

# The Olympic Peninsula Explorers Volkssport Club Welcomes You to the Port Angeles – Hurricane Hill Walk / Snowshoe/Cross-Country Ski

Hurricane Ridge is part of Olympic National Park and there is an **entrance fee**. Bring your Interagency Pass or plan to buy an annual or daily park pass (<https://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/fees.htm>) There is a fee station near Heart O’ the Hills campground that also rations traffic up the hill to the Ridge.

The walk is 5 km and 10 km (3B) and are on mostly paved trail with some significant hill climbing. The ski/snowshoe is customizable, but the main Hurricane Hill Road route is 5 km and 10 km (3B). Strollers: difficult (walk), Wheelchairs: No, Pets: No, Restroom: Yes (portables).

<https://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/hurricane-ridge-area-brochure.htm>

The walk route follows some roads, forest trails and a well-maintained trail to Hurricane Hill. The primary ski/snowshoe route follows the unplowed road and trail up the hill. Breathtaking mountain and valley view all the way! Wildflowers change with the season. Elevation is over 5000 feet. Check ahead for opening times and snow conditions. Hurricane Ridge Conditions: 360-565-3131. ONP Visitors Info: 360-565-3130.

Summer trail work may close the trail during the summer. M-F 6:30am - 5pm/Sat & Sun 7:30am – 5pm. In the winter season, the ridge is open Friday-Sunday and holidays, usually 9:00-4:00 (check the website for details).

## **Walk Registration:**

Registration takes place online using the AVA Online Start Box, on <http://my.ava.org>. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

## **Walk Completion and Walk Credit:**

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the “My Start Box” tab, then the “Finish Table” tab, then click on “Go to Finish Table” button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may choose to print out.

## **Table of Contents:**

Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out.

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WELCOME TO OUR SEASONAL VOLKSSPORT EVENT  
**HURRICANE HILL WALK / SNOWSHOE / SKI**  
**OLYMPIC PENINSULA EXPLORERS VOLKSSPORT CLUB**  
**Walk: 5/10 Rated 3B** **YRE 1937**

**Cross-country ski/Snowshoe: 5 km Rated 2B/10 km Rated 3B**

**ESVA Challenges:** 39 Counties – Clallam, Discovering Our State and National Parks (Olympic Natl Park)

**AVA Challenges:** Walk the USA A-Z

**Really Important Information:** On May 7, 2023, a fire destroyed the Day Lodge at Hurricane Ridge. This was the only shelter in the Hurricane Ridge portion of Olympic National Park. What this means to you as a visitor:

- Hurricane Ridge is part of Olympic National Park and there is an **entrance fee**. Bring your Interagency Pass or plan to buy an annual or daily park pass (<https://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/fees.htm>)
- **No concessions** on the Ridge (no food, no water, no snowshoe or ski rentals). Bring everything you need with you.
- There are portable restrooms at the main parking lot and an NPS Adventure office.
- Taking public transit to Hurricane Ridge is encouraged due to the lack of parking. Taking public transit guarantees entry when parking is full and closed to private vehicles. Clallam Transit operates a shuttle during the non-winter season. <https://www.clallamtransit.com/HurricaneRidge>
- There is also no public building for meal breaks or other needs. Plan to use your car.
- Winter Recreation (~late November – ~late March):
  - Hurricane Ridge Road is only open on Friday, Saturdays, Sundays, December 26 – January 1, and January/February federal holidays.
  - Entrance is typically at 9:00 am (weather dependent) and visitors must exit by 5:00 pm.
  - Per NPS: All vehicles, including those with four-wheel drive, will be required to carry tire chains when traveling above the Heart O' the Hills entrance station during the winter season.
  - X-country ski trails may or may not be groomed.
  - Check <https://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/hurricane-ridge-in-winter.htm>

Note: The Hurricane Hill walk begins at an elevation of about 5,000 feet. It descends a bit and then climbs to an elevation of 5,757 feet. It is mostly on paved trails, but there are some rocky parts and exposed roots. It is somewhat demanding but entirely possible for the average walker if done at a leisurely pace, so don't rush, enjoy the spectacular views! The Hurricane Hill Road ski/snowshoe begins at an elevation of 5,242 feet at the west end of the parking lot, traverses the road (which is unplowed and typically groomed for cross country skiers and snowshoers). The 5km route turns around at the end of the road at 5,090 feet; the 10km continues to the top of Hurricane Hill (and is not groomed but accessible for skis).

If you drive: You must drive from (physical start box location at) the 'blackbird coffeehouse' to the start. The start is at Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center (which is closed), Port Angeles, WA 98362. (Lat 47.97, Long -123.5). From the Blackbird Bakery, go east on E 8<sup>th</sup> St. Turn RIGHT onto Race Street. You will pass the Olympic National Park Visitors Center on the right (worth a visit). JUST PAST the Visitors Center keep RIGHT onto Hurricane Ridge Road. In about five miles you will come to the Pay Station; there is a fee if you do not have a National Park Pass. In another 12.5 miles, you will arrive at the (closed, damaged) Hurricane Ridge Visitors Center.

