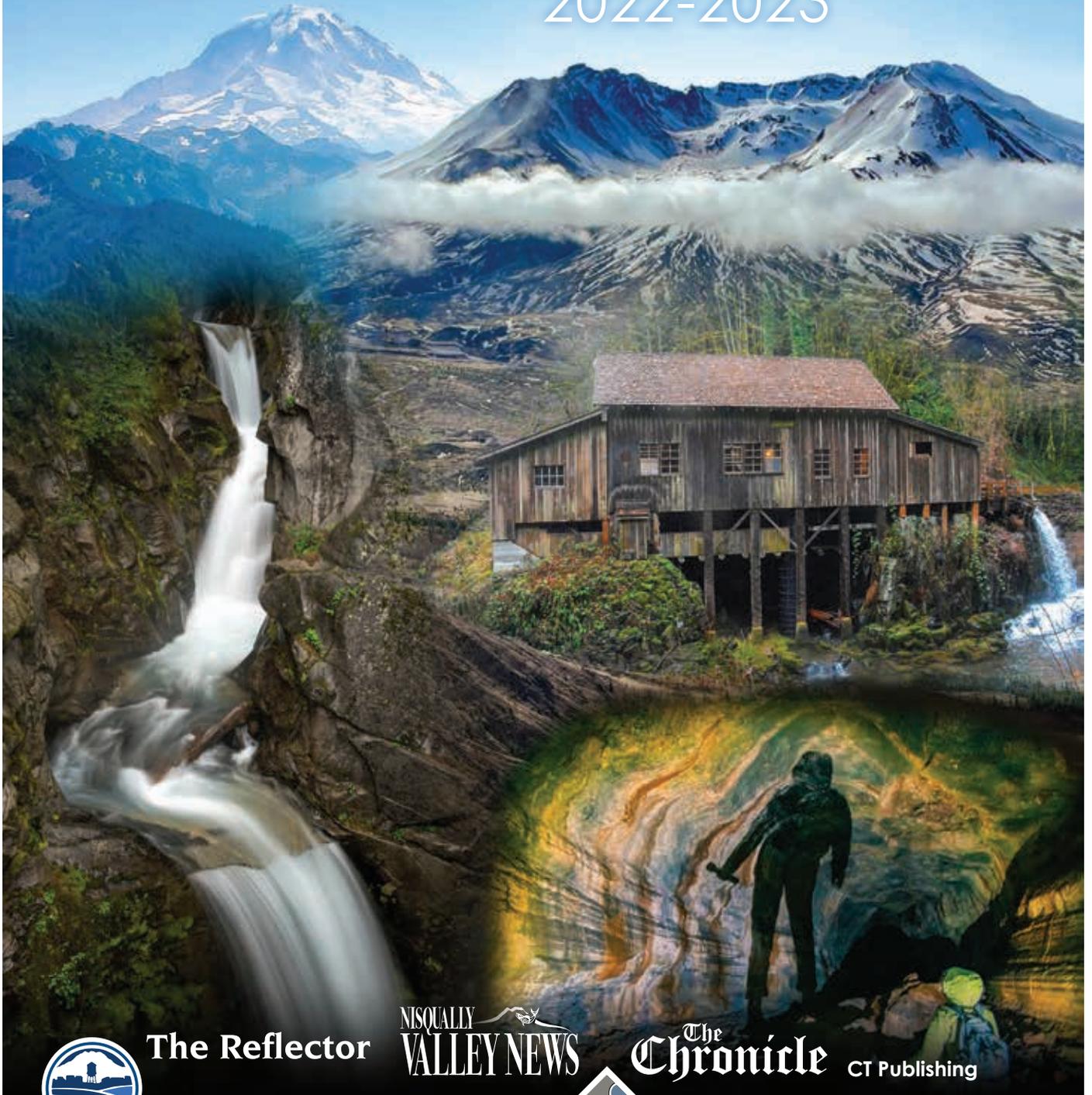


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100 Places to See in Southwest Washington

Visitors to the Pacific Northwest often have two destinations in mind — the coastline of the Pacific Ocean and the white-capped peaks of the Cascade Mountain Range.

Between those two wonderful and mesmerizing locations, though, travelers will find a swath of Southwest Washington teeming with opportunities for adventure.

In this visitors guide, we identify just 100 of the thousands of options available for those visiting our wonderful corner of the world. Starting in the mountains — with the crown jewel of the region Mount Rainier and its explosive neighbor Mount St. Helens — we identify some of the best places to hike, camp, fish and take in the outdoors in ways few other places provide.

From there, we move north to south, starting in Thurston County where one can find wolves,

sandstone architecture and our state's Capitol, then moving through Lewis County and into Cowlitz and Clark counties, where communities offer much more than just a gateway to the mountains and beaches of the region.

We hope you'll use this guide as a jumping point to discover all of the businesses, parks and attractions that help make Southwest Washington a unique destination you'll almost certainly want to visit again.

Along with this guide, seek out the online homes of our partners: The Yelm Chamber of Commerce (yelmchamber.com), the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce (chamberway.com), the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce (ridgefieldchamberofcommerce.com) and the Cowlitz Tribe (cowlitz.org) for localized and updated information throughout the year.

Thank you for visiting Southwest Washington. We know you'll enjoy your stay.

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Mt. St. Helens Summit

Mount St. Helens

Unlike Mount Rainier, its unspoiled neighbor on the Cascade mountain range, Mount St. Helens is still recovering from a devastating eruption 42 years ago.

The Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument stands as a living testament to nature's regenerative power. It's easily accessible from Cowlitz, Skamania and Lewis counties for those who want to get a close-up view of the mountain and the surrounding area by car or by foot.

Evidence of the destruction still marks the landscape, with pieces of the mountain known as hummocks deposited throughout the blast zone.

The signs of regeneration are best explored closely.

Red paintbrush peeks through the ground along several hiking trails, and small trees insulated by snow at the time of the blast have begun to mature, especially in the Mount Margaret area. Wildlife has begun to call the area home once again, and it's not out of the realm of possibility to encounter a herd of deer or elk.

To get the closest you can to the mountain — or even the crater itself — you'll have to use your feet.

