

2023 Chemeketan Outing Guide
Olympic National Park
Port Angeles, Washington
July 22 to August 5, 2023



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by Roz Shirack

Outing Guide is available on www.chemeketans.org (click on Annual
Outing link)

Introduction

Important Dates:

Truck Loading is Thursday, July 20, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Bridge's Storage 4370 Silverton Rd NE (2 blocks east of Lancaster).

Truck Unloading is Sunday, August 6, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Bridge's Storage.

All attendees in the Salem area are expected to participate in either truck loading or unloading. Bring gloves and work clothes and water. Printed Outing Guides will be available at truck loading.

The Chemeketan Annual Outing is a two-week cooperative camping adventure featuring daily hikes and other activities. The Annual Outing has been a Chemeketan tradition since 1929, the year after the club's formation. It has been a signature event every year except for 1941-44 during WWII and 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Our 2023 Outing destination is on the north side of the Olympic Peninsula with hiking and climbing opportunities in Olympic National Park and the Hoh Rainforest, as well as kayaking, bicycling, and tide pooling along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Campsite: The campsite is at the Clallam County Fairgrounds, which is close to the northern entrance to Olympic National Park and the road to Hurricane Ridge. The campsite is reserved for Friday, July 21, for first week campers who wish to arrive early. However, no meals are provided until supper on Saturday, July 22. Second week campers may arrive after breakfast on Saturday, July 29. The first meal provided is supper.

Getting there: The drive from Salem to the Clallam County Fairgrounds, 1608 W 16th St, Port Angeles, is about 280 miles and a 5-hour drive via I-5 and Hwy 101. Continue on W 16th St along the north boundary of the fairgrounds. Continue straight where W 16th St becomes W 18th St, then turn south onto S L St. Look for the signed West Parking Lot and park there. The adjacent large grassy area is where we will camp. Campers will need to carry their camping gear from their vehicle in the parking lot to their campsite.

Weather and Habitat: During late July and early August, average daily high temperature is 73 F, average low 55 F, and average rainfall for the month of July is .85 inches. The National Park and surrounding Olympic Peninsula have snowy peaks that drop to mist-shrouded coast. Misty temperate rain forest on the west side, lies only 34 miles from dry oak savanna in the rain shadow northeast of the mountains. If the weather forecast is for rain and wind on the west side, eastside trails may be warm and dry and offer better views. The quick changes in elevation and precipitation provide many different habitats in a small geographic area.

Showers: There are flush toilets and two shower facilities at the campsite. Bring quarters for the pay showers.

Drinking Water and Electricity: Drinking water is available at the campground, and there are a few electrical outlets in the dining area. Cell phone service with most major plans is available at the campsite. Service may be spotty or nonexistent within the National Park.

RV Hookups - A limited number of RV hookups are available.

Pets: Pets are not allowed at the Outing, with the exception of trained service animals.

Hiking: Hiking is the main activity of the Outing, and the Outing Guide will include descriptions of hikes and specifics about signing up for and leading hikes. There will be a number of hikes each day. Anyone can start a sign-up sheet and organize a hike.

Passes and Fees: Entrance to Olympic National Park requires a \$30 per vehicle pass that can be purchased at the park entrance and will be good for a week. The Park recommends purchasing **and printing** your pass in advance online at: [Olympic National Park Site Pass - Recreation.gov](https://store.usgs.gov/senior-pass). A paper copy will be required for Park entrance. One Federal Senior Pass (persons 62 and older can pre-purchase either an annual \$20 or lifetime \$85 pass) is good for the entire vehicle. The Federal Senior passes can be purchased online at: <https://store.usgs.gov/senior-pass>. Passes must be displayed on the vehicle dashboard at park entrances, trailheads, campgrounds and lodges.

Further information about trails and other recreational opportunities can be found at: [Olympic National Park](https://www.nps.gov/olym)

Non-Hiking Activities

Tide pooling: **Salt Creek Recreation Area** on the Strait of Juan de Fuca is the closest place for good tide pooling if there is a minus low tide. It has free day use. Go west on Hwy 101, then turn right onto Washington Hwy 112 for 7.2 miles. Turn right onto Camp Hayden Rd for 3.5 miles. Turn Right onto Tongue Point Park for .1 mile to Salt Creek Recreation Area. Drive through the camping area to the parking lot and stairs down to the tide pools. There are also several walking paths and a WWII historic site in the Park.

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (off Hwy 101 between Sequim and Port Angeles) on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. \$3 entrance fee. Good place for bird and marine mammal watching. You can walk 5.5 miles on Dungeness Spit out to the Lighthouse (avoid high tides). There is also an adjacent county park with upland trails and mountain views.

Ferry to Victoria: Be sure to bring your passport if you wish to visit Victoria on Vancouver Island, Canada. Day trip package for ferry, Butchart Gardens and roundtrip shuttle between them is about \$110. Click here for ferry information: [Schedule and Fares - Black Ball Ferry Line](https://www.blackballferry.com)

Kayaking: Ediz Hook (a three-mile, crescent-shaped sand spit extending from the Port Angeles shoreline) provides shelter from the waves of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and makes for an excellent spot to launch a kayak or canoe.

