



Olympic National Park: Press Traverse 5 Day Tour

This trip starts along the North Fork of the Quinault River and follows this river close to its origin on the slopes of Mount Seattle. From this high point of our tour between Mount Seattle and Mount Christie, our path descends into the Elwha River Valley. This is the only tour we offer which allows you to experience the leeward (temperate rainforest) side of the mountains as well as the drier windward side of the park. Along the way we may spot Roosevelt Elk, mountain goats and other abundant wildlife found on the peninsula. This is wild country and it is common to ford creeks since bridges across the creeks can be scarce.

Difficulty	OH @#%&!	Solitude	Number of backpacking (miles/km)	Elevation changes (feet/m)
4	3	8	44/70.8	3150/960

Day 1

We will meet in Port Angeles, WA at a location determined by the guide the morning of the hike. From here we will drive to the exit point at Whiskey Bend Trailhead where the group meets with our shuttle driver. We then take the 3 to 3.5 hour drive around to the south side of the park on the North Fork Trailhead. Since the drive is a long one this day, we are not looking to make much mileage the first day out. The goal is to hike 6.4 miles (10.3 km) to Elip Creek. The hike this day has little change in elevation but wanders through pristine old-growth woods before reaching camp.

Day 2

Our route on day 2 takes the group up to the Low Divide between Mount Seattle and Mount Christie. There is opportunity to side hike up the slopes of these 6,000 ft (1828.8 m) peaks if time allows. The group can also take advantage of swimming in Lake Mary. This is the highest elevation on the hike at 3,602 ft (1097.9 m) above sea level. North Fork trailhead is at 550 ft (167.6 m). If we camp at Elip Creek the night before, the distance to the Low Divide is 9.2 miles (14.8 km).

Day 3

From the Low Divide, our route takes us into the Elwha River Valley. The sound of the river is present most of the day as we hike towards the idyllic campsites at the intersection of Hayes River and Elwha River. We are still hiking through wilderness that has seen little in the way of human settlement.

Day 4

From Hayes River Camp, we proceed into the area that has been homesteaded since the late 1800's. As we make our way on the old trail toward Port Angeles, we will see the remains of these pioneer cabins and as a result, we have more camping options. We are still following the river through the forests of hemlocks and cedars before reaching our stopping point for the day at Mary's Falls.

Day 5

We see more traces of the early history of the area as we hike along the Elwha River past the Goblin Gates on our way back to our cars at the Whiskey Bend trailhead (elevation 1,170 ft/356.7 m). The hiking distance back to the cars is about 8.7 miles (14 km) on this day and we usually back to the trailhead by early afternoon.

Cost

\$1125 per person including shuttle

The following is included in the tour price:

- Shuttle transportation
- All permits, fees and taxes.
- All food while on the trail prepared on the trail by your guide.
- All necessary gear (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, backpack, meal kit, trekking poles, headlamp, etc.) – Check out the “About Us” section on our website for more information about our gear.
- A Certified, medically trained guide that will lead you to safety on your journey.
- An unforgettable experience!

Our prices do not include guide gratuity (10% of the tour price is recommended).