



Olympic Peninsula Twilight Saga Trip Planning

<http://TourTheTwilightSaga.com>

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Tour the Twilight Saga Olympic Peninsula Twilight Saga Trip Planning Tips

Selecting the Sites You Want to Visit

Begin by familiarizing yourself with the **23 Olympic Peninsula Twilight Saga Sites** identified in TTTS Book One, and exploring each site's Internet resource links.

All Twilighters will want to visit **Port Angeles** (Site #2) and each of the **21 Forks and La Push** Twilight Saga Sites. Several of these locations, however, have time-based options for visiting, and some include Twilicious side-trip suggestions.

Deciding how and when to visit Seattle (Site #1) requires special consideration.

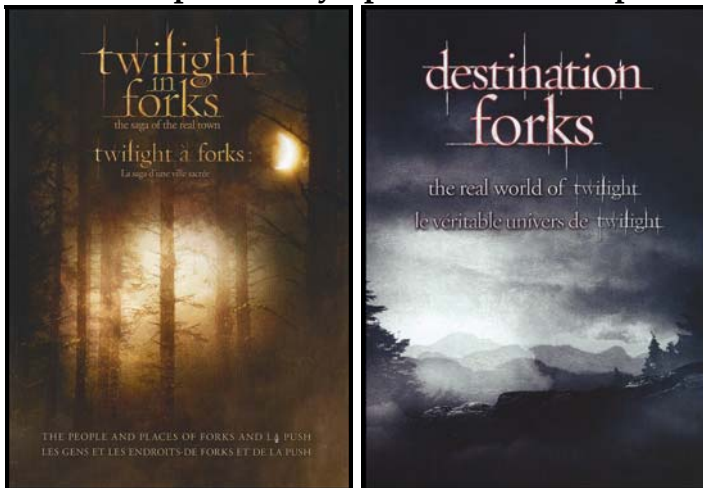
Read the site chapter, but delay any decision making until after you've **selected your holiday dates** and investigated **flight options**. Seattle visit planning is dramatically different if you'll be flying between Seattle and Port Angeles on a puddle-jumper (small plane)—as Bella did.

[When you're ready, our **Book One Airport Options** TwiTips file will help you decide where to fly. <http://www.TourTheTwilightSaga.com/B1/AirportOptions.pdf>]

Something else to keep in mind about Seattle:

Because of its proximity to **Vancouver, British Columbia** (Canada) and **Washington State** Twilight Saga Sites outside the Olympic Peninsula, Seattle's chapter also appears in **TTTS Books Two and Three**. A Seattle visit easily can be reserved for *another* Twilight Saga trip.

Side Note: The Two Documentary DVDs about Twilight and Forks are *Not* Helpful to Olympic Peninsula Trip Planning



[DVD Cover scans (enhanced)]

Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town

Release Date: October 15th, 2009. Duration: 84 minutes.

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1512258/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

You won't find *any* information valuable to planning a Forks and La Push visit in either of director Jason Brown's documentaries. Furthermore, these DVDs are sadly disappointing. They're not very interesting, *or* entertaining!

**It is Our Opinion That
Twilighters should SKIP these DVDs.**

If you've tons of time, however, *Twilight in Forks* is the better of the two.

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Destination Forks: The Real World of Twilight

Release Date: November 4th, 2010. Duration: 83 minutes.

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2606108/?ref=nm_flmg_dr_1

As Long as We're on the Subject

Rosemary Colandrea of **TwiFoot Tours** (Site #12) reviewed Jason Brown's *Twilight in Volterra* documentary DVD for us. She and husband, Nino, actually visited **Volterra** and **Montepulciano**—the two **Italian** Twilight Saga Sites—in 2009. Thanks to her valuable insight, we decided *not* to purchase and view Brown's Volterra DVD.

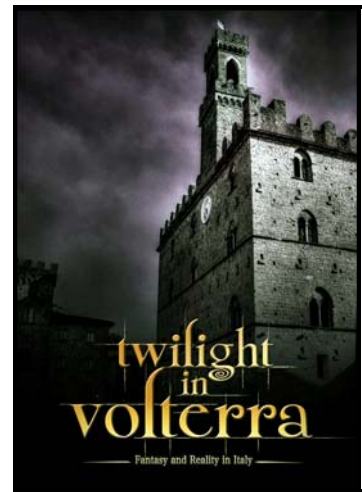
If any Twilighters have seen and enjoyed it, and want to *promote* the Volterra documentary, please contact us and make your pitch. We'll publish your comments—whatever they are—in the Italy section of **TTTS Book Four**.

chas@novelholiday.com

Twilight in Volterra: Fantasy and Reality in Italy

Release Date: March, 2013. Duration: 62 minutes

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3088402/?ref=fn_al_tt_1



[DVD Cover scan (enhanced)]

That said, we recognize that many Twihards probably will buy all three of these Twilight-Saga-related DVDs. If you *must* buy them, **purchase used copies**. Fans who pay more than \$5 (£3) for any of these DVDs are sure to end up feeling cheated.

