

Prospectus

Appalachian Mountain Club – Adventure Travel

Hiking Olympic National Park, Washington State (Trip #1743)

Sat, July 15 – Sun July 23, 2017



Olympic National Park, Eastern Section

SUMMARY

Olympic National Park is blessed with incredible diversity of elevation, precipitation, flora and fauna. It offers several distinct ecosystems. Glacier-capped mountains rise up to nearly 8,000'. Old-growth forests of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, western hemlock and western red cedar receive abundant rainfall—up to 140 inches in some parts—and are home to elk, blacktail deer, mountain goats, black bear and marmot. Over 70 miles of wild coast provide coves and rookeries for sea lions and sea birds, and present dramatic views of offshore sea stacks and arches.

Our adventure will start and end in Seattle, Washington, and we will experience each distinct section of the National Park, which is located to the west on the Olympic peninsula. First, we will make the town of Sequim, ~2 hours from Seattle, our base for hikes that explore the mountains and valleys in the eastern and central sections of the park. After 3 days of hiking, we will take a “day off” to travel by ferry from nearby Port Angeles to Victoria, British Columbia, frequently named one of the top-20 travel destinations in the world. Then, later in the week, we will drive ~2 ½ hour to *Kalaloch Lodge*, directly on the Pacific Ocean, stopping late morning for a hike in the Hoh River rain forest. The following day, we will hike along the coast to experience the incredible ocean scenery. Finally, we will drive back to Seattle, stopping along the way to climb Mt. Walker, overlooking the Hood Canal.

Mid-July is a great time to explore the National Park as most of the snow on the higher elevations where we will be hiking should have melted and spectacular fields of wildflowers will have bloomed in its place. Although temperatures can vary greatly and are notoriously difficult to predict, generally we can expect daytime highs in the 60s and 70s at lower elevations and progressively cooler temperatures as we ascend.

ITINERARY

Note: Leaders reserve the right to make changes to this plan as may best suit the group's needs.

Day 1: Sat, July 15: *Arrive in Seattle, WA & Drive to Sequim.* We will rent vehicles and drive ~2 hours to Sequim, where we be staying at *Quality Inn & Suites* at Olympic National Park for 5 nights. We will enjoy a group dinner, and then purchase lunch and other provisions at a local supermarket.

Day 2: Sun, July 16: *Mt. Angeles (6,454') & Crest of Klahhane Ridge.* Our adventure starts with a ~6.2 mi. semi-loop hike that rises and falls along the ridge top through alpine meadows with stands of subalpine firs and wildflowers of all varieties, including lupines and magenta paintbrush. Views will include what the Falcon Guide describes as "a sea of snowcapped peaks." There is a possibility of seeing marmots, mountain goats and black bear in the basin below us or rocks above. Elevation gain: 1,270'. Before & after the hike, we will spend time at the Hurricane Ridge visitor center.

Day 3: Mon, July 17: *Pyramid Mountain (3,125').* We will make a steady ascent of this smaller peak on the northern boundary of the park. Our 7.0 mi. out-and-back hike, partially through a forest of hemlock and red cedar, provides sweeping views of Lake Crescent, directly below us, and the rugged summits of Mt. Storm King and Happy Lake Ridge. We will also view the Strait of Juan de Fuca. If it's clear enough, we may see the snow-covered summit of Mt. Baker rising above the Cascades. Elevation gain: 2,400'. **Option:** If time permits after we descend, we may take a short hike along the north shore of Lake Crescent on the Spruce Railroad Trail, an old rail bed built before World War I.



Pyramid Mountain & Lake Crescent

Day 4: Tue, July 18: Marmot Pass (5,980'). This wonderful 10.6 mi. out-and-back hike offers great variety along the way in return for the energy we will exert. We will hike through miles of ancient forest, see plenty of wildflowers and be rewarded with spectacular views of peaks exceeding 7,000 feet rising above the deep canyon of the Dungeness River at our turnaround point. We will see stunted white bark pines that only grow in a few places in the Olympic Mountains. Elevation gain: 3,580'.

Day 5: Wed, July 19: Victoria, British Columbia. We will drive to nearby Port Angeles and take the 90-min. ferry (without vehicles) across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to spend the day in Victoria, British Columbia. The wide variety of attractions, most within easy walking distance of the ferry terminal, include: Provincial Parliament Buildings, Royal BC Museum, Thunderbird Park totem poles, Victoria Bug Zoo and Christ Church Cathedral. In addition, the Butchart Gardens, one of the world's premier floral show gardens, can be visited by taking a 30-minute shuttle bus ride. We will have an early dinner and return to Port Angeles on the 7:30pm ferry.



Butchart Gardens, near Victoria, B.C.

