

Tour Vampire & Werewolf Hangouts on Olympic Peninsula

by Dan Youra, travel writer

In the beginning, Stephenie Meyer created the world on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula. She separated the Light from the Darkness and caused *Twilight* to appear in Forks, a sleepy timber town. The best selling author of *Twilight* saw that it was good.

Paradise in Genesis is populated by the first couple, a talking serpent and angels. Ms. Meyer's paradise features a heroine tempted by a vampire and befriended by a werewolf. Believers set biblical paradise between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Ms. Meyer's creation is set at the confluence of Hoh, Sol Duc and Bogachiel rivers.

Following *Twilight* (3.3 million) Meyer wrote *New Moon* (2.6 million) and *Eclipse* (1.6 million). With the August 2nd debut of *Breaking Dawn* (3.2 million to be printed), the thirty-four year old writer handed down to her faithful followers the fourth and, what she claims will be, final book in her Twilight Torah.

The geographical settings for the imaginary story have become a mecca drawing followers on a pilgrimage to experience first hand the Olympic Peninsula's holy land where the "gripping vampire love saga", as it is billed on Stephenie Meyer's web site, takes place.

Readers want to see the city of Forks, where Bella, the teenage heroine, was caught up in her romance with Edward, the handsome vampire. They want to see Forks high school, the police station, where Bella's father was chief of police and the hospital, where Edwards father vampire worked. Fans want to stand on First Beach, where Bella and Edward like to play. Fans want to visit LaPush where Jacob, the story's werewolf and Quileute native, lived.

Forks, at the far west end of the Olympic Peninsula was unsure at first what to make of its new exchange students from fantasyland. It took awhile for its citizens to catch up to the literary notoriety that was painting the town red. Now, the town not only enjoys it literary notoriety, it welcome pilgrims with *Twilight* tours and merchandise with *Twilight* logos, mottos, tee shirts, bumper stickers and local food faire renamed as Bella burgers.

Forks chamber of commerce offers tours around town to see locations featured in the book. On line tours feature YouTube videos of vampire sites, high school, Bella's favorite store, home where the Cullen vampire family lives. Visit website GoTwilight.com. For young travelers with cell phones a mobile web site is GoTwilight.mobi.

The Olympic Peninsula is west of Seattle across Puget Sound. To get to Forks, take a ferry from downtown Seattle to Bainbridge and drive west across Hood Canal Bridge to Highway 101. Or drive through Tacoma and cross the Narrows Bridge to Hood Canal Bridge and head west. For more detailed information about travel on the Olympic Peninsula visit website OlyPortal.com (OlyPortal.mobi on cell phone).

Dan Youra lives on Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. He may be contacted at [dan @ youra.com](mailto:dan@youra.com).

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