



# Olympic Peninsula Airport Options

<http://TourTheTwilightSaga.com>  
A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

## *Tour the Twilight Saga* Olympic Peninsula Airport Options

### Airport Options for Canadian Twilighters

Canadian Twilighters enjoy the unique option of flying to one of two **British Columbia airports**, rather than to the US airports in Seattle or Port Angeles.

#### **Vancouver International Airport**

#### **Victoria International Airport**

Both are within reasonable driving distance of Seattle, Port Angeles, and Forks. And, because clearing customs at an airport can be far more time-consuming than *driving through* customs at the US/Canadian border, we strongly urge Canadian Twilighters to consider flying to a British Columbia airport, renting a car, and driving into the US from there.

**The only drawback to flying into a Canadian airport and hiring a Canadian rental car for driving in the US: the Speedometer.**



[©2013 CD Miller]

Speed limits in Canada are measured in **Kilometers per Hour (km/h)**. US speed limits are measured in **Miles per Hour (mph)**. Canadian Twilighters driving their personal vehicle to the US, or anyone who rents a car in Canada and drives to the US, will see km/h in large print on the speedometer. The mph speed equivalent usually will be seen in smaller print. [Pic above, left.] This can make it difficult to judge your speed when Twilighting to Forks. US automobiles have mph in large print and km/h in small. [Pic above, right.]

You'll learn more about this in our **US Road Rules and Driving Details TwiTips PDF**:  
<http://www.TourTheTwilightSaga.com/Tips/DrivingInTheUS.pdf>

### **Victoria International Airport (YYJ)**

<http://www.victoriaairport.com/>

**Google Maps & SatNav/GPS:** 1640 Electra Blvd, Sidney, BC V8L 5V4, Canada

In February of 2014 we found that it cost only an extra \$30 Canadian Dollars (CAD) to fly from Toronto to the Victoria airport, rather than to the Vancouver airport. Since the Victoria airport is significantly closer to Forks, Canadian Twilighters may prefer to spend the extra \$30.

Additionally, by flying into Victoria instead of Vancouver, you needn't worry about Vancouver and Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan rush hours (discussed below). The common drive time between Victoria airport and Forks is only **3 hours and 30 minutes**, including US/Canadian border crossing *and a ferry ride* between **Vancouver Island (Victoria)** and **Port Angeles (Site #2)**.

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Your Victoria airport return trip will be approximately the same amount of time—*unless* you plan to visit **Seattle** (Site #1).

- The drive time from Forks to Seattle, then to Victoria airport *via Vancouver* is **8 hours**.
- The drive time from Forks to Seattle, back to Port Angeles, and then to Victoria airport is **8 hours, 45 minutes**. With this route, however, there's no worry of encountering Vancouver rush hour traffic—something that can add another hour, maybe more, to your drive time.



### **Vancouver International Airport (YVR)**

<http://www.yvr.ca>

**Google Maps & SatNav/GPS:** 3211 Grant McConachie Way, Richmond, BC, Canada

The drive time between Vancouver airport and Forks varies greatly, depending on the time of day you traverse Vancouver highways and the infamously congested Seattle-Tacoma **US Interstate Highway 5** (aka, the **I-5**—the *only* north/south route through Seattle's metropolitan area). Rush hour traffic in both of these places is absolutely heinous!

Common hours of daily Vancouver and Seattle-Tacoma traffic congestion are difficult to predict, especially due to frequently-required road repair work. Below, however, are the hours you can be *sure* of having to endure stop-and-go delays when driving in Vancouver and on the I-5.

- **Vancouver Rush Hours:** 6am to 9am, 3pm to 7pm, Monday through Friday
- **Seattle-Tacoma I-5 Rush Hours:** 6am to 9am, 2:30pm to 8pm, Monday through Friday

To avoid rush hour delays in Vancouver *and* Seattle-Tacoma, book a flight that **arrives at Vancouver airport no later than 10am**. Even if it takes an hour to claim your luggage and rent your car, you'll still be able to leave the airport by 11 am and make your way through Vancouver without encountering significant congestion.

