

FODOR'S PACIFIC NORTHWEST, 18th EDITION: DRIVING TOUR

North Cascades National Park - Day 1

Start in **Sedro-Woolley**, where you can pick up information about **North Cascades National Park** at the park headquarters. From Sedro-Woolley it's a 45-minute drive on Route 20 to the park entrance. Take your first stroll through an old-growth forest from the visitor center in Newhalem, then devote the rest of the day to driving through the **Cascades** on Route 20, stopping at various overlooks. Exit the park and continue through the **Methow Valley**. Head south on Route 20, then Route 153, then U.S. 97, then I-82 (just over 300 mi total) to **Yakima** to stay the night.

Mount Rainier National Park - Days 2 and 3

On the morning of Day 2, take U.S. 12 west from Yakima 102 mi to Ohanapecosh, the southern entrance to **Mount Rainier National Park**. When you arrive, take the 31-mi two-hour drive on Sunrise Road, which reveals the "back" (northeast) side of Rainier. A room at the **Paradise Inn** is your base for the next two nights.

On Day 3, energetic hikers will want to tackle one of the four- to six-hour trails that lead up among the park's many peaks. Or try one of the ranger-led walks through wildflower meadows. Another option is to hike to Panorama Point near the foot of the **Muir Snowfield** for breathtaking views of the glaciers and high ridges of Rainier overhead. After dinner at the inn, watch the sunset's alpenglow on the peak from the back porch.

Mount St. Helens and the Olympic Foothills - Day 4

Today, follow Routes 706 and 7 to U.S. 12 from Paradise, heading west to I-5. When you reach the interstate, drive south to Route 504 to spend the day visiting the **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument**, where you can see the destruction caused from the 1980 volcanic eruption.

Return to I-5 the way you came in and head north to Olympia, where you should pick up U.S. 101 North. The highway winds through scenic Puget Sound countryside, skirting the Olympic foothills and periodically dipping down to the waterfront. Stop at **Port Angeles**, 136 mi (three hours) from the junction of Route 504 and I-5, to have dinner and spend the night.

Olympic National Park - Days 5 and 6

The next morning, launch into a full day at **Olympic National Park**. Explore the **Hoh Rain Forest** and **Hurricane Ridge** before heading back to Port Angeles for the evening. Start Day 6 with a drive west on U.S. 101 to Forks and on to **La Push** via Route 110, a total of about 45 mi. Here, an hour-long lunchtime stroll to **Second or Third Beach** will offer a taste of the wild Pacific coastline. Back on U.S. 101, head south to **Lake Quinault**, which is about 98 mi from Lake Crescent. Check into the Lake Quinault Lodge, then drive up the river 6 mi to one of the rain-forest trails through the lush Quinault Valley.

The Pacific Coast - Day 7

Leave Lake Quinault early on Day 7 for the long but scenic drive south on U.S. 101. Here the road winds through coastal spruce forests, periodically rising on headlands to offer Pacific Ocean

panoramas. Once you're in Oregon, small seaside resort towns beckon with cafés, shops, and inns. In **Tillamook** (famous for its cheese), take a detour onto the Three Capes Loop, a stunning 35-mile byway off U.S. 101. Stop in **Oceanside** (on the loop) for lunch. Once you're back on U.S. 101, continue south. Your final stop is the charming village of **Florence**, 290 mi (six to eight hours) from Lake Quinalt; spend the night.

Crater Lake National Park - Days 8 and 9

From Florence, take U.S. 101 south to Reedsport, Routes 38 and 138 east to Sutherlin, I-5 south to Roseburg, and Route 138 east again to **Crater Lake National Park**, 180 mi total. Once inside the park, you can continue along Rim Drive for another half hour for excellent views of the lake. Overnight in the park or in Fort Klamath.

The following morning, take the lake boat tour and a hike through the surrounding forest. In the afternoon, head south on Route 62 to I-5, and on to **Ashland**, 83 mi (about two hours) from Crater Lake. Plan to stay the night in one of Ashland's many superb B&Bs. Have dinner and attend one of the **Oregon Shakespeare Festival** productions (mid-February through early November).

Oregon Caves National Monument - Day 10

On Day 10, head back north on I-5 from Ashland to Grants Pass, then turn south on U.S. 199. At Cave Junction, 67 mi from Ashland, you can take a three-hour side trip to **Oregon Caves National Monument**. Guided tours of the unique marble caves last 90 minutes; in the summer the day's final tour is by candlelight, which will give you a sense of what it might have been like for early explorers.