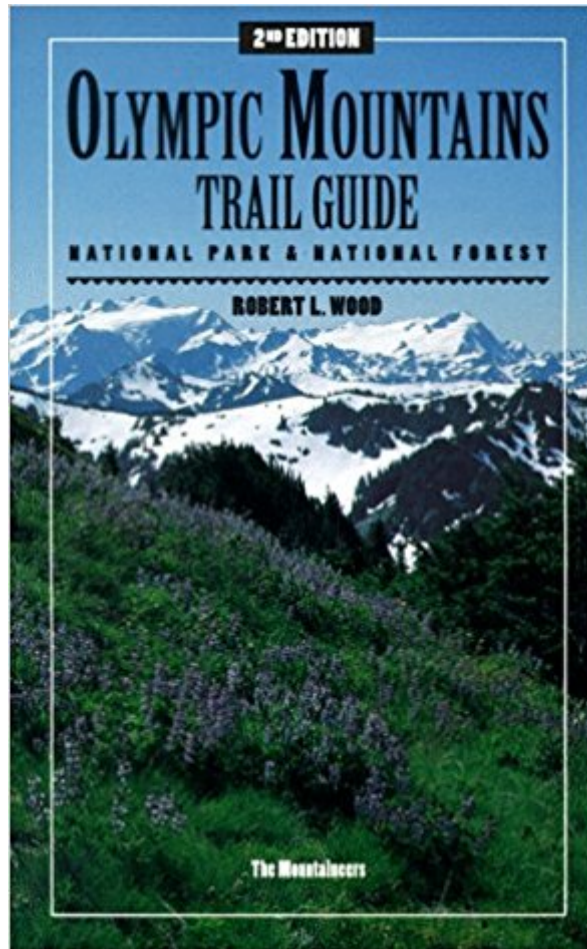




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Olympic Mountains Trail Guide: National Park & National Forest



Synopsis

* Completely redesigned for easier use* Includes five new hikes, more photos, and expanded route descriptions* "The best book for trail descriptions in the Olympics." - The San Francisco Chronicle

With its moss-draped rain forests, alpine meadows brimming with wildflowers, and snow-capped mountains, the Olympic Peninsula is a hiker's paradise. Explore the Cat Creek Way Trail, a high-country route to a view of Oyster Lake, or trek along the Appleton Pass Trail where you might spy a fat marmot perched on one of the boulders along the path. This new edition of a tried-and-true classic to hiking the Olympic Peninsula contains all the facts for both day hikes and overnight backpack trips. You'll find information on 177 hikes in the Olympic Mountains and extensive material on history, geology, native plants, and wildlife. Also find in this hiking guidebook numbered hikes for quick reference; detailed information blocks for each trail; and weather information for each section of the Olympic Mountains.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Whether you're planning an actual trip to the Olympic Mountains or searching for the vicarious thrills of a smart guidebook, Robert L. Wood's encyclopedic knowledge of this enchanting wilderness at the edge of the Pacific will inform and enthrall. This is not a quickie job: the author has hiked every one of the trails he details here (over a hundred) backwards and forwards, most of them more than once, and his enthusiasm is infectious. Before you know it you'll be an expert too--rattling off, for instance, peaks visible from Dodger Point (Rainier, Olympus, the Bailey Range), and the name for

the "noisy chatter" along the Putvin Trail (Whitehorse Creek). Divided into two main sections--Leeward and Windward--this handy guide covers the bulk of national forest and parklands worth venturing into. Concise yet thorough, it includes all the necessities--elevation, mileage, maps, landmarks, vegetation, and possible wildlife sightings--in an easy-to-read format. A must for the would-be visitor and armchair adventurer both.

Excruciatingly researched. The man has walked thousands of miles in the range over the past half century, and his knowledge shows here. (The Daily News)If you want to get up close and personal with any trail in the Olympic Mountains, Bob Wood can take you there. (Bremerton Sun)Indispensable. If you're going to the Olympics, take this book with you. Study it and use it. (Statesman Journal) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Very detailed and informative. I knock one star off due to some trails not being mentioned in there. Granted, I have another book that informs me about some other trails and WTA, but if you're going to include a plethora of them, just include them all. What I've also noticed is that some of the distances are off but I won't knock off a star for it as it's hard to calculate trail distance unless you specifically do it. Between the book, WTA, hiker reviews and you actually hiking the trails and measuring distance yourself, you will wind up with an array of mileage and elevation gains/losses. It all boils down to lots of research.

Very thorough and great book! I just moved to the OP and am enjoying reading through an explanation of each part of the park, history, topography, and what to expect as well as the trail info. Have read dozens of guide books. This is my fav!

Used this for a one week backpacking trip to Olympic National park. The information was up to date and provided the guidance we needed. We highly recommend a trip there!

Very comprehensive and accurate. It includes many lesser known hikes not included in the standard hiking guides. Not as well written as most guides however. Maps just OK.

Best Olympic Mountain guide book I have ever read. I have used it for reference for years.

First, please note that I have purchased this book but have not yet truly used it (i.e., I haven't yet

actually gone to the Olympics). My purpose in purchasing it was to try to get a sense for the hiking options in the area compared to other national park destinations. I bought two Olympic hiking guides in addition to this one: "Day Hike! Olympic Peninsula" by S. Blair and "Hiking Olympic National Park" By E. Molvar. Compared to those two books, this one certainly includes a larger number of hikes. To my mind, however, it misses two critical pieces of information. First, no guidance is provided as to the likely degree of difficulty, either in terms of elevation gain/loss or in terms of the author's opinion (e.g., moderate, strenuous, etc.). This makes it much harder to choose hikes that are likely to be within our comfort zone-- especially on days when the knees are feeling sore! Second, I find the author's descriptions of the hikes to be very clinical and not that helpful in terms of helping me prioritize where to go. I want to know which hikes have outstanding mountain views, or delicious woodsy spots versus long slogs through forested areas with little to appreciate. There is no ranking or rating scheme for this, and it's a bit much to ask a reader to slog through detailed (and often somewhat clinical) descriptions of the 177 hikes mentioned to try to get a sense of that. I think this book could be useful as a reference-- if one already has a pretty good idea of where to go. But it's not the best in terms of prioritizing how to spend your time. To that end, the "Day Hike!" book by Blair is better, although it includes only about 70 hikes.

This guide is great. We use it as a companion to the Olympics Nat'l Park website to completely plan our backpacking trips.

This book is good until you find another. There are better ones out there with more information more easily followed with better maps, instructions, etc. I'd not recommend this one.

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