

NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

SEPT. 12-18, 2022

ANCIENT FORESTS OF THE **Olympic Peninsula**

EXPLORE

THE UNFORGETTABLE
ECOSYSTEMS AND LANDSCAPES
OF THIS UNESCO WORLD
HERITAGE SITE

SEE

THE BREATHTAKING OLYMPIC
FOOTHILLS AND IMMACULATE
GLACIAL WATER

EXPERIENCE

ELWHA RIVER AND THE
EXCITING RETURN OF VITAL
SALMON POPULATIONS

Ruby Beach, Olympic National Park



Ancient Forests of the Olympic Peninsula

AVAILABLE DATES: September 12-18, 2022 | Min/Max: 16/16

Length of Tour: 7 days/6 nights

NPCA Member Price: \$4,690 per person double occupancy; \$935 single supplement

Deposit: \$980 per person due at registration

Arrive/Depart: Seattle, WA

Reservations: Please contact Jared Dial, NPCA's Associate Director of the Educational Travel Program, at 1.800.628.7275 or email the Travel Program at travel@npca.org.

Activity Level: Travelers should be prepared for full-day adventures of walking, standing and sitting. This tour includes hikes and an opportunity to kayak. Hikes during our journey are typically 1-2 miles in length, with our longest being up to 5 miles. There is significant elevation descent and gain, and our hikes in Hurricane Ridge are at an elevation of around 5,000 feet. We recommend travelers bring hiking poles. All hikes are optional and, whenever possible, your guides will provide alternative options for either a shorter or less demanding route. Hikes, walks and vehicle transportation may be on rough terrain and take multiple hours.

Inclusions: Lodging, meals as noted in the itinerary (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), all activities, tips, entry fees and carbon offsets for each trip day.

Exclusions: Airfare to trip start and back from trip end, luggage charges, alcoholic drinks, travel insurance, items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed in Inclusions.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate



HIGHLIGHTS

- Join an acoustics ecologist on an immersive retreat in the natural sounds of the Olympic Peninsula
- Learn about the Japanese Americans who were exiled from their homes and witness the National Historic Site which honors them
- Gaze at otherworldly sea stacks and observe an abundance of sea life on a special guided tour with a local naturalist at Rialto Beach
- Take leisure in the forested Sol Duc Hot Springs after experiencing the extraordinary sights and sounds of crashing water at Sol Duc Falls

Welcome to the Pacific Northwest! From the city of Seattle, make your way to Olympic National Park, one of the most beautiful places on Earth.

It is in this landscape that natural wonders, complex ecosystems and history come together to create a truly magnificent experience. Your NPCA experts and accompanying guides will show you a lesser-known side of the park as we explore by foot and on water, often with key local partners by our side. We'll explore the pristine beaches, crystal-blue lakes and rainforests, leaving with a deeper understanding of this landscape and its ongoing challenges.



Rialto Beach,
Olympic National Park



Lake Crescent Lodge @2021 DNC
Parks & Resorts at Kalaloch, LLC

ITINERARY

DAY 1 SEPT 12: Arrivals into Seattle and Transfer to Kalaloch Lodge

Arrive mid-afternoon into Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, gateway to the **Pacific Northwest**. Upon arrival, meet with your NPCA group. Transfer in a private shuttle to **Kalaloch Lodge**, approximately a 3-hour drive. We'll stop for lunch and a short walk along the way. On arrival, settle into your room at this scenic coastal lodge before we gather as a group for brief introductions and an orientation to the days ahead. This evening, enjoy a group welcome reception and dinner on-site at **Creekside Restaurant**. *Kalaloch Lodge (L, D)*

DAY 2 SEPT 13: Hoh Rain Forest and Ruby Beach

This morning, we will make our way to the **Hoh Rain Forest**, one of the most spectacular temperate rainforests in the world. Mosses and ferns blanket the ground, while lush canopies of trees shade you from above. It is truly one of the most incredible sights in **Olympic National Park**. We will spend

the day with **Gordon Hempton**, an acoustic ecologist that has circled the globe three times over the last 35 years in pursuit of Earth's rarest nature sounds—sounds which can only be fully appreciated in the absence of man-made noise. Along with Gordon, we will hike to “the quietest place in America,” a spot about three miles in on the **Hoh River Trail**. NPCA is advocating to protect these natural sounds from overhead naval training flights and air tours which will disturb precious ecosystems and the unique refuge of “the quietest place in America.” During this exclusive excursion, hear from your NPCA host about the key campaign seeking to save this necessary space and why it is especially import-

ant for U.S. Veterans. After lunch in the park, we head back towards the coast, stopping at **Ruby Beach**. One of the crown jewels of **Olympic National Park**, it is famous for its reddish sand and large sea stacks. Take time to walk up and down the shoreline, basking in the incredible views, before returning to the lodge for dinner. *Kalaloch Lodge (B, L, D)*

