

Big leaf maples along Quinault River
Mary Christiansen photo

Lake Quinault Area Accommodations & Campgrounds

A Willaby Creek Campground (US Forest Service)
Lake front. 21 sites. Flush toilets. First come first serve. RV's 22' max. Picnic area and boat launch. Closed in winter.

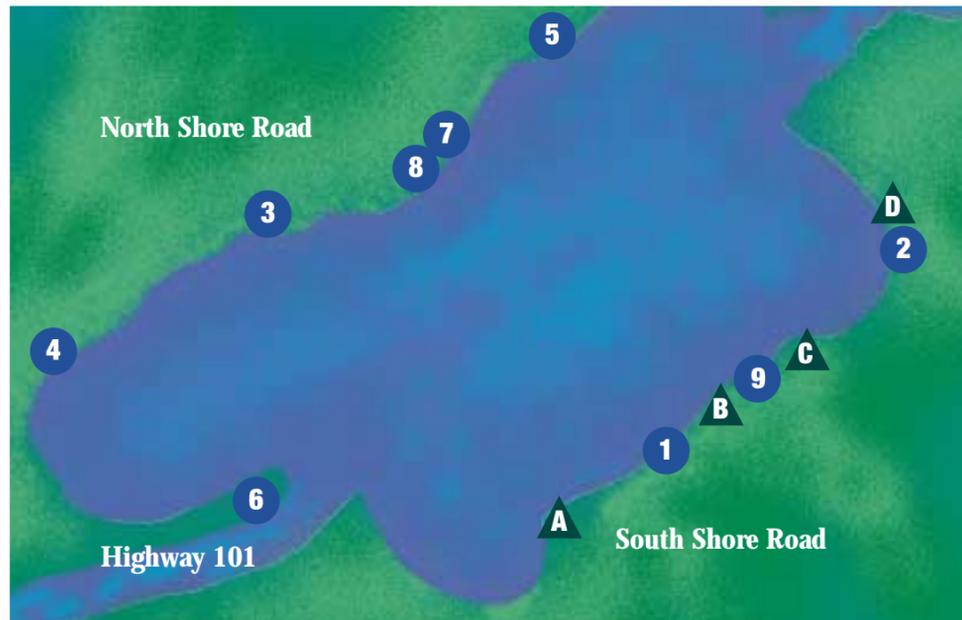
B Falls Creek Campground (US Forest Service)
Lake front. 30 sites. Flush toilets. First come first serve. RV's 16' max. Picnic shelter & boat launch. Closed in winter.

C Gatton Creek Campground (US Forest Service)
Lake front. 5 walk-in sites & picnic area. Vault toilets. First come first serve. Closed in winter.

D Rain Forest Resort RV Park and Campground (Private)
Lake front. 31 sites. Flush toilets, hot showers. Hook-ups. Reservations accepted. 1-800-255-6936.

E North Fork Campground (Olympic National Park)
9 primitive sites. Pit toilets. No hook-ups. Not shown on this pg. See fold-out map, upper right.

F Graves Creek Campground (Olympic National Park)
Flush toilets. 30 sites. No hook-ups. Not shown on this page - see fold-out map, middle right.