Deciding on the Dates of Your Trip

What is the Best Season to Visit?

Washington's Olympic Peninsula has plenty to offer at all times of the year. Twilighters who travel here in late fall, winter or spring, however, risk having to navigate roads covered by ice or snow—as well as suffering unpleasant weather conditions while touring the area.

Olympic Peninsula peak tourism months are those when weather conditions are friendliest to road travel and path trekking: **June, July, August, and September**. Yes, area accommodations are slightly more expensive during these months, and some places may be crowded. But, you'll be able to enjoy the Olympic Peninsula when its weather is most marvelous.

We recommend visiting in September.

In September, the Olympic Peninsula's peak tourism season is winding down, younger Twilighters are back in school, and the weather is still wonderful. If visiting Forks during the annual **Stephenie Meyer Day Celebration** in September, however, be sure to book your lodgings (bus tour and restaurant reservations) well in advance. When you read the **Forks and La Push Prologue** (Chapter

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5), you'll become acquainted with the Stephenie Meyer Day Celebration weekend and can decide what to do.

Determining How Long You'll Need for an Olympic Peninsula Twilight Saga Holiday

Begin by allowing for travel days.

- US and Canadian Twilighters need only schedule **two travel days**: one for flight arrival, one for flight departure.
- Twilighters flying here from other countries—or road-tripping to Washington—may need to schedule more than two travel days.

Next, decide how many days you'd like to spend in the Forks and La Push area.

- **A two-day visit is the absolute minimum required to accomplish a Forks and La Push Twilight Saga tour.**

Fair Warning: Although it's *possible* to pop to all the Forks and La Push Twilight Saga Sites in two days, you'll probably regret not spending at least one *more* day here. In the Forks and La Push Prologue (Chapter 5), you'll find our Forks and La Push Touring Maps, as well as our two- and three-day itinerary suggestions. These files will help you make the best decision.

- **A three-day visit** is better, yet still rather rushed—especially if you're interested in enjoying any of the longer site visit options, or any of the associated side-trips.
- **To enjoy the most Twilicious Olympic Peninsula holiday, we suggest scheduling at least FOUR DAYS in the Forks and La Push area.**
- Twilighters visiting Forks during September's **Stephenie Meyer Day Celebration** weekend, however, should schedule **five days** in the area.

After discovering the number of travel days required to reach the Olympic Peninsula, and deciding on the length of your Forks and La Push stay, Twilighters blessed with additional holiday time can plan a Seattle visit, *OR* can consider trekking to some **Twilight Saga Film Sites**.

Vancouver, British Columbia (**TTTS Book Two**) is only a 3-hour drive north from Seattle, 4 hours from Port Angeles. Washington State film site locations south of the Olympic Peninsula (**TTTS Book Three**), can be reached in approximately the same amount of time.

Preparation Important to Planning an Olympic Peninsula Visit

When traveling anywhere for the first time, it's a good idea to learn at least a little something about your destination. What might you see? What might you need to be prepared for? What should you pack? What follows are some suggestions for becoming familiar with the Olympic Peninsula, staying safe during your visit, and packing wisely.

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[©National Park Service]

The Olympic Peninsula

Almost a million acres of Washington State's Olympic Peninsula is pristine wilderness protected within the **Olympic National Park**. The park includes Pacific coastline beaches, alpine areas of the glaciated Olympic Mountains, and the immense **Olympic National Forest**: lush, temperate rainforests in the west (the Forks area)—drier forest and woods in the east.

Due to its amazing diversity of ecosystems, its acres of unspoiled territory and stunningly beautiful scenery, **UNESCO** declared the Olympic National Park an **International Biosphere Reserve** in 1976, and a **World Heritage Site** in 1981.

Below are links to a few of the *many* informative Olympic National Park websites.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/151>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_National_Park

<http://www.nps.gov/olymp/index.htm>

<http://www.olympicpeninsula.org>

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

The Wilderness Twilighter Treaty

Because the Olympic Peninsula contains so many diverse and delicate ecosystems, we developed a **Wilderness-Related** version of the **Twilighter Treaty** published throughout our *Tour the Twilight Saga* travel guidebooks.

