

Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

2011 Olympic National Park Quarter - Washington

Eighth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The Olympic National Park Quarter is the third of five America the Beautiful Quarters issued in 2011. It is also the eighth coin in the overall collection. It was preceded in 2011 by the coins for Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania and Glacier National Park in Montana, and it will be followed by the coins for Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi and Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Oklahoma.

One National Park or other national site from each of the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and the five overseas U.S. territories, will be honored on one-time-only Quarters in the series. Each coin is a limited edition that is made for only about 10 weeks. Once the limited mintage is reached, the coin can never be struck again and the U.S. Mint starts production on the next coin in the series.

A portrait of George Washington appears on the obverse of all coins, while the reverse is a unique design that symbolizes the featured National Park or other national site. All coins are struck for circulation the U.S. Mints in Philadelphia and Denver. The two different coins are identified by the small "P" for Philadelphia or "D" for Denver under "In God We Trust" next to Washington's portrait.

Olympic National Park is a 922,000-acre expanse in northwestern Washington, across the Puget Sound from Seattle and Tacoma. It includes three distinct ecosystems: the rugged Pacific shore, temperate forests, and subalpine forests with wildflower meadows. Mount Olympus stands in the center of the park.

The area that is now Olympic National Park was first set aside as a federal site in 1897. President Theodore Roosevelt designated it Mount Olympus National Monument in 1909, and it became a National Park when President



Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the legislation in 1938. Due to its pristine scenery and diversity of plant and animal life, the United Nations named the park both an International Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage site.

Among the attractions at Olympic National Park are numerous glaciers, wildlife such as black bears, cougars, and eagles, and an extensive network of hiking trails.

The Olympic National Park Quarter features a Roosevelt elk and the Hoh River in the foreground, with Mount Olympus in the background. The Roosevelt elk is the largest elk species in North America; it was named for Theodore Roosevelt, who led efforts to preserve the elk and its habitat at Olympic National Park. The Hoh River originates at the Hoh Glacier on Mount Olympus and flows through the Hoh Rain Forest and the Hoh Indian Reservation before reaching the Pacific Ocean.

In addition to the final coin design, three additional designs were also submitted by the U.S. Mint for consideration. Two of the unused designs showed similar scenes to the selected design, with mountains in the background and a river in the foreground (but without the elk), while the third unused design depicted the Pacific shore.

The Olympic National Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in June 2011.

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