If you take public transit: Have your pass already by purchasing it online at the Clallam Transit or Olympic National Park website. It is 1 mile (1.6km) each way from where the Clallam Transit shuttle drops off passengers on Hurricane Ridge to Picnic Area B where the "official" 10km walk starts, making the entire walk to the top of Hurricane Hill and back 14km. From the bus drop-off, continue down Hurricane Hill Rd, passing Picnic Area A to Picnic Area B where the directions below start.

### **WALK DIRECTIONS:**

Continue past the (closed, damaged) Visitors Center down Hurricane Ridge Road. Refer to the map for the start for the walk distance chosen or as follows:

- 10 km: Park at the first Parking/Picnic area and park and lock your car. If you ride the bus, walk from the parking area on Hurricane Ridge Rd to the start of the Hurricane Hill Trail and continue to the top.
- 5 km: Drive all the way past the two parking areas to the looped parking area at the end of the road. The Hurricane Hill Trailhead starts here. Park, lock your car, and proceed to the second half of Step 3 below.

In case of emergency: Dial 9-1-1 -Event related assistance: Clay Baulch 210.204.9301 (text)

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These directions may be used upon registration at a currently sanctioned IVV/AVA event only

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**NOTE: It is important that you walk the below mentioned trails at the two parking areas to fulfill the distances!**

1. Walk the loop trails around the picnic tables and viewpoints in the parking area.
2. Continue on foot, down the road, carefully watching uphill traffic, about 0.5 kilometers down to the next parking area and again walk the side trails around the tables and viewpoints in the parking area. Last restrooms until you return!
3. Follow the TRAIL at the end of the parking area down to the loop parking area and the Hurricane Ridge Trailhead. Check the Bulletin Board for pertinent information.
4. Proceed and stay on the asphalt trail all the way until you get near the top. It is important to help preserve the natural beauty of this area. This is a well-maintained trail, although early in the season you may encounter some snow drifts! It is a gentle slope to begin with but becomes quite steep as you proceed to the summit of Hurricane Ridge.
5. A short distance along the trail, an overlook on the right provides a northerly view of Mount Angeles. Note the small cirques carved into the rim of the ridge by glaciers long ago. Soon you will pass the Little River Trail on your right, it may not be in service. Continue on the paved trail.
6. Soon, observe on your left the ridge sloping steeply downward to the Elwha River. Note the Elwha Trail on your left further ahead.
7. Continue about another one-half kilometer to the end of the paved trail and follow the path up to the Hurricane Hill summit.
8. After enjoying the majestic vistas of the mountains in Canada, proceed down from the summit to the informational sign.
9. Continue RIGHT from the sign keeping to the right as it joins another trail, continuing down and around toward a big fir tree to the viewpoint. Note the (not so old) burn. Follow around these trails back to the informational sign and then continue down from the summit, returning to your car the same way you came up.
10. **5 Kilometer Option:** Drive past the Hurricane Ridge Visitors Center all the way past the two parking areas to the loop parking area and the Trailhead. Walk to the summit of Hurricane Ridge only, don't walk any of the side loops.

