



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**
WASHINGTON
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MOUNT OLYMPUS

Wild Heart of the Olympic Mountains

At 7,980 ft (2,432 m), Mount Olympus is the highest peak in the Olympic Mountains. Reaching this secluded mountain is not easy—you will need to hike 17 miles up the Hoh River valley in Olympic National Park to set foot on its flanks.

The mountain is located at the center of the Olympic Peninsula, known for being the rainiest region in the contiguous 48 states. Due to its prominence, Mount Olympus receives more precipitation than any other mountain on the peninsula—an estimated 261 inches annually (see the precipitation map and profile below)!

The precipitation falls not only as rain, but also as voluminous amounts of snow. This snowfall feeds several large glaciers on Mount Olympus, the most glaciated peak in the Olympic Mountains. Thousands of years ago, during past ice ages, these glaciers were much longer rivers of ice. The ice-age glaciers carved out the great rainforest valleys of the Olympic Peninsula. As the climate warmed over the last century, the glaciers of Mount Olympus and the Olympic Mountains retreated significantly to their current extent. Find the Blue Glacier on the map to compare its present-day extent to that of 1899.

Map data: hsc—USGS 10-meter digital elevation model (DEM) and 2017 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) aerial photography; place names—US Geographic Names Information System (GNIS); trail data—© OpenStreetMap contributors; <https://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/>; precipitation data—PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, <http://prism.oregonstate.edu/normal/>; created 10 July 2012, and US National Park Service, Blue Glacier 1899 extent—National Park Service.

Map by Daniel E. Coe
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