Several hikes offer the opportunity to view the mountain from a variety of angles, including the Hummocks Trail, a two-mile loop around several hummocks that allow for views of the mountain.

Delving into moderate difficulty, the Hummocks to Johnston Ridge hike is a nearly 9-mile round trip that gains at least 2,000 feet in elevation while twisting and turning to offer consistently changing views of the north flank of the volcano.

To get even more majestic views of the mountain — and maybe more importantly for some, away from the throngs at Johnston Ridge Observatory — park at the far end of the observatory lot and take the Boundary Trail to Harry's Ridge or Coldwater Peak.

But the north side of the volcano isn't home to the only adventure Mount St. Helens offers.

On the south side, visitors can find ample camping and recreation options.

The mountain town of Cougar offers a base camp of sorts for adventures of all kinds — from climbing to the exploded summit of Mount St. Helens to clamoring through the depths of the Ape Cave. Go high or go low, regardless you're certain to find an unforgettable experience.

Mount St. Helens is truly an area to be explored in-depth, with much to offer an entire family over the course of a few hours, a full day trip or even a few days in the region.

The Washington Trails Association website at wta.org offers detailed information on several other hikes, complete with trip reports from people who have been there and can offer advice for the trail.

The Mount St. Helens Institute, a nonprofit organization aiming to enhance people's experiences at the mountain, offers a wide variety of activities from summit climbs with geologists to its annual Volcano Outdoor School and Volcano Camp. For more information on their offerings, visit mshinstitute.org or follow them on Facebook.

While those resources will provide the full depth of experiences available to visitors, we'll use Mount St. Helens as a jumping point to highlight 100 must-see stops and attractions that are either near the volcano or on the road to it.

1. *Johnston Ridge Observatory*

The Johnston Ridge Observatory is open seasonally and is located on Johnston Ridge in the center of the 1980 blast zone about 5 miles north of the Mount St. Helens summit. The ridge was named in honor of David Johnston, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) volcanologist who was on duty at the USGS Coldwater II observation point during the May 18, 1980, eruption. He was one of 57 people who lost their lives in the eruption. The observatory building houses seismic, deformation and other monitoring equipment that relays data to the USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory for analysis.

It's also one of the best places to peer into the volcano and contemplate the explosive damage wrought by the 1980 eruption.

It's located at the end of State Route 504, which can be reached from Castle Rock or Toledo off of Interstate 5. The observatory hosts interpretive displays that tell the biological, geological and human story of Mount St. Helens. Visitors to



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Windy Ridge Interpretive Site

Johnston Ridge Observatory can enjoy multiple award-winning films, listen to ranger talks, observe the landscape, purchase souvenirs, set off on a hike or get a light lunch from the food cart.

Learn more: visitmtsthelens.com

2. *Windy Ridge Interpretive Site*

Located just 5 miles from Mount St. Helens, the Windy Ridge Interpretive Site provides a close-up view of the volcano's crater and a breathtaking panorama of a landscape radically changed during the 1980 eruption and landslide. Below you lies Spirit Lake, with its floating log mat of huge trees swept into it during the eruption. Beyond, view a plain of pumice and ash and denuded hills, still fairly barren but greening with vegetation. Climb a 368-step sand ladder for a higher view. Read interpretive signs to learn about the events and people of the eruption. During summer, join an interpretive program presented at the site's amphitheater. The site is accessible and memorable for all.

Windy Ridge Interpretive Site provides access to Truman Trail #207 and Willow Springs Trail #207A.

From Randle on U.S. Highway 12, travel south on State Route 131 until the road forks. Stay to the right on State Route 131, which becomes Forest Road 25. Travel south on Forest Road

25 for 19 miles to Forest Road 99. Turn right on Forest Road 99 and drive 16 miles until it terminates at Windy Ridge. The site can also be reached traveling north from Cougar.

Remember, this site is only open seasonally, most often opening in May or June and closing as snowfall arrives. Road conditions can vary greatly, so be prepared for a potentially bumpy ride.

Learn more: fs.usda.gov/recarea/giffordpinchot

3. *The Ape Cave*

If you're looking for some climbing, some slime and some Bigfoot lore, the Ape Cave at the south end of Mount St. Helens may be the sweet spot. The pitch-black cave provides a trek into where lava pulsed some 2,000 years ago.

When you descend into the darkness, take the "upper cave" path for a longer journey (about a mile and a half), which demands a bit of scrambling. And while you should keep your eyes on your footing, make sure to catch a glimpse of the glittery — and oftentimes slimy — ceiling. Lava stalactites punctuate the rocky walls, which transform from broad openings to small, watch-your-head crevices as you walk.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, the Ape Cave is the third longest lava tube in North America at 2.5 miles. It was discovered in 1947



by Lawrence Johnson, a logger, but was only explored a few years later by a troop of Scouts, who lowered themselves into the cave and named it after their sponsor, the St. Helens Apes.

The genesis of the cave itself stems from a kind of eruption that was unusual for the Cascades: a basaltic eruption, which involves fluid lava. It's the only known basaltic eruption of the volcano, and it sent lava pouring down the south side of the mountain.

On your way out, stop at the Trail of Two Forests, where a boardwalk trail meanders through a

young forest situated on a mossy lava field.

Be sure to reserve your spot at recreation.gov, and bring your coat and plenty of light sources.

To get to the Ape Cave from Interstate 5, take Exit 22 and turn left onto Dike Access Road. Continue onto old Pacific Highway and then take a slight left on East Scott Avenue. Take the second exit at the traffic circle onto Lewis River Road where you'll travel for about 30 miles. Continue onto Road 90 before eventually turning onto National Forest Road 83. Take a left at National Forest Road 8303 and follow the signs to the cave.

Curious how the cave got its name? Find the story under "The Classics" at bigfootencounters.com.

4. Coldwater Lake Picnic & Boating Site

Coldwater Lake Recreation Area is located 45 miles east of Castle Rock in the heart of the blast zone near the Science and Learning Center at Coldwater and Johnston Ridge Observatory. Experience the effect the May 18, 1980, eruption had on the Coldwater Valley,

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Coldwater Lake

including creating a brand new lake. Kayaking is popular here. Combustion engines are prohibited on the lake, but anglers reach trophy trout by electric motors, rowing, or kicking. See the restrictions section for more information.

