



Hurricane Ridge Photo courtesy Val Henschel

# Olympic

## PENINSULA

WASHINGTON STATE

Olympic Peninsula  
Tourism Commission  
Media Kit



ADVENTURE MEDIA

Located in Washington's northwest corner, the Olympic Peninsula is a land like no other. It is both environmentally and culturally rich. From the jigsaw coastlines, temperate rainforests and glacial-capped peaks of Olympic National Park to the organic farms and wineries of the Dungeness Valley; from the cultural centers of native tribes in La Push, Quinault and Neah Bay to the maritime history of its port towns, there's an adventure for every age and spirit here.

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WASHINGTON STATE



Port Ludlow





Lake Crescent - Photo courtesy Lonnie Archibald



Hoh Rainforest - Photo courtesy Jodi Riverstone

## Olympic National Park - A Modern-day Eden

The Olympic Peninsula is home to the 1,400 square mile Olympic National Park. A designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, the park has three distinctly different ecosystems: the Pacific coastline, the Olympic Mountains and the primeval forests. In 1976, Olympic National Park became an International Biosphere Reserve; and in 1981, it was designated a World Heritage Site. These diverse ecosystems are still largely pristine due to its wilderness designation.

The wild and rugged coastline along the Pacific Ocean stretches over 70 miles and is the longest undeveloped coast in the contiguous United States. The extensive alpine forests are home to some of the world's largest conifers, towering 300 feet tall and measuring 25 feet around. Among the ancient forests of old-growth trees exists one of only two temperate rainforests in the Northern Hemisphere. The rugged Olympic Mountains, home to Mount Olympus and over 60 glaciers, are thought to be beautiful enough for the gods to dwell.



# Pick Your Adventure

Where else can you kayak in the surf in the morning and cross country ski in the afternoon?

Travelers to the peninsula can choose from kayaking, rafting, canoeing, scuba diving, or stand-up paddle boarding in the lakes, rivers and ocean. The Olympic Peninsula is also home to some of the Pacific Northwest's most fertile fishing grounds. Fly fishing in the Sol Duc River's perfect, pristine environment grants a special year around pleasure for fishermen of all levels. On land, explore the fresh and saltwater shorelines, try a guided hike through the Hoh and Quinault rainforests, bike the [Adventure Trail](#), snowshoe atop [Hurricane Ridge](#), hunt for waterfalls, watch for whales, or relax in [Sol Duc Hot Springs](#).



