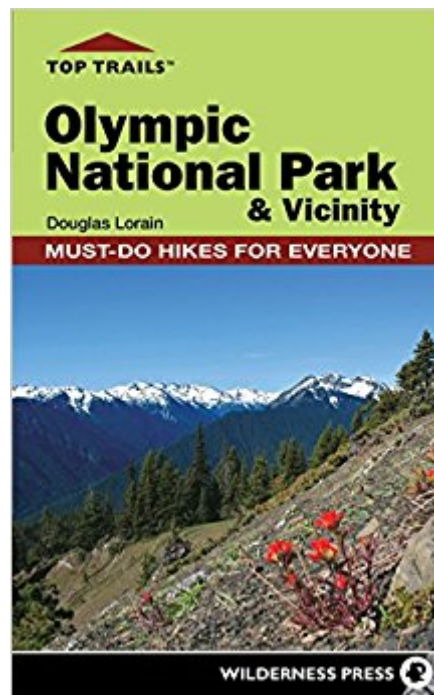




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Top Trails: Olympic National Park And Vicinity: Must-Do Hikes For Everyone (Top Trails: Must-Do Hikes)



Synopsis

Written by a renowned Pacific Northwest outdoors expert, *Top Trails: Olympic National Park* features the best of the best trails the park has to offer. This guide showcases only the most spectacular scenery and wildlife in a wide selection of routes from all over the peninsula. It includes full descriptions of brand new Mt. Muller Loop and Murhut Falls trails, as well as some truly outstanding but often overlooked hikes, including a range of options from short and easy nature trails to extremely demanding day-hikes to a few of the absolute not-to-be-missed options for overnight travelers. In keeping with the tradition of the Top Trails series, Doug Lorain's new guide will maximize readers' time and enjoyment of Olympic National Park.

Book Information

Series: Top Trails: Must-Do Hikes

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Wilderness Press (July 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0899977324

ISBN-13: 978-0899977324

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.9 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #295,724 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Travel > United States > Washington > Olympic Peninsula](#) #93 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness > Walking](#) #498 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness > Running & Jogging](#)

Customer Reviews

A recipient of the National Outdoor Book Award, Doug Lorain was described by The Seattle Times as the "next great Northwest trail guide author." He lives in Portland, OR.

Sample Trail: From Chapter 5 Northeast Region: The Rain Shadow AreaHIKE #29 DEER RIDGE

TRAILTrail Use: HikersLength: 10.2 miles, 5 hoursElevation Gain/Loss: +/- 2,840 feetDifficulty:

Level 4Trail Type: Out-and-backSurface Type: DirtContour Map: Custom Correct Gray

Wolf-DosewallipsStart and End /Coordinates: N47° 57.897' W123° 11.593'Trailhead Facilities:

NoneFeatures:Excellent mountain sceneryRhododendronsAlpine wildflowersAbundant wildlifeDeer

Park is a popular high-elevation destination in the northeast corner of Olympic National Park that from July to October can be reached by a steep and winding gravel road. Locals, however, know that you also can enjoy this mountain paradise before the road opens. That is by taking a quiet trail that climbs to the area from Forest Service land to the east. In fact, on a sunny day in late June it would be hard to imagine a more scenic hiking destination on the entire peninsula. The trip involves a stiff climb, so it's not for everyone, but for wildflowers, wildlife, and outstanding mountain views, it's hard to beat.

Best Time The trail is usually hikeable from June to October. Mid-to-late June is ideal to see blooming rhododendrons at lower elevations and rock-garden wildflowers up high. The road to Deer Park usually opens in early July, so mid-to-late June will also ensure having the high country to yourself.

Note: Opportunities for photos and wildlife viewing are better in the mornings. Finding the Trail

Drive US 101 to a junction near milepost 262, about 1 mile west of Sequim. Turn south on Taylor Cutoff Road, go 5.4 miles on this paved surface, and then turn left onto gravel Slab Camp Road. After 0.9 mile you fork right onto Forest Road 2875 and proceed 3.7 miles to a large gravel pull out and trailhead on the right.

