General trip route

This trip was run from Spokane, WA to the Vantage Overlook on the Columbia River. In Seattle, a ferry brought us to Port Townsend, WA. The trip focused on the Olympic Peninsula National Park and vicinity. Map links are provided in the packet materials.

Physiographic provinces and areas covered

Columbia Plateau | Puget Sound | Olympic Mountains

Geology of the Pacific Northwest
Physiographic Provinces

Cartography by Frank D. Granshaw
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Note:
Boundaries are approximate

Reference:
Suggested geology topics for discussion during trip

- Physiographic provinces of Washington State
- Columbia River flood basalts
- Channeled Scablands
- Tectonic domains of the Olympic Peninsula
- Glaciation in the Olympics
- Dune and spit formation
- Coastal processes, tsunamis
- Sea stack formation, wave dynamics
- Turbidites
- Elwha River restoration project

Columbia Plateau – Outcrops of columnar jointed basalt and pillow lavas are abundant in the area.

- Vantage overlook – Columbia River

Olympic Peninsula – suggested stops

- Dungeness Spit hike (time permitting)
- Hurricane Hill hike
- Olympic National Park Visitors Center
- Glines Canyon Dam on the Elwha River
- Hike up Geyser Valley from Whiskey Bend Road on the Elwha River
- Boulder Creek Hot Springs
- Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center hike
- Cape Alava hike from Lake Ozette – this is a fantastic hike and is highly recommended
- Third Beach
- Bay Center Ghost Forest

National Park Service (http://www.nps.gov) is also an excellent resource for planning your trip.