DAY 3 SEPT 14: Rialto Beach and Lake Crescent

After an early breakfast we'll take a scenic 1-hour drive from the lodge to the start of today's adventure out on **Rialto Beach**. Weather conditions permitting, we'll look to arrive at the start of low tide. Joined by a **local naturalist**, spend the morning looking for colorful sea stars, rock crabs, wolf eels, pricklebacks, barnacles, clams and sea snails. We'll have time to hike to the unique **Hole-in-the-Wall** formation, all while watching for otters and seals in the distance. NPCA continuously works to strengthen protections for the spectacular ecosystems and endangered species that inhabit the Olympic Peninsula. After a picnic lunch, we'll drive the remaining 1-hour to **Lake Crescent Lodge**. Check into your comfortable and cozy accommodations before an optional hike to **Marymere Falls**. This evening, enjoy some downtime and relaxation at the lodge before dinner as a group. *Lake Crescent Lodge (B, L, D)*

DAY 4 SEPT 15: Hurricane Ridge

After breakfast at your leisure in the lodge, meet the group and head towards **Hurricane Ridge**. With stunning views along the way, the drive alone is rewarding. On clear days, you can take in magnificent panoramic views of the park – views NPCA is working hard to save from detrimental regional haze pollution. We will be joined by **Tim McNulty**, a poet, essayist and nature writer based out of Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Explore on foot, learning about everything from goat removal in the park, to Olympic marmots and endemic plants. After lunch in the area, transfer to the **Elwha Dam**. It is here that NPCA has helped advance recovery of the **Elwha River** for salmon through the removal of two dams, resulting in a world-class river restoration project. NPCA continues restoration of the **Elwha River** by supporting road access away from the river floodplain following a washout. As you admire the free-flowing **Elwha River**, NPCA experts will share the story of a challenging but victorious journey to free this river and its ecosystem. From here, we will enjoy dinner on the waterfront in **Port Angeles** before ending the night back at **Lake Crescent Lodge**. *Lake Crescent Lodge (B, L, D)*

DAY 5 SEPT 16: Sol Duc Falls and Hot Springs

After breakfast, enjoy your time at leisure at **Lake Crescent Lodge**. You will have the option to join a group kayaking tour on **Lake Crescent** – the perfect opportunity to learn some of the secrets of the lake: its formation, unique ecology, phantom forest, wildlife, **Spruce Railroad tunnels**, legends and history. Alternatively, you may choose to hike on the **Spruce Railroad trail**, which winds along the shores of **Lake Crescent**, through an old railroad tunnel, and over a bridge along the lake next to the famous **Devil's Punch Bowl**. After lunch at the lodge, head out towards **Sol Duc Falls**. Along the way, stop at **Salmon Cascades** of the **Sol Duc River**, where coho salmon run from September into early November. Continue on to the 50-foot waterfalls, listening to the thundering sounds, looking for rainbows in the mist surrounding the falls and keeping your eyes out for **cutthroat** and **steelhead** salmon below. Spend the rest of the afternoon relaxing at **Sol Duc Hot Springs**. Surrounded by towering evergreens, you'll relax in one of the three mineral pools or a fresh water pool. In the early evening, depart back to **Lake Crescent Lodge** for dinner. *Lake Crescent Lodge (B, L, D)*



