

## Why So Many Waterfalls?

Ten to 20 million years ago, submerged sandstone and shale jammed into fifty-million-year-old, hardened, under-water, lava-formed, miles-thick layers of basalt forcing the Olympics to rise from the sea\*, producing the rugged terrain ideal for waterfalls. Ice-age glaciers helped carve the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the cliffs and valleys of the Peninsula. Today, more than 60 glaciers along with heavy rain and snow from Pacific Ocean weather systems join to create an abundance of waterfalls of various types. Simply put ... all water seeks the sea with the assistance of gravity.

\*Sea creature fossils can be found on the mountain!

## Some Types of Waterfalls

There are many definitions to explain how water flows downstream. Here are a few of the customary types of waterfalls.

**Block:** Water flows in a relatively wide sheet, usually wider than the height of the falls

**Cascade:** Water flows over irregular rock steps

**Chute:** Falls has large amount of water flowing through small canyon

**Combination:** Many falls have two or more characteristics listed here

**Curtain:** Similar to a block falls but equal height and width

**Fan:** Water begins narrow at the top and spreads horizontally as it descends while remaining in contact with bedrock

**Segmented:** Distinctly separate flows of water form as it descends

**Tiered:** Water drops in a series of distinct steps or falls



## A Magical Misty Tour

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There are only four temperate rain forests on the planet. Drenched in over 12 feet of rain a year, the Hoh, Quinault and Queets Rain Forests, located in the foothills of the Olympic Mountains, are North America's best examples.

## HOH RAIN FOREST



### 7. Mineral Creek Falls

This is a medium-volume, cascade-form falls that drops about 60 feet. Saw cuts through fallen old growth trees along the trail show off the size of these once-towering rain forest monarchs.

*Mineral Creek, upper Hoh River*



### 8. Maple Creek Falls

This small but picturesque falls hidden along the south shore of the upper Hoh River in rain forest country is only approached from the water. Rafting services are available to get up close. *Maple Creek, upper Hoh River*

## QUINAULT RAIN FOREST

The Quinault Valley is textbook rain forest country. It also contains the highest concentration of viewable waterfalls reasonably close to roadside and on short trails. One group is best seen as a backpack trip.



### 9. Willaby Creek Falls

The Rain Forest Nature Trail in the Olympic National Forest is an easy, fun-filled 0.5-mile loop with interpretive signs and a wide array of things to see. The trail can be walked in about 45-60 minutes. *Willaby Creek*



### 10. Gatton Creek Falls

Gatton Creek Falls is a classic, tiered falls with a series of straight drops over about 60 feet. *Gatton Creek*



### 11. Merriman Falls

This 40-foot high waterfall is easily accessible within a few feet of the road and is very photogenic, especially October through May. *Merriman Creek*



### 12. Bunch Creek Falls

Bunch Creek Falls, one of the larger falls in this area, boasts a height of nearly 60 feet and travels through a series of rock drops producing a good spray during spring runoff or rainy season. *Bunch Creek*

# OLYMPIC PENINSULA WATERFALL TRAIL

*Enjoy the adventure of finding the falls as much as the falls themselves!*

## SOL DUC & NORTHWEST COAST

The four falls in this group go from 2,000 feet above sea level among old growth Douglas Fir to sea level at the most northwestern point of the lower 48 states.



### 1. Hi Hi Kwith (in native Makah, hihik^iLt)

A low-volume waterfall on the east flank of Cape Flattery is accessible to viewers only by boat. *Unnamed creek*



### 2. Hoko Falls

Hoko Falls is an 8-10 feet drop to a punchbowl. The little canyon below the falls is every bit as scenic as the falls itself. *Hoko River*



### 3. Beaver Falls

This small- to medium-volume, block-type falls cascades at peak flows about 20 feet across the full 70-foot width of Beaver Creek. Privately owned, public access. *Beaver Creek, lower Sol Duc River*



### 4. Sol Duc Falls

A stunning signature falls of Olympic National Park. In contrast to most falls on the Peninsula, it is viewed from above stream level. Rainy season and early spring runoffs thunder beneath the foot bridge. *Upper Sol Duc River*

## THE PACIFIC COAST

*Hikes through wild Pacific Ocean headlands lead to sea stacks, tide pools and two waterfalls.*



