

8-day Olympic Peninsula Tour

This itinerary describes the “car-camping” tour. If you choose to join a tour that provides hotels, the stops and locations are approximately the same. We recommend the camping tour because we will see more birds and wildlife while staying at the campgrounds. We have wonderfully comfortable tents and sleeping pads.

Day 1, Seattle: You are responsible for booking your own flight into the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA). You will be met at the airport and transferred to a hotel close by. Activities for the day depend on your arrival in Seattle.

Day 2, Dungeness: Tour begins with travel to the downtown Seattle ferry, and it is a 35-minute ferry ride across Puget Sound to Bainbridge Island. From Bainbridge there will be numerous stops to view birds and wildlife along the route to the Olympic Peninsula. We will arrive in the late afternoon to our campsite for 2-nights at the Dungeness Recreation area, which is a Clallam County Park. The Dungeness Recreation area is adjacent to the Dungeness National Wildlife, which is an excellent area for birds and plants.

Day 3, Dungeness: Early morning departure to the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center located in Olympic National Park at 5,200 feet. There are many nature paths and viewing points to see the mountains of the Olympic Peninsula. In the afternoon we will visit birding sites in the Port Angeles area.

Day 4, Hoh Rainforest: We will break camp early and head to Forks and the Hoh Rainforest. Along this route we will make several stops for viewing waterfalls, Lake Crescent, Salt Creek, and the Sol Duc River and fish hatchery. There will also be stops at the Quileute Reservation, La Push, 1st Beach, and Rialto Beach. Rialto is a spectacular beach for sea-stacks and La Push has great tide-pooling and beach walking. These locations are also great for marine life and birds. In the afternoon we will head to the Hoh Rainforest of Olympic National Park where we will camp for 1-night.

Day 5, Ocean City: In the morning we will visit the Hoh Rainforest nature trails to view huge trees, small plants, birds, and hopefully some elk. In the afternoon we will visit sites along the Pacific Coast including Kalaloch, Ruby Beach, and a few Giant Cedar sites. From the Hoh Rainforest, we will travel to Ocean City where we will camp for 1-night.

Day 6, Cape Disappointment: From Ocean City, it is a 2-hour drive to Cape Disappointment State Park, where we will camp for 2-nights. Along the route we will stop at South Bend and the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. Cape Disappointment is located at the mouth of Columbia River and is an excellent area for birds, wildlife, and hiking. The scenery is spectacular.

Day 7, Cape Disappointment: A full day to visit locations on the Cape Disappointment area including Leadbetter Point and the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. All areas are excellent for birding and hiking. We will drive across the bridge to Astoria, Oregon and visit Lewis and Clark sites along the Columbia River.

Day 8, Airport drop off: From Cape Disappointment it is a 3-hour drive to the airport. There will be a few birding and wildlife stops along the way back to Seattle.