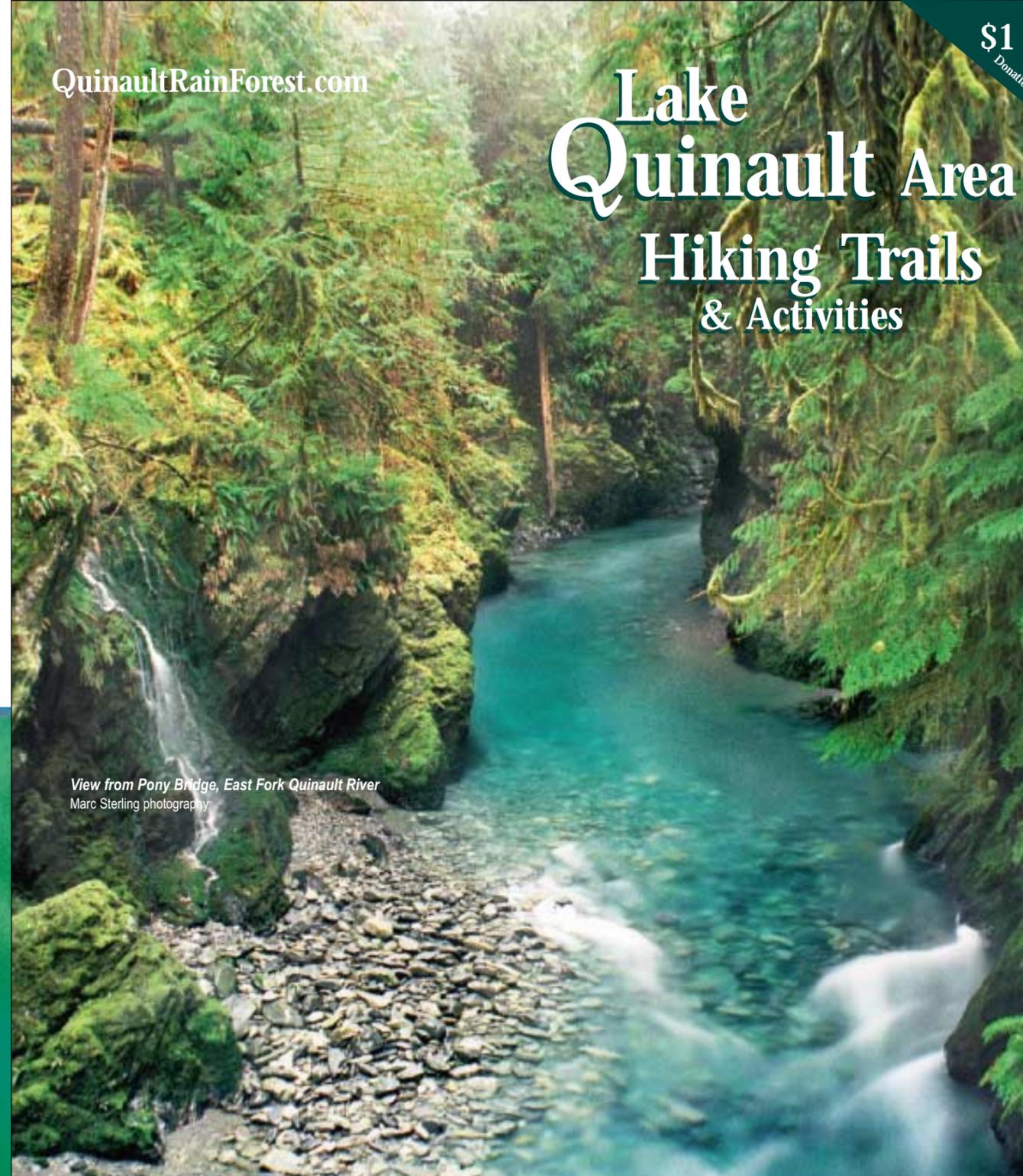


- 1 Lake Quinault Lodge** 1-800-562-6672
Historic Lodge (1926), 92 rooms, most with lake views & some fireplaces.
- 2 Rain Forest Resort Village** 1-800-255-6946
Cabins & Motel, lake views, fireplaces, kitchens & Jacuzzi tubs.
- 3 Lake Quinault Resort** 1-800-650-2362
Beautiful North Shore Lake view frontage, townhouses & kitchen units.
- 4 Lake Quinault Inn** 360-288-2714
Lake Quinault Inn on the North Shore, satellite TV, telephones, tanning beds and fitness room.
- 5 Lochaerie Resort** 360-288-2215
Quiet secluded cabins on the beautiful North Shore of Lake Quinault.
- 6 Quinault River Inn** 1-800-410-2237
Spectacular views of the Lower Quinault River, free DSL & beautiful new rooms.
- 7 Cottage Peaks** 1-877-845-5364
4 bedroom, 2 bath vacation home on the North Shore of Lake Quinault. Sleeps 10. Kayak rental available.
- 8 Eagles Rest** 1-800-261-8344
One story vacation home on the North Shore of Lake Quinault. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, sleeps 8.
- 9 South Shore Vacation Home** (360) 288-2640
2 bedroom vacation home on the South Shore of Lake Quinault. Sleeps 4-6. Fully furnished. TV/VCR/Phone. Spectacular view.