## **CROSS-COUNTRY SKI/SNOWSHOE DIRECTIONS:**

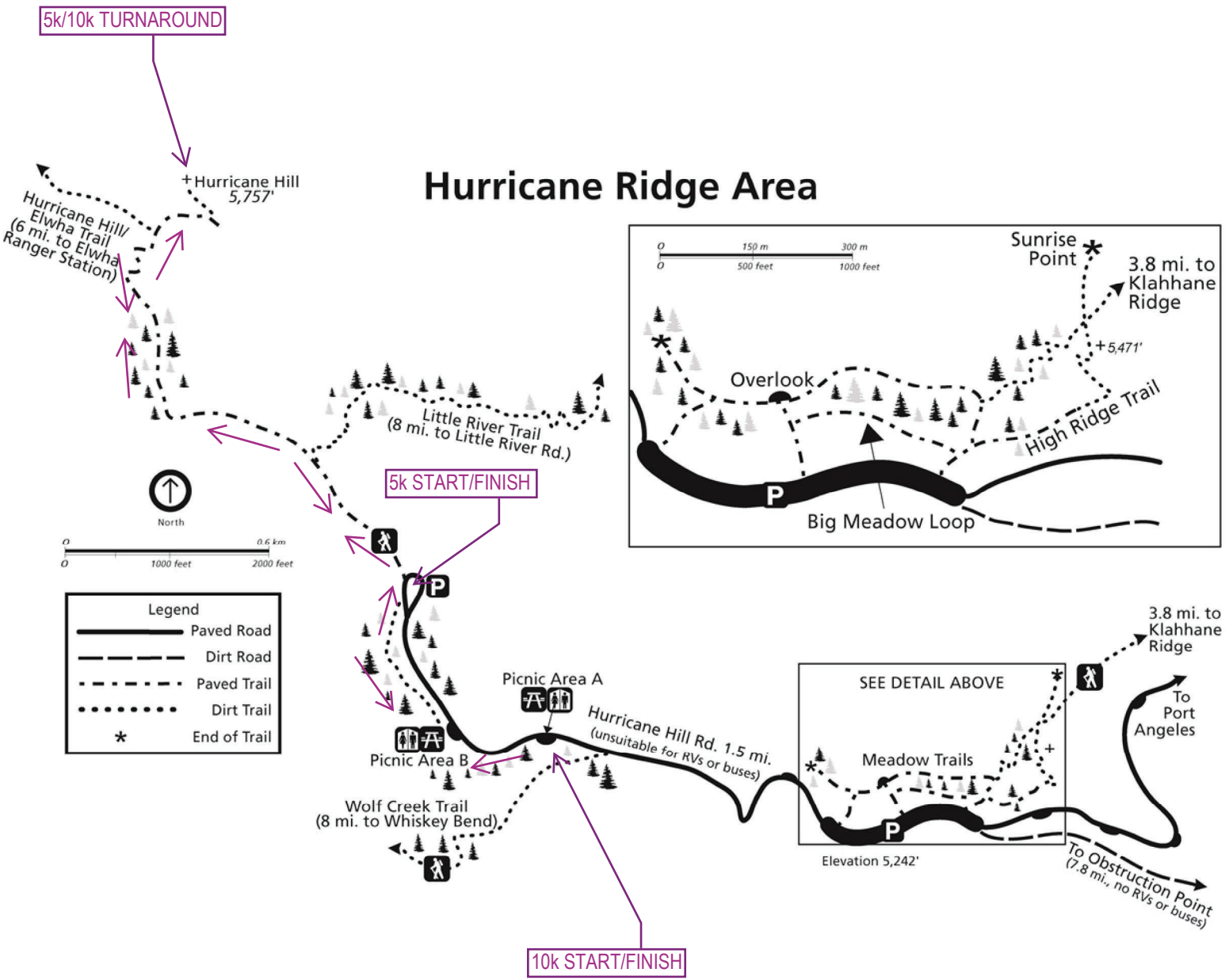
Park in the large public parking area. There are several options for skiing/snowshoeing so see the map attached or view it online at <https://home.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/cross-country-skiing-snowshoeing-routes.htm> where the routes are described along with their lengths and difficulty.

Options:

- If you are very unexperienced, you may walk/ski around the meadow by the Obstruction Point Road entrance or above the parking lot near the snowboard area.
- The primary (and popular) snowshoe/ski trail leaves at the far end of the parking lot and follows the paved Hurricane Hill Road route towards the Hurricane Hill trailhead. Starting at the end of the parking lot, turning around at the beginning of the Hurricane Hill trail, and returning is 5 km; continuing to the top of Hurricane Hill (check avalanche conditions) is 10km. If you are new to snowshoeing, going to the first hairpin turn on a clear day will afford you some wonderful views of Mt. Olympus. The restroom at Picnic Area A is usually buried under snow, but the views from there are magnificent. It is only a little way further to Picnic Area B and the end of the "road" and beginning of the Hurricane Hill trail (with more views).