The Wilderness Twilighter Treaty

Leave no trace of your passage—Pack out all your trash
Stay on the path—Tread lightly and avoid trampling the foliage
Do not disturb native wildlife in any way
Do not *feed* native wildlife—for *any* reason
Do not photograph people without their permission
Do not bite any humans—or animals—for any reason

Staying Safe When Twilighting in the Olympic Peninsula

The Olympic Peninsula's fabulous forests, majestic mountains, and beautiful beaches present a variety of wilderness challenges. Even when enjoying a *guided* tour, it is your responsibility to stay safe. The more independently you plan to visit an area, the more knowledge you'll need to avoid mishap.

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Wherever You Go, Be Prepared for Wild Animal Encounters

The Olympic National Park is *not* surrounded by a fence. Washington State's entire northwestern peninsula is teeming with wild animals, free to roam anywhere they wish. In fact, Twilighters trekking to Book One Twilight Saga Sites *will* encounter wild animals—even when strolling along the streets of rural communities.



[©2013 Tara Miller]

One morning of Chas and Tara's 2013 recon trip, for instance, a huge herd of **Roosevelt elk** were meandering along a runway at Fork's tiny Municipal Airport—*across the street* from the **Forks Chamber of Commerce** (Site #4). During dawn and dusk hours, elk and deer also are often seen wandering through the *yards* of homes in Forks. No matter where you lodge when visiting the Forks area, you may see elk or deer grazing on the lawn.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roosevelt_elk

Deer or Elk Encounter Safety Tips:

- **Do not go near them, no matter how docile they appear.**
If they feel threatened, deer and elk may strike at you with sharp hooves or antlers—or both. Since you cannot anticipate what a deer or elk might consider threatening, especially if an elk calf or deer fawn is hidden nearby, do not go near them.
- **If a deer or elk approaches you, shout at it and wave your arms to scare it away, while backing up to put more distance between you and it.** Under most circumstances, this action will frighten the creature into retreating. If there's an unseen calf or fawn nearby, backing away also will demonstrate that you're not threatening the baby.
- **Do not feed them.** Feeding deer or elk is harmful to the animal's health.
- **Snap plenty of pix**—from a distance.

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[Eclipse Special Features screenshot segment (enhanced)]

The Olympic Peninsula is populated by thousands of **black bears**. Although they rarely venture into Forks, Twilighters may encounter them when visiting any Twilight Saga Site outside of town. Smaller than the grizzly or brown bear, black bears still are extremely powerful creatures. Females typically weigh between 100 and 400 lbs, while males weigh between 250 and 600 lbs. Both genders have sharp teeth and non-retractable claws designed to rip and shred.

<http://www.nps.gov/olym/naturescience/black-bear.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_black_bear

In most cases black bears fear people as much or *more* than we fear them. If you see a bear during your travels, give it a wide berth and it probably will scamper away without incident. (Snap pix, but do not follow it!) Although black bear attacks are extremely rare, it's wise to be familiar with the guidelines below.

Black Bear Encounter Safety Tips:

- **Never, ever, approach a bear.**
- **If a bear approaches you, do *not* turn and run.** Instead, shout at it and wave your arms to scare it into leaving, while **rapidly backing up** to put more distance between you and the bear.
- **If the bear ignores your scary behavior and continues to approach,** it's probably because your travel bag smells of food and the bear is hungry.
Do not risk injury! Abandon your bag and continue backing away.
As soon as the bear is preoccupied with your bag, turn and quickly leave the area.
- **Trees are *not* a means of escape.** Black bears are surprisingly agile in trees. They can climb far faster and higher than you can.
- **Playing dead does *not* work with black bears. If attacked, fight back!**
Strike the bear with anything you can reach—sticks, stones, or your fists. Since the bulk of its body is well padded, aim for its face to cause discomfort, especially the nose and eyes.

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[Photo segment, ©2010 Ron Spomer (RonSpomerOutdoors.com)]

Cougars—aka Mountain Lions, Pumas, or Panthers—are common inhabitants of the Olympic Peninsula mountains and forests, but are so seldom seen we weren't planning to mention them. That plan dramatically changed, however, after **Chas saw a gigantic cougar run across Hwy 101** while driving south of Forks early one morning.

"It was huge and vampire fast! By the time I realized that it wasn't a deer or a bear—animals I was prepared to see along the road—the cougar was half-way across the highway. A second later, it had disappeared into the forest. The cougar was as long as the lane I was driving in, making it 8 feet from nose to tail-tip. The sighting was absolutely stunning, while simultaneously terrifying! Thirty minutes (and thirty miles) later, my pulse was *still* racing."

