

tour the twilight saga

A Novel Holiday

FORKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

book one: the olympic peninsula

by C. D. Miller

Tour the Twilight Saga

Book One:

Washington's Olympic Peninsula

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

By CD Miller

Introduction

Tour the Twilight Saga Book One is designed to guide **Twilighters** (regular Twilight Saga fans) and **Twihards** (*die-hard* Twilight Saga devotees) to Twilight Saga sites located in Washington State's Olympic Peninsula.

No Filming Took Place in the Olympic Peninsula

When researching and writing her first novel, Stephenie Meyer selected the Olympic Peninsula town of Forks, Washington, as the primary setting for *Twilight*. Naturally, locations near to Forks soon crept into her manuscript: La Push First Beach, Port Angeles, the Quileute Reservation, and Seattle.

When plans began for filming, *Twilight* director Catherine Hardwicke hoped to shoot in Forks and the other real-world Olympic Peninsula novel locations. Unfortunately, the first Twilight Saga movie was a relatively low-budget project. Forks' remote location, and Washington State's exorbitant filming fees at the time, ultimately made it far too expensive for her to film at any of the real-world sites.

Thus, all *Tour the Twilight Saga* (TTTS) Book One locations are **novel-related places—*not* film sites**.

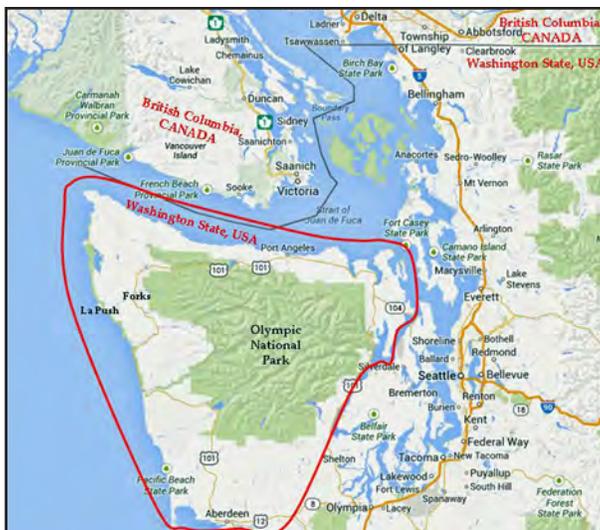
It is not our intention to diminish the importance of visiting Olympic Peninsula Twilight Saga sites. In fact, we believe that the real-world novel locations are far more exciting and enjoyable than the film sites. We simply want to ensure that Twilighters and Twihards understand that Olympic Peninsula Twilight Saga sites are places described in Stephenie's novels, *not* places you'll recognize from footage seen on screen.

Happily, we'll take you to **Twilight Saga Film Sites** in subsequent TTTS travel guidebooks.

- **Book Two: Vancouver, British Columbia.**
- **Book Three: Oregon and Washington**
- **Book Four: USA —and Around the World**

These locations are found in the US states of California and Louisiana, the countries of Brazil and Italy, as well as **St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands**.





[Google Maps segments married & enhanced, ©2013 Google]

What is the Olympic Peninsula?

The Olympic Peninsula is the northwestern-most part of the contiguous continental United States. A section of the state of Washington, the Olympic Peninsula is bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west, the Strait of Jaun de Fuca (a section of the US-Canadian border) in the north, and on the east by the Hood Canal, which lies just west of Puget Sound. The Olympic Peninsula’s southern border begins in the approximate area of Aberdeen, Washington—the “Gateway to the Olympic Peninsula.”

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

<http://www.olympicpeninsula.org/>

Technically, the city of Seattle, Washington (TTTS Site #1) lies outside the Olympic Peninsula’s eastern border. For TTTS Book One purposes, however, Seattle is considered part of the Olympic Peninsula.



The Twilighter Treaty

It is important that all Twilighters and Twihards be as polite as possible when visiting Twilight Saga sites, especially those situated on private property. It only takes *one* noisy or disrespectful fan to ruin the reception received by all Twilighters who visit thereafter. Please be the very best **Twilight Saga Ambassador** you can possibly be, and abide by the Twilighter Treaty everywhere you go.



Seattle, Washington

Birthplace of Victoria's Newborn Army

Home of J. Jenks

The Twilight T-Shirt Trek

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

<http://www.seattle.gov>

Google Maps: 1st Avenue and Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101

Visit Time: Plan on spending at least 2 hours at Pike Place Market, but don't be surprised if you stay far longer. T-shirt trekking Twilighters should schedule 1-2 hours in the Fremont area.