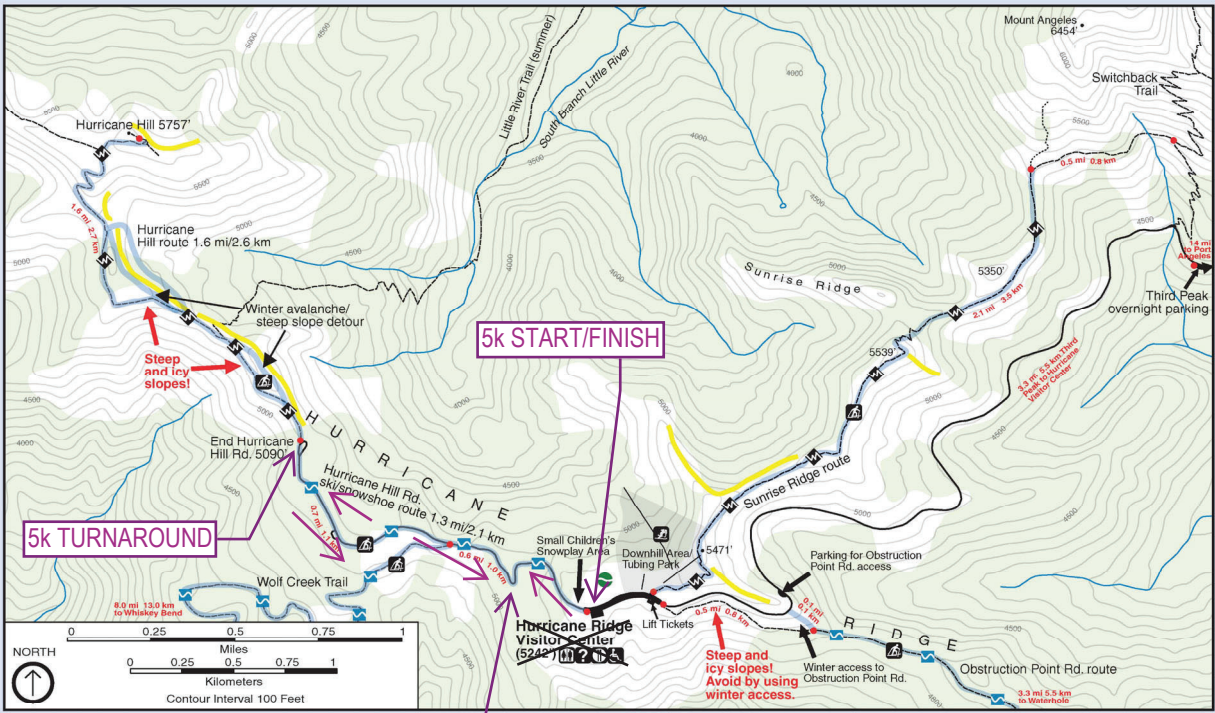
Thanks for visiting our piece of paradise in the wintertime!

# HURRICANE HILL WALK



# HURRICANE HILL SNOWSHOE/X-COUNTRY SKI

## Hurricane Ridge Area in Winter



**Legend**

- Ski/snowshoe routes (unmarked & ungroomed)
- Easiest
- More difficult
- Most difficult
- Summer trails
- Prevailing wind cornice areas (locations vary with wind patterns)
- Downhill ski area boundary
- Distance between points

**! Before heading out, check at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for current avalanche conditions. Wear an avalanche beacon, carry a probe, snow shovel and the 10 Essentials, and avoid avalanche terrain such as cornices, gullies and steep lee slopes.**

Fantastic View on Clear Day

# ESVA/OTSVVA/AVA SPECIAL CHALLENGE PROGRAMS - 2026

For more information on ESVA go to: <http://www.esva.online/challenges/>

<b>WALK NAME:</b>		<b>WALK NUMBER:</b>		
<b>CURRENT ESVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>				
Please note the years [in brackets] that each challenge is active.				
39 COUNTIES - (ONGOING)				
DISCOVER YOUR STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS [2026-2028]				
TELL ME A STORY [2025-2027]				
THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT [2024-2026]	CULTURAL	FAIRS, FESTIVALS, ARCADES	CRAFTS/HOBBIES	SPORTS VENUES
<b>PREVIOUS ESVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>				
Patches for books received past the end date will be sent while supplies last. No refunds.				
FRONTLINE HEROES [2021-2023]	MEDICAL CENTERS	DELIVERY SERVICES	SUSTENANCE PROVIDERS	ESSENTIAL SERVICES
ON THE ROAD AGAIN [2022-2024]	ONLY APPLIES TO TRADITIONAL EVENTS			
STROLLING ALONG THE RIVERS [2023-2025]				
<b>CURRENT OTSVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>				
For more information on OTSVA go to: <a href="https://www.otsva.org/challenges.html">https://www.otsva.org/challenges.html</a>				
BUTTERFLY [2026-2028]				
PEACE POLES [2024-2026]				
<b>CURRENT AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>				
For more information on AVA go to: <a href="https://cb.ava.org/specprog.php">https://cb.ava.org/specprog.php</a>				
Most programs allow the participants up to 12 months from the official end date to complete.				
50 STATES/51 CAPITALS	[ONGOING]	<b>Washington</b>		
A-Z (Walking the US A-Z)	[ONGOING]			
A-MAZ-ING LABYRINTHS	[2024-2026]			
ANNIVERSARIES HURRAH	[ONLY 2026]	<b>All AVA sanctioned events qualify for Anniversaries Hurrah.</b>		
GRAIN ELEVATORS: MONARCHS OF THE PLAINS	[2025-2027]			
IVV-AMERICAS	[2022-NO END]	<b>All AVA sanctioned events qualify for the IVV-America's Special Program.</b>		
LIGHTHOUSES II	[2023-2025]			
PAR FOR THE COURSE	[2023-2025]			
RAILS TO TRAILS	[2022-2025]			
STEP TO THE BEAT	[2024-2026]			
WALKING WITH AMERICAN VETERANS	[2021-2027]			
WALKING WITH THE WILD THINGS	[2025-2027]			