

LAKE QUINAULT LODGE BACKGROUNDER

OVERVIEW

Built in 1926 on the shores of Lake Quinault, within the heart of one of only three temperate rain forests in the world, Lake Quinault Lodge is a rustic, historic resort in the Olympic National Forest. With access to more than 250 miles of hiking trails in the Quinault Valley – 15 miles of which are within walking distance of the lodge – Lake Quinault Lodge is the perfect starting point for exploring the emerald green forests and surrounding wildlife on and around the lake.

The resort features 92 guest rooms, a lobby with a Grand River Rock fireplace, an indoor heated swimming pool and a front lawn overlooking Lake Quinault and the Olympic Mountains. Lake Quinault Lodge is open year-round.

LAKE QUINAULT LODGE & OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST

Lake Quinault Lodge, managed by ARAMARK, operates under special permit by United States Forest Service in Olympic National Forest. ARAMARK has been providing services at Lake Quinault Lodge since 1988.

ARAMARK is a leading concessioner associated with the National Park Service. The company operates services at Denali, Mesa Verde, and Shenandoah National Parks, the Ellis Island National Monument, and several state parks.

HISTORY

While Lake Quinault lodge was built in 1926, the history behind this magnificent building dates back much further. In the late 1800's, the Quinault Hotel was built by Alfred Higley to provide lodging for weary travelers who ventured to the lake on horseback over a trail first blazed by settlers. On August 28, 1924, however, a fire destroyed the building.

In 1925, Frank McNeil partnered with Hoquiam lumber tycoon Ralph Emerson to build the Lake Quinault Lodge. They hired Robert Reamer, a prominent Seattle architect who was well known for his 1903 design of Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone Park. On June 9, 1926, construction began with forty-five craftsmen from all over the Pacific Northwest. Crews worked around the clock to complete the construction before the rainy season hit. Fifty-three days later, on the evening of August 18th, a grand celebration with 500 people officially announced the opening of the Lake Quinault Lodge.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

With over 40,000 visitors to the Quinault Rainforest each year, efforts to maintain the precious landscape are crucial. That's why ARAMARK and the United States Forest Service have made environmental education and awareness a priority.

Quinault Interpretive program, sponsored by ARAMARK, is a joint effort by the United States Forest Service and Lake Quinault Lodge to provide interpretive tours led by Forest Service naturalists. Programs include rain forest ecology, wildlife viewing, ancient forests, the geology of the Olympics, cultural historic perspectives and land management practices.

Additionally, ARAMARK employs many environmentally safe products and programs in the fields of electric and heating, solid waste reduction, and recycling. Initiatives such as implementing bi-fuel Ford trucks and Green Suites dispensers in place of traditional bottles of shampoo and soap and reduce both pollution and waste. These practices, among many, have helped increase environmental awareness among Lake Quinault Lodge visitors regarding the importance of keeping the environment clean.