The 0.6 miles accessible Birth of a Lake Interpretive Trail allows visitors to enjoy close up views of Coldwater Lake.

Learn more: fs.usda.gov/recarea/giffordpinchot

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CH16156003

5. *Lava Canyon Trail*

Views of a rushing ribbon of pools and waterfalls await you on the Lava Canyon Trail on the south side of Mount St. Helens, not far from the welcoming town of Cougar. Three sections of the trail, one section which is accessible, provide opportunities for all. Due to the closure of the Lava Canyon Suspension Bridge, the 1.4 mile upper loop is not possible. But the first small bridge remains open for crossing the river. You may still walk down both sides of the river to the



Lava Canyon Trail

CH16158377-05

suspension bridge, you just can't cross it. The lower section past the suspension bridge is open.

The first 1/3 mile is paved and accessible. Stroll down some switchbacks and past lovely views of the Muddy River. Stop to read interpretive signs explaining the canyon's geological past.

After the first 1/3 mile, the pavement ends. To the right, cross a steel bridge, gaze down on the rushing Muddy River and explore the river's east side or continue straight on the main trail for another 0.4 miles to the suspension bridge. Normally, you can cross the suspension bridge to make a 1.4 mile loop, but due to the bridge's closure, this is currently not possible.

On the main trail, beyond the suspension bridge, the terrain becomes more difficult, descending steeply into the canyon. This section is not recommended for people uncomfortable with heights. The trail crosses an exposed cliff face followed by a water crossing with a cable grab-line. A 30-foot metal ladder descends a vertical cliff, providing access to the canyon's deepest recesses and roaring waterfalls. The canyon

broadens out as it approaches the Smith Creek Valley. The trail ends at Smith Creek Trail #225.

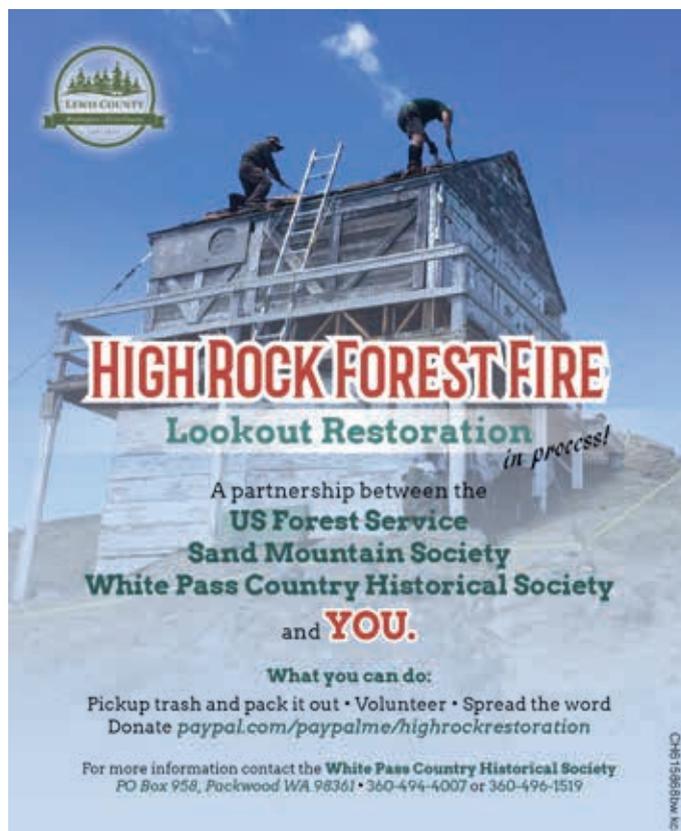
Learn more: fs.usda.gov/recarea/giffordpinchot

6.

The Town of Cougar

With all the potential adventures around Mount St. Helens, you'll need to fuel up at some point. This quiet-in-the-winter, bustling-in-the-summer mountain town offers the perfect respite. Cougar is an unincorporated community in Cowlitz County. It's located 28 miles northeast of Woodland along State Route 503 and is situated along the northwest bank of Yale Lake, a reservoir on the Lewis River. Surrounding the town you'll find campgrounds, trails and many different options for recreation on — or in — the water. The town also includes a bar and restaurant, a supply store and a fueling station, amid other amenities.

Learn more: columbiariverimages.com/Regions/Places/cougar.html



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7. *Climb to the Summit of Mount St. Helens*

Ever thought about climbing to the top of an active volcano? If so, you'll never find a greater opportunity than Mount St. Helens, where you don't have to be an experienced mountaineer to reach the top. The summit is climbed all year, though the most popular times are in the



Science & Learning Center at Coldwater

late spring through early fall. Most climbers use the Monitor Ridge Route from Climbers Bivouac. A climbing permit is required and can be obtained at recreation.gov/permits/4675309.

This route gains 4,500 feet in 5 miles to the crater rim at 8,365 feet elevation. Although strenuous, this non-technical climb is suitable for people in good physical condition who are comfortable scrambling on steep, rugged terrain. Most climbers complete the round trip in seven to 12 hours. While climbing to the crater rim is permitted, entry into the crater is strictly prohibited.

You'll want to plan ahead. From April 1 to May 14, there is a daily limit of 350 climbers. The limit is 110 climbers from May 15 to Oct. 31. From Nov. 1 to March 31, there is no limit on climbers.

The closest town is Cougar.

Learn more: fs.usda.gov/recarea/giffordpinchot/recarea/?recid=81369

8. Science & Learning Center at Coldwater

The Science and Learning Center at Coldwater is a hands-on education center located 7 miles from the crater of Mount St. Helens off the road to Johnston Ridge. The Science and Learning Center at Coldwater offers spectacular views and immersion into the volcanic landscape and world just

outside in the heart of the blast zone.

The Science and Learning Center is located at milepost 43 on State Route 504, approximately 10 miles west of Johnston Ridge Observatory. Near the Science and Learning Center is:

- The Winds of Change Trail with a 1/4 mile paved loop offering views of the Toutle Valley.
- The Elk Bench Trail connects with the Lakes Trail, providing stunning views of Coldwater Lake and frequent elk sightings along the way.
- A campground with stunning views of Mount St. Helens and Coldwater Lake that is available for group rentals.