Biking: The Olympic Discovery Trail is a 135-mile bike route that runs through Port Angeles. It is composed of road and multi-use paths. More than half is on non-motorized paths. [Olympic Discovery Trail - Pathway to the Pacific](#)

Aquarium: Get up close and personal with the marine life of the North Olympic Peninsula at [Feiro Marine Life Center | Aquarium in Port Angeles](#)

Lavender fields near Sequim (about 20 miles east of camp) should be in full bloom during the Outing. See [Sequim Lavender Experience](#)

National Park Visitor Information: 360-565-3130, 9 am to 4 pm daily.

National Park Wilderness Information Center: 360-565-3100, 9 am to 4 pm daily.

Cell Phone Service: Cell phone coverage varies by carrier: Verizon is good, AT&T is not reliable.

Camp Procedures

Note: Any change in procedures due to Covid-19 will be announced in camp.

Meals: A hot breakfast and dinner and a brown bag lunch, including vegetarian entries, will be provided from the first Saturday (July 22) dinner through the last Saturday (August 5) lunch. Dishes and utensils are provided. Backpackers are responsible for their own food while away from camp. No reduction in rates is made for campers who substitute their own food items, or for meals not taken. You may return for seconds after all other campers have been served, including the cooks and servers.

Breakfast is served at 7:00 am. Coffee and other hot drinks will be available earlier in the dining area. When the breakfast line starts, campers enter the dining tent and pick up tray, utensils, etc. and proceed through the serving line. Servers will fill your tray per your request.

Dinner is served at 6:00 pm. The procedure is identical to breakfast. If you will be late for dinner, consider a restaurant or make other arrangements.

Lunch is self-prepared from a variety of foods set out on tables near the dining tent before breakfast. Lunch food will be in place at 6:15 am and removed at 6:45 am. Lunch workers make their own lunches prior to opening the line. You are welcome to take whatever you need, but please take only what you need. Chemeketans practice conservation by reusing baggies and paper sacks as practical. Campers are also encouraged to bring reusable lunch containers.

If a group of you plan to miss a meal, please let the cooks know.

Please do not enter the kitchen unless you are working there or on legitimate business.

Hand washing: To prevent contamination and food related illnesses, **wash your hands thoroughly with soap** prior to entering the food tent or making a lunch. Ensure that children's hands are washed. Use the provided utensils when taking food - do not put fingers in containers.

Hand washing stations will be conveniently located. Water from the hand wash stations should not be used for drinking.

Dishwashing: After eating, go to the dishwashing area outside. Scrape your own tray as clean as possible into the garbage cans using the provided scrapers and your napkin. Wash your dishes and utensils. The dishwashing crew will do a second wash, then rinse, sterilize, dry and return items for reuse. You may wash a personal item but do not send it through the sterilizer.

Personal trash: Campers may generally dispose of their trash in camp garbage cans but should take any cans and bottles with them. Do not leave them for the camp to deal with.

Campfire Meetings: Each evening at 7:30 there will be a campfire meeting. (Conditions will dictate if we can have an actual fire.) The purpose of this meeting is to relate important information and to report on hikes and activities. Attendance is strongly advised. On occasion, entertainment, informational presentations or sing-alongs will be offered. The meeting ends with the singing of Taps.

Camp Set-up and Take-down: It is essential to the smooth operation of camp that all campers fulfill their assigned duties AND help set up or dismantle the camp. First week campers should arrive on Saturday, July 22 early enough to help set up camp. Set up will start by 9 am. The campsite will be available on Friday afternoon, July 21, for those who wish to arrive early. Second week campers may arrive after breakfast on Saturday, July 29. Camp take-down will start on Friday evening, August 4 and continue with truck loading on Saturday morning. All second week campers are expected to remain in camp on the last day to help with the take-down until the truck is loaded which is usually completed well before noon.

Campers are expected to bring their own camping equipment and supplies.

Suggested Equipment List

Tent	Day Pack/essentials/first aid	Water bottles/ bladder
Sleeping bag	Insect repellent	Coffee cup
Air mattress or pad	Sunglasses	Toiletries
Pillow	Sun block	Soap, towel
Clothes for range of conditions	Flash light/batteries	Small bucket/ dishpan
Hiking boot	Camera	Clothesline, pins
Water shoes or sandals	Rain gear	Maps/compass
Camp chair	Lunch container	Alarm clock
Water container 3-5 gallon	Binoculars	

Camp Duties

The Outing is a cooperative enterprise. Cooks and pots and pans washers are hired to do the most time-consuming jobs. Participants share duties, such as dishwashing, food serving, lunch prep and sanitation. Duties are assigned prior to camp and posted in the registration area. Please check your assigned duties shortly after arriving at camp, because your duties may start with the first meal. If you are going to arrive for camp late or leave early, please notify the Outing Chair or Governor. Camp duties are described below. If you have questions, ask the Governor.

