocks. It is important to leave tide pool animals in their homes, as moving just one animal can injure it and disrupt an entire community.

Kalaloch (7) offers an expansive sandy beach. Kalaloch Ranger Station has information, exhibits and a bookshop. Visitors also enjoy campgrounds, Kalaloch Lodge, a restaurant and convenience store. For advance reservations at Kalaloch Campground during summer call (877) 444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov. Beach 4 and Ruby Beach are popular sites for tide pool exploration.

TEMPERATE RAIN FOREST



Drenched in over 12 feet of rain a year, west side valleys nurture giant western hemlock, Douglas-fir and Sitka spruce trees. Moss-draped bigleaf maples create a magical scene that obliterates all sense of time. Roosevelt elk may linger along riverbanks at dawn and dusk.

Hoh Rain Forest (6) offers a visitor center, exhibits, bookshop, maps, self-guiding nature trails and a campground.

Mora (8) offers a campground less than two miles from Rialto Beach. Along the beach, you can hike 1.5 miles north to Hole-in-the-Wall. Other hiking opportunities include Second and Third Beach trails near La Push.

Ozette (9) You can reach the beach on a 3.1-mile trail to Cape Alava or a 2.8-mile trail to Sand Point; both routes are partially on boardwalk. A popular 9-mile loop combines these two trails with a 3.1-mile beach walk. Near the ranger station are exhibits and a small lakeside campground.

Quinault Rain Forest (10) Ranger Station is located on the Quinault North Shore Road. It offers information, exhibits, bookshop and self-guiding trails. The USFS/NPS Ranger Station and additional trails are located on the south shore of Lake Quinault. Throughout the valley, visitors enjoy rain forest hikes, lake activities, several campgrounds, lodging and restaurants. Note the last two miles of the Graves Creek Road is closed to cars due to winter storm damage.

MILES & TIMES

Are we there yet?

Welcome to Olympic National Park! Whether you are here for a day, two days, a week or more, many spectacular sights await your discovery in this vast and diverse wilderness park.

Highway 101 encircles the park and several spur roads lead to mountains, forests and coast. The center of the park, untouched by roads, offers incredible wilderness adventures.

Look for interpretive exhibits along park roadways. Pick up a self-guiding trail brochure available for a \$1.00 donation at various park trailheads. Use this chart and area map, along with the park brochure, to create countless trip combinations for a memorable vacation.



