



Twilighter Tidepooling Tips

<http://TourTheTwilightSaga.com>

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook



Site #21 (First Beach) Twilighter Tidepooling Tips

From *Twilight*:

“I loved the tide pools. They had fascinated me since I was a child; they were one of the only things I ever looked forward to when I had to come to Forks.”

Alas, you’ll not find tide pools at First Beach. To experience the tide pools that inspired Stephenie Meyer, you’ll need to visit the Olympic National Park’s **Rialto Beach** or La Push’s **Second Beach**.

The following subjects are addressed in the **First Beach** (Site #21) chapter of **Tour the Twilight Saga Book One**:

- What are Tide Pools?
- Tide Pool Etiquette

Below are additional TwiTips we offer online, free of charge.



How Do You Find the Best Tide Pools?

Because they are under water for the longest period of time, the greatest variety of colorful marine inhabitants live in tide pools farthest from shore. These tide pools also are exposed for the least amount of time, and should be your first destination when visiting.

How Fast Does the Tide Come Back In?

According to the folks at **Kaleberg.com**:

“There are about 6 hours between every low tide and every high tide. ... On the Olympic Peninsula, tides come in only moderately fast, so you should have about two hours after low tide to get to where you want to go.”

Tide Pool Visit Planning Tips

- Go to the **Kaleberg** La Push tidal timetables to discover the low tide time on your visit day. <http://www.kaleberg.com/tides/lapush/index.html>
- Subtract 1 hour and 30 minutes from low tide time to schedule your Rialto or Second Beach **parking lot arrival**. This allows time for hiking *to* the tide pool area (40 minutes at Second Beach, 1 hour at Rialto), and time to reach the best sites as the tide recedes and they become exposed.
- Upon arriving at the beach’s tide pool area, carefully pick your way toward the farthest area of exposed rock. Don’t be distracted by what you see on the way—you’ll have plenty of time to explore closer-to-shore sites when the tide begins to creep back in. Head away from shore, following the tide as it goes out.
- Enjoy the farthest-from-shore tide pools until you notice the water level beginning to rise. When that happens, start your return. If, at any time, the water seems to be rising at an alarming rate, carefully make your way to shore.
- The amount of time you have to enjoy the tide pools greatly depends on whether or not you’ve planned another Twi-trek site visit after tidepooling. If no other site is scheduled, stay as long as

the tide allows. Otherwise, subtract an hour from your next site’s appointment to allow for hiking back to the car parks, and subtract the time required to reach the next site: that’s the time you should leave the tide pools.

Footwear for Tidepooling

It is virtually impossible to visit tide pools without getting your feet wet. Period. To ensure personal safety and minimize marine habitat harm, tidepooling footwear must be sturdy and closed-toed, with really good wet surface traction.

<http://tidepools.net/tidepooling-gear/clothing-for-tide-pools/water-shoes/>

If you don’t mind walking in wet shoes the rest of the day—possibly perambulating in still-damp footwear on the day after—the sturdy hiking shoes you wear during all other Twi-trekking will keep your feet safe from harm and provide plenty of traction while tidepooling.

If you *are* bothered by the idea of spending time in soaked or damp shoes, bring a pair of **water sport shoes** with you.



[Internet-posted product photo segments (enhanced): ©Nike (left), ©Speedo (center), ©Vibram (right)]

Water Sport Shoes are the Very Best Footwear for Tidepooling

High-Tech, often multi-colored and sometimes whimsical, water shoes are lightweight and take up very little luggage room. They range widely in price—from \$20 to over \$120—yet, even the cheapest models offer a host of features helpful for tidepooling. Below are a few product details associated with the water shoe seen above, center: the **Speedo Women’s Beach Runner** (\$28 on SpeedoUSA.com, \$25 on Amazon.com).

“360° Ventilation technology:

Allows air to move throughout the shoe promoting quick drying. ...

Built with our Hydrotread®:

Exclusive lightweight rubber compound provides the ultimate traction.

Water channels and multi-directional textures for better traction on wet surfaces. ...”

