

ADVENTURES

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST ESCAPE: THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS & OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sea kayaking from San Juan Island to Orcas Island with the chance to see iconic PNW wildlife: orcas, whales, seals, sea otters, bald eagles, and more!
- Hiking the tallest peak in the San Juan Islands, Mt. Constitution, followed by a dip in an alpine lake
- Experiencing the mystical Hoh Rainforest, known as one of the quietest places in the world
- Exploring 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
- Enjoying coastal walks and tidepooling along the Pacific Ocean

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Olympic National Park, Washington
Activities:	Multisport
Arrive:	Our trip starts at 10:00 AM 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 4:00 PM on the last day

Trip Overview

Embark on an unforgettable adventure through the San Juan Islands and Olympic National Park. Beginning in Seattle, we'll head north to explore the breathtaking natural beauty of the San Juan Islands. Spot iconic Pacific Northwest wildlife including whales, orcas, seals, otters and more along the way. Kayak to Orcas Island and hike to the summit of Mt. Constitution for sweeping views of the Puget Sound. Continue your journey to Olympic National Park, where we'll hike Hurricane Ridge, kayak Lake Crescent, and explore the mystical Hoh Rainforest. Conclude your Olympic exploration with coastal walks and tidepooling along Kalaloch and Ruby Beach and unwinding by Lake Quinault before we head back to Seattle. Maximum group size: 10

Rating

This trip is suitable for any woman who enjoys hiking, kayaking, and wildlife viewing. This trip is rated a 2 which is designed for travelers with a moderate level of fitness who enjoy active adventures. These trips are suitable for anyone who has a regular exercise routine that includes walking, biking, swimming or other aerobic activities for 20-40 minutes 3 to 4 times a week. Rating: 1 [2](#) 3 4 5

What's Included

- 1-2 local guides based on group size
- Seven nights double occupancy lodging
- All meals with the exception of 2 dinners and 1 lunch
- All transportation starting on Day 1
- Entrance fees and permits to all parks
- Sea kayaks and kayak rentals

What's not included: Travel to and from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), 2 dinners and 1 lunch, travel insurance, alcoholic beverages, and AGC guide gratuity.

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 adventure begins in Seattle near the airport, where our friendly guides will pick up our group at 10AM. From here we will start to make our way up north, taking a scenic drive through the verdant small farms of the Skagit Valley. Our first stop is Deception Pass State Park, consistently ranked as one of the most beautiful state parks in the USA. We will enjoy a picnic lunch taking in the views of the dramatic cliffs and turquoise waters. Next, we will hop aboard a private ferry to San Juan Island, where the journey itself becomes an unforgettable wildlife safari. We'll keep our eyes peeled for orcas, seals, bald eagles, and sea birds as our captain navigates through these pristine waters. After settling into the charming town of Friday Harbor, we'll take a leisurely stroll through this quaint waterfront village where you'll have the chance to explore and try some local cuisine on your own before retiring for the night.

Included Meals: Lunch

Accommodations: Friday Harbor House or similar

Travel Time: Driving (2 hours), Ferry (1 hour 45 minutes)

Daily Activities: Wildlife boat ride to San Juan Island

DAY 2

Rise and shine on San Juan Island. This morning, we dive into the island's rugged beauty and explore the dramatic cliffs and whale-watching vistas of Lime Kiln State Park, where orcas may even breach the waters just off shore. We'll stroll through enchanting lavender fields and immerse ourselves in the island's rich history at the scenic English and American Camps, stepping back in time to the days of early American settlers.

As the afternoon sun stretches across the sky, gear up for an epic sea kayaking adventure. We will paddle through the crystal-clear waters of the Salish Sea, journeying from the charming San Juan Island to the wild beauty of Orcas Island. As we glide past rugged shorelines and mist-shrouded cliffs, we'll keep our eyes peeled for any orcas breaching or tail slapping on the surface, their sleek black-and-white bodies cutting through the water with power and grace. We might also encounter migrating whales, seals basking lazily in the sun, and curious sea otters floating on their backs, nibbling on shellfish. The skies above may be graced with the soaring flight of bald eagles, their keen eyes scanning the waters below. This unforgettable sea kayaking adventure offers us a front-row seat to the captivating wildlife and natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. This evening we'll land on Orcas Island, ready to unwind and rest for the night at one of the island's charming accommodations.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Outlook Inn or similar