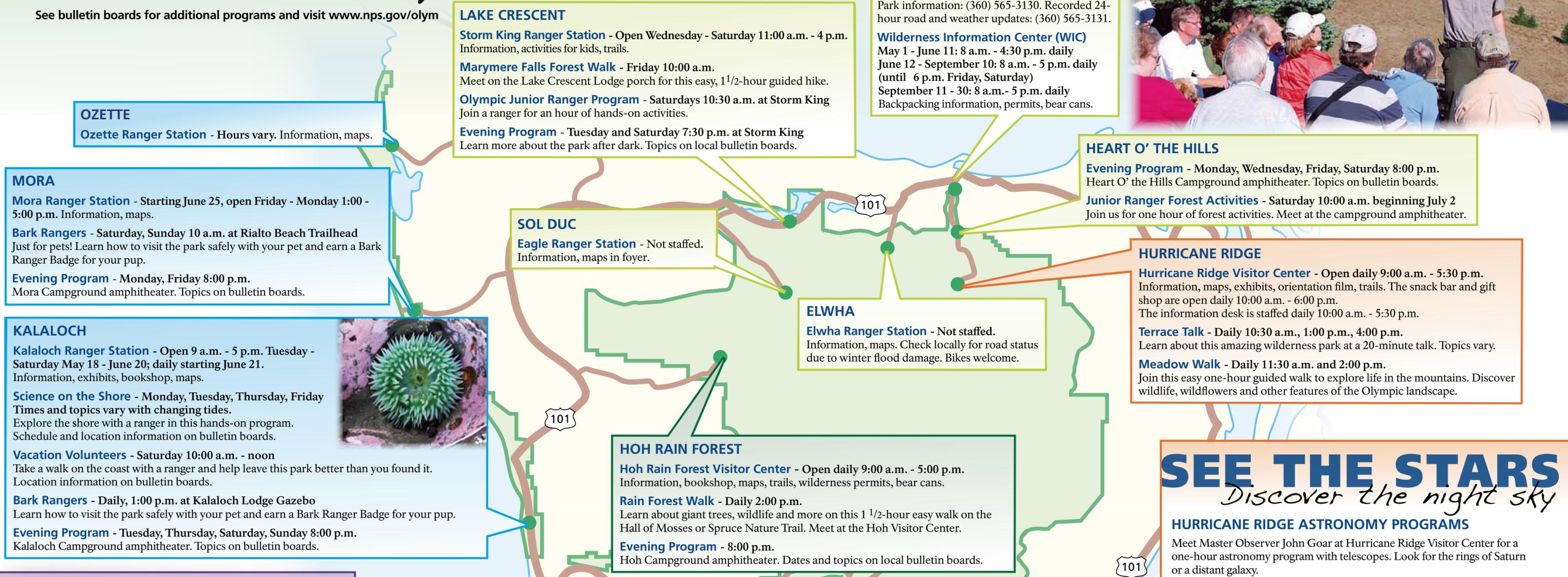
1	Olympic National Park Visitor Center and Wilderness Information Center (WIC) - Park information (360) 565-3130; WIC (360) 565-3100; 3002 Mt. Angeles Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98362																		
2	Elwha Ranger Station - 3911 Olympic Hot Springs Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98363; (360) 452-9191 (check locally for road status updates)																		11mi 0:30
3	Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center - Follow signs to Hurricane Ridge; no public phone																		25mi 1:15 17mi 0:45
4	Lake Crescent, Storm King Ranger Station - 106 Lake Crescent Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98362; (360) 565-2955																		39mi 1:00 16mi 0:30 21mi 0:30
5	Sol Duc, Eagle Ranger Station - 12000 Sol Duc Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98363; (360) 327-3534																		16mi 1:00 59mi 2:00 39mi 1:30 40mi 1:30
6	Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center - 18113 Upper Hoh Rd., Forks WA 98331; (360) 374-6925																		72mi 2:30 65mi 1:45 106mi 2:45 83mi 2:00 91mi 2:30
7	Kalaloch Ranger Station - 156954 Highway 101, Forks, WA 98331; (360) 962-2283																		40mi 1:00 72mi 2:00 67mi 1:45 109mi 2:30 86mi 2:00 95mi 2:15
8	Mora Ranger Station - 3283 Mora Rd., Forks, WA 98331; (360) 374-5460																		48mi 1:15 47mi 1:30 50mi 1:30 44mi 1:00 85mi 2:15 62mi 1:30 70mi 1:30
9	Ozette Ranger Station - 21261 Hoko-Ozette Rd., Clallam Bay, WA 98326; (360) 963-2725																		65mi 2:00 88mi 2:15 85mi 2:30 69mi 2:30 66mi 1:45 93mi 2:45 81mi 2:00 76mi 2:00
10	Quinault Rain Forest Ranger Station - 913 N. Shore Rd., Amanda Park, WA 98523; (360) 288-2444	120mi 2:45	80mi 2:00	33mi 0:45	70mi 1:45	104mi 2:45	105mi 2:15	143mi 3:15	123mi 2:45	128mi 3:00									
11	Staircase Ranger Station - 150 N. Lake Cushman Rd., Hoodspport, WA 985482; (360) 877-5569	126mi 2:45	124mi 2:45	170mi 3:45	149mi 3:00	191mi 4:15	140mi 3:30	120mi 2:45	120mi 2:45	111mi 2:45	100mi 2:30								



PARK PROGRAMS

June 25 - September 4

See bulletin boards for additional programs and visit www.nps.gov/olymp



OZETTE
Ozette Ranger Station - Hours vary. Information, maps.

MORA
Mora Ranger Station - Starting June 25, open Friday - Monday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Information, maps.
Bark Rangers - Saturday, Sunday 10 a.m. at Rialto Beach Trailhead. Just for pets! Learn how to visit the park safely with your pet and earn a Bark Ranger Badge for your pup.
Evening Program - Monday, Friday 8:00 p.m. Mora Campground amphitheater. Topics on bulletin boards.

