



ADVENTURES
IN GOOD COMPANY



PEAKS AND PADDLES IN OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

TRIP SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hiking the astounding diversity that is Olympic National Park: sandy beaches and shore-side cliffs; giant trees in the ancient temperate rainforest; and snow-capped peaks and mountain lakes
- Kayaking on Lake Crescent, a fjord-like lake, and also with the seals, seaweed, and saltwater in the Strait of Juan de Fuca
- Relaxing to the sound of the crashing waves at the Quileute Oceanside Resort
- Staying at a national park lodge that has welcomed guests since 1916

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Location: | Olympic National Park, Washington |
| Activities: | Multisport |
| Arrive: | Our trip starts at 5:00 PM at our hotel by the airport on Day 1 |
| Depart: | We will arrive at the Sea-Tac (SEA) airport in time for flights out after 5:00 PM on the last day |

TRIP OVERVIEW

Can't decide whether you prefer mountains or beach, boats or hiking? Experience all of these - and more - as we spend a week exploring the beauty of Olympic National Park. Olympic National Park, one of the gems of the Pacific Northwest, is beloved for its spectacular scenery and amazing array of ecosystems. Often referred to as "three parks in one," Olympic National Park encompasses miles of beach along the wild Pacific Coast, the towering peaks of the Olympic Mountains, and an incredible variety of old-growth and temperate rain forests. In August, it's one of the best places in the country to visit! The temperatures are pleasant, some wildflowers are still in bloom, and the usually omnipresent rain abates for a while. On this adventure, we'll use kayaks, rafts, and our feet as we sample the best the park has to offer. Maximum group size: 12

RATING

This trip is rated a 3 and is at the upper level of that rating. The hikes range from range from 5-9 miles. The terrain is hilly, and the trail is uneven in sections. As each day usually includes 4 to 6 hours of activity and the variety of activities (e.g. hiking and kayaking) require a good all-around fitness level. **Rating:** 1 2 [\[3\]](#) 4 5

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- Seven nights double occupancy lodging All meals from dinner on Saturday through lunch the following Saturday, except for one dinner
- Guided kayaking trips in both fresh and saltwater
- One half-day raft trip with local guides
- All transportation once you arrive at our hotel near the airport, including two ferry rides

What's not included: Travel to and from Seattle, alcoholic beverages, snacks, guide gratuities, one dinner and travel insurance.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Our trip starts today at our hotel near the airport at 5:00 pm. We'll spend some time getting to know each other, then head out to dinner in one of Seattle's famous neighborhoods: Alki Beach. If it's clear, in one direction we can see downtown Seattle across Elliott Bay; in the other, we can see the Olympic Peninsula, our destination for the rest of the trip. After a stroll along the beach and dinner, we'll head back to our hotel to sleep and prepare for our adventure ahead.

DAY 2

The day begins with our journey out to Lake Crescent, highlighted by one of the most quintessential northwest experiences: a ride on one of the Washington State Ferries. The ferries are one of the lifelines linking the Olympic Peninsula to the rest of the state, and often provide good views of the Puget Sound and Cascade and Olympic Mountains. After the ferry, another hour and a half by van brings us to Lake Crescent. Here we will get have lunch and go paddling for the afternoon. You will don your wetsuit and head out on the lake. The paddle is perfect for beginners and more experienced paddlers too. Lake Crescent is a deep glacier-carved lake known for its brilliant blue waters and exceptional clarity, caused by a lack of nitrogen in the water which inhibits the growth of algae. The official depth of the lake is 624 ft! It has captured the imaginations of many - including President Franklin Roosevelt, who was so enamored of the area (including the Roosevelt Cottages at Lake Crescent Lodge) that he was inspired to establish the park in 1938. If weather conditions permit you will paddle on the north side of the lake, to "Devils Punch Bowl", a popular swimming and diving area.