Campfire Setup: If fires are permitted, make sure enough wood is by the fire ring for the evening campfire. Have two buckets of water and a shovel nearby. Light the fire early and keep it going. Extinguish the fire after the group has disbanded. Weather conditions or local restrictions may ban fires, check with the Governor.

Dishwashing: Six people are normally assigned to this duty per meal. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes and use the provided water-proof gloves and aprons. An experienced person (the first person on the duty roster) is designated as leader. The lead dishwasher will be responsible for organizing the shift and ensuring that the job is properly completed. Dishwashers eat first (go to the front of the serving line) and should be on duty as soon as any campers finish eating. Staff will fill the wash and rinse tubs with hot water and soap. The water will be changed when it becomes too dirty or cool. Freshly washed dishes are stacked in the sterilizer basket, immersed in the sterilizer boiler for one minute and emptied onto the drying table. After the dishes have air dried, they are packed into the plastic storage bins and returned to the dining area. The utensils are rinsed in a bucket and sorted into their carriers, handles up. The carriers are then placed in the sterilizer for one minute, removed to air dry and returned to the dining area. When all dishes have been washed, empty the dish and rinse water into the designated area, rinse the tubs and place them upside down on the dishwashing tables. Staff will dismiss the crew.

Pots and Pans: Pots and pans washers also go to the head of the meal line and after eating report to the staff for directions. Staff is responsible for the propane water heater and sterilizers.

Janitor: The two persons assigned to janitor duty clean and restock the toilets and hand wash stations. They keep a supply of toilet tissue in each toilet and keep them clean and free of litter. They sweep the floor, wipe the seats with disinfectant wipes, and empty the trash as needed, preferably when demand is low. This duty maybe reduced because of the restroom facilities provided at the Clallam County Fairgrounds.

Servers: This is a before and after meal duty. Breakfast and dinner servers report to the dining tent for duty a half hour before the meal. They wipe down all tables and place napkins, condiments and other necessary items on the tables. They assist the cooks as needed and serve the food, listening to campers' requests to avoid waste. Servers eat after serving the campers. After eating, servers wipe down the tables again, take empty containers to pots and pans washers, and help put away food. The first person listed on the duty roster will be responsible for organizing the shift and ensuring that the job is properly completed. *Try to ask this crew leader questions before asking the cooks, who are busy finalizing the meal.*

Evening Lunch Prep: Evening lunch duty people go to the head of the dinner line. After eating, report to the lunch truck to prepare food for the following day's lunch. Follow the lunch supervisor's directions. Directions are also posted on the wall of the truck. Take all dirty dishes and utensils to the pots and pans wash area.

Morning Lunch Prep: Morning lunch duty people report to the lunch truck at 6:00 a.m. Wipe down the lunch tables. Follow the lunch supervisor's directions for stocking the tables with food, drinks and supplies. Morning lunch prep personnel make their own lunches prior to opening the line at 6:15. Watch the tables and keep them replenished. Combine remaining food onto one table when the lunch line begins to thin out. At 6:45 remove the remaining food from the tables and store it properly in the truck. Take all dirty dishes to the pots and pans wash area and wipe down the tables.

Garbage and Recycling: This is a two-part duty - both morning and evening. After meals, empty the garbage cans in the kitchen, dining, and washing areas. Twist the bags closed and transport them to the dumpster as needed. Place fresh bags in the garbage cans. Break down cardboard boxes, remove the bottoms from cans and flatten them, then place all in the designated recycle area. Check with the cook or food chair for additional duties.

For questions contact:

Outing Chair: Sam Litke, 503-507-7844

Outing Treasurer: Susan DeLaune sdelaune2@gmail.com 503-378-1456

Other Outing Committee members:

Food Coordinators: Zsa DuBois and Katie Nelson

Lunch Supervisors: Mary Coleman and Elly Collier

Outing Guide: Roz Shirack

Duty Roster: Ann Hanus and Karen Craven

Janet Adkins, George Adkins, Ruth Braun, John Eibert, Ric LaTour, Mary Liepins, Sam Litke, Bill Nelson, Scott Torgeson

Hiking Guide

The purpose of this Hiking Guide is to provide a brief description of the best hikes in the area and driving directions to trailheads. **It does not replace the need for a map and compass to navigate the trails.**

How to Sign-Up for Hikes: Hikes planned for each day are listed on sign-up sheets in the Hikes Notebook at the Activity Table. Hikers are welcome to sign-up for any hike that they are able to complete. If you have questions, check with the listed hike leader.

Each trip should have a designated hike leader and a minimum of three people total (for safety). Anyone can take responsibility for being a hike leader and start a sign-up sheet for a hike. At the Outing hike leaders are not expected to be familiar with the trails. All hikers are responsible for their own safety and knowing where they are on the trail.

Hike leaders should describe the trip and trailhead location on the sign-up sheet in enough detail that we can find you in the event you don't show up for dinner. If you plan to return late, please note that on the sign-up sheet and let the cooks know you and the group will miss dinner. Hike leaders: please leave some space on your sign-up sheet for new hikers. When a group returns from a hike, it is each person's responsibility to **sign back in**.