The center is an offering of the Mount St. Helens Institute.

Learn more: mshinstitute.org

9.

Randle

Randle, located along U.S. Highway 12, is the northern gateway to Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams backcountry. The rural area around Randle is known locally as the "Big Bottom Valley," describing the valley floor of the Cowlitz River which is big, flat and fertile.

Randle is a mainly residential community in unincorporated Lewis County with a handful of restaurants, a grocery store and campgrounds nearby. It has an active timber mill and is



Randle

home to the ranger station for the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Randle boasts access to the Windy Ridge viewpoint of Mount St. Helens, as well as the Mount Adams backcountry and to a wide variety of outdoor recreation in the forest. The Cowlitz River is a great fishing area and the scenic beauty is beyond comparison.

The town is named for James L. Randle, the first settler in 1886. The townsite was founded in 1902.

One of the town's largest celebrations comes on the Fourth of July: the Big Bottom Blast.

Learn more: whitepassbyway.com/attractions/byway-communities/randle

10. *White Pass Country Historical Museum*

Capturing and preserving the history of the Upper Cowlitz Valley from Kosmos to White Pass, the White Pass Country Historical Society offers educational programs, interpretive discussions as well as exhibits and displays featuring the fascinating area history. Find the museum in the former Packwood Elementary School.

Summer hours, starting Memorial Day weekend and continuing through Labor Day weekend, are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Winter hours start the Saturday following Labor Day and are Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

It's located at 12990 U.S. Highway 12.

Learn more: whitepasscountrymuseum.org



White Pass Country Historical Museum



White Pass Country Historical Museum



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Mount Rainier

On a sunny day, you can catch a glimpse of Mount Rainier from just about anywhere in Southwest Washington, but if you get a little closer, Rainier becomes more than a beautiful view. It's a perfect getaway for those wishing to escape for a prolonged day trip or some extended time with nature.

The mountain itself, reaching 14,410 feet, is probably the most recognized landmark in all of Washington state, and it's the background picture on most state license plates for good reason.

The active volcano is surrounded by lush forests, alpine meadows and abundant wildlife.

The mountain itself presents quite the challenge for climbers and can test even the most hardened hikers, but most people will be best served to simply visit areas such as Paradise, Longmire and Ohanapecosh and marvel at the enormity and beauty of the peak.

Mount Rainier is part of a scenic region of the Cascades that separates the east and west sides of the state, making the mountain more

than just a destination in its own right, but an outdoors haven for anyone whose heart calls the hills and peaks of the region home.

Hiking and touring the Mount Rainier region is best reserved for the day, but when it comes time to wind down, Mount Rainier National Park offers plenty of resources for campers, from full-service campsites to backcountry areas.

The Cougar Rock campground in the southwest section of the park is open from late May to late September, offering 173 campsites; Ohanapecosh in the southeast section offers 188 sites; and White River offers 112 sites. All these

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campgrounds offer water, restrooms and fire grates; RVs and trailers are welcome, but visit nps.gov/mora for maximum length allowances.

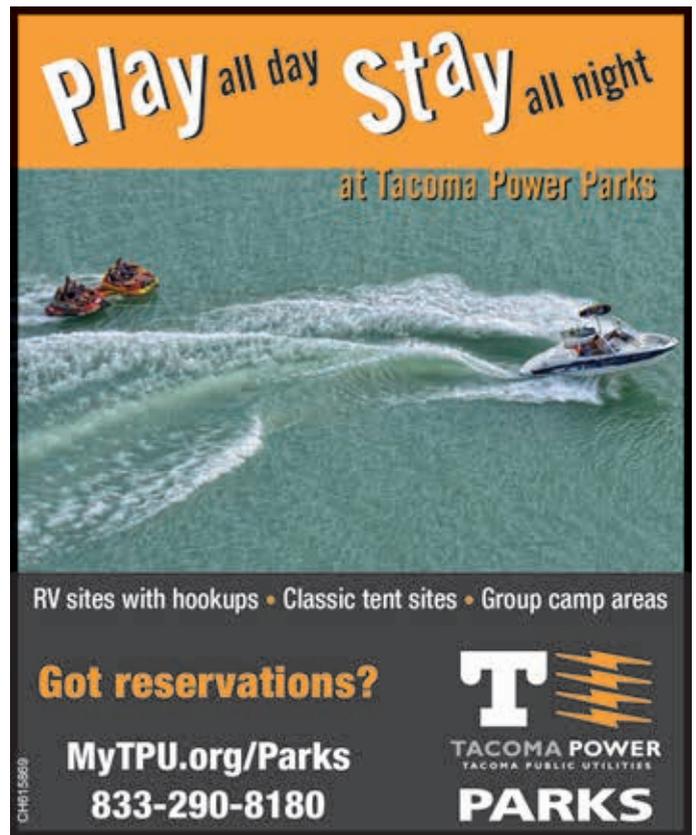
Reservations are also required at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh.

For those wishing to camp in the wilderness, a permit is required. Pick one up from any of the visitor centers throughout the park.

The 93-mile Wonderland Trail provides opportunities for wilderness camping, offering the opportunity to cache food at several points along the way.

For a list of maps and other resources with which to plan a camping trip, visit nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/maps.htm.

From Interstate 5, Mount Rainier is best accessed by taking U.S. Highway 12 to Morton then bearing north on State Route 7. Head north into Elbe, then take State Route 706 east all the way to the park entrance. A National Park Pass is required; for more information visit nps.gov/mora. Additional information can be found online at visitrainier.com.



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High Rock Lookout Near Ashford



Grove of the Patriarchs

11.

Ashford

Just 6 miles outside the Nisqually Entrance to Mount Rainier National Park sits the mountain community of Ashford. Tucked away in the forested foothills, discover lodging establishments from cozy cabins to friendly motels, all serving as a base camp for Mount Rainier adventures.

Usually, the fastest route is to take Interstate 5 southbound to State Route 512, then to State Route 706.

Visitors will find a collection of cabins, vacation rentals, inns and a few campgrounds.