KALALOCH
Kalaloch Ranger Station - Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday May 18 - June 20; daily starting June 21. Information, exhibits, bookshop, maps.
Science on the Shore - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Times and topics vary with changing tides. Explore the shore with a ranger in this hands-on program. Schedule and location information on bulletin boards.
Vacation Volunteers - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - noon. Take a walk on the coast with a ranger and help leave this park better than you found it. Location information on bulletin boards.
Bark Rangers - Daily, 1:00 p.m. at Kalaloch Lodge Gazebo. Learn how to visit the park safely with your pet and earn a Bark Ranger Badge for your pup.
Evening Program - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 8:00 p.m. Kalaloch Campground amphitheater. Topics on bulletin boards.



LAKE CRESCENT
Storm King Ranger Station - Open Wednesday - Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. Information, activities for kids, trails.
Marymere Falls Forest Walk - Friday 10:00 a.m. Meet on the Lake Crescent Lodge porch for this easy, 1 1/2-hour guided hike.
Olympic Junior Ranger Program - Saturdays 10:30 a.m. at Storm King. Join a ranger for an hour of hands-on activities.
Evening Program - Tuesday and Saturday 7:30 p.m. at Storm King. Learn more about the park after dark. Topics on local bulletin boards.

SOL DUC
Eagle Ranger Station - Not staffed. Information, maps in foyer.

ELWHA
Elwha Ranger Station - Not staffed. Information, maps. Check locally for road status due to winter flood damage. Bikes welcome.

HOH RAIN FOREST
Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center - Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Information, bookshop, maps, trails, wilderness permits, bear cans.
Rain Forest Walk - Daily 2:00 p.m. Learn about giant trees, wildlife and more on this 1 1/2-hour easy walk on the Hall of Mosses or Spruce Nature Trail. Meet at the Hoh Visitor Center.
Evening Program - 8:00 p.m. Hoh Campground amphitheater. Dates and topics on local bulletin boards.

QUINULT RAIN FOREST
Quinault Rain Forest Ranger Station - North Shore Rd. Starting June 12, open Thursday - Monday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed for guided walks and lunch. Information, exhibits, bookshop, maps, trails.
Life in the Rain Forest Walk - Thursday - Monday 1:00 p.m. Learn about rain forest plants, animals and homesteader lore. Meet at Quinault Rain Forest Ranger Station for this easy 1 1/2-hour, 3/4-mile walk.

STAIRCASE
Staircase Ranger Station - Hours vary. Information, exhibits, maps, trails, wilderness permits, bear cans.
Forest Walk - Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 2:00 p.m. Meet at bridge for 1 1/2-hour walk by the Skokomish River.
Discover Staircase! - Sunday 10:00 a.m. Meet at the ranger station for this 1/2-hour talk about the plants, animals or history of Staircase. Fun for all ages!
Evening Program - Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7:30 p.m. Meet at the Staircase amphitheater.



PORT ANGELES
Olympic National Park Visitor Center - Open daily 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Information, children's Discovery Room, park movie, bookshop, maps, exhibits, nature trails. Park information: (360) 565-3130. Recorded 24-hour road and weather updates: (360) 565-3131.
Wilderness Information Center (WIC) - May 1 - June 11: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily. June 12 - September 10: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily (until 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday). September 11 - 30: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. Backpacking information, permits, bear cans.

HEART O' THE HILLS
Evening Program - Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 8:00 p.m. Heart O' the Hills Campground amphitheater. Topics on bulletin boards.
Junior Ranger Forest Activities - Saturday 10:00 a.m. beginning July 2. Join us for one hour of forest activities. Meet at the campground amphitheater.

HURRICANE RIDGE
Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center - Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Information, maps, exhibits, orientation film, trails. The snack bar and gift shop are open daily 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. The information desk is staffed daily 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Terrace Talk - Daily 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. Learn about this amazing wilderness park at a 20-minute talk. Topics vary.
Meadow Walk - Daily 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Join this easy one-hour guided walk to explore life in the mountains. Discover wildlife, wildflowers and other features of the Olympic landscape.

SEE THE STARS

Discover the night sky

HURRICANE RIDGE ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS
Meet Master Observer John Goar at Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for a one-hour astronomy program with telescopes. Look for the rings of Saturn or a distant galaxy.
June 25 through July 7 - 11:00 p.m.
July 23 through July 31 - 10:30 p.m.
August 1 through August 6 - 10:15 p.m.
August 22 through August 31 - 9:30 p.m.
September 1 through 4 - 9:15 p.m.