Trail Description The trail goes south from the parking lot, initially on an old gravel road that is now closed to vehicles. After only 15 yards the trail splits. Go straight on Deer Ridge Trail and very gradually ascend on the forested hillside well above the old road. There are frequently nice views to the south of snowy Tyler Peak and Baldy. In the latter half of June, blooming rhododendrons put on a terrific display of color along this section of the trail. At about 0.8 mile the pace of your ascent goes from gentle to moderately steep, then at 1.2 miles you round a prominent ridge and come to a nice open viewpoint. The broad summit of Baldy fills the sky to the south towering above the green depths of the Gray Wolf River Canyon. About 40 yards after this first good viewpoint, you go straight where an unsigned and now abandoned trail goes left and downhill. The main trail continues climbing, generally remaining in the welcome shade of dense forest. At about 1.7 miles is another rocky outcropping on your left with nice views, although this time the views are partially blocked by trees. The trail then goes up a much steeper section before reaching a third viewpoint on another spur ridge. To the south-southwest rise the rugged high peaks of the Gray Wolf Divide, while to the west and west-southwest are an arc of snowy summits around Cameron Pass and the headwaters of the Gray Wolf River. It's a marvelous scene and for a comfortable way to take it all in walk about 50 yards up the trail to a couple of benches where you can sit and admire the view. A local hiking club installed these benches in memory of former club members who helped to maintain this wonderful trail.

The trail turns right at the viewpoint, steeply climbing the spine of the spur ridge where short trees, twisted by the high winds here, provide excellent frames for fine photographs of the distant mountains. After only 0.1 mile, the trail angles to

the left off the ridge and crosses a partially forested slope with frequent outstanding views over the Gray Wolf Valley and its surrounding peaks. At a couple of points you will even get views to the east of Puget Sound and Glacier Peak in the Cascade Range. At about 3.5 miles, you reach the top of Deer Ridge with its spire-shaped subalpine firs and scrubby lodgepole pines. The ridge also features numerous wildflower-covered meadows, awesome views, and, yes, high concentrations of deer. It is common to see a dozen or more feeding in the meadows here, especially early in the morning. The trail enters Olympic National Park in this vicinity, although there is no sign at the boundary. The trail soon cuts back over to the view-packed south side of the ridge and keeps climbing, although now at a very gentle grade. At about 4.3 miles you come to a wonderful viewpoint with wide vistas over more peaks, ridges, and canyons than I could possibly list. In late June there are also a wealth of tiny rock-garden wildflowers here including paintbrush, spreading phlox, smooth douglasia, and lomatium. The hiking is now easy and supremely scenic as you contour across open slopes for 0.6 mile to a junction. The trail to the left drops to Three Forks and the Gray Wolf River. Keep straight and walk on a virtually level trail for a little over 0.2 mile on the open southern slopes of Blue Mountain to a gravel turnaround and trailhead parking area off the Deer Park Road. If you have had your fill of mountain scenery, turn around here and return to the trailhead. If you are still bursting with energy, however, you can continue the hike by following an old road and nature trails to the summit of Blue Mountain with its wide 360° views. Tip: If you want a very easy hike, wait until the Deer Park Road opens, drive to the upper trailhead, and simply walk the easy and mostly level 0.8 mile to the high viewpoint noted above.

Milestones

1. 0.0 Take trail from parking lot (N47° 57.897' W123° 11.593')
2. 1.2 First viewpoint (N47° 56.966' W123° 11.913')
3. 2.5 Third viewpoint (N47° 56.746' W123° 12.968')
4. 4.3 Viewpoint (N47° 56.804' W123° 14.740')
5. 4.9 Three Forks junction (N47° 56.893' W123° 15.193')
6. 5.1 Deer Park Road (N47° 56.941' W123° 15.497')
7. 10.2 Return to trailhead (N47° 57.897' W123° 11.593')

This was a great book to have on our trip to Washington. It is well written and give accurate information. This was our first trip to Washington so we referred to it a lot during our 10 day trip.

I loved this guide! Very informative. I only used it for the Hoh rainforest and colonel Bob wilderness but it was pretty accurate and easy to navigate with his directions. I used it more than my map. Granted this was my first extreme camping/backpacking trip; I had no idea what I was doing and this book was very helpful.

this is a great guide - it rates the trails as well as what points of interest are on each trail

A good source for planning a hiking trip to the Olympic National Park. The included maps plus mileage and elevation profile are a nice feature.

good book

It's what I needed

Well organized book on the trails in Olympic National Park.

Very good mix of the best hikes in the Olympics.

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