

Mt Olympus (7965')/Bailey Traverse

Sat thru Sat

I've tried to enchain these a couple of times over the years without success, so I'll give it another go this year. The climb and the traverse can be done independently (with the Oly climb occurring first) so, if you only want to climb Olympus, you can leave after the climb to head back to the trailhead while others begin the traverse. The Mt Olympus climb itself and return to trailhead will entail a 4 to 5 day commitment while the climb and full traverse is expected to last (hopefully) 7 or maybe 8 days, depending on conditions and progress. I have summited Olympus several times over the years, most recently in 2009, and all via the standard route, the Blue Glacier/Snow Dome. I have also done the Bailey twice before, but in the opposite direction as proposed this time. I have not previously done the connective segment: the traverse from the Glacier Meadows camp to the Queets basin (a one day journey).

Mt Olympus lies in the heart of Olympic National Park and summiting it is a challenge, both for the climb itself and more so for the fact that base camp (4300') in Glacier Meadows is ~ 17 miles from the trailhead (600'). The Hoh ranger station/trailhead is approximately 6 hours from Salem. A rough logistical schedule would be as follows:

Day 1 - drive to and meet at Hoh ranger station, hike in to Olympic Guard station (est 9 miles)

Day 2 – hike up to Glacier Meadows base camp (4300’), est 8 miles

Day 3 - summit Mt Olympus via Blue glacier, Snow Dome and Crystal pass and return to camp. Some may desire to break camp to begin the exit to trailhead if not doing the traverse. Expect to take 1 to 1-1/2 days to exit the 17 miles to the trailhead/vehicles at the Hoh ranger station..

Day 4 – begin traverse by leaving camp, ascending the Blue glacier to Glacier pass, cross the Hoh glacier, Blizzard pass, and the Humes Glacier to arrive in Queets basin and the start/end of the Bailey traverse.

Day 5 – exit Queets basin to north on high traverse to Ferry basin, then crossing SE ridge of Stephen Peak to camp at Stephen Lake below the peak.

Day 6 - continue traverse northwesterly to summit [Mt Carrie](#) (6995’), then descend to the trail system near the Catwalk and cross along the High Divide to Hoh Lake.

Day 7 – drop into Hoh River valley from Hoh lake and exit back to trailhead at Hoh ranger station.

The above schedule is moderately aggressive but very in line with what I’ve experienced previously along the Bailey. The

estimated distance for the traverse from Glacier Meadows back to the trailhead is 43 miles (+/-) with ~ 60% of it x-country travel. Mostly the Olympus climb but also a small part of the traverse will require full glacier travel gear with rope, harness, prusiks, ice ax, crampons and helmet. The park service also requires a bear canister for the Bailey traverse (not for Olympus) and there are national park entrance fees (\$20/vehicle) and a small *per diem* charge (\$5/night) for backcountry camping.



Olympus massif across Hoh valley from Bailey traverse

Map link:

<http://www.mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?ll=47.827125,-123.642926&z=13&t=t2>