Day 6, Thu, July 20: Hoh River Trail & Drive to Kalaloch Lodge. We will check out of our hotel in Sequim, and after breakfast drive ~1 hr. 45 min. west and south to the magnificent remote rainforest valley area of the national park. We will start at the Hoh Rainforest Visitor Center, and then hike up to ~11 mi. out-and-back, time permitting. Along the way, we will see many Sitka spruce, some with hanging club mosses. In certain spots, we will have views of the Hoh River and heavily forested ridges. Elevation gain: 200'. After the hike, we will drive ~45 min. to *Kalaloch Lodge*, a national park concessionaire property situated directly on the Pacific Ocean where we will spend 2 nights.

Day 7, Fri, July 21: *The Shipwreck Coast.* This wild and beautiful coastline is part of Olympic National Park. It stretches 20 mi. from Rialto Beach in the south to Sand Point in the north. We will hike out-and-back ~7.6 mi. along the beach, tidal conditions permitting, starting from Rialto Beach. Our turnaround point will be Chilean Memorial, commemorating the wreck of the schooner *W.J. Pirrie*, a cargo vessel of Chilean Registry. It went down in a winter storm in 1920 resulting in the loss of the entire crew. If conditions are sufficiently clear, we will see Cake Rock, a major stack that rises far out to sea. We may also see the more ragged crest of Dahdayla Island rising closer to the beach. We will pay very strict attention to tide levels, timing start and finish times to make sure we are not isolated by the rising tide.



Dahdayla Island, Olympic National Park Coastal Section

Day 8, Sat, July 22: *Mt. Walker (2,779') & return to Seattle.* We will check out of Kalaloch Lodge and drive back to Seattle for our farewell dinner. Time permitting, we will stop after ~2 ½ hrs. near the town of Quilcene to hike 2.0 mi to the summit of Mt. Walker and back. This 4.0 out-and-back hike will reward us with great views of Puget Sound, the Hood Canal and the eastern front of the Olympic Mountains. Elevation gain: 2,000'. After the hike, we will complete the drive to Seattle, check into the Holiday Inn Express, and go to dinner nearby. Afterwards, we will return the rental vehicles at the airport.

Day 9, Sun, July 23: *Flights home.* The Holiday Inn Express complimentary shuttle bus operates 24 hrs. The hotel is located ~1 mile from Sea-Tac International.

TIME ZONE

Seattle, Olympic National Park and Washington State are located in the Pacific Time Zone which is 3 hours earlier than the Eastern Time Zone. It observes daylight savings time. So when it is 9:00am in Boston, Hartford or New York, it is 6:00am in these locations.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We will stay in 3 locations: Sat 7/15 check-in – Thu 7/20 check-out: *Quality Inn & Suites*, 134 River Rd, Sequim, WA 98382; Thu 7/20 – Sat 7/22 check-out: *Kalaloch Lodge* (a national park concessioner), Highway 101, Kalaloch, WA 98331; Sat 7/22 check-in – Sun 7/23 check-out: *Holiday Inn Express*, 19621 International Blvd., Sea-Tac International, WA 98188.

We have planned for double occupancy of rooms, with leaders consulting trip participants, as required, to make the most suitable matches. Rooms at all properties have a mini-fridge, coffee maker and microwave.

TRANSPORTATION

We will fly into and out of Sea-Tac International Airport in Seattle, Washington. We recommend that participants arrive by 1:00pm PDT. This timing allows sufficient time to easily drive to the town of Sequim, ~2 hrs. West, settle in, have our first group dinner and grocery shop in the evening for lunch and other provisions.

We will wait until everyone has arrived at the airport and then drive as one group in our rental vehicles. In the event of flight delays, we would make every effort to minimize the impact on other hikers by arranging for at least 1, if not 2 vehicles to depart for Sequim.

On our last day, flight departures will generally be in the morning. We will plan to return our rental cars the evening before and use the 24-hour free hotel shuttle to bring hikers to the airport.

The leader and co-leader will be designated drivers, and we will enlist one or two additional trip members as additional designated drivers, as required. We will also ask that up to 3 additional hikers agree to serve as backup drivers.

MEALS

Hot and cold breakfast buffets are available in the lobbies of *Quality Inn & Suites* and *Holiday Inn Express*. At Kalaloch Lodge, breakfast is available at 7am in the restaurant, or hikers may eat in their rooms. Everyone will prepare their own lunches using groceries purchased at local supermarkets and smaller markets we will visit for “group shopping outings.” On the day we visit Victoria, hikers will have the option to eat lunch in a restaurant or pack a lunch. We will have dinner every night at nearby restaurants. Some will include the entire group and others will be smaller with carpooling coordinated by the leaders.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Ability: This trip has been designed for experienced hikers who can comfortably hike up to 8 hours/day, not including breaks, at a moderate pace (up to 2 miles-per-hour). Vertical ascents will range from 1,270’ to 3,580’ and elevations will vary from sea level to 5,980’ over distances of 6.2 mi. to 10.6 mi.

