

A hiker and his dog take to the rugged beaches and coastline in Olympic National Park.



A mule deer is spotted in the park, which is host to a wide range of mammals, including black bears, cougars and goats.



The Hall of Mosses Trail, located in the Hoh Rain Forest in Olympic National Park, is full of bright green and lush canopies of both deciduous and coniferous species. According to Wikipedia, the "Hoh is one of the finest remaining examples of temperate rainforest in the United States and one of the park's most popular destinations."

Go for the green in Olympic N.P.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NIDA OBERT
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Whether you're drawn to mountains, forests or coast, Olympic National Park in Washington state is particularly glorious because it offers an abundance of each. You will spend some time driving in and out of the vast park — no roads go through the park — but each section will be as different and mysterious as the next. We explored the visitor center and hiking trails at the mountainous Hurricane Ridge. It was August and the wildflowers decorated our path. We admired the vastness and clear blue waters of Lake Crescent and wished we'd made reservations at the now-booked Lake Crescent Lodge. We marveled at the lush canopies on the Hall of Mosses Trail, unlike anything we'd experienced. And we inhaled the salty air as we walked the rugged coast and observed the curious and gigantic driftwood. The sand was coarse on my bare feet.

Travel notes

ABOUT THE WRITER: Elizabeth Nida Obert is a Post-Bulletin senior staff photographer.
GETTING THERE: Flew Delta into Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and drove rental vehicle from there.
WHERE YOU STAYED: Beautiful campsites within and near the park.
WHERE TO EAT: A variety of dining options near the park in Port Angeles.
SIDE TRIPS: Tacoma; Seattle and Mount Rainier National Park.
YOUR TRAVEL TIP: The park is vast. Allow several days to adequately explore.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: www.nps.gov/olymp



A variety of hiking trails await at Hurricane Ridge, the most accessible mountain area within Olympic National Park.



The views of ocean, seastacks and drift logs along the North Wilderness Coast Hike are dramatic and unique. Most of the coast is only accessible by foot.



Lake Crescent, which reaches depths of 624 feet, is home to Beardslee and Crescent trout, two types of fish found nowhere else in the world. The Lake Crescent Lodge is highly attractive and popular during summer months in the park.

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