There will be maps and guidebooks at the Activity Table for reference to help you plan your hike. Please leave these reference materials at the table. Tip: take photos of the guidebook narrative and map to use during your hike. The AllTrails app also has descriptions of most of the trails in Olympic National Park.

Hikes in designated wilderness areas are limited to 12 people. Trip leaders are asked to limit all hikes to 12 people whether or not they enter a designated wilderness.

What to Take: Hikers should wear footwear appropriate to the trail conditions. High top boots are advised. Waterproof boots are advised for hiking across low streams and in snow. Wear or carry appropriate clothing including a warm jacket and rain gear. Carry food, water, a map, compass, flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries, lighter or matches in a waterproof container, solar blanket and/or ground insulation, insect repellent, mosquito head net, sunscreen, first aid kit, pocket knife, and whistle.

A Northwest Forest Pass or equivalent is required at many of the trailheads and recreation sites in the Olympics National Forest, which generally surrounds the National Park. Watch for trailhead postings for this requirement. The Federal Senior Pass can be used in lieu of the Northwest Forest Pass.

A free, self-issue permit available at the trailhead is required for hiking into designated wilderness areas in national forests (not Olympic National Park). Please fill out a permit for your wilderness hikes. It helps the Forest Service manage the public land and it helps us find you if you go missing.

Trail etiquette: Uphill hikers have the right of way when two or more hikers meet on a trail. If possible, move off the trail when yielding the right of way. A hiker should yield to bicycles, horses, and other less mobile users. When yielding to horses step off the trail on the downhill side, if possible.

Many trails offer a range of hikes from easy to hard, depending on how far you want to go. Even if you want an easy hike, read the descriptions of the harder hikes to see if there is a nice lake or other point of interest along the way that can be reached on an easier hike.

Most of the hikes are described as out and back hikes or loops. There are many more options for longer loops, shuttles, or cross-key hikes you can plan by checking your map.

Driving distances to trailheads are estimates and reported as one-way. Driving distance is measured starting at Hwy 101 after leaving the campground, so it will undercount actual miles by a few miles. Use your odometer to determine actual miles.

Hike Ratings: Hikes are rated as easy, medium, or hard, and defined as:

Easy: up to 5 miles roundtrip and 1,000 feet of gain.

Medium: up to 10 miles roundtrip and 2,000 feet of gain.

Hard: up to 15 miles roundtrip and 3,000 feet or more of gain.

Olympic National Park-North Side

1. Heart O' the Forest Trail

Easy

Hiking Distance: 4.4 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 800 ft.

Driving Distance: 7.7 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn left onto Hwy 101 for 1.3 miles. Turn right onto E Lauridsen Blvd for .8 mile. Turn right onto S Race St for .2 mile. Continue straight onto Mt. Angeles Rd for .2 mile. Turn slight right onto Hurricane Ridge Rd for 5.2 miles to the Heart O' the Hills Ranger Station. The trail begins by the E Loop of the Heart O' the Hills campground. Park in the large lot south of the trailhead.

This is a close-by and quiet trail that goes through some of the grandest old-growth forest in the National Park with trees over 8 feet in diameter. If you want to avoid the elevation gain, turn around where the trail descends into a narrow creek valley with smaller trees. Otherwise, continue to trail's end at the National Park boundary. There you are met by a clear cut forest up to the Park boundary. Dry your eyes and flee back into the Park. This trail offers a sobering reminder of the benefits of our National Parks.

2. Lake Crescent North Shore (Spruce Railroad Trail)

Medium

Hiking Distance: 8 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 520 ft. (cumulative over Rocky Point twice)

Driving Distance: 21.5 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 for 13.8 miles. At milepost 232 turn right onto E Beach Rd for 3.2 miles. Turn left to stay on E Beach Rd for .9 mile. The East Trailhead parking is on the left (with toilet). Look for the trail sign on the west side of the road. **Note:** This trail allows mountain bikes.

The trail follows the northeast shore of Lake Crescent on the former Spruce Railroad bed dating to WWI. The trail sometimes runs close to the lake shore and other times climbs 40 feet above the lake. The lake and trail curve around Pyramid Mt on your left. At .8 mile look for the spur trail on the left to Harrigan Point for the first good views of the Lake. In another .3 mile the trail rounds Devils Point for more good views of the Lake and Mt Storm King rising to the south, and then crosses a bridge over rocky cove. At 2.9 miles the trail passes one of the old railroad tunnels (unsafe to explore). The trail continues through more forest before dropping to the West Trailhead (with toilet). Return the way you came or leave a shuttle vehicle at the West Trailhead.

3. Pyramid Peak

Medium-Hard

Hiking Distance: 7 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 2,400 ft.

Driving Distance: 28.8 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 W for 24 miles. Turn right onto gravel Camp David Jr. Road for 1.6 miles to the North Shore picnic area parking. Look for the trail sign by the road.