DAY 3

This morning we will visit Glines Canyon, a great spot to understand the recent changes to the Elwha Dam removal and restoration project. Two dams were built on the Elwha in 1913 and 1927; without fish ladders they quickly decimated what had been a prosperous salmon run. After decades of mounting environmental concerns, along with inefficiencies that came from being older dams, Congress authorized their removal in 1992. In the last couple of years, after 20 years of study, planning, and partnerships between numerous groups, the dams finally came down, with the removal of the second one completed in 2014. We will hike to "Goblin Gates" - a dramatic set of rock outcrops that constrict the Elwha's swift waters. This wilder section of the river is above the two old dams and gives a sense of what the Elwha was like before the dams were installed. There will be a couple of hiking options after enjoying your lunch along the river. Once back at the Lodge, we'll enjoy dinner in the old dining room, and have the evening to do as we please - stroll along the shore, chat with new friends, or curl up with a good book in an Adirondack chair by the lake

DAY 4

After breakfast, we say goodbye to the old lodge and head for the western side of the park. The west side is a land of water - of coastal beaches and copious rain. Today's hike to Third Beach is a classic Olympic beach hike, and begins with a 1.3 mile hike through relatively open (for the Pacific Northwest) forest. A short, somewhat steep descent brings us to the beach along Strawberry Bay, a long, grey-sand expanse bounded by steep headlands at each end. As we walk to the south end of the beach, we get a better view of off-shore seastacks; we'll also see lots of shorebirds, big and small. For more adventure, we'll climb up and over Taylor Point to the next beach south. Climbing over headlands is always an interesting scramble, and Taylor Point is no exception; our ascent will have us using well-placed ropes (for a helping hand up steep slopes) and giant cable ladders (picture a cross between stairs and a ladder). Once up top, we'll traverse 1.2 miles through the forest, paying particular attention to the rooty, ankle-twisty sections; steep steps bring us down to the shore on the other side. If the tide is in, we'll use ropes again to go over a final small headland to a bigger beach. While the trails in the park are usually busy during the summer months, this beach is often less populated, and gives us the chance to see seastacks, kelp beds, and perhaps even an otter. For the next two nights we'll stay at the Quileute Oceanside Resort just north of Forks. Owned by the Quileute Tribe, this area has been their home for over 1000 years and the Resort is located on their private beach. (Beach only: 3.6-4.6 miles, 300' gain. Beach and Taylor Point: 6 sometimes-rugged miles, 550' gain.)

DAY 5

The temperate rain forests of the Hoh River valley are a grandiose, almost meditative counterpoint to yesterday's cliff scrambling and ocean waves. As the miles go by on this flat, out-and-back hike through forests near the river, first the big trees - sitka spruces, cedars, maples - catch our attention. Then, the little details start to catch our eyes: mosses draped over huge branches. Red huckleberries juxtaposed against decaying nurse logs. Armies of sword ferns. You can go as far as you like today; the riverside near the junction with the Mount Tom trail (3 miles in), the grove of massive cedars at Cougar Creek (4 miles in) both provide natural turn-around points.

DAY 6

Today we leave the damp west side of the park behind and head back to the north side. While today's adventure isn't in the park itself, no visit to this area would be complete without exploring the saltwater shores along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. We'll explore Freshwater Bay by kayak; depending on conditions, we may head east to the mouth of the Elwha River, where we can take in a new beach that's being formed from years of dammed-up sediment. Or, we might paddle west, along rocky shores and cliffs. Either way, we'll catch a glimpse of the saltwater soul of this area, complete with kelp forests and rocky intertidal areas teeming with marine life. If we're lucky, we might even see sea lions, seals, otters, or bald eagles as we glide across the green-blue bay. Tonight we head to Port Angeles, the small city sandwiched between the Olympic Mountains and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This city, a gateway to the park and to Canada (via the ferry to Victoria), will serve as our home for the last two nights of the trip. (6-8 miles of paddling)

DAY 7

Our last day in the park brings us to new heights, literally and figuratively. After breakfast, we'll drive up to the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center, which gives us a great first view into the heart of the mountains. From here, the views keep getting better as we drive another 8 miles along a ridge-top gravel road to reach the Obstruction Point trailhead; at 6100', we'll feel almost like we're on top of the world. Our hike starts with a gradual climb above tree-line along Obstruction Ridge, with breathtaking mountain views, wildflowers, and the occasional snowy patch along the way. From a high point of 6500', the trail drops 1700' in 2.5 miles down into Grand Valley. The reward for this steep descent is Grand Lake, a beautiful mountain lake nestled in a giant bowl. Another half mile brings us to Moose Lake, which is perhaps even grander; sharp Olympic peaks provide a spectacular backdrop to this gem of an alpine lake. We'll linger here as long as we can before we begin the climb back out. Along the way, we might hear the call of the endemic Olympic marmot while we soak up the beautiful views in every direction. (8 - 9 miles, 1700' of gain.)