[Breaking Dawn Part 2 screenshot segment (enhanced)]

Seattle is a coastal seaport city and the seat of King County, Washington. With an estimated population of 634,535 in 2012, Seattle is the largest city in the Pacific Northwest region of the U.S., and one of the fastest-growing cities in the country. Seattle is situated on a narrow strip of land sandwiched between Puget Sound—a Pacific Ocean inlet—and Lake Washington, approximately 100 miles (160 km) south of the U.S.-Canadian border. Closer to Asia and Alaska than any other major U.S. seaport, Port of Seattle is a premier gateway for products, cruise passengers and tourists, moving to and from North America.



[Eclipse screenshot (enhanced)]

Seattle's Twilight Saga Sight

In *Eclipse*, Stephenie Meyer described a sudden rash of unsolved murders and disappearances occurring in Seattle—incidents eventually revealed as Victoria's efforts to create an army of newborns, led by her new partner, Riley Biers.



[Eclipse screenshot segments (enhanced)]

Little explanation of Riley's background is found in the novel. We learn far more about him in the movie—something Stephenie collaborated on—including where he went missing.

“Riley Biers was last seen at 16:15 (4:15pm) on Friday, May 21 2010, walking towards the Pike Place Market.”



[©2013 CD Miller]

Pike Place Market

<http://pikeplacemarket.org/>

<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/pikeplace.htm>

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

Google Maps: Pike Place Market, Seattle, WA 98101

Or, 1st Avenue & Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101.

Established in 1907, Seattle’s **Pike Place Market** is one of the oldest continuously operating farmers markets in the United States, and the country’s most historically authentic public market. Part of a nine-acre Market Historic District, Pike Place Market extends 3 blocks north of Pike Street to Virginia Street, and 2 blocks west from 1st Avenue to Western Avenue.



[©2013 CD Miller, above and below]



Port Angeles, Washington

Novel Locations Including Bella and Edward's First Date Restaurant

<http://www.cityofpa.us/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Angeles,_Washington

http://twilightsaga.wikia.com/wiki/Port_Angeles,_Washington

Google Maps & SatNav/GPS: 118 East 1st Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Visit Time: Plan no less than 2.5 hours to enjoy your Bella's Mushroom Ravioli dinner reservation and snap pix at other nearby Port Angeles novel locations.



Forks lies within Clallam County, about an hour's drive southeast of **Port Angeles**, the Clallam County seat. Forks doesn't have a movie theater or any major department stores. Real-world Forks teenagers have to drive to Port Angeles if they want to do some serious shopping or enjoy a movie date. An accomplished researcher, Stephenie Meyer wrote a few Bella-trips to Port Angeles in *Twilight* and *New Moon*.

Rather than make Charlie drive 7 hours (3½ hours each way) to pick his daughter up at the **Seattle-Tacoma International Airport**, Stephenie had Bella fly into Port Angeles' tiny **William R. Fairchild International Airport** when she moved back to Forks.

"It's a four-hour flight from Phoenix to Seattle, another hour in a small plane up to Port Angeles, and then an hour drive back down to Forks."

Twilight Saga Sites in Port Angeles

We've listed the six Port Angeles Twilight Saga novel sites in order of most-Twilicious to least-Twilicious. Happily, the first five are found in the small Port Angeles downtown area and within easy walking distance of each other.

Forks and La Push Prologue

- Tour the Twilight Saga's Forks and La Push Maps
- Forks-Based Twilight Bus Tours
- The Annual Stephenie Meyer Day Celebration
- The Demise of Dazzled By Twilight
- Local Lodging Options



Tour the Twilight Saga's Forks Walking Tour Map

We developed a walking tour that includes *every* Twilight Saga location found within the town of Forks—all the novel-related places, as well as all the businesses that sell Twilight Saga merchandise. (The Twilight map posted on the Forks Chamber of Commerce website is wonderful, but it doesn't include all the Twilight Saga merchandise businesses.)

Our Forks Walking Tour Map is Posted Online



[Google Maps segments, married & enhanced, ©2013 Google]
<http://www.TourTheTwilightSaga.com/B1/MapsForksLaPush.pdf>



[©2013 Tara Miller]

The Annual Stephenie Meyer Day Celebration in Forks

Soon after the town began enjoying the tourism surge spawned by the 2005 publication of her first novel, Stephenie Meyer traveled to Forks to do a book-signing event and was honored by Mayor Nedra Reed, who declared **July 20th, 2006**, an honorary **Stephenie Meyer Day**. Only 250 fans happened to be on hand that day, but the number of Forks-visiting Twilighers significantly increased in 2006, and *exploded* in 2007. Thus, the Forks COC created an annual Stephenie Meyer Day (SMD). As **Marcia Bingham**, COC Customer Service Director, explained in the *Twilight in Forks* documentary:

“We wanted it to be [Stephenie’s] birthday, but her birthday is Christmas Eve. [Winter is *not* the best time to visit Washington’s Olympic Peninsula.] So we picked Bella’s birthday, **September 13th**. And we made that our big party day.”