<http://www.speedousa.com/womens-beach-runner.shtml>



[Internet-posted product photo segments (enhanced): ©Adidas at left, ©Speedo at right]

Although the more expensive water sport shoes (above) look suitable for everyday hiking, if you're willing to spend a lot of money on footwear it's better to simply buy the most expensive sturdy hiking shoes. Not only will they be great for everyday hiking, they'll also have quick-drying technology.



[©2013 CD Miller]

Rubber Boots—of *any* kind—are Not a Good Idea

Above are photos of the Hazmat “Nuke Boots” that Chas and Tara tested while tidepooling at Second Beach in 2013. They are compact, lightweight, cheap (\$4 plus shipping on Amazon.com), and disposable. Fashion-wise, they look ridiculous. (Tara was making disparaging quacking noises when the photo above right was taken.) Yet, all who saw us wearing them remarked, “What a wonderful idea! ... Where did you get them?”

Unfortunately, the pullover Nuke Boots failed our tide pool test. Even though their soles are knobby, they provided little-to-no traction on wet rock surfaces. Worst of all, they were easily lacerated by sharp rock edges. Although our hiking shoes weren't completely soaked while tidepooling in slashed Nuke Boots, they didn't stay dry.



[Internet-posted product photos (enhanced): ©Cabela's at left, ©Made-In-China at right]

To provide adequate traction and withstand sections of sharp rock, you'll have to buy a pair of well-treaded, thick, rubber boots. Not only will they be heavy and take up a ton of luggage room, the cheapest pair of tide-pool-worthy rubber boots will cost little less than the cheapest pair of compact, lightweight water shoes. Buy the water shoes!

Flimsy Flip-Flops and Bare Feet are Right Out

The tops of tide pool rocks may appear smooth to the human eye, but they're peppered with unseen, razor-sharp cracks and protuberances.

Cameras and Tide Pools

Slips and falls can occur even when tidepooling in the finest water sport footwear. The human body's automatic reflex when falling is to extend both arms and hands to prevent vital body parts (the head, face, and trunk) from striking the ground. Happily, your clothes will dry, your scuffed knees will heal. But, if your camera is in one of your hands when they splash into the water—well, you get the picture.

One option for preventing your expensive camera from being dunked is to buy a waterproof, disposable camera for taking tide pool pix. They're cheap—less than \$10—and many proclaim their photo quality to be excellent. Unfortunately, waterproof disposables only snap 27 pix per camera. If traveling with someone who'll be staying on the beach and can keep your regular camera safe from theft while you're tidepooling, 27 pix should be fine. If your regular camera will be locked in the trunk of your car, however, additional disposable cameras will be needed for pic-snapping during the hikes between car park and tide pools. If double-plastic bagged while tidepooling, cheaper non-waterproof disposables can be used to shoot your hike pix.

A better option—in our opinion—is to invest in a high-quality camera strap. Not only will a good camera strap help prevent camera submersion while tidepooling, it will keep your camera comfortably handy during all your other Twi-travels. On his website, photographer Ken Rockwell provides valuable tips for determining what strap to buy, based on camera type and weight.

<http://www.kenrockwell.com/tech/straps.htm>

He also explains why professional photographers commonly sling their strapped camera around one side of the neck and under the opposite armpit.

“Wearing a camera directly [around] your neck not only makes you look like a goober, it also hurts your neck. Wearing it around the shoulder as well as the neck distributes the weight.”

Clearly, this manner of camera strap use is brilliant for the vast majority of photography situations. When tidepooling, however, it’s better to look like a Goober.

To ensure that your camera stays above the water level if you fall to both hands and knees, wear it only around your neck and have the strap snugged-up as high as possible while still allowing room for use. After your tide pool trek, readjust the strap back to its normal length, and return to the more comfortable—less goobery—diagonal sling method.

Last, be prepared for the worst scenario. When planning your trip, Google “**saltwater camera submersion**.” Familiarize yourself with the first steps that *may* save your camera—or its memory card—from the catastrophic damage caused by saltwater submersion. Store the full directions on your iPhone, tablet, or the like, so they’ll be handy in an emergency. The best links we found in 2013 were:

<http://www.digicamhelp.com/camera-care/varying-weather/wet-digital-camera-what-to-do/>
http://www.ehow.com/facts_5900168_water-damage-digital-cameras.html