Area restaurants include family-friendly grills, convenient cafes and historic inns. Of course, recreation abounds with summertime hiking trails and winter snowshoe routes all in close proximity. Mt. Tahoma Trail System is accessed just a few miles east. Several shops and galleries in town offer exquisite, original artworks and outdoor shops provide gear for year-round adventure. The 80-acre Ashford County Park, located on Highway 706, offers a children's play area, accessible trails and a restroom facility. Recent additions to the park include an amphitheater, great lawn, additional trails, additional parking, utility infrastructure and a set of new restrooms. This is a great venue for large groups or family gatherings.

More information: visitrainier.com/ashford

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12.

Grove of the Patriarchs

Tucked away in the northeastern tip of Lewis County in Mount Rainier National Park lies some of Washington's mightiest evergreens. With some of the trees over 1,000 years old and many over 25 feet around, walkers and hikers of all abilities can enjoy this primitive grove on the zero elevation path. To get there, follow Highway 206 past Ashford to Stevens Canyon.

National Park Pass required.

Learn more:
visitrainier.com/grove-of-the-patriarchs-2



13.

Wonderland Trail

Sixteen miles east of Ashford lies the Longmire visitor center, the first established park entrance for Mount Rainier National Park. Starting from here, the adventurous hiker can go for 6 miles to Paradise or 93 miles to circle Mount Rainier. Plan trips according to ability and equipment.

Wilderness Pass required for camping.

Learn more: nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/the-wonderland-trail.htm

14.

Ohanapecosh

Located in the southeast corner of the park, Ohanapecosh, named for a Taidnapam (Upper Cowlitz) Indian habitation site along the river, is thought to mean “standing at the edge.” Situated among Douglas firs, western red cedars, and western hemlocks, visitors to Ohanapecosh can experience the beauty and complexity of an old-growth forest. The east side of the park is also somewhat drier and sunnier than the west side, making it a good destination when Paradise and Longmire are wet and foggy. Ohanapecosh is not accessible in winter. Ohanapecosh is located 3 miles north of the park boundary on State Route 123 and 42 miles east of the Nisqually Entrance.

The Ohanapecosh Visitor Center, open from June to early October, offers exhibits, guided interpretive programs and book sales.

The Ohanapecosh Campground and picnic area is located on the banks of the peaceful Ohanapecosh River, within a majestic old-growth forest. Like the visitor center, the campground



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Ohanapecosh

is open from late May to early October.

More sites nearby:

- Box Canyon — Located on Stevens Canyon Road 12 miles west of Ohanapecosh. From the bridge, gaze 180 feet below at water rushing through a narrow slot canyon carved by the Muddy Fork of the Cowlitz River.
- Reflection Lakes — Drive west 19 miles from Ohanapecosh on Stevens Canyon Road for a possible glimpse of Mount Rainier's reflection in these subalpine lakes.
- Inspiration Point — This large pullout is 20 miles west of Ohanapecosh on Stevens Canyon Road. It offers spectacular views of Mount Rainier and the Tatoosh Range.

Learn more: nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/ohanapecosh.htm

15.

Paradise

Paradise is famous for its glorious views and wildflower meadows. When James Longmire's daughter-in-law, Martha, first saw this site, she exclaimed, "Oh, what a paradise!" The park's main visitor center, the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center, is located in the upper parking area. Paradise is also the primary winter-use area in the park, receiving on average 643 inches of snow a year. Winter activities include snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and sledding. The road between Longmire and Paradise is plowed, but closes at night during the winter. Paradise is located 19 miles east of the Nisqually Entrance and 12 miles east of Longmire.

The Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise offers general information, exhibits, the park film, guided ranger programs, a book and gift store and a cafeteria. The visitor center is usually open daily from May to early October. From mid-October through April, it is usually open only on weekends and holidays.

The historic Paradise Inn, a concessioner-operated hotel, offers lodging, a dining room and a gift shop. The Paradise Inn is usually open from mid-May to early-October and is closed in the winter.

The Guide House houses the Paradise Climbing Information Center, where visitors can obtain



Paradise



climbing permits and hiking and backcountry camping information.

The historic Paradise Ranger Station is also located in Paradise. Information services formerly available at the Paradise Ranger Station are now available at the Guide House.

Learn more:

nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/paradise.htm



The Sunrise Day Lodge is open from early July to late September. It offers food service and a gift shop. There is no overnight lodging at the Sunrise Day Lodge.

The White River Campground and picnic area is located 12 miles from the Sunrise Visitor Center.

Learn more:

nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/sunrise.htm

16.

Sunrise

At an elevation of 6,400 feet, Sunrise is the highest point that can be reached by vehicle in Mount Rainier National Park. In summer, mountain meadows abound with wildflowers. On clear summer days, Sunrise provides breathtaking views of Mount Rainier and Emmons Glacier. Sunrise Point offers nearly 360-degree views of the surrounding valleys, Mount Rainier, and other volcanoes in the Cascade Range such as Mount Adams. These views and an excellent trail system make Sunrise the second most visited location in the park. Sunrise is located 60 miles northeast of the Nisqually Entrance and 14 miles northwest of the Sunrise/White River turnoff on State Route 410.

The Sunrise Road usually opens in late June or early July and closes in late September to early October.

The Sunrise Visitor Center is open from early July to early September and is closed in winter. Here visitors will find exhibits, guided interpretive programs, book sales and a picnic area.

17.

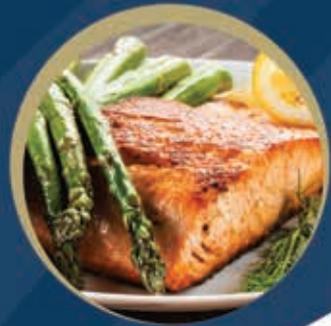
Carbon River and Mowich Lake

Named for coal deposits found in the area, Carbon River is located in the park's northwest corner. This part of Mount Rainier National Park receives consistently high amounts of rainfall so the climate and plant communities found here resemble that of a temperate rainforest.

The Carbon River Road was washed out by the 2006 flood and is closed to vehicles past the park boundary. Bicycle and pedestrian traffic are permitted on the remainder of the road inside the park, which has been converted into a trail. Carbon is reached via the Carbon River Road, off of State Route 165.

