

TRANSPORTATION TO OLYMPIC PARK INSTITUTE

Olympic Park Institute is located twenty miles west of Port Angeles on Lake Crescent in Olympic National Park, a drive of about three hours from the greater Puget Sound area.

Located along a glacial lake in the lush ancient forests of the Olympic Peninsula, the Olympic Park Institute is an ideal location for a study of the dynamic natural world. While we are remotely situated, the process of getting your group to and from Olympic Park Institute is easier than you might think. If you are coming to Olympic Park Institute solely by bus or automobile, you can go directly to the next page.

By Air

The first step is to get to the Seattle area. The Seattle Tacoma International Airport (SeaTac) is one of the nation's most accessible airports with service from 28 different airlines. I will focus on two of the most popular air carriers. Depending on your departure city other airlines may be more affordable.

Alaska Airlines is one of Seattle's major carriers. The company uses Seattle as a hub, so there are plenty of flights from a variety of cities. Alaska provides a service for groups seeking to book blocks of tickets at a discount. By calling the group reservation office (800-445-4435) you can reserve a block of tickets without knowing every detail like the exact number of travelers or their names. When you call the office have your dates, times and approximate number of passengers ready. Alaska serves Portland, Spokane, the major San Francisco bay area airports, Los Angeles, Burbank, Orange County, Phoenix, Tuscan, Denver, Boston and many others cities.

Southwest Airlines also flies to Seattle from many locations and is considered to be a high quality discount airline. Southwest also has a group reservation office that provides discounts to groups of 10 or more. For more information on this service contact them at 800-433-5368 or on their website www.southwest.com/programs/groups/groups.html Southwest provides service from Portland, Spokane, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles, Burbank, Orange County, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Chicago, Las Vegas and other locations.

Traveling with students: When traveling with students, there are a few things to keep in mind that will make the process go smoothly. It is helpful to prepare your students for what to expect at the airport. Some of your students will never have flown before. This becomes an excellent learning opportunity in travel skills. Before the trip, teach about security procedures, large group behavior in public, airplane physics, turbulence, etc... The more the students understand how the process of flying works (especially when traveling in a group), the smoother the experience is for everyone.

On the day of travel, give yourself extra time at the airport as someone in your group could be slowed by security. Also be sure to double check everything in advance to avoid last minute hassles and missed flights. It can be helpful to delegate as much as possible to other adults. As the group leader, you want to be free to handle any unforeseen issues that arise. Check that all the passengers have identification; if any of your students are not U.S. Citizens, confirm that they have the proper paperwork to travel. Also be sure to do frequent head counts. It is very helpful to have students where you need them when you need them there.

With a little preparation and organization, traveling with students can be easy, educational and fun!

Onward to Olympic Park Institute! For the final leg of your journey, you will need some sort of ground transportation to Olympic Park Institute. Some options of listed on the following page with typical rates from SeaTac. For other transportation ideas that might be best for you specific group, contact the Olympic Park Institute's Program Director who has researched various options.

By Car or School Bus

Make your way by car or ferry to the Olympic Peninsula and follow US 101 West towards Port Angeles. Stay on 101 through Port Angeles and continue another 20 miles west. After you get to Lake Crescent, watch on your right for a large brown highway sign that says "Storm King Ranger Station / Lake Crescent Lodge / Olympic Park Institute". Turn off the highway to the right just after this sign, then take a left at the four-way stop and take the first right (you will see an Olympic Park Institute sign at this turn). For unloading purposes, turn left following the sign entitled "Office". Olympic Park Institute staff will meet and greet your group and help you get unloaded and settled.

After unloading, vehicles must be moved to the designated Parking Area.

By Chartered Bus/ Van from Seattle and Sea-Tac Airport

Rate information below is current as of late 2003. Please call the companies below to confirm rates and make advanced reservations. Olympic Park Institute's Program Manager (360)928-3720 x15 has information on other charter companies from Seattle, Spokane, and Portland and can answer questions about how other schools from your area arrange transportation to/from our campus.

All Points Charters and Tours (Olympic Park Institute's preferred Provider)

- ❖ (360)565-1139 or <http://www.goallpoints.com/>
- ❖ 12, 24, 48, and 59 passenger buses
- ❖ Call for current prices, let them know you are with Olympic Park Institute

Journey Lines

- ❖ (425) 771-8336 or www.journeylinesinc.com
- ❖ 46 and 52 passenger buses
- ❖ Call for current prices

Gray Line

- ❖ 1(800) 544-0739 or www.graylineseattle.com
- ❖ 47 passenger buses
- ❖ Call for current prices

First Student

- ❖ (206) 763-2222
- ❖ 50 passenger school buses
- ❖ Call for current prices

Ferry Information

The Olympic Peninsula can be reached by crossing the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, or by taking a Washington State Ferry. For ferry schedules and information, call toll-free 1(888) 808-7977 or check online at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries. School groups pay a rate of \$2 for an entire vehicle-load of passengers with a letter on school letterhead explaining the purpose of the trip. Vehicles and drivers are charged at the full rate. Download the template at the following link [:http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/infodesk/faq/school/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/infodesk/faq/school/). It should be printed on School Letterhead. Please have one in each vehicle using the ferry.





