

NPCATRAVEL



THE TRAVEL PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2025

ANCIENT FORESTS OF THE Olympic Peninsula

EXPLORE

A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

SEE

THE BREATHTAKING OLYMPIC
FOOTHILLS

EXPERIENCE

THE BEAUTY OF RUBY BEACH

Hoh Rain Forest, Olympic National Park



PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayak the crystal waters of **Lake Crescent**, situated in a glacial basin
- Marvel at magnificent views of towering mountain peaks at **Hurricane Ridge**
- At **Sol Duc Falls**, take in the extraordinary sights of crashing water and scurrying salmon

NPCA EXCLUSIVES

- Take part in a **one-of-a-kind trip**, custom designed with NPCA's mission, work and partners at its heart
- Join **environmental scientist Lauren Kuehne** on an immersive retreat in the natural sounds of the **Hoh Rain Forest**
- Tour the **Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial** with **Clarence Moriwaki**, former president of the memorial and the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community
- Learn from **Rob Smith, Northwest Regional Director**, about NPCA's efforts to recover the vital salmon populations in the Elwha River
- Gaze at the otherworldly sea stacks and colorful sea life of **Rialto Beach** with a **local naturalist guide**

Sol Duc River

Ancient Forests of the Olympic Peninsula

AVAILABLE DATES: September 17-23, 2025 | **Min/Max:** 12/15

Length of Tour: 7 days/6 nights

NPCA Member Price: \$6,995 per person double occupancy; \$8,280 per person single occupancy

Deposit: \$980 per person due at registration

Arrive/Depart: Seattle, WA

Reservations: Please contact NPCA's National Parks Experiences Program at **1.800.628.7275** or email 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 on 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 and entry fees for activities listed in the itinerary.

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.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate



FEATURED STAFF HOST 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.

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. NPCA experts, accompanying guides and key local partners will show us a lesser-known side of the park as we explore by foot and on water. We'll visit pristine beaches, crystal-blue lakes and rainforests, leaving with a deeper understanding of this landscape and its ongoing challenges.



Ruby Beach

DAILY ITINERARY

DAY 1 SEPTEMBER 17: Arrivals into Seattle and Transfer to Kalaloch Lodge

Arrive by 11:00 a.m. at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), gateway to the Pacific Northwest. Upon arrival, we will meet with our NPCA group and take a private shuttle to **Kalaloch Lodge**, stopping for lunch and a short walk along the approximately 3-hour drive. Upon arrival, we'll settle into our rooms at our scenic coastal lodge before we gather as a group for introductions and a brief orientation to the days ahead. In the evening, we'll enjoy a welcome reception and dinner on-site at **Creekside Restaurant**. [Kalaloch Lodge \(L, D\)](#)

DAY 2 SEPTEMBER 18: Hoh Rain Forest and Ruby Beach

This morning, we will embark on a 1-hour drive 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 Rain Forest 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 SEPTEMBER 19: 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 at **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, pricklybacks, 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. 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 SEPTEMBER 20: Hurricane Ridge and Elwha River

Following 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. Explore on foot, learning about everything from goat removal in the park to Olympic marmots and endemic plants. After lunch in the area, we'll drive to the former **Elwha Dam** site. NPCA played a critical role in the removal of two dams from the Elwha River, resulting in a world-class river and salmon restoration project. 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 we will have the opportunity to relax along the waterfront, take in the views and explore shops downtown. Then, we'll gather as a group for dinner at a local restaurant before ending the night back at **Lake Crescent Lodge**. [Lake Crescent Lodge \(B, L, D\)](#)



Rialto Beach



Rialto Beach

DAY 5 SEPTEMBER 21: 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, we will venture to **Sol Duc Falls**, where we can witness 50-foot waterfalls, listen to the thundering sounds, and look for rainbows in the mist and **cutthroat** and **steelhead salmon** below. We'll 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 \(B, L, D\)](#)*

DAY 6 SEPTEMBER 22: Bainbridge Island

We will enjoy our 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 monument** also cele-

brates this island community that defended its Japanese American friends and neighbors, supported them while they were away and welcomed them home. Here, we will uncover NPCA's priorities to ensure the National Park Service safeguards, preserves and shares stories of all Americans. After, we'll have lunch in **Bainbridge Island's quaint Downtown**, with free time to explore the many boutiques, galleries and wine tasting rooms. From here, we'll check in to our comfortable lodging before heading out for a final dinner as a group. We'll spend our last night together reflecting on a memorable and educational week on the Olympic Peninsula. *[The Marshall Suites \(B, L, D\)](#)*

