

city guides

'Twilight' Comes to Bella's Home Turf

Book and movie fans will find some new treasures in Forks, Wash., even though the town has no cinema of its own. The local movie premiere is in nearby Port Angeles.

By Christine Champ for MSN City Guides

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Forks, Wash., once a lumber town, is becoming a 'Twilight' town.

If Forks' favorite vampire-human couple decided to make a movie date out of the "Twilight" premiere on Nov. 21, where would they see the show? The misty, one-stoplight town where they fell in love doesn't have a cinema.

A former timber capital, Forks -- population, 3,175 -- hides between mountains and grey, windy coast on the far edge of the Olympic peninsula in Washington state. A lush, green and isolated Eden, Forks gets a whopping 10 to 12 feet of rain a year. Author Stephenie Meyer had never visited before setting the first of her "Twilight" series there; she searched the Web for somewhere wet and dark (where vampires might feel at home) and found Forks. To date, the books have sold over 17 million copies, putting Forks on the map as a tourist destination.

So where would the books' teen couple Edward and Bella catch a flick on a Friday night?

The historic [Lincoln Theater](#), of course, in Port Angeles -- about 45 miles from Forks. In the books, it's where Bella and Jacob mocked the movie "Crosshairs" and two doors down from the restaurant [Bella Italia](#), where the star-crossed sweethearts had their first dinner rendezvous. Next door is Port Book and News, where Bella strolled past just before her inborn danger magnet drew local thugs and Edward sped to her rescue.

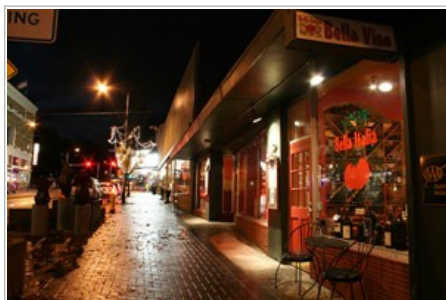
Other than Bella Italia, not all Port Angeles' "Twilight" sites are specifically named in the books. Yet, as these locales fit Meyer's literary landscape best, they've become the living landmarks that imitate her art -- and make Port Angeles a Twilighter hub, second only to Forks.

First blood: Port Angeles premieres

On Friday, Nov. 21, the Lincoln and the [Port Angeles Downtown Association](#) will do their best to set the "Twilight" mood for the premiere. That includes showing the film on two of the tiny theater's three screens. One seats about 163 people, the other 179. Queue up for your ticket on the 21st, no advance purchase permitted. It's the fairest way, according to the theater owner. Especially in light of the flood of fans expected to overtake a venue that its Assistant Manager Kaitlin says hasn't sold out "since 'Jackass Number Two.'"



The Lincoln Theater in Port Angeles, which figures in the books, will host the local movie premiere.



Bella Italia in Port Angeles, Wash.

After you see the show (if you're so lucky) follow the red carpet leading from the Lincoln to Bella Italia for a meal of Bella Swan's favorite mushroom ravioli. Be careful not to spill sauce on your prom dress or drop your fangs in your drink. The festivities include a character look-alike contest, plus a gothic fashion show and a test-your-"Twilight"-trivia-IQ scavenger hunt with prizes from the film's production company.

The town fountain -- at the far end of the block from the theater -- will serve as the hub of the Swan-Cullen fun. But businesses throughout the area will offer "Twilight" specials and display their true-blood colors with red and black décor. As the town only recently received permission to host the film, many local merchants' premiere-day plans are still in the works. (So look forward to "Twilight" surprises around every corner.)

Other special spots and photo ops to add to your itinerary include Gottschalks Department store, where Bella shopped for her prom dress, and Port Book and News -- which, in addition to books, sells

replicas of the heart-shaped crystal charm Edward gave Bella.

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