FULL MOON ON HURRICANE HILL
Learn constellations from astronomer John Goar on Hurricane Hill. Meet at the Hurricane Hill trailhead. As the sun sets and the full moon rises, hike at your own pace up the 1.6 mile, partially paved trail, climbing 700 feet to the summit. John will point out constellations at the top. Bring flashlights and wear sturdy shoes.
June 19 - 9:00 p.m. to about 11:30 p.m.
August 18 and 19 - 8:00 p.m. to about 10:30 p.m.
September 16 - 7:30 p.m. to about 10:00 p.m.
If skies are cloudy, programs will be canceled. For program status, call the park recording at (360) 565-3131 after 3:00 p.m. the day of the program.

AUDIO TOUR

Make connections...

Dial 360-406-5056
then select from the options to learn more about Olympic National Park destinations.

Hurricane Ridge 1	Elwha 2	Lake Crescent 3
Sol Duc 4	Mora & Ozette 5	Hoh 6
Kalaloch 7	Quinault 8	Staircase 9
Park Overview 10		

Press # to end the message.
Press *0 to leave a comment.

INFORMATION

ENTRANCE AND RECREATION FEES

Your fees support facilities and services at Olympic National Park. This year projects include repair of damaged trails and roads as well as new exhibits for the Hoh Visitor Center. Thank YOU!

ENTRANCE FEES - single visit up to seven consecutive days
\$25— Vehicle (private) or \$10 — Individual (foot, bicycle)

CAMPING FEES - per site, per night. 50% discount with Interagency Senior/Access, Golden Age/Access Passes.
\$15 — Deer Park, Queets, North Fork, South Beach
\$20 — Fairholme, Heart O' the Hills, Hoh, Mora, Ozette, Staircase, Sol Duc. Note Sol Duc is \$23 if reserved via www.recreation.gov or (877) 444-6777.

\$22 — Kalaloch (reservation period June 8 to September 18; make reservations at least three days in advance at www.recreation.gov or call (877) 444-6777.)
\$10 — RV septic dump station in park campgrounds

WILDERNESS USE FEES - overnight trips require permit
For more information see www.nps.gov/olym.
\$5 per person per night
\$35 per person Annual Wilderness Pass

NOTICE - Marijuana is illegal in Olympic National Park. While limited recreational use is legal in the state, possession of any amount of marijuana or other illegal drugs remains illegal on all federal lands.



ENTRANCE PASSES

Passes are on sale at visitor centers and entrance stations throughout the park.



\$50 - Olympic National Park Annual Pass



\$80 - Interagency Annual Pass (multiple federal lands)



\$10 - Interagency Senior Pass (lifetime, age 62+, U.S. citizen/resident)



Free - Interagency Annual Pass - Military (certain military personnel and dependents)



Free - Interagency Access Pass (lifetime, disabled, U.S. citizen/resident)

PARK CONCESSION SERVICES

Park concessions offer food services, lodging and gift items at Lake Crescent Lodge, Log Cabin Resort, Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort and Kalaloch Lodge. Food and gift items are available at Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center and Fairholme Store. Boat rentals are offered at Lake Crescent. All facilities are operated seasonally, except Kalaloch, which is open year-round.



- Fairholme Store (Lake Crescent) (360) 928-3020
- Kalaloch Lodge (360) 962-2271
- Lake Crescent Lodge (360) 928-3211
- Log Cabin Resort (Lake Crescent) (360) 928-3325
- Olympic Raft and Kayak (360) 452-1443
- Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort (360) 327-3583

EXPLORE

Fun for all ages!



Junior Ranger Programs

Learn exciting secrets about the park. Become a Junior Ranger or Ocean Steward or both! Pick up a free activity booklet at park visitor centers and begin your journey.

Discovery Backpack

Have fun exploring nature with a Discovery Backpack filled with binoculars, guidebooks and more. Borrow a backpack at park visitor centers for a \$5.00 donation.



WILDLIFE

Did you see that?

Spotting wildlife can be a memorable part of your visit. Some animals are elusive and rarely seen, such as fishers and bobcats. Others, like deer, chipmunks, gray jays and non-native mountain goats, have become overly accustomed to humans. Their natural reaction should be to flee and not approach you, but some animals have lost their natural wariness. Do not follow when they move away. Thanks for keeping wildlife wild!

