



# Rialto & Second Beach TwiTips

<http://TourTheTwilightSaga.com>

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook



## Site #21, La Push First Beach Second Beach and Rialto Beach TwiTips

Fascinating tide pools exist at both Second Beach and Rialto Beach, but Rialto's are far more easily accessed. This PDF is designed for Twilighters who prefer to do their own research rather than trust Tour the Twilight Saga's preference for tidepooling at Rialto Beach.

### Second Beach

<http://www.nps.gov/olym/playourvisit/second-beach-trail.htm>

<http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/second-beach>

<http://www.kaleberg.com/ptangeles/second.html>

🚗 **Second Beach Car Parks Google Maps and SatNav/GPS Coordinates: 47.898147,-124.623502**



Second Beach car park enroute to First Beach—Second Beach car park on the way back to Forks.

[©2013 Tara Miller]

La Push's **Second Beach** (SB) is the tide pool haven closest to First Beach. Its car parks are located *on* the route between Forks and First Beach at the bend in La Push Road. The hike to reach SB from its car parks, however, is *not* the "easy trail" that some describe on the Internet.

The hike to Second Beach begins by walking a lovely, level path, that leads into a magical rain forest. Soon, you reach a moderately-hard, relatively short, stair climb. At the climb's summit, there is another stretch of easy path through absolutely gorgeous rain forest. After that, however, comes a very steep, very long descent to the beach.

When going *to* the beach, this final descent isn't particularly difficult for those with sturdy ankles. But, it makes the first part of the *return* hike a Death Climb!

Twilighters in less-than-robust health, or those who have any manner of mobility difficulties, should *not* trek to Second Beach. Twilighters traveling with small children should also avoid SB.



[©2013 CD Miller]

If SB's challenging hike appeals to you, be sure to make a potty stop prior to arriving at the SB car park. As seen in the pix above, the SB "Privy" is *horrific*.

The closest public toilets between Forks and the SB parking lots are at the Three Rivers Resort store. If traveling to SB after visiting First Beach, stop at the Lonesome Creek store's public toilets.



[©2013 Tara Miller]

Despite our disparaging report, robust Twilighters will thoroughly enjoy the Second Beach rain forest trek. TripAdvisor reviews of SB are overwhelmingly positive.

[http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g58476-d117045-Reviews-Second\\_Beach\\_Trail-Forks\\_Washington.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g58476-d117045-Reviews-Second_Beach_Trail-Forks_Washington.html)

[http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g28968-d125413-Reviews-Second\\_Beach-Washington.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g28968-d125413-Reviews-Second_Beach-Washington.html)



[©2013 Tara Miller]

The final hurdle for reaching the sand of Second Beach is a literal one. Robust Twilighters must climb over ever-shifting piles of gigantic driftwood logs. The photo above makes these log piles look deceptively easy to surmount. They are not.



[©2013 Tara Miller]

Once on the beach, turn right to reach the closest Second Beach tide pools. At the north end of SB there is a Hole-in-the-Wall-like rock formation similar to the one at Rialto Beach. However, unlike Rialto's famous landmark, SB's rock hole cannot be safely accessed, even during low tide. Instead, the closest SB tide pools are found in and around an offshore **sea stack** found just prior to reaching the north end (seen on the left side of the pic above).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack\\_%28geology%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack_%28geology%29)



[©2013 Tara Miller]

**These rocks are very slippery.** Be sure to arrive at least 30 minutes before low tide so that you can slowly and *safely* make your way out to the sea stack, and have plenty of time to enjoy the best SB tide pools before the tide begins to come back in. In the farthest-from-shore Second Beach tide pools, you'll witness amazing sights such as those seen in the next two pix.



[©2013 CD Miller]



[©2013 Tara Miller]

## Rialto Beach

<http://www.kaleberg.com/ptangeles/rialto.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/rialto-beach.htm>

<http://www.visitolympicpeninsula.org/rialtobeach.html>

🚗 **Rialto Car Parks Google Maps and SatNav/GPS Coordinates:** 47.920627,-124.637643



**Rialto Beach Tide Pool**

[Image segment (enhanced), ©2012 Christina Ricchiuti, <http://packedsuitcase.com/>]

**Rialto Beach (RB)** is a 5 mile drive *off* of the La Push Road route between Forks and First Beach, but its parking lots are practically *on* the beach. Additionally, at Rialto you usually can walk *around* the giant driftwood log piles to reach the sand beach. Log piles at SB must be climbed *over*.

A few reviewers complain that the hour-long, rocky-sand trek to Rialto's tide pool area is slobby and somewhat difficult in places. Even if that's occasionally true, the slobbiest RB beach walk is far less arduous than the Death Climb at SB.



[©2013 John Simpson of Cabins at Beaver Creek (Site #23)]

As part of the Olympic National Park, RB also has well maintained toilet facilities that are **clean**, and running water is available for hand washing—a far cry from the horrific SB privy!

On the beach, turn right and walk north. Rialto's tide pool landmark is the distinctive **Hole-in-the-Wall** rock formation approximately 1.6 miles from the car parks. This formation separates Rialto into southern and northern beach coves.

Hole-in-the-Wall can only be accessed during low tide, but the beach in both coves remains safe to travel, even at high tide.



[Internet-posted image segment (enhanced), ©2009 Michael Hanscom]

There is only one tricky bit on the Rialto tide pool trek. About half-way to the Hole-in-the-Wall tide pool area you'll reach the mouth of **Ellen Creek**. There are days during summer months when it doesn't extend to the ocean, and a thin strip of beach between creek and ocean can be traversed easily. At all other times of the year, the creek is bridged by gigantic driftwood logs. Use the widest ones to walk across. Alternatively, you can safely wade through the shallow mouth of Ellen Creek.

**Please Note:** This is the point where dogs can go no further north on Rialto Beach. Since dogs aren't allowed anywhere on Second Beach, you cannot go tidepooling with a canine Twi-companion.

To read the rest of our tips for accessing and safely enjoying Rialto Beach's tide pools, please see the **First Beach** (Site #21) chapter of **Tour the Twilight Saga Book One**.