This trail climbs steadily to the summit of Pyramid Peak (3,050 ft) for good views of Lake Crescent, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and snowy Cascade peaks. The trail begins in mixed forest and soon provides views of Aurora Ridge rising over Lake Crescent to the south. At 1.7 miles the trail crosses a frequent slide area for 100 yards. Soil and rocks may be loose, so use caution and hiking poles. After 2 miles the trail crosses a saddle where Vancouver Island can be seen to the north. At 3.5 miles the trail reaches the summit and an old lookout shack for plane spotting during WW II. Views of Mount Storm King and Happy Lake Ridge are seen to the southeast, and Mt Baker and other North Cascade peaks to the northeast. Look for Lake Sutherland to the east of Lake Crescent. The land separating the two lakes is the remnant of the landslide that formed Lake Crescent 8,000 years ago.

4. Mount Storm King

Medium

Hiking Distance: 3.8 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 2,100 ft.

Driving Distance: 17.2 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 W for 17 miles. Turn right onto Lake Crescent Rd for 500 feet. Turn right at the first junction for a short ways to the Storm King Ranger Station and parking.

This hike is short and steep and may feel more like a hard hike. The trail ends high on the shoulder of Mt Storm King (2,650 ft) with wonderful views. Only a primitive, exposed trail continues to the summit and is not recommended. A number of search & rescue calls are made every year on that upper portion to the summit, so be advised.

The hike starts on the Barnes Creek trail as a paved nature trail that crosses under Hwy 101, then enters an old-growth forest. At .5 mile and before crossing Barnes Creek, turn left onto the Mt Storm King trail. The trail climbs through mixed forest and open meadows. Views open up of Lake Crescent and Vancouver Island near the end of the maintained trail.

To see Marymere Falls on your way back, turn left onto the Barnes Creek Trail for .1 mile to the Marymere Falls trail on the right. The falls are at the end of that short trail.

5. Aurora Ridge to Eagle Lakes

Hard

Hiking Distance: 11 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 2,130 ft.

Driving Distance: 17.2 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 W for 20.2 miles. Turn left onto Sol Duc Hot Springs Rd for 2.5 miles to the small marked trailhead.

This trail follows a forested ridge top, then drops down to two pretty lakes with cascading inlet stream. The trail begins a gentle ascent through tall alders and young Sitka spruce with forest wildflowers. After a half mile, the trail becomes steeper as it climbs up Aurora Ridge for another mile. The trail then undulates up and over the knobs that dot the top of the ridge for the next 3 miles. At the 5-mile point is the junction with the marked Eagle Lakes spur trail. Turn left and descend .5 mile (and 380 ft) to the main Eagle Lake (3,040 ft). This trail is not heavily used and offers solitude.

6. Lunch Lake

Hard (Easy to Sol Duc Falls)

Hiking Distance: 14.4 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 2,500 ft.

Driving Distance: 41 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 W for 26.8 miles. Turn left onto Sol Duc Springs Road for 13 miles to its end at a large parking lot. Look for the Sol Duc Falls Trail sign at the south end of the lot.

The trail begins in tall forest. In .8 mile it reaches Sol Duc Falls and shelter. Turn right to reach the river and a good view of the falls. The falls are an interesting destination for an easy hike. To continue up to Seven Lakes Basin, return to the main trail and shortly turn right onto the High Divide/Deer Lake Trail. The trail passes through mixed forest for 2.5 miles to Deer Lake, which sits in a wet meadow. Soon after passing Deer Lake, stay left at a trail junction. The trail passes through wildflower meadows, then climbs more steeply up to the crest of High Divide. Follow this ridgeline for about 1.5 miles with views down into the huge glacier-carved Seven Lakes Basin to the left and Bogachiel Peak to the right. After 6.7 miles from the trailhead, at a bouldery saddle, turn left onto the Seven Lakes Basin spur trail and drop down into the basin. Stay straight on this spur for .5 mile to its end at pretty Lunch Lake. A ranger station is on a knoll above the Lake. Social trails continue through the basin to other lakes. If you cannot bear to leave the High Divide Trail, it continues for about 3 miles before descending (but often holds snow into late summer).

Hikes #7 to #12 are accessed from Hurricane Ridge Rd, which has reopened at the Heart O' the Hills entrance station for a limited number of vehicles starting at 7:30 am daily. Arrive early to increase your chance of getting in. Call 360-565-3131 for road updates.

7. Hurricane Ridge Loops

Easy to Medium

Hiking Distance: 2-mile Loops

Elev. Gain: 200 ft.

Driving Distance: 21.5 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn left onto Hwy 101 E 1.3 mile. Turn right onto E Lauridsen Blvd for .8 mile. Turn right onto S Race St/Hurricane Ridge Road for 18.1 miles to Hurricane Ridge former Visitor Center parking lot.