Travel Time: Driving (45 minutes), Kayaking (~4 hours)

Daily Activities: Gentle Hiking, Cultural Exploration, Kayaking (~8-10 miles, ~4 hours with a rest stop for a picnic dinner)

DAY 3

Today's adventure reaches new heights as we tackle the exhilarating hike up Mt. Constitution, the highest peak in the San Juans! Traverse trails lined with towering evergreens and ferns, stepping into the last remaining old-growth forest on the islands before reaching the summit, where you'll be rewarded with sweeping panoramic views of the Puget Sound and its surrounding islands. After soaking in the breathtaking vistas, descend to the crystal-clear waters of Mountain Lake for a refreshing swim and let the serenity of the alpine waters recharge your spirit. This evening, we will visit Buck Bay Shellfish Farm where we will get to indulge in some local seafood while enjoying views of the sound. Afterwards, we will go on a short tour of the island to learn more about the shellfish industry and craft producers that are vital to the economy of this island.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Outlook Inn or similar

Travel Time: Driving (45 minutes)

Daily Activities: Hiking (4.8 miles, 787 feet elevation), Cultural Exploration

DAY 4

We start the day with a short hike up to another vista, getting a feel for the flora and fauna of the semi-arid ecosystem of Orcas Island. We will then make our way to Olympic National Park with our first stop being Hurricane Ridge. This ridge sits up at 5,200 feet giving you breathtaking views of jagged peaks, glaciers, and lush valleys. On clear days, the view stretches all the way to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Vancouver Island, an awe-inspiring sight that will take your breath away! After this mountain-top experience, we'll drive to the charming town of Port Angeles that is nestled between the Olympic Mountains and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Tonight, you are on your own for dinner to be able to explore some local options. After dinner and some time to explore town, we will make our way to the serene shores of Lake Crescent, soaking in the beauty of this stunning landscape before settling in for a peaceful evening by the water.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Lake Crescent Lodge or similar

Travel Time: Driving (3.5 hours), Ferries (2.5 hours)

Daily Activities: Hiking (Orcas Island: 2.9 miles, 853 feet elevation; Hurricane Ridge: 3.4 miles, 826 feet elevation)

DAY 5

We will enjoy our morning coffee next to the peaceful Lake Crescent. This lake is one of the deepest in Washington and is quite picturesque with its vivid blue color surrounded by lush forests of towering conifers and old-growth forest. After enjoying a lakeside breakfast, we will make our way out onto the water to give us a different perspective of this tranquil getaway. After feeling revitalized with our time out on the water, we will hike Marymere Falls which is a breathtaking 90-foot waterfall nestled in the moss-covered forest and ancient trees. Afterwards, we'll continue to go deeper into this magical national park.

Cited as being one of the quietest places on earth, and truly one of the "bucket-list" destinations in the park, the Hoh Rainforest allows us to step into an ancient time when our presence in the forest was guided by a need to hear but not be heard. Hoh means "whitewater," an apt description for the boulder-strewn, braided ribbon of a river formed from the glaciers on Mt Olympus. We'll stop at the Visitor Center on the Hall of Mosses Nature Trail and continue up the Hoh River Trail for lunch by the river, and with any luck, track down an elk herd along the way. Colonnades of spruce stretch toward the sky high above the canopy, big leaf maples spread out over green meadows, and lichens and mosses run wall to wall and floor to ceiling. In this silent forest, there is more biomass per acre than anywhere else on the planet. Inevitably, you will run out of adjectives for "green!"

Tonight, we will check into a cozy lodge where we can enjoy breathtaking views of driftwood-strewn beaches and the mighty Pacific Ocean.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Kalaloch Lodge or similar

Travel Time: Driving (3.5 hours)

Daily Activities: Hiking (Marymere Falls Hike: 1.7 miles, 314 feet elevation; Hall of Mosses: 1.1 miles, 82 feet elevation; Hoh River Trail: 3-5 miles, 300 feet elevation)

DAY 6

Wake up to the soothing sounds of the Pacific and step onto the dramatic Kalaloch Beach, where weathered driftwood and crashing waves create an unforgettable scene. Walk along the shore or simply find a quiet spot to sit and take in the rhythm of the ocean. Either way we will take time to appreciate the Tree of Life, a remarkable Sitka spruce growing directly out of a cliffside. This tree has become a symbol of resilience, surviving on minimal soil in a dramatic location.

