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Rainy Roadtrips



Hello Folks!

Now that the snow is gone we are back to our usual Oregon winter weather— lots of rain. When the weather is gloomy and chilly I can find it hard sometimes to make plans to hit the road.

Why go out when there are blankets and coffee or tea waiting for you indoors?

Unfortunately, as you probably know well if you live in the PNW, if you don't brave the rain at some point your exploration time is pretty much limited to three or four months of the year. As someone who loves the outdoors, most of my road trips are centered around outside stops, such as National Parks, hikes, or scenic lookouts. I love cute towns and quirky stores as much as the next roadtripper, especially coffee shops and bookstores (which you'll see frequently in my vlogs), but those are more the happy accidents of a road trip rather than the destinations.

However, I have learned over time that often the rain makes places even more incredible than they would have been otherwise. Last July (a month I thought would surely be safe from the weather) my mom and I started our highway 101 Road Trip in Tacoma, Washington. It started with a Taylor Swift concert (which I'll share about in another newsletter) and the first leg ended in Astoria, Oregon.

I should have known better than to expect clear weather from the rainiest corner of the United States, but alas I was disillusioned by hope. One of our first major stops was Crescent Lake in Olympic National Park. I have a habit of jumping in freezing bodies of water when I find them, and Lake Crescent was no exception. The rain started to pour, dimpling the surface of the lake, the beach was almost deserted, but I plunged forward anyway. And let me tell you, standing waist deep in crystal waters, with the sky blurring into the lakes edge, and the rain falling on my face, I have never felt more alive.

So I guess my Roadtrippin Tip for you this week is this—

even when the adventure seems uncomfortable, go anyway.
You never know how it might surprise you.

With that final cliché thought, I bid you adieu. Make sure to check out the 101 vlog below to see the rest of our rainy adventures on the Olympic Peninsula.

Happy driving!
Rachael

https://youtu.be/4_4cKaB0twE?si=CG4GWtQntVDCrOiD

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