

Press Release: Gold Discovered on Olympic Peninsula

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## Gold Discovered on Olympic Peninsula

Gold is discovered on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State.

In a just released book, *Olympic Peninsula Gold: Where to Find Gold on The Peninsula*, author Dan Youra documents the history and locations of gold discoveries in and around Olympic National Park.

Dan Youra, 39-year resident of the Olympic Peninsula, writer and publisher of travel guides directs readers to three sources of gold in the shadows of Mt. Olympus: peninsula beaches, pirate lore and sunken ships.

Olympic Peninsula beaches glitter with a rich history of producing gold. Archives of the National Park Service document mining claims on the peninsula's beaches as far back as 1894, when the discovery of gold excited a local gold rush and attracted miners to stake beaches for 60 miles south of Cape Flattery. In 1917, a miner by the name of J. M. Starbuck reported that he found \$5,000 in gold at the mouth of a creek, north of the Quillayute River. At \$19 an ounce then and around \$900 an ounce now, Starbuck's gold would be worth \$236,000 in 2009 US dollars.

Tales of pirate plunder on the peninsula spark the curiosity of treasure hunters. In 1579, Captain Drake, known to his Spanish victims as "El Drago" (The Dragon), sailed the peninsula's coast aboard the *Golden Hinde*, weighed down by 26 tons of silver and gold, which he and his crew pirated from two Spanish galleons off Ecuador and Peru. W.C. Jameson, author of *Buried Treasures of the Pacific Northwest*, claims that Drake may have buried a ton or two of his loot to lighten his load to navigate the strait in search of the Northwest Passage. The Greek captain, Juan de Fuca, sailing northwest waters for Spain in 1592, wrote in his log that he found "gold, silver and pearls" on the strait that bears his name.

Gold aboard sunken ships along Olympic Peninsula shores is chronicled in local newspapers. Most notable is the *S.S. Governor*, which sank off Port Townsend in 1921, taking with her a casino safe of gold valued at three million dollars. Attempts to raise the prize have proven futile to divers who have so far dared the dangerous depths.

Youra's book recounts the region's role in the Klondike gold rush, when Port Townsend was a port of debarkation for gold seekers such as Jack London, famed author of Alaska adventure stories. The book includes regulations on gold prospecting, glossary of terms and a list of books on gold mining in Washington.

As a promoter of travel to the Olympic Peninsula, Youra welcomes visitors to discover its real treasures, which are its natural wonders, Olympic Mountains and Olympic National Park, a national gem of the National Parks Service and a world treasure, designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

*Olympic Peninsula Gold* is bound within a glossy cover that features a faux scroll map. The book sells for ten dollars. It is sold online on [Amazon](http://Amazon.com).

For more information about Olympic Peninsula treasures visit [www.OlympicPeninsulaGold.com](http://www.OlympicPeninsulaGold.com) online and [www.OlyGold.mobi](http://www.OlyGold.mobi) on the mobile web.