### 5. Strawberry Bay Falls

A 1.3 mile walk on a mostly flat trail leads to views of a horsetail falls in the distance. Another 0.6 miles at low tide along a pleasant, sandy beach allows closer viewing. *Unnamed stream*



### 6. Falls Creek Falls

This 40-foot waterfall approximately nine miles south of Third Beach near La Push on Falls Creek is found by backpackers traveling the wilderness coast south of Toleak Point in Olympic National Park. *Goodman Creek*

## Take the Magical Misty Tour – the Olympic Peninsula Waterfall Trail.

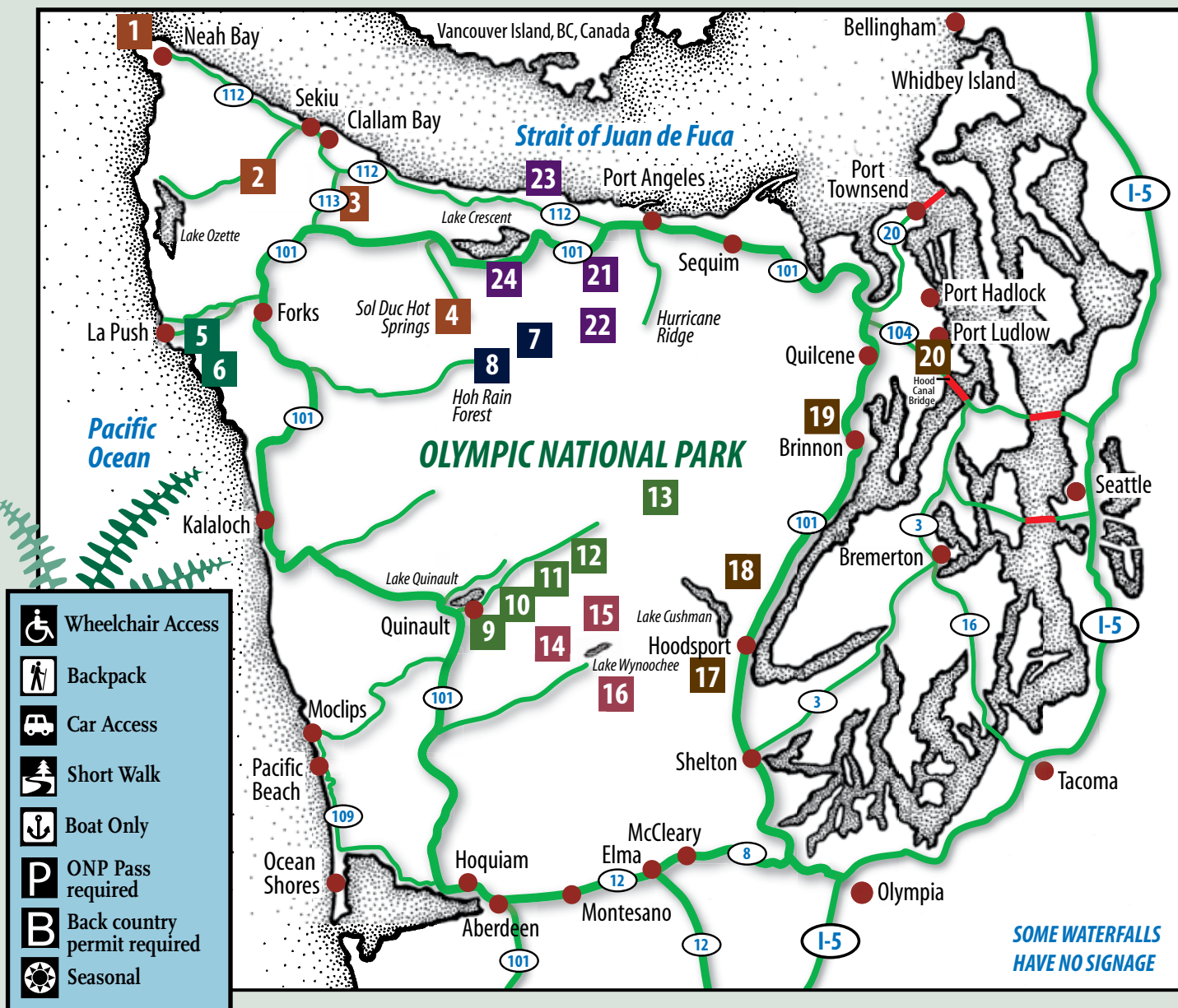
From a paved, wheelchair accessible pathway, forested trails, by boat or backpack, everyone can enjoy the year-round excitement of finding and viewing waterfalls.