QuinaultRainForest.com

Lake Quinault Area Hiking Trails & Activities

\$1 Donation



View from Pony Bridge, East Fork Quinault River
Marc Sterling photography

At **Lake Quinault** you will find **astounding beauty and grandeur.**



Lake Quinault view from west end
Larry Workman photo

Visit the most spectacular and varied **Rain Forest** on the Olympic Peninsula.



Elk herd in Quinault Valley
Stuart May Photography

Majestic glacier-carved and glacier-fed Lake Quinault is surrounded by the mossy old growth trees of the Quinault Rain Forest, one of only three temperate coniferous rain forests in the Western Hemisphere.



Upper Pete's Creek
Larry Workman photo

The Quinault Valley is known as the "Valley of the Giants." Here you will find the largest Sitka Spruce tree in the world, along with other nationally recognized giants of Hemlock, Douglas Fir and the mighty Western Red Cedar.

Lake Quinault is located on the southwest end of the Olympic National Park. Miles of trails, swimming, boating and fishing are easily accessible from the many campgrounds and resorts around Lake Quinault and within the Quinault Rain Forest.

A 31 mile loop road takes you around the lake venturing into the south end of the Olympic National Park. Keep a keen eye out for Roosevelt Elk, Black Tail Deer, Cougar, Bald Eagle, Bobcat, and Black Bear and gorgeous views of the Olympic Mountains.

Quinault Rain Forest

Facts, Figures & Trivia

Lake Quinault is a natural lake (elevation 180') formed by a glacier that receded into the mountains many thousands of years ago.

The Quinault Valley receives an average of 12 feet of rain per year, nourishing an incredible and complex temperate rain forest ecosystem. Most of the rain falls in the winter months. The wettest year on record was 1999 when 182.48 inches (over 15 feet!) of rain fell in the Quinault Valley.



Moss and fern shrouded maple trees
Sharlene Gillies photo

Fishing in the Quinault Valley
Mary Christiansen Photo



Temperate rain forests such as Quinault are true rain forests in more northern or southern latitudes than tropical rain forests. Temperate rain forests only exist on the Northwest Coast of North America, Chile, New Zealand, Southern Australia, and small patches in Norway, Britain, and Japan.

The Quinault Indians traditionally used Lake Quinault as summering grounds for salmon fishing, hunting, berry picking, and recreation.

Quinault Indian Legend says a monster lives in the Lake that is so big he can swallow a cedar canoe.

Early pioneer settlers first came to the Quinault Valley in the late 1880's.

The first road was built to Lake Quinault in 1914. Previous access was only by wagon trail, path, or river. The first auto made it to Quinault in 1912.



Upper Quinault River
Lake Quinault Resort photo

Falls Creek cascades
Sharlene Gillies photo



Lake Quinault South Shore Hiking Trails

Rain Forest Nature Trail

This .5 mile loop is a must see in the Quinault Valley. It is the Quinault Rain Forest "in a nutshell"! Stroll along the fern and moss covered canyon of Willaby Creek. Learn to identify the trees and wildlife of the rain forest. This trail has interpretive signs along the way that will help you become knowledgeable about this fascinating and complex ecosystem. The trail meets wheelchair accessible standards part of the way as shown with the yellow dotted line.

Willaby Campground

.2 mile

.5 mile loop

Cedar Bog

The trail turns to boardwalk for a stretch as the forest opens up to a cedar filled wetland.

1.1 mile

1.7 miles Big Cedar Trail

Falls Creek Campground

US Forest Service Ranger Station

Lake Quinault Lodge

.4 mile

.6 mile

Falls Creek Loop

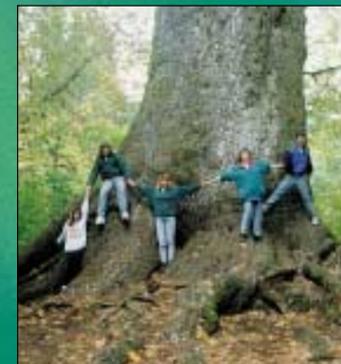
This trail crosses Falls and Cascade Creeks. If you like rushing streams and waterfalls, this is a hike for you. For a loop hike of less than two miles, connect with the .6 and .4 mile trails beginning and ending on South Shore Road. This hike is highly recommended for its rain forest grandeur.