- **Stay 50 yards from wildlife.** If they approach, scare them away with waving arms and loud shouts.
- **Never feed park wildlife.** It is illegal, harmful to animals and hazardous to you. Animals fed by humans lose fear of people, which will alter natural animal behavior and may lead to aggression.
- **When camping or picnicking, secure food and trash from animals.** Store these items in your vehicle, if possible. Diligent visitors have helped prevent dangerous interactions with bears.



SAFETY



In case of an emergency dial 911. Park rangers, throughout the park, can assist you with safety or crime issues.



Please help protect marine life. All living organisms on the beach and in tide pools are protected. If you encounter a seal pup on the beach, do not touch it. The pup does not need help and your actions could lead to abandonment by its mother.



Filter or boil all backcountry water to a rolling boil to avoid infection by Giardia, a microscopic intestinal parasite.

Pack rain gear and warm clothing. Hypothermia, a dangerous lowering of body temperature, may result from exposure to wet or chilly weather in any season.



Pets are not allowed on park trails. This is for the safety of your pets, park wildlife and you! Ask for our pet regulations handout.

Tread lightly please. Avoid walking on delicate vegetation by staying on trails. Help protect this beautiful wilderness park for future visitors.

Bicyclists beware. Travel can be hazardous around Lake Crescent and other park areas due to heavy traffic, narrow roads or construction. Use caution. Ask for area bike route maps.

Drift logs are dangerous! Avoid swimming in or walking near the ocean during storms or heavy surf. Tides change daily and can prevent hikers from safely traversing certain areas along the coast. Use tide charts to plan your safest hiking times.

Cougars inhabit all elevations of the park where deer, elk and other prey are plentiful. Sightings are rare and usually fleeting. But if you encounter a cougar, make yourself large and loud, wave your arms or a stick, face the cougar and slowly back away. Please report all cougar observations at the nearest ranger station.



Wilderness camping permits are available at the Wilderness Information Center (WIC) in Port Angeles. Permit reservations are accepted by fax or mail. For information about permits, reservations, tide charts, minimum impact, bear canisters and camp locations visit www.nps.gov/olym, e-mail Olym_WIC@nps.gov or call (360) 565-3100.



PARK PARTNERS

NatureBridge is a private, non-profit educational organization located on the shores of Lake Crescent in Olympic National Park. Field science courses are offered for students. For information: (360) 928-3720 or www.naturebridge.org/olympic-national-park.



Friends of Olympic National Park support the park's natural, cultural and recreational resources for present and future generations. They promote understanding of Olympic's ecological, educational, economic and recreational importance, and they work on park projects. Website: www.friendsonp.org.

Washington's National Park Fund is a non-profit organization whose mission is to restore and preserve national parks in Washington. The Fund supports projects in Olympic, North Cascades and Mount Rainier National Parks, including promoting volunteerism and stewardship, and funding research and trail maintenance. Call: (206) 623-2063. Please mail donations to: 1904 Third Avenue, Suite 400, Seattle WA 98101



Discover Your Northwest is a non-profit organization that provides educational materials at park sales outlets. Proceeds support Olympic's programs, exhibits and publications. Annual membership is \$15. For more information, call the Olympic National Park Branch at (360) 565-3195. For an on-line store go to www.discovernw.org.



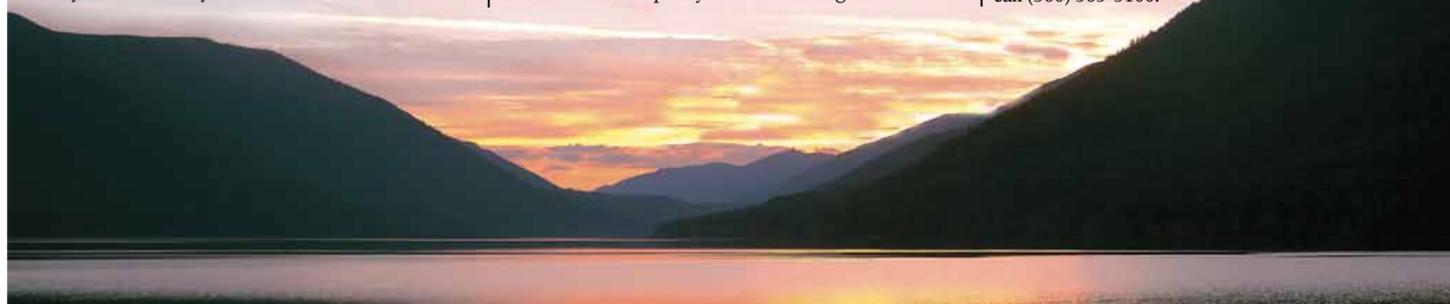
BOOKSHOP COUPON

Discover Your Northwest bookshops are located throughout the park. Your purchases help fund educational programs at Olympic National Park.