Hurricane Ridge is the most accessible and popular area of Olympic National Park. At 5,242 feet it offers spectacular mountain views, including Mt. Olympus, a diverse array of wildflowers, and a good chance of seeing Olympic marmots, deer, and other wildlife. It has a series of short, paved loops that depart from the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center parking lot. There are a lot of trail junctions so get a map at the Visitor Center. Start by finding the Big Meadow Trail at the parking lot to access the Big Meadow and Cirque Rim loop trails. Big Meadow has some of the

best wildflower displays in the Park. Hurricane Ridge escaped glaciation, so it has a large variety of flowers, some endemic to Hurricane Ridge. Then add the .5-mile High Ridge Loop to the east of the Big Meadow/Cirque Rim Loop. It climbs higher and provides great views down several river valleys and to the Bailey Range and Mt Olympus. Part of this loop is gravel. At the northern point of this loop, turn right onto the short Sunrise Point Spur for 360-degree mountain views. These trails are best done on a weekday in clear weather. Guided ranger walks are offered periodically.

8. Klahhane Ridge

Medium

Hiking Distance: 6.6 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 400 ft.

Driving Distance: 21.5 miles one-way

Driving Directions: See directions to Hurricane Ridge parking lot in Hike #7 above.

From the High Ridge Loop in hike #7, turn right onto the Klahhane Ridge Trail. This is a wonderful ridge walk that stays high and provides great views to the north and south. Most of the trail is lined with wildflower meadows. After 2 miles the trail reaches the base of Mt. Angeles. Stay to the right to circle around the south base of Mt Angeles. The spur trail to the left turns into a scramble to the top of Mt Angeles Peak and is dangerous. Continue on the main ridge trail to a pass and the Heather Park Trail junction on the left. Turn around here for a 6.6 miles round trip hike. Or continue right on the Klahhane Ridge Trail for another mile where it starts to descend. Return the way you came.

9. Hurricane Hill

Easy

Hiking Distance: 3 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 700 ft.

Driving Distance: 22.8 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Drive as in hike #7, and continue past the former Visitor Center parking lot 1.3 miles to the parking at road's end.

This is a paved nature trail that gently climbs up the meadow ridgeline to the summit (5,757 ft) with 360-degree views. In .2 mile stay straight at the junction with the Little River Trail on the right, and continue up to the summit. Mountain views, including the Bailey Range and Mt. Olympus to the south, Mt. Angeles to the east, and Unicorn Peak to the north. Views also extend up the deep canyons of the Elwah River and its tributaries. This trail is popular and best done on a weekday in clear weather.

10. PJ Lake

Easy

Hiking Distance: 1.8 mile RT

Elev. Gain: 770 ft.

Driving Distance: 25.2 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Drive as in Hike #7 to the parking lot. Turn left onto gravel, narrow Obstruction Point Road for 3.7 miles to a large, unmarked parking area.

The trail heads northeast and descends down Hurricane Ridge into a valley of Morse Creek. The trail crosses steep avalanche slopes and wildflower meadows as it descends. It reaches the base of a cascading creek, then climbs along that creek up to PJ Lake. The Lake is surrounded by forest with Owl Rock rising above the lake on the southwest and Eagle Point seen to the south.

11. Elk Mountain and Maiden Peak

Medium

Hiking Distance: 7.8 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 1,200 ft.

Driving Distance: 29.1 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Drive as in Hike #7 to the parking lot. Turn left onto gravel, narrow Obstruction Point Road for 7.6 miles to road's end at Obstruction Point. Several trails depart from this trailhead. Be sure you get on the trail that heads northeast toward Elk Mt and may be signed for Deer Park, it's terminus.

This trail starts by crossing a grassy bowl with a marmot colony, then curves around the base of Obstruction Peak. At .2 mile ignore the Badger Valley Trail to the right. The trail climbs up Elk Mt through rocky subalpine wildflower meadows. At 2 miles ignore the cut-off trail on the right to Badger Valley. After crossing the broad summit of Elk Mt, the trail makes a steep descent to Roaring Winds Pass. It then climbs up the side of Maiden Peak providing good views to the east of The Needles, a craggy ridgeline that runs north-south. Turn around when the trail starts to descend off this high ridge. The return hike offers even better views into the Olympic Mountains from Mt Christie to the south to the Bailey Range to the north, plus massive Mt Olympus.

12. Badger Valley & Grand Valley Loop

Hard

Hiking Distance: 8.6 miles Loop

Elev. Gain: 2,660 ft.

Driving Distance: 29.1 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Drive as in Hike #11 to the Obstruction Point Trailhead.

This hike is described going clockwise down the Badger Valley Trail to Grand Lake, then up the Grand Valley Trail. Grand Lake (4,755 ft) sits about 1,400 feet below the Observation Point Trailhead (6,140 ft), so there is a lot of elevation gain to return to the trailhead, plus ups and downs enroute. Nonetheless, this remains a very popular hike that takes you through two very different valleys to emerald green Grand Lake.