Statistically, cougars are the fourth largest member of the feline family—behind lions, tigers and jaguars: big cats that *don't* live in the Olympic Peninsula. Usually a tawny, golden-brown color, cougars also may have gray or reddish fur. As Chas observed, adult males can be up to eight feet long (including nearly three feet of tail) and weigh as much as 250 pounds. Female cougars are slightly smaller and average 90 to 110 pounds. Both genders are fully armed with razor-sharp teeth and claws.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar>

<http://www.nps.gov/olym/naturescience/cougar.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/wilderness-safety.htm>

Very few humans ever see a cougar in the distance—let alone encounter one up close. That said, however, please familiarize yourself with the guidelines below.

Cougar Encounter Safety Tips:

- **Never, ever, approach a cougar.**
- If a cougar approaches *you*, **stop moving and stay calm—but, do not turn your back and do *not* run!**
- **Pick up small children immediately so they cannot panic and flee.**
- **Stand upright and face the animal.** Remain calm, but **loudly and firmly yell at the cougar**, ordering it to leave: "Get-the-hell-outta-here, Cougar! Shoo! Go away!"

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- **Do all you can to appear larger.** For example, open your jacket, raise and wave your arms, while continuing to loudly and firmly yell at the cougar.

The goal is to convince the predator that you are a **danger** to it—*not* an easy meal.

- **Slowly back away** while continuing to yell, gradually putting more distance between you and the enormous cat, and giving it plenty of opportunity to escape.
- If the cougar continues to approach or becomes more aggressive, **become more aggressive toward the cougar!** Yell louder. Pick up sticks or stones and throw them at the cat as hard as you can. Again, the goal is to demonstrate that you are *not* an easy meal.
- **If attacked, fight back! Playing dead does *not* work with cougars.**

Whack the attacking cat with anything you can reach—sticks, stones, or just your fists—aiming at its face. Kick at the cat's tender underbelly. Do *anything* you possibly can to cause discomfort.



[*Breaking Dawn Part 2* screenshot (enhanced)]

Of course, if you're a vampire, you can ignore *all* of the above information!



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Happy News: There are No Poisonous Snakes in the Olympic Peninsula

The Olympic Peninsula is home to only three species of snakes, all of which are non-venomous and quite small.

- The **Common Garter Snake** (above left)
- The **Puget Sound Garter Snake** (above center)
- The **Rubber Boa Snake** (above right)

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Everyone knows how harmless Garter snakes are. If you're concerned about the Boa, however, please refer to the Wikipedia info below:

"Rubber Boas are considered one of the most docile of the boa species and are often used to help people overcome their fear of snakes. Rubber Boas are known to never strike at or bite a human under any circumstances, but will release a potent musk from their vent if they feel threatened."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Garter_Snake

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thamnophis_ordinoides

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubber_Boa

The Olympic Peninsula also is home to a colorful variety of other small **reptiles** and **amphibians**—such as lizards, salamanders, newts, and frogs.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphibians_and_reptiles_of_Olympic_National_Park

Reptile and Amphibian Encounter Safety Tips:

- Please leave these perfectly harmless creatures alone.
- Do not poke them, or pick them up, or handle them in *any* way.
- Do not feed them.

In case you didn't notice, the safety tips above are designed for the creatures' comfort—not yours!



[©2005 Darkone] [©2013 Dave Menke]

One Last Critter Important to Consider: The Raccoon

Thousands of incredibly cute, cuddly-looking raccoons range far and wide throughout the Olympic Peninsula. Although normally timid and harmless, Raccoons have razor sharp teeth and claws. Happily, as long as you don't corner and threaten one, it is unlikely that any raccoon will physically attack you.

The most common danger posed by human contact with raccoons is the threat of **becoming infected by the roundworm parasites frequently found in their feces**. The best way to avoid contracting roundworm is to **stay away from raccoons**, and watch where you step. Since you probably won't know what kind of animal scat you're looking at, it's a good idea to simply **stay away from every pile of pooh you encounter**.

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Please Do Not Feed the Raccoons

When people feed them, raccoons become accustomed to obtaining food from humans and begin to lose their fear of people. Next, they become more aggressive in their efforts to snatch food from humans. Although these masked bandits have never been known to attack people, raccoons may accidentally **bite or gouge** the hand that feeds them when snatching a tasty tidbit.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raccoon>

<http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/welfare/wildlife/urban-wildlife/raccoons.html>

Other Olympic Peninsula Animals

Twilighters interested in learning more about the multitude of creatures who dwell in the Olympic Peninsula—many of which are found nowhere else in the world—will enjoy the US National Park Service webpages below.