DAY 7 SEPTEMBER 23: Depart for Home

After breakfast, we will make our way towards Seattle and ferry across **Puget Sound**, taking in the scenic Seattle skyline along the way. We will coordinate drop offs at the airport based on individual travel plans. We recommend booking flights no earlier than 2:00 p.m. *(B)*

Accommodations and activities are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond NPCA's control.



Bainbridge Island Harbor

Travel Insurance: NPCA strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. Information on a recommended comprehensive travel insurance coverage plan will be provided. However, travelers may purchase any travel insurance of their choosing provided it meets any applicable tour operator minimum requirements. NPCA's tour operator partners may require travel insurance for certain trips as a condition of participation; all travelers must adhere to any such requirements. Should you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services through USI Affinity at 1-800-937-1387 or at <http://my.travelinsure.com/npc>.

Traveler Responsibility: Travelers are responsible for selecting an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness and overall health. Before joining a trip, all travelers must commit to adhering to the tour operator's Terms and Conditions; completing and submitting all required documentation provided by the tour operator; conducting themselves safely and appropriately; following instructions from the tour operator and NPCA staff; and adhering to the laws of the destination(s) visited on the trip. Additionally, travelers are expected to familiarize themselves with all pre-departure materials and ensure appropriate clothing and gear for the journey. Travelers should report any conditions or limitations requiring special attention, diet or treatment to the tour operator when booking to determine what accommodations can be made.

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:

151+ days prior to departure	150-126 days prior	May 15, 2025	125-91 days prior	90-0 days prior
Deposit is 100% refundable	50% of trip deposit is refundable	Final payment is due	50% of trip cost is refundable	No refund

TRAVEL SAFELY WITH NPCA

NPCA is committed to ensuring the well-being and safety of our travelers. NPCA's tour operator partners institute emergency policies and procedures and any specific measures, such as health screenings, as necessary and appropriate, for each trip departure.



Sol Duc River



Why Travel with NPCA?

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

NPCA has worked for over 100 years to protect places of unparalleled natural wonder, historical significance and cultural value. Now we want you to experience them firsthand. Our curated itineraries are crafted to showcase the very best of our national parks and NPCA's collaborative endeavors to protect them. Join us for an unforgettable adventure.

EXPERTISE

Embark on extraordinary adventures with our knowledgeable staff who represent a wide and diverse range of backgrounds. With expertise spanning environmental conservation, cultural heritage, wildlife biology and more, NPCA staff bring a wealth of experience to each journey. Delve into engaging discussions and gain unique insight into the issues that shape our parks, including land preservation, wildlife protection, climate change and Indigenous perspectives.

STEWARDSHIP

When you choose to travel with NPCA, you're not just embarking on an incredible journey — you're making a meaningful impact. We are proud to share that a portion of every trip's fees directly supports NPCA's vital work. Your choice to travel with us helps protect and preserve our national parks for generations to come.

CONNECTIONS

Our curated itineraries offer more than just sightseeing. With NPCA, you'll delve into the cultural and natural history of each destination, guided by passionate experts who bring these stories to life. Engage with park rangers, NPCA partners and local community members as they share their invaluable insights into the challenges and triumphs of park preservation. Leave with a deeper understanding of the critical role we all play in the future of our parks.

RESPONSIBILITY

Embracing the principles of responsible travel, NPCA prioritizes minimizing our environmental footprint while maximizing our contributions to local communities. Partnering with like-minded tour operators, we source locally whenever possible, abide by Leave No Trace principles, and emphasize wildlife protection, responsible waste management and the respect of local cultures.

SMALL GROUPS

Escape the crowds and embrace the advantages of small-group travel, where personal connections and tailored experiences take center stage. The intimate size of our trips enables you to forge meaningful connections with like-minded travelers and readily engage with trip staff, partners and guides. Recognizing that each traveler is unique, our small group sizes also allow us to provide personalized attention and accommodate individual needs and interests.

Ruby Beach

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 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.