Start hiking as in Hike #11 from the trailhead, but in .2 mile turn right at the junction with the Badger Valley Trail. This trail switchbacks down a steep scree slope to the head of Badger Valley. In 1.2 miles ignore the cut-off trail to Elk Mt and stay to the right on the Badger Valley Trail. The trail continues to descend through alternating forest and meadows to the floor of Grand Valley, then follows Grand Creek up to forest-rimmed Grand Lake. There is a short spur trail to the left to the lake shore. Look for the Grand Valley Trail junction in .2 miles to the right and above the Lake for your return.

After you have enjoyed Grand Lake, hike *north* on the Grand Valley Trail. As the trail climbs up Grand Valley it passes through forest and a lush basin, but as it climbs up a steep ridge it enters arid, rocky tundra with dwarfed fir trees and wildflowers. The best mountain views are seen about 1.5 miles from the trailhead when the trail tops a high ridge providing views to the The Needles to the east, McCartney Peak to the south, and Mt. Olympus to the west.

13. Elwha River Trail

Note: Olympic Hot Springs Rd, which accesses the Elwha River Trails, is closed indefinitely to vehicles beyond the Madison Falls parking area, due to road washouts. However, hikers and bicyclists may continue on a cleared path through the washouts.

Driving Distance: 8.3 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 W for 6.2 miles. Turn left onto Olympic Hot Springs Rd for 2.1 miles to the Madison Falls parking lot.

From the Madison Falls parking lot walk or bicycle 2 miles south on the designated path along the Elwha River, then veer left onto gravel Whiskey Bend Rd to continue south along the River for 4.4 miles to road's end. This is where the actual Elwha River Trail starts. When you return to your car, Madison Falls is worth a visit. Walk .1 mile down a paved path to see the Falls.

Buckhorn Wilderness

14. Lower Gray Wolf River

Medium

Hiking Distance: 8.4 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 1,150 ft.

Driving Distance: 27.6 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn left onto Hwy 101 E for 16 miles, just west of Sequim. Turn right onto Taylor Cutoff Rd for 2.7 miles. Turn right onto Fish Hatchery Rd, which becomes Lost Mountain Rd, for 2.8 miles. Turn left onto gravel National Forest Rd 2870 for 6.8 miles, staying left at all junctions, to the Lower Gray Wolf River Trailhead with limited parking.

The trail climbs a bluff on the north side of the river through forest, then drops close to the river in about 1.9 miles. The trail stays close to the river through its scenic, steep-walled valley cut through basalt for much of the hike, with occasional climbs over and behind some hills. The trail ends in 4.2 miles at a trail washout and sheer cliff of basalt.

15. Mt. Townsend

Hard

Hiking Distance: 9.0 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 3,000 ft.

Driving Distance: 66 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn left (east) onto Hwy 101 E for 49.8 miles. Turn right onto paved Penny Creek Rd, which becomes Forest Rd 27, for 14.3 miles to a sign for Mt Townsend Trail. Do not turn, but keep going straight for .7 miles to the next road to the left. Turn left for 1.3 miles to the Upper Mt. Townsend Trailhead.

This trail climbs moderately but steadily to the summit of Mt. Townsend (6,250 ft) for great views. This is one of the best trails for a variety of wildflowers, including several that are endemic to the Olympic Mts. The trail first climbs through forest with an understory of rhododendrons that may still be in bloom in late July. Later the trail passes through subalpine meadows with a variety of wildflowers. At the 3-mile point stay right at a junction for Mt. Townsend (left is a spur trail to Silver Lake). The trail soon reaches a flat ridgetop and follows this ridge east through more wildflowers toward the summit. The summit is actually a long, narrow ridgetop with a steep drop off on the east. Watch for the short spur trail to the right to the summit and 360 degree views. To the west are The Brothers and Mt Mystery. To the east is Mt Rainier and other Cascade peaks. The trail continues, but turn around here for the 9 mile hike.

16. Tunnel Creek to Harrison Lake

Medium

Hiking Distance: 7.8 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 2,400 ft.

Driving Distance: miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn left (east) onto Hwy 101 E for 49.8 miles. Turn right onto paved Penny Creek Rd, which becomes Forest Rd 27, for 4.8 miles to a junction. Turn left onto Forest Service Rd 2740 for 7.1 miles to the trailhead.

This trail climbs along forested Tunnel Creek up to little Harrison Lake. At 2.7 miles it passes Tunnel Creek Shelter, a campsite. The valley soon narrows and the trail crosses the creek on rocks (or look for an footlog upstream with a steep bank). In another mile with 12 switchbacks the trail reaches Karnes Lake and then Harrison Lake with a tall rock pinnacle rising above its western shore. The trail continues, but turn around here for the 7.8 mile hike.

Olympic National Park-Westside

17. Rugged Ridge to Indian Pass

Medium

Hiking Distance: 9.4 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 2,000 ft.

Driving Distance: 70.6 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 W for 51.5 miles. Turn left onto Forest Service Rd 29 for 11.5 miles. Turn right onto gravel Forest Service Rd 29-070 for 2.3 miles to the trailhead at road's end. Find the trail a short distance downhill from the parking lot.