Big Cedar Trail

Extending 1.7 miles (one way) off of the main trail is the Big Cedar Trail. This trail is more primitive than the other trails on the South Shore, but is still easy to follow. There is a stream crossing at 1.3 miles that can be hazardous at high water (no bridge). The trail ends at an impressively large cedar tree.

World's Largest Sitka Spruce

You may drive or hike to this awesome world record tree. It stands 191 feet tall, 17 feet in diameter, and 55 feet, 7 inches in circumference. Don't miss it!!



World's largest Sitka Spruce,



Elk in the Quinault Rain Forest
Stuart May Photography

Hiking on the Quinault National Recreation Trails is an awesome experience. The rain forest scenery is inspiring. The trails are well marked and maintained. There are loops of many lengths. Find the one(s) just right for you. Most of these trails are of moderate difficulty with minor hills. Many are suitable for kids and elderly.

Trail of the Giants

Hikers here will be rewarded with solitude, and awe for the large Douglas fir trees that inhabit this area.

Key to Symbols

- Trail suitable for kids or elderly
- Interpretive Trail
- Golf Course
- Waterfall
- Groceries
- Restaurant
- Hotel/Motel/Cabins
- Camp Ground
- Gas Station
- Ranger Station
- Post Office
- Laundry

Quinault River, view looking west
Sharlene Gillies photo



Lake Quinault and the Quinault Rain Forest

Hiking Trails, Activities and more...

Lake Quinault, Higley Peak
A. Norman photo

Bunchberry on forest floor
Larry Workman photo

Trail to Three Lakes and Skyline Trail

Irely Lake Trail

Irely Lake is reached by a moderate 1.1 mile hike through stately forest. The lake is a haven for waterfowl and amphibians. This trail continues on for backpackers to Three Lakes, approximately six additional miles each way, and to the Skyline Trail.

Bald Eagle
Sharlene Gillies photo

North Fork Quinault River Trail

The North Fork trail follows the banks of the Quinault River through majestic stands of both conifers and big-leaf maples. A day hike here gives a good feel for the river valleys that make up the Olympic Peninsula. Watch for salmon migrating upstream in the fall, river otters, bald eagles, and Roosevelt elk.

The North Fork Trail continues into the heart of Olympic National Park, crossing Low Divide at 16 miles and continuing all the way across to the northern boundary of the park to Whiskey Bend on the Elwha River, 45 miles.

Graves Creek Nature Trail

Experience the temperate rain forest from the wild and isolated Graves Creek area. The one mile loop nature trail begins at Graves Creek Campground. This trail meanders near the river and is flat.

Pony Bridge Hike

Graves Creek is a portal to the backcountry wilderness of Olympic National Park. A moderate day hike can be experienced by hiking the first 3 miles (one way) of trail through large stands of old growth forest to Pony Bridge. There is a lovely canyon of the East Fork Quinault River there. Backpackers often continue an additional 10 miles to the Enchanted Valley (and beyond).

Other destinations from the Graves Creek trailhead include Sundown Lake, which is a steep primitive trail and is 8 miles each way.

Bunch Fields

These open fields have a story to tell. Not only are they one of the best places to find herds of Roosevelt elk grazing, but it is the site of early homesteads in the Quinault valley. Settlers inhabited this area of land in the early 1900's. Look for remnants of orchards near the west end.

Maple Glade Rain Forest Trail

This 1/2 mile loop trail leads you through large big-leaf maples hanging with rain forest mosses. Elk are commonly seen here. Mushrooms are abundant in the fall.

Kestner Homestead Trail

This 1.3 mile loop trail invites you take a journey back in time to the daily life of a pioneer family in the early 1900's in the rain forest wilderness.

Higley Peak Trail

You can drive most of the way up Higley Peak on US Forest Service gravel roads. The .5 mile trail has a 500 foot elevation gain, and is well maintained. At the top there are views into the Quinault Valley. To access the trail drive north on Highway 101 to the Prairie Creek Rd. Turn right and proceed 10 miles to the trailhead.

Quinault Big Cedar Trail

Travel .2 mile on the Quinault Big Cedar Trail to one of the worlds' largest Western Red Cedars. This trail is a lot of fun for kids (of all ages!) because it is short and has many stairs and boardwalks on the way to the destination. This forest is awesome!