Set in a glacial basin surrounded by fragile wildflower meadows, Mowich Lake is the largest and deepest lake in Mount Rainier National Park. Mowich Lake is open for fishing and non-motorized boating. The area is generally open mid-July to mid-October. Mowich is reached

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via State Route 165. The road is unpaved after the first 3 miles and may be rough.

The Ipsut Creek Campground is located 5 miles from the Carbon River Entrance. Due to the 2006 flood, the road is closed to vehicles; the campground is open to hikers with a wilderness camping permit.

The Mowich Lake Campground and Tolmie Peak Trailhead/Mowich Lake picnic area are located 6 miles from the Mowich Entrance. Both the Mowich Lake campground and picnic area are open midsummer to early fall.

The Carbon River area includes old-growth forest and inland temperate rain forest. The Carbon Glacier is the lowest elevation glacier in the lower 48 states.

The Mowich Lake area provides a gateway to spectacular subalpine lakes and meadows. Subalpine meadows are very sensitive to disturbance, so please stay on the trails at all times.

Learn more about nearby hikes here: nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/carbon-river-and-mowich.htm

18.

Longmire

With the establishment of Mount Rainier National Park in 1899, Longmire became park headquarters. The site had previously served as James Longmire's homestead, lodging and mineral springs resort. Although park headquarters are no longer at Longmire, the original 1916 headquarters building houses a museum that tells the story of the early days of the park. Across the street from the museum, the "newer" Longmire Administration



Longmire at Kautz Creek

Building, completed in 1930, still holds offices for park staff and is home to the Longmire Wilderness Information Center (current park administration offices are located at Tahoma Woods, outside of the park along State Route 706). All of Longmire is now designated a National Historic District. Longmire is located in the southwest corner of the park and is 6.5 miles east of the Nisqually Entrance.

Longmire is open year-round.

The Longmire Museum, usually open daily all year, offers exhibits, information and books sales.

The Wilderness Information Center, usually open daily from late May to early October and closed in winter, is where visitors can obtain wilderness permits and hiking and backcountry camping information. In winter, visitors can obtain climbing and wilderness permits at the Longmire Museum.

The National Park Inn, a concessioner-operated hotel, restaurant and gift shop is usually open daily all year. The article, *The National Park Inn*, provides an overview of the history of this iconic inn.

Cougar Rock Campground and picnic area, 2 miles east of Longmire, is usually open from late May to early October.

Nearby attractions:

- Westside Road — Begins 1 mile east of Nisqually Entrance. Road is closed to vehicles beyond the gate at Dry Creek, but accessible for biking and walking.
- Christine Falls — Located 4 miles east of Longmire, a short walk from the pullout offers a classic view of the falls below the rustic stone bridge.
- Glacier Bridge — 5 miles from Longmire heading toward Paradise. The tall bridge has excellent views of the Nisqually Valley, though the Nisqually Glacier, which once reached the location of the bridge, has since retreated up the valley.
- Ricksecker Point Road — This one-way road begins 6 miles east of Longmire and offers fantastic views of Mount Rainier, Nisqually Valley and the Tatoosh Range. It's open in summer only.



19.

Goat Rocks Wilderness

Named for the numerous mountain goat families who call this area their home, the Goat Rocks Wilderness covers 108,023 acres across Lewis and Yakima counties. Backpackers from far and wide venture to this wilderness area in the summertime for its challenging technical hikes, pristine alpine lakes and panoramic views of the Cascade Range.

The Goat Rocks features a 120-mile trail system, much of which stays above the timberline. Hikers will see marmots and pikas sunbathing on the rocks during those few months without snow. Miles of huckleberry bushes dotted by hungry gray jays will guide hikers up twisted paths until they reach sweeping fields of heathers.

The Pacific Crest Trail wanders north-south through the middle of the wilderness for 31.1 miles and connects with 14 other trails along the way.

In order to preserve this idyllic wilderness area, dogs and other pets are not allowed and fires are prohibited above 5,000 foot elevation. Backpackers and hikers should always pack trash out and be sure to leave no trace.

To reach the Goat Rocks Wilderness, travel 2.7 miles west of Packwood on U.S. Highway 12 until turning left on Forest Road 21. Stay on Forest Road 21 for 13 miles, then take a slight left toward Forest Road 2150. Follow 2150 and take the 045 spur to the trailhead.

Learn more: fs.usda.gov/recarea/giffordpinchot/recarea/?recid=79414



20.

Packwood

Set at the base of the Tatoosh Range and on the banks of the Cowlitz River, Packwood is surrounded by dramatic natural landscapes, most of which are in public ownership. Packwood, located less than 10 miles from the Ohanapecosh entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, also has a fairly direct connection to the Nisqually entrance via Skate Creek Road during the summer months. The area offers a wide range of lodging near Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens, and the Gifford-Pinchot National Forest in the summer. Packwood provides lodging for White Pass Ski Area skiers and snowshoers during the winter. The Cowlitz River comes crashing off a glacier high on the flanks of Mount Rainier and winds through Packwood. Steelhead in the river makes fishing wonderful. Mushrooms and huckleberries abound in the forests. Camping and lodging provide a perfect respite for adventure and leisure travelers.

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Proximity to Mount Rainier National Park, White Pass Ski Resort and the Cowlitz River make this area a base camp for recreation. The town of Packwood has historically relied on the forest products industry as an economic engine, supplemented by government employment (via the National Forest and Park Services) and seasonal tourism.

In operation for more than 40 years, the Packwood Flea Market is traditionally held on Memorial and Labor Day weekends.

Vendors typically begin to set up their booths on the Thursday of the holiday weekends.

The multi-day event attracts hundreds of vendors along with large crowds of shoppers. Visitors can browse an assortment of food, antiques, novelties, handcrafted artisan gifts, upcycled items, art and more. The Packwood Flea Market is considered to be one of the largest flea markets in the western United States.

