



Photo: Credit NOAA

Orca whales are one of 29 species of marine mammals in the sanctuary.



Photo: Credit NOAA

Cape Flattery offers breathtaking views of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.



Photo: Credit Rudi Edel

Respectful exploration of intertidal sea life fascinates visitors.

Visitors Guide to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Discover Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary:

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary has a total area of 3,188 square miles - it's kind of hard to miss. But your first stop should be Olympic Coast Discovery Center, on the Port Angeles waterfront. It's a great place to begin your learning adventures on the Olympic Coast.

Wildlife viewing at Cape Flattery:

Located on the Makah Indian Reservation, at the northwestern-most point in the lower 48 United States, Cape Flattery Trail takes you "back in time" through old growth coastal forests leading to an overlook with sweeping views of the sanctuary, Tatoosh Island, and Cape Flattery Lighthouse. Here, you'll see marine wildlife such as bald eagles, oystercatchers, common murrens and sea lions, while a perfectly timed visit can bring gray whales and tufted puffins into view.

Whale spotting: Following the coast south, "The Whale Trail" signs mark the best wildlife viewing options from shore, including Shi Shi Beach, La Push, Destruction Island viewpoint and Kalaloch beaches. Wildlife watching charter boat tours are also offered out of Neah Bay, Sekiu, La Push and Westport.

Take a hike: The wild character of Olympic Coast provides endless opportunities for discovery and investigation. Hiking, backpacking and camping are popular in the coastal wilderness strip of Olympic National Park.

Explore between the tides:

Tidepooling is exciting for all ages. When the sea recedes, it reveals a world that is both on-land and underwater for part of every day. World class tidepooling can be found at Shi Shi Beach, Second Beach, Hole-in-the-Wall and Kalaloch area beaches.

Get wet: Diving in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is popular among expert divers. Exceptional habitats and fish populations go hand in hand with the coast's extreme conditions. A few dive charter operators serve the Olympic Coast - ocean conditions and isolation require advanced skills and exposed open-water experience.

Ride the waves: Locals, and a growing number of surfers from Seattle and beyond, have discovered the challenges and rewards of Olympic Coast breaks, fueled by big Pacific swells.

Catch your dinner: Sport-fishing charters for salmon, halibut, ling cod and occasionally, albacore tuna, are available from Neah Bay, Sekiu, La Push, and Westport. Fall, winter and spring low tides are popular for razor clamming. Fishing and shellfish gathering are regulated and licenses are required.

Ecotourism: Come for the cleanup, stay for the adventure. Every April, volunteers take part in the Washington Coast Cleanup, a true beach steward experience. Breathtaking views make service to the environment a soul-feeding experience.

and, above all, exercising caution in this extreme and remote environment.

NOAA Weather www.weather.gov

NOAA Tides and Current www.tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/



Six Must-See Olympic Coast Beaches:

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary shares 135 miles of coastline with Washington Coastal Treaty Tribes, Olympic National Park, and Washington State Parks. This includes the longest stretch of wilderness coast in the lower 48 United States and is unmatched in pristine nature, timeless landscapes, and sublime serenity.

- 1) Shi Shi Beach and Point of Arches: Access the trail on the Makah Indian Reservation near Neah Bay. Two-mile hike, Sitka spruce, vast rocky sea stacks, tidepools.
- 2) Cape Alava: Three-mile hike, western cedar and Sitka spruce, mammal and bird sightings, tidepools, shorebirds.
- 3) Second Beach: Access the trail on the Quileute Indian Reservation near La Push. Short hike through the coastal forest and short but steep descent to the beach. Natural arch, bald eagles, sea lions, tidepools. Offshore sea stacks with nesting seabird colonies.
- 4) Ruby Beach: North of Kalaloch. Easy access for most. Quarter mile trail at the mouth of cedar creek and the Pacific Ocean, offshore Abbey Island, tidepools. Pets are allowed (leashed).
- 5) Kalaloch Beach: High bluff views, sandy beach access. Pets are allowed (leashed). Beachcombing and whale watching. Fishing and shellfish harvest following state and park regulations are popular activities.
- 6) Pacific Beach – Located in the southern region of the sanctuary; sandy beach access. Pets are allowed (leashed). Kiting, beachcombing, sandcastle building. Fishing and shellfish harvest following state and park regulations are popular activities.



Photo: Credit Janet Lamont

Hiking, walking, and beachcombing are popular activities for all ages.



Photo: Credit Harold Everett

Diving in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is popular among expert divers.



Photo: Credit Matt McIntosh NOAA

Explore miles of remote Olympic beaches, and discover the solitude of wilderness.