Photo courtesy Gary Luhn

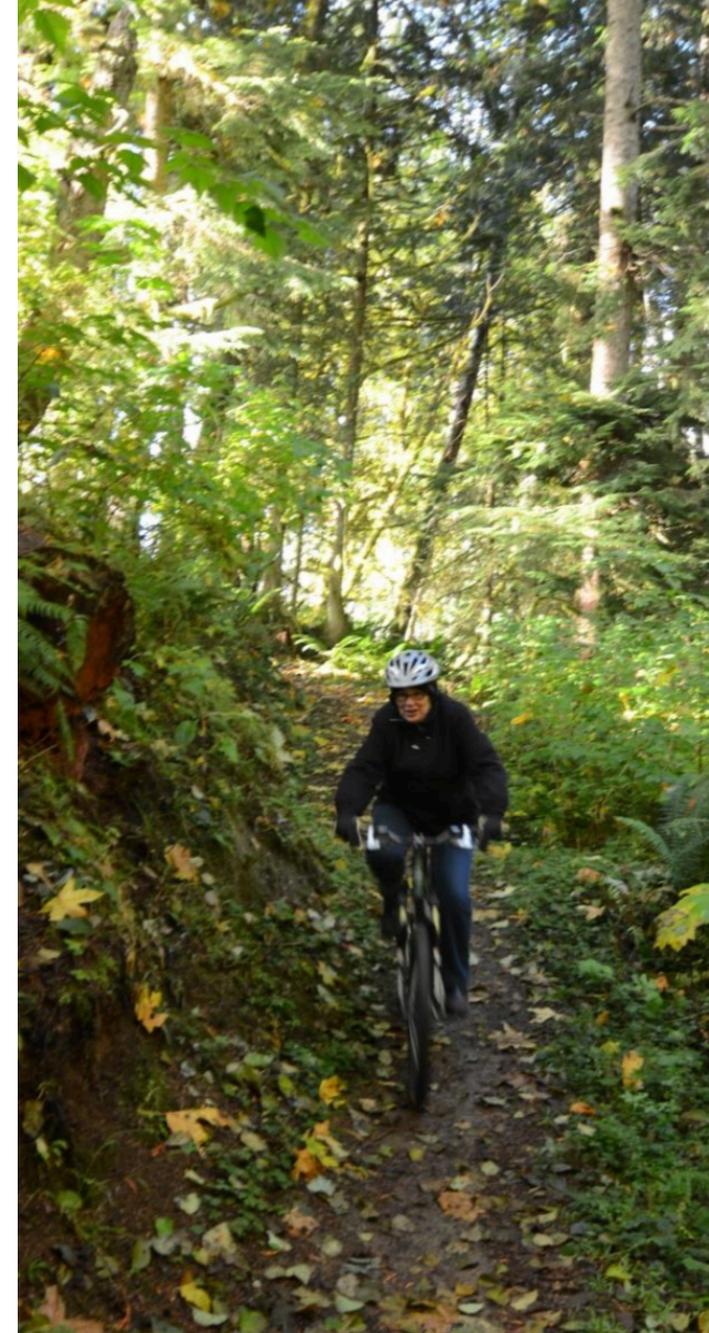


Hurricane Ridge - Photo courtesy Jodi Riverstone

# Olympic Discovery Trail

The [Olympic Discovery Trail](#) (ODT), begun as a rails-to-trails project, is located along the northern coast of the Olympic Peninsula. When complete it will traverse over 130 miles of lowlands between the Olympic Mountains and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Running through many different types of terrain, several towns, two counties, Olympic National Park, and Native American tribal jurisdictions, the trail is shared by bicycles, through-riders, equestrians, walkers, runners and various types of pet-walkers. Many sections of the trail are complete with a wide, paved pathway and it is possible to make the journey from Port Townsend to La Push on the Pacific Ocean.

Another feature of the trail is the [Adventure Route](#). *(seen at right)* The ODT and Adventure Route are being built by volunteers.



# Towns of the Olympic Peninsula

The towns and ports of the Olympic Peninsula offer a look at the area's rich diversity and history.

## [Port Angeles](#)

Gateway to Olympic National Park and popular with outdoor enthusiasts. This central port has beautiful public art and rich history. The [MV Coho](#) sails between Port Angeles and Victoria, BC, Canada.

## [Clallam Bay/Seki](#)

This picturesque coastal area is a favorite with fishermen and birders alike.

## [Forks](#)

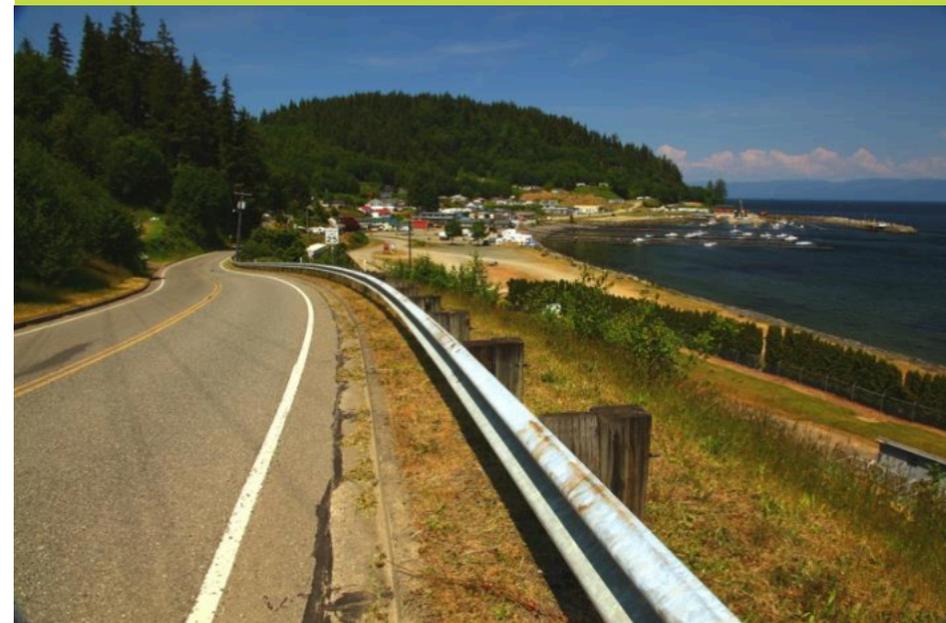
Most famous as the backdrop of the Twilight book series. Home to National Geographic Channel's Mick Dodge. Forks is just steps from the Hoh Rainforest and the wild Olympic coast.

