



Drive 101



HIGHWAY 101—a twisty, mostly two-lane road that wends its way from the state capital to Washington’s western shores—is a picturesque backdrop for an epic road-trip experience. Buckle up for a highway adventure through the Olympic Peninsula and along the coast.

► **DAY 1** Begin your journey with an appetite, heading north from Olympia toward Shelton. **Taylor Shellfish Farms** (130 SE Lynch Rd, Shelton) is a prime place to pull over for a snack of oysters, clams, mussels, or geoduck (pronounced “gooey duck”), a regional specialty. Heartier eaters may want to detour east on SR 106 to Union, where the **Restaurant at Alderbrook** (7101 E SR 106, Union) offers locally harvested seafood—menu items include Bluenose bass in bacon blood orange sauce and creamy Dungeness crab mac and cheese under a blanket of butter-roasted bread crumbs—and stunning views of Hood Canal’s calm waters.

Back on 101, skirt Hood Canal for about 30 miles of scenic shoreline, passing through tiny villages. The route continues north and eventually veers west, where you’ll come to lavender-laden Sequim (pronounced “skwim”) and a respite from wet weather: The town sits in a rain shadow and typically boasts a sunny, dry climate. Adventure seekers can take a one-hour drive through the **Olympic Game Farm** (1423 Ward Rd, Sequim) to see and feed (wheat bread only) llamas, yaks, bears, and more. Chances are a bison will slobber on your car window, hungry for another slice.

Next up, nestled between the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic Mountains, is Port Angeles, a good stopping point for the day. Unwind with a glass of vino at **Olympic Cellars Winery** (255410 US 101), a woman-run operation set in a whimsically restored 1890s barn, before sitting down for dinner at **Bella Italia** (118 E First St), **Sabai Thai** (903 W Eighth St), or any of the wide number of dining options. If you have an extra day, use Port Angeles as a jumping-off point for explorations of Olympic National Park—a World Heritage site that’s celebrating its 75th anniversary this year—and

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 78 >



LOCAL EATS

Culinary Coast

Plate-size Dungeness crab to Hood Canal spot shrimp: The Olympic Peninsula is bountiful and delicious.

Boaters dock at **Tides Tavern** (2925 Harborview Dr, Gig Harbor), where waitstaff sometimes take orders for clam chowder and alder-smoked salmon from the dock.

Xinh’s Clam and Oyster House (221 W Railroad Ave, Ste D, Shelton) has an Asian flair: fresh shelled mussels in Vietnamese curry sauce and Thai crab cakes. Meanwhile, just before the Hood Canal dumps into Dabob Bay along the 101, **Geoduck Tavern** (307103 US 101, Brinnon) earned a spot on *Esquire’s* “Best Bars” list thanks to its Burger Dip and rustic appeal.

Stop on a hillside high above Port Townsend for **Mt. Townsend Creamery’s** (338 Sherman St) soft-ripened cheese Seastack, then head to Sequim—lush with lavender fields—where **Alder Wood Bistro** (139 W Alder St) puts provenance on the menu, with such specialties as flatbread with arugula from Red Dog Farm.

In September, saffron crocuses bloom outside Port Angeles. Taste **Phocas Farms’** threads at Alder Wood, Woodinville’s Herbfarm, or in Pasteria Lucchese pastas.

Turn in to **Brady’s Oysters** (3714 Oyster Pl E, Aberdeen), before Westport on SR 105, for a bushel of live oysters, then continue south to where crimson cranberry bogs dot the Long Beach Peninsula. U-pick at **Cranguyma Farms** (32096 113th Ln, Long Beach), then swing by **Jimella and Nanci’s Market Cafe** (21712 Pacific Way, Ocean Park) for sturgeon caught by fisherman Gary, pan-fried Willapa Bay oysters, and fresh Dungeness crab, provided by Ernie. —**JULIE H. CASE**

spectacular Hurricane Ridge before heading back onto the highway.

► **DAY 2** From Port Angeles, the road soon passes by brilliantly blue Lake Crescent on the way to Forks, a sure winner with tweens for its connection to the enormously popular *Twilight* franchise. The sleepy timber town has themed tours, a 1953 Chevy truck like the one protagonist Bella drives, and other series-related paraphernalia to lure vampire- and werewolf-loving Twihards.

The city, however, is rooted in lumber, which you'll see at the **Forks Timber Museum** (1413 S Forks Ave; open only during summer). For more trees—fully intact ones—take a detour off 101 along Upper Hoh Road to one of four temperate rain forests on the peninsula: Hoh Rain Forest, a lush, canopied wonderland of mosses, ferns, and trees. From the visitor center, the Hall of Mosses Trail

and Spruce Nature Trail are each about a mile and ideal for a relaxed stroll.