Learn more: packwoodvisitorcenter.com

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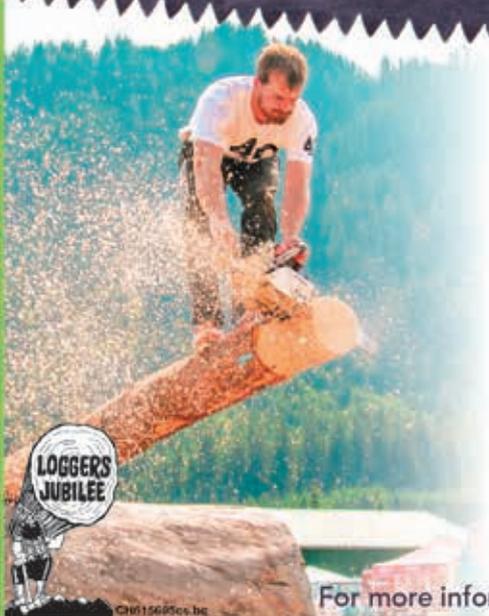
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White Pass Scenic Byway

21.

White Pass Ski Area

Fifty-four miles east of Morton and 54 miles west of Yakima lies one of Washington's finest ski areas. At White Pass, skiers of all abilities can go out for full or half days. Lessons, rentals and meals in the lodge are all available to purchase.

Learn more: skiwhitepass.com

brown trout. Rainbow and cutthroat trout are also available. Landlocked salmon rules apply. Other warm water species present include brown bullheads, along with a few bluegill and crappie. There are no kokanee in Riffe Lake.

Mossyrock Park, near the west end on the south side of the dam, has camping facilities that can be reserved by calling 360-983-3900. Mossyrock Park boat launch remains usable during most low-water conditions. Boat launches

22.

Riffe Lake

Riffe Lake, historically known as Mossyrock Lake then as Davisson Lake, is a reservoir formed by Mossyrock Dam. It is a popular waterway for smallmouth bass. The lake stretches more than 13 miles along U.S. Highway 12 east of Mossyrock and has a year-round open fishing season.

Riffe provides good fishing for landlocked coho and Chinook salmon, plus an occasional large



at the east end (Kosmos and Taidnapam Park) are not usable during low-water periods.

Bank access is available on both sides near the dam and at the Taidnapam Park "fishing bridge" near the upper end of the lake. Call the Tacoma Power toll-free fishing hotline at 888-502-8690 to check reservoir levels.

The towns of Mayfield, Riffe and Kosmos are located under Riffe Lake — a result of building the Mayfield and Mossyrock dams in the 1960s. You can see the towns if the water level is low enough.

Learn more: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/lowland-lakes/riffe-lake

23.

Mayfield Lake

This reservoir was formed by the construction of Mayfield Dam. It is managed for catchable rainbow trout and warmwater species. Tiger muskies were introduced in 1993 to help control nuisance northern pikeminnow (squawfish) populations.

The lake is located about 3 miles west of Mossyrock. The big attraction is tiger muskie fishing. The state record is currently over 31 pounds; but larger ones are out there. The

best tiger muskie fishing is during the warmer months. Consult the current Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet for specific regulations at this lake.

Surplus hatchery Coho and fall Chinook may be placed in the lake for additional fishing opportunity. Yellow perch are also caught in fair numbers and a few largemouth bass are present. Boating access is available at a Lewis County park just off of Highway U.S. 12, at Ike Kinswa State Park, and at a private resort. There is fair shore fishing access at the state park and at the Mossyrock Trout Hatchery. Call Tacoma Power's toll free fishing line at 888-502-8690.

Learn more: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/lowland-lakes/mayfield-lake

24.

Ike Kinswa State Park

Ike Kinswa State Park is a great place to make summer memories. This classic state park sits on Mayfield Lake amidst a rolling patchwork of farmland 20 miles east of Interstate 5 and off U.S. Highway 12. Ike Kinswa provides idyllic days of boating, swimming and water sports for the whole family.

Fish for tiger muskie, largemouth bass, kokanee and rainbow trout; launch the family boat for



Mayfield Lake

*Ike Kinswa State
Park More Info:*



Ike Kinswa State Park



water sports, or bring kayaks and paddleboards for a mellow float. Kids can splash in the swim area until the air turns cool, the daylight fades and the smell of barbecue draws them back to camp.

Campers can choose between quiet, forested tent and RV sites or lakeside cabins and snuggle in for the night after a busy day on the water.

Ike Kinswa State Park is a 421-acre camping park with 46,000 feet of freshwater shoreline on the north side of Mayfield Lake. In addition to its excellent boating, fishing and swimming options, the park offers short hiking trails, birding, wildlife viewing and two horseshoe pits.

More here:
parks.wa.gov/519/Ike-Kinswa

25.

Alpine Lakes

The mountainous landscape of the Cascades has long scratched the adventurous itch of many an outdoors lover — fishermen included.

Alpine or high-altitude lakes, some off the beaten path and some readily accessible from a vehicle, are scattered throughout the region and, often, provide a pristine view along with the challenge of pulling in a juicy trout.

“Just those high lakes up around the wilderness area, the Mount Adams wilderness area, are pretty spectacular,” said Kenneth Wieman, fisheries biologist for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Cowlitz Valley Ranger District.

There are about 1,600 lakes at elevations of 2,500 feet above sea level throughout the state, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Although many of the lakes at that altitude are free of fish, some do maintain their own self-sustaining fish populations. Some, however, are stocked with fish through state programs.

“Fish are purposely put in the lake with the expectation ... they’ll be caught. There’s not a lot of natural reproduction in a lot of these lakes, but

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Lewis & Clark State Park

it's a recreational opportunity afforded to you by the state and the forest service," said Wieman.

Wieman said rainbow trout and cutthroat trout are often provided by the stocking program.

"Created by colliding tectonic plates, and carved by glaciers and ice, high mountain lakes in Washington offer anglers a recreational experience unmatched by any other waters in the state. The fishing is spectacular in these high elevation gems but the experience is punctuated by fantastic camping, hiking, wildlife watching and travels to and from these unique angling opportunities," reads online literature from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Learn more:

wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/high-lakes

26.

Lewis & Clark State Park

This cool forested space east of Interstate 5 and south of Chehalis offers hiking and horseback riding through a rare stand of old-growth trees on the historic north spur of the Oregon Trail. The park provides an all-American camping experience with fire circles, an amphitheater and horseshoe pits. Your horse can even camp with you at one of the park's equestrian campsites.

