

# NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

JUNE 20-26, 2023

## ANCIENT FORESTS OF THE Olympic Peninsula

### EXPLORE

A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

### SEE

THE BREATHTAKING OLYMPIC  
FOOTHILLS

### EXPERIENCE

THE BEAUTY OF RUBY BEACH

*Rialto Beach, Olympic National Park*



## PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayak in crystal waters situated in a glacial basin at **Lake Crescent**
- Gaze at otherworldly sea stacks and observe colorful sea life on a special guided tour of **Rialto Beach**
- Take in the extraordinary sights of crashing water and scurrying salmon at **Sol Duc Falls**

## NPCA EXCLUSIVES

- Take part in a **one-of-a-kind trip**, custom designed with NPCA's mission, work and partners at its heart
- Get a behind-the-scenes look at Olympic National Park's majestic Hurricane Ridge with **poet, essayist and nature writer Tim McNulty**
- Join **environmental scientist Lauren Kuehne** on an immersive retreat in the natural sounds of the Hoh Rain Forest
- Hear from **Clarence Moriwaki, president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community**, about the Japanese Americans who were exiled from their homes and witness the National Historic Site which honors them
- Learn from **Rob Smith, Northwest Regional Director**, about NPCA's efforts to recover the vital salmon populations on the Elwha River and removal of the Elwha Dam

## FEATURED BIO: ROB SMITH

**Rob Smith** serves as NPCA's Northwest Regional Director. Rob's environmental work has included work on land and wildlife protection, climate change, and air quality through lobbying officials and organizing local support for conservation measures.

## Ancient Forests of the Olympic Peninsula

AVAILABLE DATES: June 20-26, 2023 | Min/Max: 12/14

Length of Tour: 7 days/6 nights

NPCA Member Price: \$6,955/person double occupancy; \$1,030 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. Any physical conditions requiring special attention, diet, or treatment should be reported when booking to determine what accommodations can be made.

**Inclusions:** All outlined accommodations, meals as noted in the itinerary (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner) and non-alcoholic beverages (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner), standard gratuities, entry fees for activities listed in the itinerary and carbon offsets for each trip day.

**Exclusions:** Airfare to arrival location and from departure location, luggage charges, meals not included in the Itinerary, alcoholic drinks (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner), travel insurance, items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed in Inclusions.

### 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.



## ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate



## DAILY ITINERARY

### DAY 1 JUNE 20: Arrivals into Seattle and Transfer to Kalaloch Lodge

Arrive by 11:00 AM to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), 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. Upon 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 JUNE 21: Hoh Rain Forest and Ruby Beach

This morning we will embark on a 1-hour drive, making our way to the **Hoh Rain Forest** – one of the most spectacular temperate rain forests 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** and is home to some of Earth's rarest nature sounds — sounds which can only be fully appreciated in the absence of man-made noise. We will spend the day hiking and exploring the Hoh with **environmental scientist Lauren Kuehne**, who has worked for several years studying the impact of military flights on the Olympic Peninsula soundscape. NPCA is advocating to protect the

area's natural sounds from commercial air tours and Navy jet training flights, which disrupt 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 important 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 JUNE 22: 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 ecosys-



tems and endangered species that inhabit the Olympic Peninsula. After lunch nearby, we'll drive 1 hour to beautiful **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 JUNE 23: Hurricane Ridge and Elwha River

After breakfast 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 at **Hurricane Ridge** 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 former **Elwha Dam** site. 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 head to charming **Port Angeles**, where you will have the opportunity to relax along the waterfront, take in the views and explore shops downtown. Then, gather as a group for dinner at a local restaurant before ending the night back at **Lake Crescent Lodge**. [\*Lake Crescent Lodge \(B, L, D\)\*](#)





**DAY 5** **JUNE 24: Lake Crescent and Sol Duc Falls**  
 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. After lunch at the lodge, head out towards **Sol Duc Falls**. 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 Lake Crescent Lodge or hiking through towering evergreens. Wrap up the day with dinner at the Lodge. ***Lake Crescent Lodge (B, L, D)***

**Monument** also celebrates this island community, which defended its Japanese American friends and neighbors, supported them while they were away and welcomed them home. Here you can uncover 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)***

**JUNE 25: Bainbridge Island**  
**DAY 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, we’ll head to 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**

**JUNE 26: Depart for Home**  
**DAY 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 Trip Leader will coordinate drop offs at the airport based on your travel plans. We recommend booking flights no earlier than 2:00 PM. **(B)**

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



Eagle Harbor, Bainbridge Island, WA

**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/npca>; email confirmation packets will include additional details.

**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.

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

**Cancellation charges will be as follows:**

121+ days prior to departure	120-91 days prior	March 22, 2023	90-61 days prior	60-0 days prior
Deposit is 100% refundable	Deposit is 100% transferable to another Iconic-operated NPCA trip OR 50% refundable	Final payment is due	50% of trip cost is refundable	No refund

**COVID-19 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. **In order to participate in this trip, you must be up to date on all COVID-19 vaccinations, as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** Please contact us for details.



# Why Travel with NPCA?

Our goal is to offer premium itineraries in educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks.

For over 100 years, NPCA has worked to protect places of unparalleled natural wonder, historical significance and cultural value. Now we want you to experience them firsthand with our knowledgeable staff and partners. Each of our mission-driven trips is custom-designed exclusively by NPCA for you, our closest supporters. Gain valuable insights into our advocacy and conservation efforts by taking a personal look at NPCA's important contributions to park protection. You'll come away with a deeper understanding of, and connection to, this crucial work, made possible only by your support.

## **GAIN ACCESS TO OUR EXPERTS**

Spend quality time with your knowledgeable NPCA trip experts as you experience the national parks alongside those who have fought to protect them. Our trips provide special behind-the-scenes access to National Park Service staff, NPCA partners and other fascinating specialists who bring these places and their stories to life, providing insights into the cultural, natural, and historical significance of the areas and topics explored.

## **SUPPORT NPCA'S MISSION**

By traveling on any of our trips as an NPCA member, a percentage of your trip goes back to support NPCA's work to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations.

## **ENJOY SMALL GROUPS**

Group size on each of our land trips is guaranteed to be no more than 18 people to maximize your interactions with the experts, boost educational opportunities and allow the group to access lesser-visited places that larger groups cannot. You'll be joined by other park enthusiasts from around the country to share in the experience.

## **TRAVEL WITH EASE**

With NPCA, you can explore the parks without the hassle of planning on your own. Everything is included in your tour, such as meals, accommodations, expert speakers, transportation at the destination, and all activities (unless otherwise stated). We have also worked with each of our travel partners to develop safety measures for our trips in response to the global pandemic.

## **TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY**

Each NPCA travel operator partner is selected based on criteria that includes a commitment to environmentally and socially responsible travel so that we can ensure our parks are preserved in perpetuity.

Hoh Rain Forest, Olympic National Park

NPCA is the only independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. Over 70% of our funding comes from donations from individuals like you. NPCA trips are an exclusive NPCA member benefit. One traveler per group must be an 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](https://npca.org).