<http://www.nps.gov/olym/naturescience/animals.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/olym/naturescience/endemic-animals.htm>



Olympic Peninsula Packing Plans

Over the years, we've compiled a comprehensive collection of **General Packing Pointers** to assist fans who travel to *any* of the **A Novel Holiday** travel guidebook locales. Our *Tour the Twilight Saga* version of these General Packing Pointers is posted online.

<http://www.TourTheTwilightSaga.com/Tips/PackingPointers.pdf>

In addition, Twilighters visiting Book One's sites should consider packing a few items specific to Olympic Peninsula touring—especially if planning to enjoy a site-related side trip.

Sturdy Walking or Hiking Shoes

Happy feet are important to enjoying *any* Twilight Saga tour—whether simply strolling through town, or walking down a forest path. The best form of footwear to bring is a pair of comfortable **hiking boots** or **walking shoes with good traction**.

Considering the area's climate, it's a good idea to have your Twilighting footwear *waterproofed* before leaving home.

Twilighters planning to enjoy Olympic Peninsula **Tide Pools** may also want to pack special Tidepooling footwear, as explained in our **Tour the Twilight Saga Tidepooling Tips** supplement.

<http://www.TourTheTwilightSaga.com/B1/21TidePoolTips.pdf>

Olympic Peninsula Clothing Considerations

When touring cities such as Seattle and Port Angeles—or when Twilighting *only* within the town of Forks—everyday apparel is perfectly adequate. After all, you'll never be more than a few steps away from shelter and warmth. When trekking anywhere else in the Olympic Peninsula, however, **dress in layers**. Olympic Peninsula weather conditions can change quickly and dramatically, without warning. By dressing in layers you easily can strip stuff off when the weather is warm, bundle back up when it suddenly turns cold or rainy.

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Clothing for Casual Wilderness Walks:

- **Bring a heavy-duty, hooded raincoat or parka.**
Super-cheap, disposable, plastic parkas—the ones that come in a pocket-sized plastic bag—are perfectly fine when it's merely drizzling. During an Olympic Peninsula downpour, however, disposable parkas are unlikely to keep you dry.
- **Wear wool socks.** Cotton socks are worthless when wet, whereas wool socks retain heat even when completely soaked. Additionally, wool socks keep your feet *cooler* in warm weather than cotton socks do.
- **Long sleeved shirts and full length trousers are highly recommended, even when visiting in summer.** During warm weather months, the Olympic Peninsula is swarming with black flies, deerflies, horseflies, ticks, and mosquitoes. The less flesh exposed, the less likely you'll suffer insect bites.
- **Insect repellent.**
Please Note: To effectively repel Olympic Peninsula biting insects, the product you use must contain at least a dollop of **DEET** (*N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide*). Thankfully, modern-day DEET-containing insect repellents are safe, especially when only used during brief trips.
- **Bring a wool, silk, polypropylene or polar fleece sweater (jumper) or jacket.**
Wool, silk, and specialized synthetic fabrics will keep you warm even when they're wet. These fabrics also dry faster than cotton, and are no hotter than cotton in the summer.
- **An extra shirt**—of *any* kind—**wouldn't go amiss.**

Clothing and Gear for Hiking

Olympic National Park trails and paths are praised by hiking enthusiasts of all experience levels. In addition to dressing for a variety of weather conditions, however, Twi-Hikers also must be adequately equipped to deal with all the *other* challenges that may be encountered when trekking into the wild. Please peruse the website links below when planning your trip.

<http://www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/wilderness-safety.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/wilderness-travel-basics.htm>

<http://experienceolympic.com/trip/gear>

<http://www.olympicnationalparks.com/activities/hiking.aspx>

Clothing and Gear for Camping

Camping enthusiasts who vacation in the Olympic Peninsula have the unique opportunity of reposing within a magical rainforest, slumbering to the sound of real-world ocean surf breaking on a nearby beach, or snoozing beneath the stars in an alpine meadow—all within the scope of a single holiday. Many Olympic Peninsula campsites constitute a greater degree of wilderness isolation than a mere day hike in the park, however. Thus, Twi-Campers should explore all the hiking safety links above, as well as all the camping safety links below—*especially* the **Wilderness Food Storage** reference.

<http://www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/wilderness-food-storage.htm>