This trail climbs through very dense mature forest for 1.8 miles to the top of Rugged Ridge, crossing six small streams along the way. It then descends into the South Fork Calawah Valley through undisturbed old-growth forest. The trail makes a shallow ford with stepping stones of the South Fork of the Calawah River in dark rainforest. It then climbs through forest to the low saddle of Indian Pass in a stand of giant Douglas Fir and Sitka Spruce. Turn around here for the 9.4 mile RT hike. If you want to see even more spectacular rainforest, continue another 2 miles down to the junction with the Bogachiel River Trail in an ancient stand of spruce. But this adds another 800 feet of gain back up to the pass.

18. Hoh River

Easy to Medium

Hiking Distance: 10.8 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 200 ft.

Driving Distance: 84.4 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 W for 66.3 miles. Turn left onto paved Hoh Rainforest Rd for 18.1 miles to the trailhead at the Visitor Center at road's end. **Plan to arrive before 10 am because the parking area fills up after that, including on weekdays. Once the parking lot is full, rangers do not allow a vehicle to enter until a vehicle leaves.**

This may be the best trail to experience the old-growth rainforest in Olympics National Park. The trail has very gradual elevation gain as it follows the Hoh River upstream. The trail continues for many miles up into the high mountains, but you can turn around at any point. It is a very popular trail best done on a weekday.

The trail starts on the paved Spruce Nature Trail but in .2 mile splits off on a soft path. Giant Sitka Spruce dominate the forest with mosses, ferns, and epiphytes covering every surface. Big leaf maple and vine maple also compete for space. The trail crosses several streams then comes to a spur trail to Tom Creek Meadows and camp sites at 2.9 miles. If you continue on the main trail another 2.5 miles you reach a bench with a stand of huge spruces. You can turn around here for a 10.8 mile RT hike. Otherwise, the trail soon drops back down to the river where there are fewer ancient conifers and more large alders and vine maples.

Other easy hike options at the Hoh Visitor Center are two nature trails:

Hall of Mosses is a .8 mile loop with about 100 feet of gain.

Spruce Nature Trail is a 1.2 mile loop with less than 100 feet of gain.

19. South Fork of the Hoh River

Easy to Medium

Hiking Distance: 8 miles RT

Elev. Gain: 110 ft.

Driving Distance: 88.3 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 W for 69 miles. Turn left onto Hoh Mainline for 6.9 miles. Turn left onto Maple Creek Rd for 2.4 miles. Turn right onto H-1000 for 10 miles, passing the South Fork Hoh Campground, to the trailhead at road's end.

This trail offers a quieter path into the Hoh rainforest. Elk sightings are likely. The first half mile of the trail goes through young forest and an old clear-cut before it enters the National Park. Then it enters a mature forest with Sitka spruce and western hemlock towering over a mixed with forest with a mid-height canopy, and understory of vine maple and shrubs. Ferns and other plants carpet the ground. The trail also passes through a broad flat bottomland with widely spaced huge trees. The trail becomes rougher and covered with downed trees and then peters out at about 4 miles, just before a steep hillside rises above the river and blocks any trail from continuing east.

Olympic Coast

20. Second Beach to Teahwhit Head

Easy

Hiking Distance: 4.8 miles RT

Elev. Gain: minor

Driving Distance: 64.7 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Exit the campground to Hwy 101. Turn right onto Hwy 101 W for 51.7 miles. Turn right onto WA Hwy 110 W (La Push Rd) for 13 miles to the signed Second Beach trailhead on the Quileute Indian Reservation (no entry fee or permit required). You will pass Third Beach trailhead on Hwy 110, which is a much longer trail to reach the beach.

Check the tide table before doing this hike. A headland at 2.2 miles requires an extremely low tide to pass. This trail is an easy sandy beach walk past scenic off-shore sandstone pillars called The Quillayute Needles. The trail heads south on a bluff through Sitka spruce and western hemlock for .7 mile, then a boardwalk and steps descend down to the north end of Second Beach. A huge outcrop of eroded stone with an arch called Quateata cuts off the northern end of this beach. The trail continues south on the beach and passes tidepools in the rocky shoreline. At 2.2 miles the trail reaches the headland that requires a low tide to pass. If bare sand is not visible, turn around here. If safe, continue another .2 mile to the impassable cliffs of Teahwhit Head. Return the way you came. If you have time, also visit Rialto Beach nearby.

21. Rialto Beach

Easy

Hiking Distance: 3.2 miles RT

Elev. Gain: minor

Driving Distance: 10 miles one-way from Second Beach trailhead

Driving Directions: From the Second Beach trailhead return east on Hwy 110 for 5.2 miles. Turn left onto Mora Rd for 4.8 miles to the Rialto Beach trailhead at road's end.

This beach has cobblestone instead of sand, but passes a number of scenic offshore sea stacks and has good tide pooling. Walk north for 1.6 miles to Hole-in-the-Wall Rock at a headland. A short path climbs over this headland, if the tide is not low enough to pass on the beach. The beach continues for several more miles, but is frequently blocked by headlands, so you might want to turn around at this first headland.