

**Cape Alava/Sand Point Trails and Ocean Beach Hike  
Seasonal Hikes - 10K and 15K EVENTS - Y3299  
Evergreen State Volkssport Association - In Clallam County, WA - Rated 2C**

This on-line packet contains the following 4 pages of information:

1. This Table of Contents page including Driving Directions to the hike start point (1 page).
2. Safety and other Important information (1 page).
3. Hike Directions for the 10K and 15K events (1 page).
4. Map for the 10K and 15K routes (1 page).

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**Driving Directions to the hike start**

You will drive to the Ozette Ranger Station in Olympic NP. N 48.09' 16.65" W 124.40' 08.15"

From Port Angeles, Drive west on US 101. Turn RIGHT (west) on SR 112 toward Sekui and Neah Bay. At the "T" junction with SR113, turn RIGHT (west) and continue on SR 112. Along the way, you will pass through Clallam Bay and Sekiu. West of Sekiu about 2 1/3 miles, turn LEFT on the Hoko - Ozette Road toward the Olympic Nat'l Park Lake Ozette Coastal Trails. In 21 1/4 miles you will pass the Ozette Nat'l Park Ranger Station. The Ozette Trailhead parking lot is just past the ranger station on your left. Restrooms near the parking lot. A Permit or Pass to park in National Parks is required for the parking area.

We hope you enjoy your hike on the wild NW Washington coast.

POC: J. Blazek

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# **Cape Alava/Sand Point Trails and Ocean Beach Hike Safety Information and Other (Good-to-know) Stuff**

## **Hike Description:**

This is a wilderness trail and beach hike. Much of the 5K Cape Alava trail is on a relatively unique wooden boardwalk trail (including many boardwalk steps) through some huge old-growth spruce/cedar trees and small, open prairies to a beautiful portion of the wild northwest Washington coastline in Olympic National Park. There are rocky islands and sea stacks off the coastline with sand, cobble, rock and boulder covered beaches on the coastline portion of the hike. With a short side trip north on the beach from the Cape Alava backcountry campground to the westernmost point in the continental USA, you can either return the way you came on the Cape Alava boardwalk trail for a 10K hike (5K each way), or continue south down the coastline 5K to Sand Point with its views from the little hill and viewpoint there before hiking back to the Ozette trailhead start point on the 5K Sand Point Trail making for a 15K hike if you hike the entire triangle. On the coast portion of the hike, one of the headlands is Wedding Rocks which has some petroglyphs on some of the rock faces near the treeline. Elevation gain and loss for this hike is about 250 feet.

## **Camping and Restroom Information:**

This area of the NW Washington coast is a long way from civilization. There is a small, private resort and a National Park campground at the north end of Lake Ozette (the trailhead area). There are primitive backcountry camp spots at Cape Alava and Sand Point. Inquire prior to going there if you intend to camp in any of the campgrounds or stay at the resort.

Restrooms are available at the Ozette trailhead parking lot/trailhead area. Very primitive backcountry privies are available at Sand Point and Cape Alava camps.

## **Safety and Ocean Tide Information:**

Wear very sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Take trekking poles for balance if hiking the coastline portion as there are some rock/boulder areas to hike through on the beach. Rocks and boulders can be slippery with algae or seaweed. Take the 10 essentials with you as this is a wilderness hike. Carry water or a water filter system.

You can hike the two trails out to the ocean at any time of day but if hiking the entire 15K Cape Alava/beach/Sand Point triangle, check tide tables before going as you must plan for and do the coastline beach 5K portion on a low or outgoing tide. This is due to two small headlands that are impassible (on the beach) if the tide is in. In order to get by the two headlands, the tide must be less than +5 feet at time of your passage. If the tide is 5 feet or higher as indicated on tide tables, the ocean will be high enough to block passage of the two small rocky headlands. NOAA Tide Tables for La Push or Neah Bay may be used for this area.