DAY 8

Our journey home begins with another drive to a ferry, this time one that will bring us into downtown Seattle. Depending on ferry lines, we may have time to explore the charming town of Winslow (and get treats from the renowned Blackbird Bakery) while we wait. As we cross Puget Sound, if it's clear we can see the Olympic Mountains - and where we just hiked - from a whole new perspective. We'll finish with lunch in the ever-popular Pike Place Market, a favorite Seattle destination of locals and tourists alike. Pike Place Market has been a farmer's market since 1907, and today boasts 190 craftspeople and 100 farmers, along with more than 200 businesses - including the original Starbucks. With great views of the water and Olympics, and fresh local food, we'll celebrate our adventure together before we say our final farewells. If you want to stay and explore more of what Seattle and this area has to offer, you are welcome to depart after lunch (around 2 pm). We'll be within easy walking distance of many city bus routes and light rail to the train station and airport. Otherwise, we can have you to Sea-Tac airport by 3 pm; since summer Saturdays are busy with departing cruise passengers at Sea-Tac, we recommend you plan your flights for 5 pm or later.

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

If you are flying: Arrive Sea Tac airport (SEA) by 4:00 PM in order to make our 5:00 PM meeting time.

If you are driving: If you are driving to Seattle for the trip, please plan to arrive at the airport, where you can leave your car in long term parking, in time to meet at the hotel before 5:00 PM. Take Pacific Highway 99, to 28th Ave South, to 19621 International Blvd. Check <https://www.airportparking.com> for rates.

Our hotel will offer a free airport shuttle, details will be provided in the Pre-Departure document.

If you would like help with any travel plans we recommend contacting our travel agency, Exito Travel. Start by submitting the form you can find here: https://pay2.exitotravel.com/referral_form?affiliate_id=1090&client=1. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We spend the first night at a hotel by Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (also referred to as Sea-Tac, SEA). Our hotel will have a free airport shuttle. Rooms have 2 queen beds and en-suite bathrooms.

The next 2 nights are at the historic Lake Crescent Lodge in Olympic National Park. Rooms will have 2 queen beds and en-suite bathrooms.

<https://www.olympicnationalparks.com/accommodations/lake-crescent-resort.aspx>

We will spend the next 2 nights right on the Coast at the [Quileute Oceanside Resort](#). At this location we will have motel units with two beds, an ensuite bathroom, kitchens or kitchenettes, and an oceanside view.

The final 2 nights at a hotel in Port Angeles (Red Lion Hotel Port Angeles or similar). Rooms will have 2 queen beds and en-suite bathrooms.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

WE RECOMMEND TRIP CANCELLATION/TRIP INTERRUPTION INSURANCE, WHICH CAN HELP COVER YOUR COSTS IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL OR INTERRUPT YOUR TRIP. Travel protection plans can also include coverage for Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. Adventures in Good Company will send you information about travel insurance with your registration information, or you may purchase coverage through your own insurance company. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 20-0016. The product descriptions provided here are only brief summaries. The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained in the insurance policy. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276. 11.17 83I

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

To qualify for any refunds, we must receive notification in writing, by fax, email or mail to: Adventures in Good Company, 5913 Brackenridge Ave, Baltimore, MD 21212, Fax: 410-435-3084. Cancellation date is the date the notice is received by Adventures in Good Company in writing, either by fax, email or letter.

In the unfortunate event that you must cancel your trip, your refund will be determined by the following formula:

| Days Prior to Trip | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| International | Domestic | Refund |
| 120 + days | 90+ days | All but \$50 |
| 120 - 60 days | 90 - 45 days | 50% of trip fee |
| 59 days or less | 44 days or less | No refund |

If you have paid in full, we have a waiting list, and we can fill your spot from that list, everything but your deposit will be transferred to another trip of your choosing for which you register in the next 365 days. Trip fees may be transferred from one person to another if, in the opinion of the Adventures in Good Company staff, it is determined that the other person is in the proper physical condition to participate in the trip activity.

Adventures in Good Company reserves the right to cancel or alter a trip due to unforeseen weather, unsafe conditions, low registrations or other circumstances. On the rare occasion when Adventures in Good Company must cancel a trip, all payments received to date will be refunded, including the non-refundable portion of your deposit.

Adventures in Good Company is not responsible for expenses incurred in preparation for any canceled trips, including airplane tickets.