Continue south on Highway 101 to reach Hoquiam, where, if you time your trip around *Loggers PlayDay*, you can enjoy a pancake feed, a fair, a grand parade, and a logging show complete with ax throwing and tree climbing.

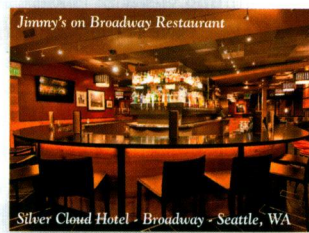
Roll into Aberdeen, hometown of late grunge icon Kurt Cobain, where a welcome sign encourages you to “Come As You Are,” and a statue of the Nirvana

frontman's Fender Jag-Stang electric guitar sits near Young Street Bridge. For sightseeing, take a self-guided walking tour past homes of timber barons from a bygone era (maps are available at the Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce), or step aboard *Lady Washington*, a replica of the first ship to come to the area back in the 1700s. She's another star in these parts, having been featured in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 80 >**



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PORT TOWNSEND

► **DAY 3** After resting your head at one of Aberdeen's cute B&Bs, head south to towns along Willapa Bay, where Raymond welcomes visitors with steel statues scattered along both sides of the road. A fun fact to consider on your drive: In the 1910s, the town was "amphibious"—so covered in water that there were 2,900 feet of elevated sidewalks to keep people off the damp ground.

Stretch your legs at South Bend's Pacific County Courthouse, a stately white building perched on a hill. The view looking back toward the water is beautiful, but the sight inside might be even better—look up to see an incredible stained-glass dome.

Wind your way along Willapa Bay to arrive at Long Beach Peninsula. In the summer, the small towns here buzz with beachgoers and boaters, while winter is perfect for storm-watching. In the fall, see the cranberry bogs being harvested, and hit the beach for clam digging. Or partake in the bounty of fresh foods: Breakfast at the 42nd Street Cafe & Bistro (4201 Pacific Way, Seaview), brunch at Jimella and Nanci's Market Cafe (21712 Pacific Way, Ocean Park), lunch at the Shelburne Inn Pub (4415 Pacific Way, Seaview), dinner at The Depot Restaurant (1208 38th Pl, Seaview), and a nightcap at Pickled Fish (409 Sid Snyder Dr, Long Beach) are all quality bets.


If you've promised souvenirs to friends back home, Marsh's Free Museum (409 Pacific Ave, Long Beach) provides seashells, logoed beach wear, and saltwater taffy (in 45 delicious flavors)—not to mention

CONTINUED ON PAGE 82 >

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Sol Duc Falls,
Olympic National Park

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a two-headed calf and Jake the Alligator Man (he has the upper body of a human and a reptilian lower half).

► **Excursion: Port Townsend**

At the foot of Discovery Bay (about 18 miles before Sequim), take a right on SR 20 to head to Port Townsend. The city's roots as a Victorian seaport still shine through today, with beautiful old houses and preserved period architecture.

Wander the appropriately named main thoroughfare Water Street, with sound views and plenty of small shops, galleries, and eateries to duck into. Don't miss **Elevated Ice Cream** (631 Water St), an old-school ice cream parlor founded in 1977, where all of the good stuff is made on-site and sold by the ounce.

For a dose of yesteryear, **Jefferson County Historical Society Museum** (540 Water St) offers a nice overview of the area (as well as a jail cell where Jack London spent a night), and **Fort Worden State Park** (200 Battery Way) is filled with bunkers to explore and military history.

Fortify yourself for the trip onward with a meal at the adorable and sustainable **Sweet Laurette Cafe and Bistro** (1029 Lawrence St) or choose your own blend—and savor a homemade scone with clotted cream—at **Pippa's Real Tea** (636 Water St).

► **Excursion: Ocean Shores**

There's something comforting about the old-fashioned fun of it all in Ocean Shores (about 21 miles from Hoquiam)—miles of sand, family-friendly accommodations, and beachy activities. Putt your way to victory on one of two well-maintained mini golf courses at **Pacific Paradise** (767 Minard Ave NW), knock down some pins at **Shores Bowl** (125 W Chance A La Mer NW), and fill up on sweet treats at **Murphy's Candy and Ice Cream** (172 W Chance A La Mer NW).

For outdoor pursuits, horseback riding along the beach is particularly popular, as are kite flying, moped driving, and cycling. For shopping, souvenir-selling **Sharky's** (695 Ocean Shores Blvd NW) is a must, if only to get your picture taken walking into the massive shark jaws around the entrance. Just don't forget a sweatshirt or jacket—even when the sun is shining, the ocean winds can make it chilly on the beach. —HALEY SHAPLEY