## **Supplemental Information    Words to the Wise:**

The beach portion of this hike consists of bedrock, sand, cobble, rocks and boulders. The sandy portions are close to Sand Point for the most part. The rest of the beach portion you hike on consists mainly of flat bedrock, loose cobble, small rocks and some boulders. At the two small headlands described above, large boulders at the headlands must be walked through. The best time to hike the coastline portion is when the tides are very low. The farther out the tide is when hiking the beach portion, the more flat bedrock, hard sand and small cobble rocks are exposed which makes for an easier hike. Plan the coastline beach part of your hike accordingly and plan extra time to hike the beach portion as your progress will be somewhat slower than your normal walking pace.

The weather can be very different from the Ozette parking lot to the coastline. At times, the weather can be warm and sunny at the trailhead and be foggy or windy and cool on the beach. Plan accordingly. Don't leave any valuables in your car. 1/18/24

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## Seasonal Hikes - 10K and 15K EVENTS - Y3299

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911 does not work here. If an emergency, contact rangers at the Ozette Ranger Sta.

10K and 15K start the same. Do #1 - #7.

1. The gravel trail starts just to the **RIGHT** of the small parking lot kiosk. **CROSS** a bridge over a small creek to a large covered info kiosk.

2. Stay on the gravel trail that goes just to the left of the large covered info kiosk. The gravel trail will turn **RIGHT** and **CROSS** the Ozette River pedestrian bridge.

3. At the Sand Point/Cape Alava trail junction (signed), angle **RIGHT** on the Cape Alava trail. *(Major portions of the trail consist of wooden boardwalk planks and some steps. You will pass through huge Western Red Cedar and Sitka Spruce forests and a homesteader's [Ahlstrom's] prairie on the way).*

4. Just after a partially open viewpoint of the ocean, descend on the trail to a flat timbered area and the ocean beach.

**(NOTE carefully where the trail comes down off the hill. The trail is difficult to find from the beach. Locate the round, black and red sign on a tree. This is a marker for the trail).**

5. Angle **RIGHT** and follow the way trail through the Cape Alava backcountry camp area.

6. Go out onto the beach. Turn **RIGHT** and hike a short distance (500 feet) on the cobble and sand beach to the north. You are now at the westernmost point in the continental U.S.A. *(Cape Alava [unmarked] is a relatively unremarkable cape as it is just a slightly rounded portion of land along the ocean. If you get to the sandy point where Tskawahyah Island is just off the coast on your left, you have gone too far.)*

7. Turn **AROUND** and retrace your steps back on the beach to the campground area.

10K hikers, do #8. 15K hikers, do #9 - #11.

8. 10K hikers follow the campground way trail to the Cape Alava trail and return on the Cape Alava trail to the Ozette parking lot.

9. 15K hikers continue **STRAIGHT** ahead on the ocean beach to the south. *(This part of the hike is done on a low or outgoing tide due to two, small impassible headlands if the tide is more than 5 feet high at the time of your passage of the headlands) (Wedding Rocks has petroglyphs and a small red and black signed overland trail). Most of the beach hike is on rock and cobble. Only a small portion is sandy. Some portions can be rough going on rocks.*

10. At Sand Point, turn **AROUND** and return (north) back up the beach the way you came 0.3K to where the round red and black sign on a tree indicates where the Sand Point Trail starts in the trees.

*(Before turning around at Sand Point, if you want to, ascend the short, steep, sandy trail up onto the small, rocky headland at the point for the great view of the ocean and coastline from the top).*

11. At the red and black sign, turn **RIGHT** from the beach into the timber, find the Sand Point trail and hike the trail back to the Ozette parking lot and your vehicle.