## [Quinault](#)

The Quinault Valley is home to majestic Lake Quinault and the Quinault Rainforest.



Port Angeles - Photo courtesy Russ Veenema



Road to Seki - Photo courtesy Randall Hodges

# Towns of the Olympic Peninsula Neah Bay

## [Neah Bay](#)

Neah Bay is the home of the Makah Indian Tribe and the Makah Cultural Resource Center and Museum. Starting point for a hike to Cape Flattery, the most northwestern point of the contiguous US.

## [Port Townsend](#)

This Victorian sea port is known for its maritime heritage and eclectic art scene.

## [Port Ludlow](#)

With a stunning golf course, resort, and marina, Port Ludlow offers visitors relaxation and adventure.

## [Sequim](#)

Known as The Lavender Capital of North America™, Sequim has a climate and landscape similar to Provence, France.

## [Brinnon/Quilcene](#)

Located on the North Hood Canal near Olympic National Forest, this area attracts hikers and water sports enthusiasts.



Sequim Lavender Farm - Photo courtesy Val Henschel



Port Townsend - Photo courtesy City of Port Townsend

# Native Cultures

The Olympic Peninsula was an Eden for its early inhabitants and today, Native Americans are still a strong presence. In fact, Olympic National Park is close to the reservations of several tribes. The Skokomish, Chehalis, Hoh, Quinault, Quileute,

Makah and three S'Klallam tribes live on the Olympic Peninsula, a land of abundant natural resources, and from it, they have maintained a rich culture here.

The world-famous [Makah Cultural and Research Center](#) in Neah Bay has been open since 1975 and it is the nation's finest tribal museum with 500 year old artifacts such as tools, canoes, basketry and a full-size long house!

The tribes of the Olympic Peninsula are stewards of the Peninsula's resources and partners in preservation. They retain strong cultural traditions and are committed to having their youth carry forward traditional knowledge and Native language.



## Learn about Local Cultures

- In Port Angeles, stop at the Elwha Klallam Heritage Training Center
- Check out Makah artisan wares at the Makah Cultural and Research Center in Neah Bay
- Watch a demonstration at the Jamestown S'Klallam carving house in Blyn
- Visit the Quileutes at the Quileute Oceanside Resort in La Push



Photo courtesy Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau

# Be a Culinary Explorer

The [Olympic Culinary Loop](#) is a group of people who grow, harvest, catch and ultimately serve the bounty that we call Olympic Coast Cuisine. There is something magical about smelling the earth on a farm tour, petting the soft velvety nose of a Jersey cow, or literally eating your way through a farmer's market with music filling the bright day.

Chefs around the Olympic Culinary Loop are creating dining experiences that are quintessentially "Northwest" and defined as Olympic Coast Cuisine. From the raw ingredients to the methods of preparation, some following traditional native culture preparation, eating your way around the Peninsula will be memorable.

[Wines, ciders and craft beers](#) have also become a staple in Olympic Coast Cuisine.

Take your taste buds on a tour!



Photo courtesy Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau



# Wildlife and the Whale Trail

The Olympic Peninsula offers outstanding opportunities to learn about and see native wildlife. Due to the geological separation of the Olympic Peninsula from other regions by water and lowlands, Olympic National Park provides habitat to more than eight plant and 18 animal species that cannot be found anywhere else in the world!

