



# Olympic Peninsula & Washington Coast

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Next Door Gastropub (p129)
- ➔ Sweet Laurette Cafe & Bistro (p127)
- ➔ Nanci & Jimella's (p147)
- ➔ Traditions Cafe & World Folk Art (p122)

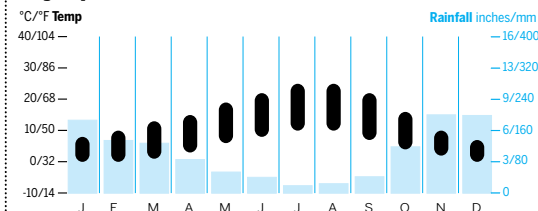
## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Lake Quinault Lodge (p136)
- ➔ Shelburne Country Inn (p146)
- ➔ Palace Hotel (p126)

## Why Go?

The Olympic Peninsula is an unblemished wilderness of the highest order, with an interior that brings to mind a unicorn fantasy novel and an end-of-the-continent coastline that makes Big Sur look positively calm. Then there's the precipitation. While Seattleites whine about a little winter drizzle, the Hoh Rain Forest is drowning in up to 200in of rain a year. There's an upside to all this water, of course: it's green here, a thousand verdant shades of it, if you stare hard enough. And it's virgin, too. Untouched in over a millennium are sapphire lakes, rarely climbed mountains, and ancient cedar and spruce trees older than most of Europe's medieval castles. It took a lucrative series of vampire novels to put the Olympic Peninsula on the world's radar, but *Twilight* is only 1% of what this wild, fog-shrouded landmass is about.

## When to Go Olympia



**Mar** Port Townsend's unique Victorian Days festival.

**Jul & Aug** Best hiking opportunities and least chance of rain.

**Aug** Long Beach's International Kite Festival in the third week.

# Olympic Peninsula & Washington Coast Highlights

## 1 Hoh Rain Forest

(p135) Thinking you've uncovered a real-life hobbit amid moss-covered wilderness.

## 2 La Push (p140)

Finding solitude, but no vampires, on a mist-enshrouded beach.

## 3 Lake Quinalt Lodge

(p136) Driving (or hiking) miles to enjoy Northwestern cuisine and a roaring fireplace.

## 4 Port Townsend

(p125) Debating whether to don kayaking gear or a Victorian bowler hat in this nostalgia-obsessed town.

## 5 Olympia (p121)

Drinking coffee that's good enough to wake a zombie.

## 6 Long Beach

### Discovery Trail

(p146) Imagining the sense of accomplishment felt by Lewis and Clark.

## 7 Makah Museum

(p138) Visiting one of the nation's best Native American museums.