Safety: Individual and group safety is our highest priority. We will hike together at all times at a pace that comfortable for the slowest hiker. Every day, everyone should be prepared to bring a minimum of 2 liters and as much as 3 liters of water, lunch and snacks, plus wear and bring appropriate clothing, including a hat. (We will provide an equipment list separately.)

Attitude: We are planning on a group size of 16 hikers (including two leaders). We believe your enjoyment will come as much from your interaction with other hikers as it will from the beauty of Olympic National Park, the joy of hiking the mountains, rain forest and coast, what you learn, and the capabilities of the leaders. If you are prepared to help your fellow hikers, practice basic courtesies like being on time, and take a “go-with-the-flow” approach to events that may be beyond our control (delayed flights, rooms not ready for occupancy), we will all have a wonderful, memorable experience.

COST

The cost of the trip is \$1,980. It *excludes* round trip airfare to Seattle which is estimated to be ~\$450 from Boston and New York and ~\$800 from Hartford. Hikers will be required to purchase their own tickets. However, the leaders will monitor online fares and provide updates on a timely basis.

Participants will be responsible for any unanticipated cost increase; however, any surplus funds will be returned after the trip. The leaders have tried to plan for all costs from the biggest—accommodations, to the smallest—entrance fees.

The cost includes: accommodations, all dinners, rental vehicles, gas, Port Angeles – Victoria ferry tickets, basic medical and evacuation insurance, and national park entrance fees. The cost of lunches, including restaurant meal in Victoria, snacks and alcoholic beverages are *excluded*, as are housekeeping gratuities, which are at your discretion. In accordance with AMC policy, the cost also includes the leaders’ expenses + AMC overhead to defray administrative and publication costs.

GROUP SIZE/COST IMPACT

In addition to the two leaders, we have assumed 14 hikers will participate and have priced the trip for that number. However, if only 12 hikers sign up, we would proceed and adjust the cost accordingly.

APPLICATION PROCESS

If you would like to sign up for the trip, or have questions, please email or call either of us. Our contact details are listed in the Leadership section at the end of this prospectus. Once you have decided you would like to join us, we will email an *Application, Confidential Health Questionnaire, and an Assumption of Risk and Release Agreement*.

A ~30% deposit of \$600 payable by check to *Appalachian Mountain Club* should accompany the above-referenced forms and should be mailed to: George Schott, 4 River Knoll, Westport, CT 06880.

The balance of \$1,380 will be due **Monday, April 10, 2017**.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Your cancellation should not raise the cost of the trip to any of the participants or the leaders. Therefore, if you cancel, all money paid would be returned, less your share of expenses already incurred, plus any future expenses that cannot be avoided. If the trip were to be completely booked, your payments would be refunded in full. Optional trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended and available through AMC and other sources.

LEADERSHIP

Leader: George Schott is a Connecticut Chapter Hike Leader certified in SOLO Wilderness First Aid, AED and CPR. He also completed AMC Mountain Leadership School. He has co-led 3 AMC Adventure Travel trips to Big Bend National Park (2012); Saguaro National Park / Tucson Mountains (2014); and National Parks of Southeast Utah (2016). Over the past 10 years, he led or co-led hut hikes in the White Mountains and Adirondacks, and led day hikes on all sections of the AT in Connecticut and Massachusetts. He has climbed 35 4000'+ peaks in the White Mountains and 30 4000'+ peaks in the Adirondacks. During the 10 years he lived with his family in Europe, he hiked in the Lake District of England, Scottish Highlands, Wales and Switzerland. George can be reached at 203.223.1677, or geosteven@aol.com



Co-Leader: Bill Wheeler joined the AMC in 1995 with a goal of summiting the 48 New Hampshire 4,000 footers, which he achieved in 2009. He has also climbed all of New England's 100 highest peaks. Bill became a hike leader for the Connecticut Chapter in 2005 and has led over 125 day hikes, as well as lead or co-lead over 10 weekend trips to New Hampshire's White Mountains. He has completed the SOLO basic First Aid Course and Heart Saver CPR Course. Bill has traveled to 6 Canadian provinces, 7 European countries, India, New Zealand and Peru. He has led, co-led or participated in 15 Adventure Travel trips on which he climbed several high peaks in the Western U.S., including 14,497 ft. Mt. Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous 48 states. Bill has led or co-led Adventure Travel trips since 2010 to Bulgaria, Texas/New Mexico, Oregon, Yellowstone, Canadian Rockies, Austrian Alps, Grand Tetons and Utah. Bill can be reached at 860-324-7374 or bwheelsjr@cox.net.

