



route have been inconsistent over the years (to say the least), so do not consider mileages here to be that reliable. All that said, at about 0.4 mile reach a foot bridge over the aforementioned, unnamed creek. From the bridge's vantage, it looks good, but admittedly not as good as on the prior page. This is because the best of the mossy rocks and logs are upstream a bit. So, on the opposite side of the bridge (or the side if you were to continue to Sol Duc Falls) find an informal route uphill. It is up a ways – about 100 feet or so. You'll know it when you see it. My shot was taken one late November afternoon.

Back on the main trail... As you near the falls, on the left is a log shelter. Have a quick look. Once ready, continue the final descent to the bridge over the Sol Duc River, with Sol Duc Falls in sight. Time to don your wet weather wear and ready your camera for the mist!

There are two "main" compositions to be made of the falls. The first is from on the bridge. This is the composition at right. The second is from the viewing area in front of the falls. This one is a little more tricky, as camera positioning is perhaps a little more critical. This is the composition on the book cover. As always, try various compositions.

On sunny days in the late afternoon it is possible to capture a rainbow from the bridge area. Where you position yourself will dictate the rainbow's orientation (and of course the relativity to the sun behind you). The gist, though, is that you can relocate your camera to achieve different rainbow results. For the most vivid colors with a rainbow a polarizer helps. But... There is a fine line with rainbows and polarizers. You can over-polarize and the rainbow dims, so do experiment.

Another rainbow option is to begin up the trail to the right once on the other side of the bridge. This trail is known as Lover's Lane. It immediately ascends, and with that change in elevation the rainbow's position and intensity may improve for your composition.

Some "seasonal" commentary... During springtime the prolific Devil's Club (plant) around the falls is dense and a colorful green. It remains into the summer, but it loses some of its deep green. During fall its large leaves drop. Fall adds some usual foliage color, but it is not much. Winter is the most "drab," and while I have not been here with snowfall, it would likely add its own unique twist. Now compare the cover photo with this one at right. The biggest difference (besides the rainbow!) is the presence of Devil's Club on the cover photo. I just want you to be aware of the differences, no matter when you visit. Anytime of the year this site is always great.

Once finished, dry off and prepare for the hike back. If your scheduling and timing is on point, consider a soak in the hot springs at the resort... That's one heck of a grand way to finish a day!



Sol Duc Falls & Rainbow

24mm f/8 1s ISO100