Along [Highway 112](#), one of the newest Scenic Byways, you'll find locations designated as viewpoints for the [Whale Trail](#). In 2010, the Whale Trail was officially opened with 20 marked sites. The Trail aims to educate travelers about the local Orca and marine mammal populations and their environments. On the peninsula this trail traverses from Puget Sound to Kalaloch. A sign designates each official site and displays information about the whales and other marine mammals known to frequent the area.



Whale, courtesy of OPVB



Beach, OPVB, Photographer Dave Logan

# Elwha Dam Removal

The largest dam removal in U.S. history began in September 2011. By August 26, 2104, the last blast was done at Glines Canyon Dam, allowing the river to run free for the first time in a century. Salmon and other migratory fish returned within months to 70 miles of spawning habitat, bringing with them the promise of a restored ecosystem and renewed cultural tradition for the Elwha Klallam Tribe.

There are two viewpoints at old dam sites. The Glines Canyon Overlook at former Lake Mills has part of the old dam remaining with interpretive panels along the viewing walkway. Trails along the former shores and lakebed offer a perspective of the large restoration area. The Elwha Interpretive Center on Hwy 112 near the site of the removed Elwha Dam tells the story of building the dams, deconstruction and valley restoration.



Pink Salmon return to the Elwha River - Photo courtesy of OPVB. John Gussman, photographer.



Elwha Interpretive Center. - Photo courtesy of OPVB. John Gussman, photographer.

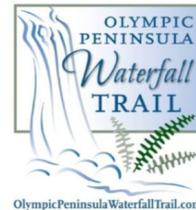
# A Magical Misty Tour: Olympic Peninsula Waterfall Trail

The [Waterfall Trail](#) is a wonderful way to enjoy some of the best of the Olympic Peninsula's natural wonders. It is a self-guided tour featuring over two dozen waterfalls. One waterfall is located at the end of a wheelchair accessible path, while others require backcountry hiking. Some can be seen from the car. A few are only viewed from the water via a boat or raft. Some are in the temperate rain forests of the peninsula and some are along the eastern slopes of the Olympic Mountains in the Hood Canal area.

There is a special waterfall for every visitor to claim as their favorite. This year-round tour will inspire excitement for viewing waterfalls as well as a great sense of adventure in finding them.



Photo courtesy Lani Doely



[OlympicPeninsulaWaterfallTrail.com](http://OlympicPeninsulaWaterfallTrail.com)

# Welcome to the Land of Twilight

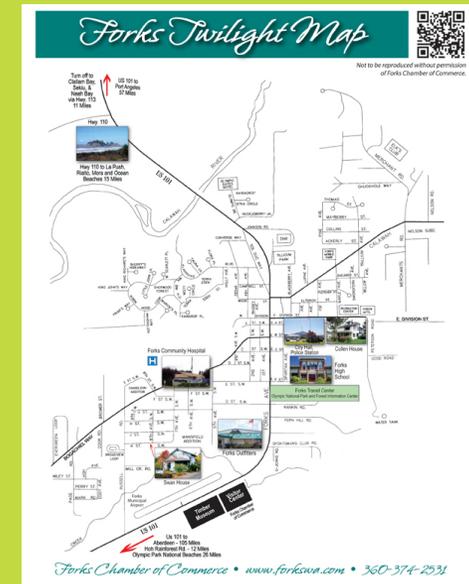
Step into the [land of Twilight](#) to retrace the lives of our beloved *Twilight* characters. In Forks, take an organized Twilight tour or pick up a self-guided tour map at the Forks Visitor Center. Take a picture of yourself with Bella's truck while you are there. Have a meal of mushroom ravioli at Bella Italia Restaurant in Port Angeles. It is a must-do for all Twihards.

## Maybe Meet Mick Dodge?

Mick Dodge, from the National Geographic Channel's *Legend of Mick Dodge*, is a resident of the forest on Forks. You may run into him at the visitor center from time to time.



Forks Visitor Center Photo courtesy Chris Cook



Click map to enlarge (PDF)

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Port Angeles Crab Festival

Photo courtesy Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce



Shi Shi Beach - Photo courtesy Jodi Riverstone