Driving through customs at the US/Canadian border south of Vancouver is also faster during non-rush hours. From the border, you'll reach the northern Seattle metro area around 1pm, and pass through Tacoma (south of Seattle) by 2pm, successfully avoiding the afternoon I-5 rush hours.

The fastest non-stop drive time between Vancouver airport and Forks is **5 hours**. If you stop in Seattle, however, the drive time increases to **6 hours**. This *doesn't* include Seattle Twilight Saga Site trekking time. Canadian Twilighters who wish to visit the Seattle Twilight Saga Site(s) should

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consider staying overnight in the Seattle area. Leave for Forks—or the Vancouver airport, if visiting Seattle during your return trip—after 9 am the next morning.



### Airport Options for All Other Twilighters

#### First, You Must Decide Whether to Fly to Seattle *or* Fly to Port Angeles

To save her father from having to drive three and a half hours to the **Seattle-Tacoma International Airport** (Sea-Tac) to pick her up, Bella flew from Phoenix to Sea-Tac, then hopped on a puddle-jumper (US slang for a small plane) and flew to the Port Angeles airport. Port Angeles is only an hour's drive from Forks.

TTTS authors diligently researched all the pros and cons of flying to Port Angeles from Sea-Tac and failed to find a distinct advantage, or disadvantage, for doing so—apart from *one* point:

**Twilighters who are nervous about flying on a small plane  
will *not* want to fly from Sea-Tac to Port Angeles!**



[©2007 Michael Hays]

If flying on a small plane worries you, your decision is made. Skip the next few paragraphs and go directly to the **Seattle-Tacoma International Airport** information section. If small planes *don't* bother you, consider the pros and cons of flying between Sea-Tac and Port Angeles.

#### **PROS**

- Driving Twilighters who fly to Port Angeles and rent a car there won't have to negotiate the infamously congested Seattle-Tacoma I-5—*unless* you're planning to visit Seattle at some point during your Olympic Peninsula holiday.
- Twilighters who cannot drive (or don't want to drive) will find it faster to reach Forks via a bus from Port Angeles than a bus from Seattle. A lengthy Sea-Tac layover before boarding the Port Angeles flight, however, can negate this advantage.
- Twihards divinely inspired to follow in Bella's footsteps will thoroughly enjoy flying on a puddle-jumper between Sea-Tac and Port Angeles.



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### CONS

- All flights between Sea-Tac and the Port Angeles airport are operated by a single, privately owned company, **Kenmore Air**. Because the company is privately owned, Kenmore Air flights cannot be booked via major airlines, *or* airfare comparison Internet websites. Thus, Port Angeles package flight discounts are unavailable.

Also, we accidentally discovered that Kenmore Air fares occasionally change—dramatically. On February 9th, 2014, a summer (June) Kenmore Air flight between Sea-Tac and Port Angeles cost **\$203 (£124)**. Two days later, the same flight's airfare dropped to **\$110 (£67)**.

Although any Kenmore Air booking can be cancelled up to 7 days prior to departure, and a new Kenmore Air flight booked at the cheaper rate **without penalty**, the money saved by canceling and rebooking is **not refunded**. Instead, the difference is held for up to 18 months as **future flight credit**.

**BTW:** Complete cancellations are also held as future flight credit. **If you book it, use it within 18 months or lose it!**

- You may encounter a Sea-Tac layover of **up to 4 hours** between your flight's arrival and the Port Angeles puddle-jumper departure time. Unfortunately, even a 4-hour layover is too short to safely accomplish a **Seattle Twilight Saga** visit. If you pop into Seattle from Sea-Tac, you cannot be assured of returning to the airport in time to catch the Port Angeles flight.
- **There is only one car hire company in Port Angeles:** a locally-owned **Budget Car Rental** franchise. Because all major US car hire companies have offices at Sea-Tac, car rental discounts are more readily available at Sea-Tac.