Lake Quinault



South Shore Trails

These trails truly do have something for everyone. So you're not a hiker, or don't have much time, or just want to learn about the temperate rain forest? Take the Quinault Rain Forest Nature Trail. It is a .5 mile loop with interpretive signs highlighting interesting information about our Quinault Rain Forest.

You want to enjoy a sunny day at the lake? Take the Lakeshore Trail. The Lakeshore Trail meanders for one mile along the South Shore of Lake Quinault. It connects Falls Creek Campground or the Lake Quinault Lodge to Willaby Campground or the Rain Forest Nature Trail. Be sure to look for ospreys, eagles, or trumpeter swans (in the winter).

Loops of many lengths can be found -- all starting and ending on the South Shore of Lake Quinault. For the hardy hiker, there are enough trails on the South Shore to keep you busy for days.

The forest and waterway scenery is awesome! These trails are very well maintained and have directional signs at every junction. For more details on these trails see the fold-over flap.

Colonel Bob Trail

Round trip hike to the top is 14.5 miles from the north side. This hike is best completed as a backpack. The lower reaches of the trail, however are good for day hiking without a destination. Travel on a well maintained trail along the steep mountainside. Grand stands of old growth conifers lure you further ahead. Listen for the elusive birds that make these forests their home.

Colonel Bob Peak
4,492 feet

View of Lake from top of Colonel Bob
Larry Workman Photo

Fletcher Canyon Trail

Fletcher Canyon is an enchanting place even on a rainy day! The trail follows the canyon for 2.4 miles (one way) through lush shrub, moss, and fern enshrouded forests. To find the trailhead travel on South Shore Road 3.6 miles past the end of the pavement. Turn right on a short dirt drive to a small primitive parking area.

Colonel Bob -Pete's Creek Trail

Most Day Hikers choose this route to reach the summit of Colonel Bob 4,492 feet. Round trip hike is 8.25 miles on a steadily steep and rocky trail that climbs 3,300' from the trailhead. The views are awesome on a clear day. One can see many peaks of the Olympic Mountain range and Lake Quinault below. Be prepared for any weather, bring a topo map, and carry plenty of food and water, as the trip is strenuous. To reach the Pete's Creek Trailhead travel south on Highway 101 to Donkey Creek Road (see map below for further instructions). Note: much of the route to the trailhead is on gravel roads.



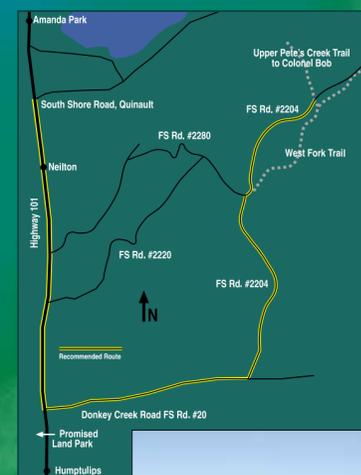
Backpacking
Luke Oswald photo



One of the many falls, upper Quinault River valley
Larry Workman photo

Quinault Loop Drive

The Quinault Loop Drive is a 31 mile loop around Lake Quinault, up the Quinault River into Olympic National Park, and back around the other side. It is a great way to experience the Quinault Valley. There are many opportunities along the way for viewing waterfalls and wildlife, and taking walks, hikes or photographs. You gain many views of the surrounding mountains, giant trees, and the Quinault River. Leave two hours minimum to complete the trip.



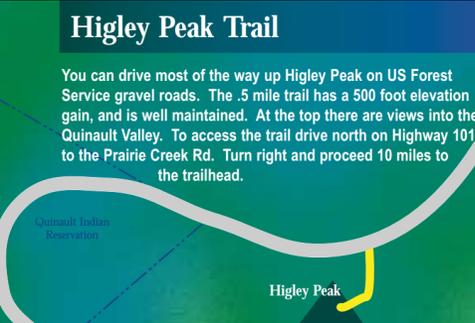
On top of Colonel Bob peak
Luke Oswald photo

Rafting
Don Mullins Photo

Bull Elk
Stuart May Photography



Trillium
A. Norman photo



Lake Quinault
Sharlene Gillies photo



Merriman Falls, South Shore Road
Sharlene Gillies photo