The first September SMD celebration was a one-day event in 2007. As more Twilighers learned about it, the celebration increased to two days in 2008. Since 2009, the September SMD celebration has become an annual **three-day event**. The SMD weekend has grown to become so jam-packed full of special events, those who want to enjoy every Twilicious tidbit need to schedule at least *five days* when visiting Forks and La Push during SMD.



Site #4

The Forks Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center

Forks Chamber of Commerce website: <http://forkswa.com/>

Forks Community website: <http://www.forkswashington.org/>

Google Maps & SatNav/GPS: 1411 South Forks Avenue, Forks, WA 98331

Hours of Operation: Tourist Season, 10am to 5pm; Off-Season, 10am to 4pm; Sundays all year-round, 10am to 4pm.

Visit Time: Plan on spending at least an hour here to explore the visitor center and a few of its many attractions. Scheduling two hours here would be even better.



[©2013 CD Miller]

The **Forks Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center** (COC) is the perfect starting point for a Twilight Saga tour of Forks. In addition to being the home of the southern **Forks Welcomes You** sign (Site #3), the COC offers a wealth of Twilicious information, displays and souvenirs, as well as several other extremely interesting non-*Twilight* attractions.



Forks Coffee Shop

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

<http://forkswa.com/listing/forks-coffee-shop/>

Google Maps & SatNav/GPS: 241 South Forks Avenue, Forks, WA 98331

Hours of Operation: Open daily from 5:30am to 8pm.

Visit Time: Plan at least 45 minutes to eat here and snap pix.

Please Note: See important Forks parking info at the end of this chapter.



[©2013 CD Miller]

Forks Coffee Shop is where Chief Charlie Swan frequently ate dinner before Bella moved home and began cooking for him.

La Push First Beach

Jacob & Bella's Beach (Bella's Tide Pools)

<http://www.forks-web.com/fg/beach123.htm>

<http://forkswa.com/first-beach-webcam/>

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

Google Maps: First Beach, La Push, WA

SatNav/GPS coordinates and driving directions provided below.

***View Quileute Country Etiquette Before Visiting:**

<http://www.quileutenation.org/indian-country-etiquette>

Hours of Operation: Open to the public 24/7.

Visit Time: Both Forks-based Twilight Tour companies offer bus trips that make a brief photo op stop at First Beach. However, no less than **one hour** is required to fully enjoy a Twilicious "*La Push-Baby*" beach visit. Schedule at least **three additional hours** for a *Twilight* tide pool trek.



Of the three **La Push** beaches—First, Second, and Third—**First Beach** is the primary *Twilight* Saga novel setting. One mile long and crescent-shaped, First Beach is a combination of two beach types. A thin strip of fine sand stretches between the water's edge and a wide stone beach liberally strewn with driftwood logs of all sizes, each bleached almost bone-white by the salt waves—exactly as Stephenie Meyer described it in *Twilight*.

Seagulls, eagles, and seals are seen here year-round. March, April, and May are the best months for migratory whale-watching.

<http://thewhailetrail.org/la-push-2>

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20100326/news/303269992>

Surfers and kayakers of all experience levels also flock to First Beach year-round.

http://www.wannasurf.com/spot/North_America/USA/North_West/Washington/la_push/

<http://solspot.com/la-push-surf-report/>

<http://magicseaweed.com/La-Push-Surf-Report/308/>

According to *Twilight: Director's Notebook*, when she scouted Forks and La Push hoping to film at the real-world locations in Stephenie's novel, Catherine Hardwicke described First Beach as being "drop-dead gorgeous." Unfortunately, Washington State filming fees in 2008 proved too expensive for the first movie's small budget. Thus, Hardwicke had to shoot *Twilight's* La Push beach scenes at **Indian Beach** in **Ecola State Park, Oregon** (TTTS Book Three).

<http://www.amazon.com/Twilight-Directors-Notebook-Story-Stephenie/dp/B005UVR9N0>



[*Twilight* screenshot (enhanced)]

Indian Beach *Twilight* footage includes van-side parking lot action, as well as Jacob and Bella walking on the beach while he tells her about Quileute legends involving the tribe's wolf origins and the mysterious cold ones.