We hope you enjoyed your hike on the NW Wash. coast. POC: joeblazek1@gmail.com

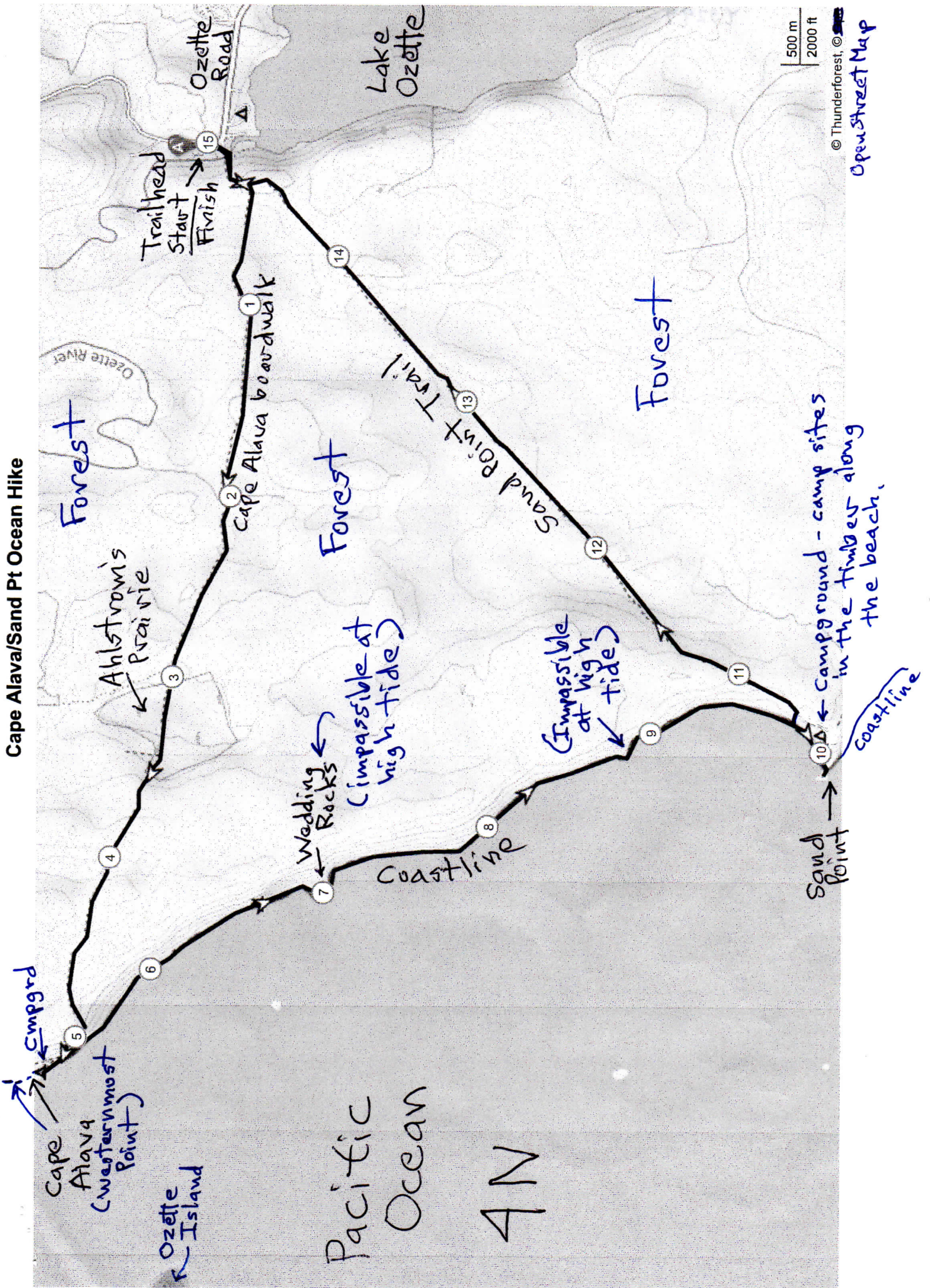
*The hike directions and map may only be used in conjunction with a signed AVA athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.*

Be sure to log back into the OSB system (my.ava.org) to finish/complete your online registration after doing the hike. The OSB system does not deduct any hiking fee from a hiker's event bank until they have submitted hike completion info including the date the event was hiked, the distance hiked, and the selection of applicable special programs that hiker is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded pdf is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. Later, any pdf fees are credited back to a hiker's Event Bank when he/she submits the hike completion info as a paying for credit hiker.) The \$2 "coupon" for the downloaded pdf expires in 60 days.

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### Cape Alava/Sand Pt Ocean Hike



500 m  
2000 ft

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OpenStreetMap