Next, we will make our way to the iconic Ruby Beach, where sea stacks rise dramatically from the mist and tidepools teem with marine life. Stroll along the coastline, feeling the salty breeze on your skin, and take time to soak in the raw, untamed beauty of Washington's rugged shores. Depending on low tide, we will go tidepooling on the search for starfish, sea anemone, crab, sea urchins, barnacles, and more.

As the afternoon unfolds, we'll retreat to the elegant Lake Quinault Lodge, a historic lakeside sanctuary surrounded by towering evergreens. Enjoy a peaceful evening sipping wine on the veranda, unwinding with a fireside chat, or taking a stroll along the lake.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Lake Quinault Lodge or similar

Travel Time: Driving (45 minutes)

Daily Activities: Gentle Hiking, Tidepooling

DAY 7

Ease into the morning with a slow breakfast by the lake, where the mist drifts gently across the water and birdsong fills the air. Take an optional rainforest stroll beneath ancient trees, breathing in the crisp, oxygen-rich air of this temperate wilderness. We will be sure to make a visit to the world's largest Sitka spruce tree that is over 1,000 years old and is an incredible 58 feet in circumference.

Midday, we begin our return journey to Seattle, winding through picturesque landscapes and making a delightful stop in Olympia, Washington's charming capital, for a farm-to-table lunch. Arriving back in the city, we will settle into one of Seattle's finest boutique hotels.

As the evening unfolds, celebrate the journey with a farewell dinner at a renowned local restaurant, toasting to a week of adventure, connection, and unforgettable memories.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: The Edgewater Hotel or similar

Travel Time: Driving (3 hours)

Daily Activities: Hiking (3.9 miles, 364 feet elevation)

DAY 8

Savor your final morning in the Emerald City at your own pace—perhaps with a relaxed waterfront brunch, a stroll through the iconic Pike Place Market, or a visit to the dazzling Chihuly Garden and Glass exhibit. Let the city's vibrant energy and scenic beauty be the perfect finale to your Pacific Northwest escape.

We will meet back up after lunch around 1 PM and transfer to the airport as a group. You can plan to catch flights departing after 4PM with a heart full of inspiration, new friendships, and the lingering magic of the wild PNW landscapes you've explored the past week.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Travel Time: Driving (45 minutes)

Daily Activities: Cultural exploration

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

If you are flying: Fly into the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) and make it to our meeting point for a 10:00AM pick-up. We recommend flying in a day early and using our hotel recommendation for your pre-night. This hotel offers a free airport shuttle that you can arrange. Details about this hotel will be provided in your Pre-Departure Document.

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 10:00AM. Take Pacific Highway 99, to 28th Ave South, to 19621 International Blvd. Check <https://www.airportparking.com> for rates.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exitto Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Exitto charges a one-time, non-refundable processing fee of \$50 per passenger.

Accommodations

To be able to experience the unique and diverse ecosystems that Washington offers, we will be moving around on this trip. We first make our way to San Juan Island before kayaking to Orcas Island. Both of these islands are surrounded by the serene waters of the Salish Sea, with breathtaking landscapes and abundant wildlife. We will be staying on both islands in small, charming boutique hotels, providing a cozy, intimate experience amidst the natural island beauty.

From there, we will make our way to Olympic National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its diverse ecosystems. The park boasts temperate rainforests, rugged coastlines, alpine peaks, and crystal-clear lakes, all offering stunning backdrops for our adventure. We will stay at three historic lodges, each uniquely located to allow us to explore the natural beauty of this remarkable area.

On our final night of the trip, we will be staying at a boutique hotel conveniently located in downtown Seattle, offering easy access to explore the vibrant city. On the final morning, you'll have the opportunity to wander through the iconic Pike Place Market, where you can experience the energy of the city, shop for fresh local goods, and enjoy a taste of Seattle's unique culture before heading home.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. 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 call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

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