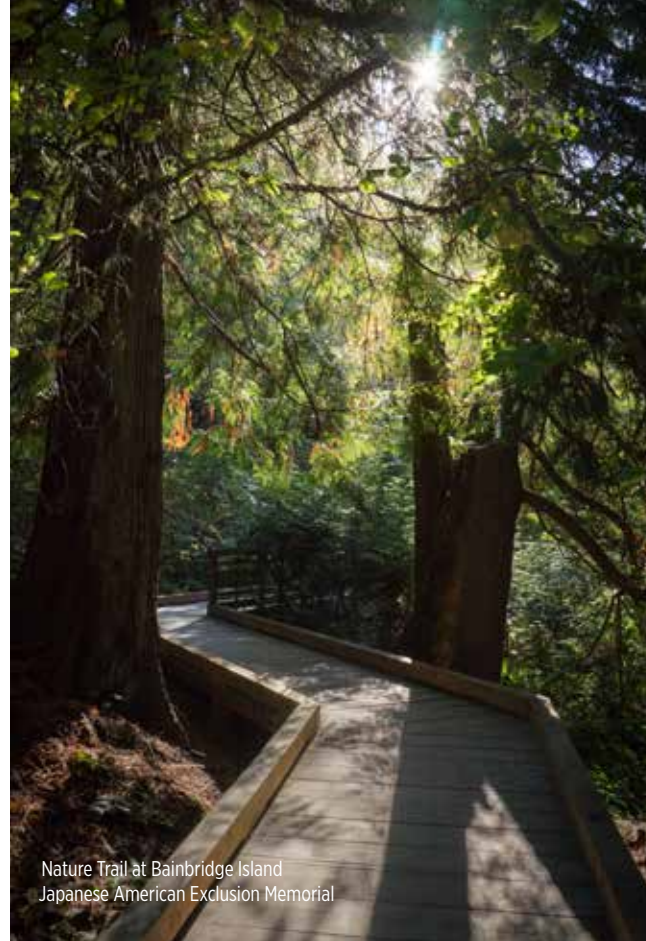
Elk in Hoh Rain Forest



Rainforest Waterfall Above Hoh River

DAY SEPT 17: Bainbridge Island

6 This morning, enjoy your last breakfast in the park before we load up and begin our 2-hour and 15-minute drive to **Bainbridge Island**. Upon arrival, meet with NPCA Northwest Regional Council Member, **Clarence Moriwaki** at the **Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial**. Built of old-growth red cedar, granite and basalt, the memorial honors the names of all 276 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were exiled from **Bainbridge Island** by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 and Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1 in 1942. The **National Historic Monument** also celebrates this island community, which defended its Japanese American friends and neighbors, supported them while they were away and welcomed them home. Discover NPCA's priorities to ensure the National Park Service safeguards, preserves and shares the stories of all Americans. Afterwards, have lunch in **Bainbridge Island's** quaint **Downtown**, where you'll have free time to explore the many boutiques, galleries and wine tasting rooms. From here, check-in to your comfortable hotel room before heading out for a final dinner as a group and reflect on a memorable and educational week on the **Olympic Peninsula**. **The Marshall Suites (B, L, D)**



Nature Trail at Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial

DAY SEPT 18: Depart for Home

7 After breakfast, we will make our way towards Seattle and ferry across **Puget Sound**, taking in the scenic Seattle skyline along the way. Your Iconic Tour leader will coordinate drop offs at the airport based on your travel plans. We recommend booking flights no earlier than 2pm. **(B)**

Please note: This itinerary is subject to change based on weather conditions and park closures related to COVID-19.



Lake Crescent
Courtesy of C. Bubar NPS Photo

Travel Insurance: To protect yourself from the loss of deposit and cancellation fees, you are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. If you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services through USI Affinity at 1-800-937-1387 or at <http://my.travelinsure.com/npc>; email confirmation packets will include additional details.

Activity Level: Our trips are appropriate for people in good health with overall good mobility. Travelers should be comfortable participating in at least three hours of physical activity per day, which include walking or standing for extended periods (sometimes on uneven terrain) and climbing stairs. Any physical conditions requiring special attention, diet, or treatment should be reported when booking to determine what accommodations can be made.

Traveler Responsibility: Travelers are responsible for choosing an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness and overall health. All travelers are required to complete and return their NPCA waiver of liability, personal information form, flight form, and accept Iconic Adventure's Terms and Conditions before being allowed to participate in a trip. Travelers also are responsible for reading and understanding all pre-departure materials and bringing appropriate clothing and gear.

LODGING

Find comfort and relaxation in each of the hotel properties we carefully selected for your NPCA trip.