**Bottom Line:** Twilighters who don't mind traveling on small planes should investigate the options of flying from Sea-Tac to Port Angeles. You'll find links helpful to this process in our

**Port Angeles Airport TwiTips PDF:**

<http://www.TourTheTwilightSaga.com/B1/PortAngelesAirport.pdf>

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[©www.portseattle.org]

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

<http://www.portseattle.org/Sea-Tac>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seattle%E2%80%93Tacoma\\_International\\_Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seattle%E2%80%93Tacoma_International_Airport)

**Google Maps & SatNav/GPS:** 17801 International Boulevard, Seattle, WA 98158

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The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)—commonly called **Sea-Tac Airport**, or just **Sea-Tac**—is the 15th-busiest airport in the United States. Several major airlines fly here, offering service to destinations throughout North America, Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia.

**The most important aspect of booking a Sea-Tac flight is your arrival time.** To avoid having to drive through Seattle-Tacoma **rush hours** on Mondays through Fridays, arrive at Sea-Tac between 9am and noon. Even if it takes an hour to retrieve your baggage and rent a car, this window assures that you'll be negotiating Seattle's infamous I-5 when traffic is least congested.

**A Tip for Infrequent Flyers:** If you live within similar distance of two or more airports, explore the price and availability of Sea-Tac flights from *each* of them. TTTS author CD Miller, for instance, lives between airports in Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska. In February of 2014, the round-trip Sea-Tac flight fare from Omaha was \$184 (£112) *less than* the round-trip Sea-Tac flight fare from Lincoln. Yet, travel time for both flight itineraries was the same, and both flights arrived at Sea-Tac at 10am.

### **To Ferry or Not to Ferry?**

When plotting a rental car driving route between Sea-Tac airport and Port Angeles or Forks, you'll have the option of using one of four ferries to cross Puget Sound, rather than driving the Seattle-Tacoma I-5 south and around the sound. If you cannot avoid the I-5 during rush hours, taking a ferry can save you an hour or more of drive-time. Then again, Puget Sound ferries are sometimes delayed or fully booked (especially on summer weekends). When that happens, using a Puget Sound ferry won't save any time at all. In fact, it may make your journey longer.

Furthermore, the ferries aren't free. Below are some 2014 Puget Sound Ferry fee examples.

- Small Vehicle and Driver:  
\$13.65 (£8.31) during Peak Season (May 1st through September 30th)  
\$10.70 (£6.51) during off-Peak Season
- Each Additional Adult in the Vehicle: \$7.85 (£4.78)
- Each Senior (65+) or Disabled adult in the Vehicle: \$3.90 (£2.37)
- Each 6 to 18 y/o Youth in the Vehicle: \$3.90 (£2.37)  
(Children less than 6 y/o travel for free.)

### **TTTS Authors Agree with the Forks Chamber of Commerce:**

**Do not use a Puget Sound Ferry** when driving from Sea-Tac to Port Angeles and Forks. It's a far better idea to plan your Sea-Tac airport arrival so you can negotiate the I-5 during non-rush hours. <http://forkswa.com/2012/12/12/how-do-i-get-to-forks-washington-once-i-arrive-at-sea-tac/>

### **Common Drive Times**

- Sea-Tac to Port Angeles (via the I-5 during non-rush hours—no ferry): 2.5 hours
- Port Angeles to Forks: 1 hour

Thus, the fastest, non-stop drive time from Sea-Tac to Forks is approximately 3.5 hours.



## The Portland, Oregon Airport Option

Portland International Airport (PDX)

<http://www.portofportland.com>

**Google Maps & SatNav/GPS:** 7000 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97218

Twilighters with two or more weeks of holiday time are blessed with the ability to consider visiting Twilight Saga Sites in *Tour the Twilight Saga* **Book One** and **Book Three**—**Twilight Saga Film Sites in the US states of Oregon and Washington** (sites south of Washington's Olympic Peninsula).

Accomplishing a combined Book One and Three Twilight Saga Sites trip by flying to PDX, however, may or may not be less expensive than flying to Sea-Tac. A lot depends on your place of departure. If this is the holiday you're interested in, do some investigating.

**Our Suggestion:** If a PDX flight is significantly more expensive than a Sea-Tac flight from your place of departure, **fly to Seattle**. The basic round-trip drive time between Book One and Three Twilight Saga Sites isn't particularly affected by the airport you use—*unless* you plan to *skip* the Seattle Twilight Saga Site(s). In that case, you'll save at least an hour of drive-time by flying to PDX.