This brochure is intended to inspire your adventure. The details you need for finding the falls are on the website.

[www.OlympicPeninsulaWaterfallTrail.com](http://www.OlympicPeninsulaWaterfallTrail.com)

On the website you will find:

- An overview map
- Photographs of each falls
- Location information including, GPS
- Detailed travel instructions
- Individual maps of each falls
- Important notes to help you enjoy your experience
- A place to comment and upload photographs
- The WanderBlog for current comments





### 13. Enchanted Valley, or Valley of 10,000 Waterfalls

An exaggeration, perhaps, but not too far off. From the trailhead, it's a 13-mile-one-way backpack trip into the valley to experience a seasonal phenomenon of multiple falls that plunge from the high mountainside deep within Olympic National Park. *East Fork Quinault River*

## THE SOUTHERN LOOP

The tour inland from the Pacific Ocean skirts the southern boundary of Olympic National Park and heads to Hood Canal.



### 14. Perfection Falls

During runoff season the water forms a block over the falls. This photo showing a segmented falls was taken during the summer. There is a short, steep, unmarked trail leading to the falls 0.4 miles west of Donkey Creek bridge. *Donkey Creek*



### 15. Wynoochee Falls

Wynoochee Falls is one of the few punchbowl-form falls of our area creating an idyllic swimming hole on the river. Requires route finding skills, but worth the trip. It is most impressive during runoffs. *Wynoochee River*



### 16. Spoon Creek Falls



Dropping over 70 feet in two tiers, ending in a large plunge pool, Spoon Creek Falls is perhaps the most underrated and least visited falls. It is worth the long drive and short trail walk. A switchback trail will take you to water level, where a bit of wading may be needed to see the falls. *Spoon Creek*

## HOOD CANAL

Highway 101 roads and trails on the eastern slopes of the Olympic Mountains lead to three waterfalls in the Hood Canal area. Another one is tucked away in the recreational community of Port Ludlow.



### 17. High Steel Bridge or Vincent Creek Falls

It is tough to say whether the falls or the bridge is the real attraction here. The falls are in a narrow, deep canyon with a drop of about 125 feet. It is best viewed in winter and early spring from the bridge deck 420 feet above the falls. *Skokomish River*  



### 18. Hamma Hamma Falls

A scenic and photogenic falls drops 75 feet in two tiers of approximately 25 and 50 feet in a gorge below a high concrete bridge. *Hamma Hamma River*



### 19. Falls View Falls

This 80-120 feet horsetail-type seasonal waterfall is visible on the far slope of an impressive and rather deep and steep canyon of the Quilcene River. Best viewed autumn through spring. *Quilcene River*



### 20. Ludlow Falls

The public has been granted access to this delightful two-tier falls that flows down and across an exposed basalt monolith on a privately owned, developed and maintained interpretive trail. *Ludlow Creek*

## ELWHA & LAKE CRESCENT

The Elwha River Valley scenic area of Olympic National Park is worth exploring. One waterfall in this area is near a shimmering, clear lake and another one has nearby tide pools.



### 21. Madison Creek Falls

This delightful falls at the Elwha River Entrance to Olympic National Park is wheelchair accessible on a short, paved 200 foot trail. *Madison Creek*



### 22. Wolf Creek Falls

Follow Whiskey Bend Road to find this ONP two-tier waterfall. It is hidden at the end of a very steep downhill hiking trail of about 0.4 miles at the tip of Lake Mills. *Elwha River*



### 23. Striped Peak Falls

Best viewed from November through June, this small, seasonal falls drops about 30 feet, tumbling over a mossy rock face. Sturdy shoes and walking sticks are helpful as the trail has a couple short steep pitches. *Salt Creek County Park*



### 24. Marymere Falls

The waters of Falls Creek drop nearly 90 feet into a small plunge pool at the end of the 0.75-mile trail for year-round views. Seasonally, the National Park offers nature tours. *Falls Creek, Lake Crescent*

**Please use this brochure for a general overview of waterfall locations only.** For detailed driving instructions, GPS coordinates, more information about the waterfalls in this brochure, and other falls on the Peninsula, check: [www.OlympicPeninsulaWaterfallTrail.com](http://www.OlympicPeninsulaWaterfallTrail.com)

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