Site #24

The Westlands Homestead

The *Original* Cullen House

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

<http://forkswa.com/listing/the-cabins-at-beaver-creek/>

Address: 272 Rixon Road, Sappho, WA 98305

Google Maps & SatNav/GPS Coordinates: 48.071498,-124.288291

Hours of Operation: This is a private residence. Please do not approach the house unless you're there to check into a booked Beaver Creek Cabin.

Visit Time: Schedule 20 minutes to snap exterior pix as a non-lodger.



Westlands Homestead is the home of **John and Michelle Simpson**, who own and operate four vacation rental cabins on their property: **The Cabins at Beaver Creek**. More importantly—to *Twilighters*—Westlands Homestead is the real-world structure that inspired Stephenie Meyer's descriptions of the **Cullen House**.

Stephenie selected Forks as the setting for her first novel sight-unseen, but managed to visit the town more than a year before *Twilight* was published.

"In the summer of 2004 I snuck up to Forks to check it out; it was the first time I've ever been to any part of Washington. I took my sister Emily with me—she was a really great sport considering that she was seven months pregnant at the time."

http://stepheniemeyer.com/twilight_forks.html

According to the *Twilight Territory* guidebook (©2009, Forks Forum Newspaper / Olympic View Publishing LLC):

"When Meyer visited Forks in 2004 during the writing of *Twilight*, a large 'historic home for sale' sign directed interested buyers and the curious to the home, which is known on the West End as Westlands. At the same time, detailed photographs of Westlands were posted on the Web site of Forks real estate firm Lunsford & Associates. There is speculation that the author either drove up to the house

or possibly viewed it on the Lunsford & Associates Web site and used it as a model for the Cullen family home. Like the Cullen house, Westlands is located well outside of Forks, along a river in a secluded spot. The centerpiece of the Westlands estate is a stately home built in the early 1900s...”

Real-world Westlands Homestead attributes reflected in Stephenie’s Cullen House descriptions are found in the following *Twilight* novel quotes.

“I realized, as he drove my truck out of the main part of town, that I had no idea where he lived. We passed over the bridge at the Calawah River, the road winding northward, ... then we were past the other houses altogether, driving through misty forest. I was trying to decide whether to ask or be patient, when he turned abruptly onto an unpaved road. It was unmarked, barely visible among the ferns.”

The Calawah River lies between the central area of Forks and La Push Road (Hwy 110). To reach anyplace north of Forks, you must drive north on Hwy 101 and cross the **Calawah River bridge**.

Between La Push Road and Sappho—the next town north of Forks on Hwy 101—there are only a handful of houses.

To reach Westlands Homestead from Forks, you must drive approximately 11 miles north of La Push Road on Hwy 101, then turn abruptly left onto a barely visible, single-lane road, immediately after crossing the third **Sol Duc River** bridge.



Westlands Homestead
[©2013 Tara Miller]

The Westlands Homestead house looks almost exactly the same as Stephenie’s physical description of the Cullen House.

“The trees held their protecting shadow right up to the walls of the house that rose among them, making obsolete the deep porch that wrapped around the first story. The house was timeless, graceful, and probably a hundred years

old. It was painted a soft, faded white, three stories tall, rectangular and well proportioned. The windows and doors were either part of the original structure or a perfect restoration. ...

“I could hear the river close by, hidden in the obscurity of the forest. ... [Edward’s window] looked down on the winding Sol Duc River, across the untouched forest to the Olympic Mountain range.”

Originally constructed over 100 years ago as the Olympic Peninsula headquarters for Clallam Lumber Company, the Westlands Homestead house is situated in a forest clearing only 500 feet from the Sol Duc River. The sound of water rushing over river rocks can be heard everywhere on the property.

Please Note: The Cullen House exterior scenes you might be familiar with from the films were shot on location in **Portland, Oregon** (TTTS Book Three). While this home is incredibly beautiful, it looks nothing like the novel’s Cullen House description.



[*Twilight* screenshot (enhanced)]

Additional Westlands Homestead History

Called “the Pathfinder in the Wilderness” by area historians, Theodore (Teddy) Rixon spent many years exploring and surveying the Olympic Peninsula with his partner, Arthur Dodwell. The U.S. Department of the Interior published their first collection of scientific field notes in 1900; *The Olympic Forest Reserve, Washington*.

Because he also was a talented and well-educated engineer, the Clallam Lumber Company hired Teddy to administrate their Olympic Peninsula logging operations. When it was finished, Teddy and his family moved into the company’s new headquarters building, Westlands Homestead.

The End

Thus ends the adventures of tour the twilight saga book one. Please join us in vancouver, british columbia for book two.