Kalaloch Lodge (Olympic National Park, WA): Perched on a bluff where Kalaloch Creek flows gradually into the driftwood-lined beaches of the Pacific Ocean, Kalaloch Lodge is the only coastal lodging in Olympic National Park. It offers easy access to pristine Pacific beaches, a marine sanctuary, miles of hiking trails, and the lush, temperate rainforest that makes the Olympic Peninsula special. The history of the property dates to the 1920's when Charles W. Becker Sr. purchased a 40-acre plot of land where he built the original lodge and cabins. Like the resourceful men and women who came before him, he used the rugged landscape to his advantage, constructing his seaside retreat out of lumber milled from large pieces of driftwood that washed up on the surrounding beaches. Kalaloch's Main Lodge was built in 1953, and in 1978 the entire property was sold to the National Park Service. While some things have changed at Kalaloch over the years, the appeal of the area's natural wonders is as timeless and captivating as ever.



Lake Crescent Lodge (Olympic National Park, WA): Located in the heart of Olympic National Park, Lake Crescent Lodge dates to 1915. Nestled among the giant fir and hemlock trees on the shore of beautiful Lake Crescent, it features comfortable, spacious rooms with wonderful views of the lake. The antiques furnished lobby with its inviting stone fireplace has been a guest favorite for many years and the sun porch is one of the best places on the property to take in spectacular sunsets over the lake.



The Marshall Suites (Bainbridge Island, WA): The Marshall Suites is a boutique hotel located on beautiful Bainbridge Island, Washington just 1.2 miles from the ferry landing from and to Seattle. Located less than a mile away is the quaint Downtown, the island's hub of dining, shopping and attractions.

Trip Cancellation Policy: Written cancellations must be received in Iconic's sales office in order for a cancellation to be valid. Iconic strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance.

Cancellation charges will be as follows:

June 14, 2022	121+ days prior to departure	120-91 days prior	90-61 days prior	60-0 days prior
Final payment is due	Deposit is 100% refundable	Deposit is 100% transferable to another Iconic-operated NPCA trip OR 50% refundable	75% of trip cost is refunded	No refund

COVID19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Each of our travel partners have developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff and the communities we visit. **At this time, proof of vaccination is required to participate in this trip.** All tour staff and partners associated with the trip, including drivers, guides, NPCA staff and speakers will be fully vaccinated. As conditions and guidelines continue to evolve, our travel partners are committed to easing concerns and creating flexible options for those interested in rescheduling or booking new travel. Please contact us for details.



Why Travel with NPCA?

EXCELLENT VALUE

Our tours offer NPCA members the opportunity for behind-the-scenes access and unique insights because of our intimate relationship with the national parks. A small portion of your trip cost supports NPCA's mission to protect the parks for present and future generations.

EXPERT TRIP LEADERS

Every trip will be led by at least one NPCA expert, as well as tour operators who provide professionally managed tours in and around our national parks. Your trip leaders, guest lecturers and savvy NPCA staff will give you insights into the flora, fauna and history of each destination, leading lively discussions, and answering your questions.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS TOURS

NPCA partners with tour operators that support cultural and natural heritage, maximizing the economic benefits in the trip destinations and establishing guidelines for managing environmental impacts. Our goal is to ensure your travel will have a positive impact on the parks so that your children and their children can enjoy them in perpetuity.

CONVENIENT TRAVEL

Everything is included in your tour, such as meals, accommodations, snacks, expert speakers, transportation at the destination and all activities (unless otherwise stated). With NPCA, you can explore the parks without the hassle of planning or the frustration of crowds.

SMALL-SIZED GROUPS

Group size on each of our trips is limited to no more than 18 people to maximize your interactions with the experts, enhance wildlife viewing and boost educational opportunities throughout your experience. Enjoy stimulating conversations with other like-minded NPCA members and supporters from around the country.

SAFETY AND FLEXIBILITY

Your health and safety is our top priority. We have worked with each of our travel partners to develop safety measures for our trips in response to the global pandemic. As conditions and guidelines continue to evolve, our travel partners are committed to easing concerns and creating flexible options for rescheduling travel.

NPCA EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION

Our custom-designed itineraries are designed to give NPCA members exclusive experiences that highlight NPCA's important contributions to park protection and provide special behind-the-scenes access to National Park Service staff, NPCA partners and other local specialists. Our goal is to offer the best itineraries in adventure and educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks.

NPCA is the only independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. We are 100% privately funded and we rely on donations from individuals like you. NPCA trips are an exclusive NPCA member benefit. One traveler per group must be an active NPCA member to participate in an NPCA trip. An annual membership starts at \$15 per person. Please make dues payable to NPCA by check or credit card at npca.org.