30%
DYNW members
15%
non-members

Thank you for your support.

Valid on all merchandise except sale items. Expires 12/31/2016



Life in the Trees



Marbled murrelet chick



Lungwort



tussock moth larva



Pacific treefrog

Did you climb trees as a child? Researchers from the University of Washington brought that youthful passion to Olympic National Park in May. But their target tree wasn't child-friendly with conveniently spaced branches from the ground up; this Douglas-fir towers nearly 280 feet with no branches for the first 98 feet.

As part of an Olympic National Park BioBlitz, scientists used specialized gear to ascend the tree to investigate the biodiversity of a single large tree in the Hoh Rain Forest. A BioBlitz brings together scientists, students and the public to count and learn about the organisms at a site. During the National Park Service Centennial, over 200 BioBlitzes are being held in parks nationwide. These events add to the knowledge about what species live in our parks, and involve the public in learning about the value of biodiversity.

A Forest of Giants

The Hoh is one of the park's west-facing rain forest valleys. Mild temperatures rule; winter storms deliver abundant rain; and millions of tiny conifer needles rake moisture from summer fog—all leading to record-size trees.

From root to crown the forest behemoths host myriad life forms. In the soil tiny fungal partners help roots take up nutrients and water. Insects, birds and bats feed and shelter in crevices or cavities. Seeds sprout on tree bases, forming green necklaces of seedlings. Fungi adorn trunks.

The Biotic Frontier

Above is the canopy—a place of undiscovered mysteries until new tools allowed safe, non-destructive access. Scientists discovered canopy soil and food webs weaving together a diversity of life: from blankets of mosses and lichens, canopy fungi, tiny mites, larger predatory insects and spiders, to birds gleaning the bounty. Some canopy lichens even convert nitrogen to a form plants can use, then fertilize the forest when the lichens blow to the ground.

The canopy provides not only food, but also shelter and a place to nest. The threatened marbled murrelet, a robin-size sea bird, lays a single egg on wide branches, foregoing a nest and just using the mossy shelf built up on old-growth tree branches.

Giant trees are iconic. Through events like this BioBlitz, our entire community is learning more about forest architecture and the elegant ecosystem interconnections that create these majestic forests. To learn more about the results of the BioBlitz efforts, go to <http://education.nationalgeographic.org/projects/bioblitz>.

Yet another continent of life remains to be discovered, not upon earth, but one to two hundred feet above it...

William Beebe 1917

In the Land of Windy Rain

On a mild, sunny summer day, it may be hard to picture the wild, winter weather that shapes Olympic National Park. The humbling winds that lend Hurricane Ridge its name and snap forests into tangles of fallen logs, flooding rivers that carve new channels and the pounding surf that eats away at the coast.

However, this summer evidence of those storms persists, not only in the natural landscape, but also in impacts on park facilities.

Both the Quinault River and Elwha River took their toll in one of the wettest winters on record. In the Quinault Valley, hikers headed to the Graves Creek trailhead will walk about two miles farther because flooding undermined the access road.

In the popular Elwha Valley, the river surged above flood stage five times, the highest a raging 31,000 cubic feet per second on November 17, 2015. That week the river washed out the Olympic Hot Springs Road and swept through campgrounds (see photos). Altair Campground, already damaged by previous floods, lost most of its remaining campsites. In Elwha Campground, flows three feet deep left logs and sediment piled in campsites.

Crews built a detour trail and a small temporary bridge to give hikers and cyclists access to the Elwha Valley. Efforts are underway to install a more substantial temporary bridge so the road can reopen to vehicles.

The vigorous storms that pummeled the park also brought warm temperatures that melted snow, contributing to flooding and debris flows of saturated soil that swept downslope damaging trails. Accompanying hurricane force winds toppled thousands of trees across the park's lowlands.

In spite of this winter, most of the park is now open to explore! Check current conditions at nps.gov/olym. During your visit, look for evidence of the powerful weather that sculpts this land, shaping the mountains, forests, wild rivers and rugged coast that are Olympic National Park.