Boundless enjoyment awaits children and families on lawns that double as playing fields, on miles of trails amidst lush ferns, gnarled snags, nurse logs and in cathedral-like thickets of giant trees.

While buildings and kitchen shelters may be purely functional to the kids, adults and history buffs will appreciate these structures. Lewis and Clark State Park was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, during the Great Depression, and examples of the characteristic CCC architecture can be found throughout the park.

Don't forget to visit Jackson House State Park Heritage Site, just 2 miles to the north.

Lewis and Clark State Park is a 616-acre camping park in a stand of old-growth forest.

Learn more:

parks.wa.gov/538/Lewis-Clark

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27.

Cowlitz Trout Hatchery

The Cowlitz Trout Hatchery produces and releases over 1.5 million fish each year. This hatchery is the main contributor of winter-run and summer-run steelhead trout to the Cowlitz River ranked as one of the state's top steelhead rivers. Sea-run cutthroat are also released for recreational fishing. The hatchery is located 6 miles downriver from Mayfield Dam on the Cowlitz River. The no-fee Blue Creek boat launch is located near the trout hatchery with a large parking lot, restrooms and ADA-compliant riverside fishing platforms. Access to the area is found at Ethel, just 6 miles east of Interstate 5 off the White Pass Scenic Byway. The address is 165 Osprey Road, Toledo.

Learn more: whitepassbyway.com



Carlisle Lake

28.

Jackson House

The 1845 Jackson House was the first pioneer home built north of the Columbia River. It's located near Lewis and Clark State Park. Take U.S. Highway 12 to Mary's Corner and turn south on Jackson Highway, where you'll see it just off the side of the road.

Learn more: [360-864-2643](tel:360-864-2643)



Jackson House

29.

Carlisle Lake & Onalaska

Located off of State Route 508 not far from U.S. Highway 12, Onalaska is an off-the-beaten-path gem that offers food and services for wandering adventurers. While the area is rich in history, one of its most well known spots is Carlisle Lake. The lake is a historic mill pond from the Carlisle Mill, circa 1914-1928. Visitors can enjoy fishing, trails, exercise stations and the developing playground. If you arrive at the right time, you can observe fish being raised in the net pens by the Onalaska High School aquaculture program.

Learn more:

onalaskaalliance.org



Cowlitz River

30.

Morton, Mossyrock & Mineral

A trip down U.S. Highway 12 wouldn't be complete without stops at the small towns that help give East Lewis County its character. Morton is home to "the granddaddy of all logging shows," the Loggers Jubilee. The logging competition and associated festival typically occurs the second weekend of August. The town is also home to the Roxy Theater, which offers live performances along with the latest Hollywood releases. To learn more about Morton, visit visitmorton.com.

Just to the north of Morton, visitors will find the unincorporated town of Mineral, a favorite for locals when it comes to fishing and camping. It's hidden away in a little known and seldom explored corner of the Cascade Mountain Range off of State Route 7. The wildlife is bountiful and the landscape breathtaking. Mineral offers fabulous views of Mount Rainier and easy access to Mount Rainier National Park and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This "Gem of the Northwest" has something to offer everyone from steam train enthusiasts, to hikers and bikers, birdwatchers, hunters and fishermen, skiers, boaters, vacationers and campers. Learn more at minerallake.com.

Mossyrock considers itself "the Heart of Lewis County." Located just to the west of Morton, the town is home to the annual Blueberry Festival the first week of August and, more recently, a Freedom Fest that is held in the days leading up to the Fourth of July. Both events are full of revelry and callbacks to the town's unique heritage. "The area is well-known for recreational opportunities

and provide a welcoming atmosphere to visitors and residents alike who enjoy outdoors activities," the city states on its website. "The immediate Mossyrock area lies within the Klickitat Creek drainage basin which is known for its highly fertile soils. Agricultural traditions remain alive today with both large-scale and small-scale farming. With several large berry grower and tree farmers the area preserves its rural charm. The influence of the nearby dams of Riffe and Mayfield, both built in the 1960s, remains to this day also since they transformed the wild Cowlitz River into two recreational lakes, Riffe Lake and Lake Mayfield." Camping opportunities abound throughout the surrounding area.

Learn more: cityofmossyrock.com



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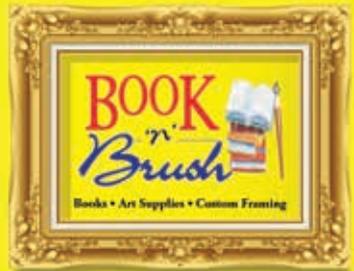
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2022 Events

- **Rainbow Walk** June 4
- **Farmer's Market** on Thursdays starting June 23
- **Summer Concerts** at Sternwheeler Park each weekend starting June 25
- **Teen Pageant** July 23
- **Our Days** Sternwheeler Celebration July 29-30
- **Cornhole Tournament** at Holley Park August 20
- **Christmas Tree** Lighting December 4

www.ci.lacenter.wa.us

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Washington State Capitol

Thurston & Lewis Counties

31.

Yelm

Situated in south Thurston County, the city of Yelm boasts picturesque views of Mount Rainier from almost every location in the city. The city, dubbed the “Pride of the Prairie,” features a mix of small-town pride and history. It is located near Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and offers a plethora of parks, family-oriented community celebrations and an array of local businesses.

During the warmer months, people can

check out the splash pad at Yelm City Park or attend events like the Nisqually Valley Barbecue Rally in July, or the Jazz in the Park festival in August. The city also features Longmire Community Park, Cochrane Memorial Park and the Yelm Skate Park.

Learn more: yelmwa.gov

YELMCHAMBER
of Commerce

Visitor Info



Yelm



Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

32.

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

The Northwest Trek Wildlife Park in Eatonville features 723-acres and hosts native Northwest animals that can be seen on walking paths or premium tours. The park has a nature-inspired Kids Trek playground, as well as wild drive tours. The park is home to over 40 species of native Northwest animals from moose to newts. There are also bears, cats and birds. Northwest Trek Wildlife Park is nationally accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The park is dedicated to conservation, education and recreation by displaying, interpreting and researching native Northwest wildlife and natural habitats. It's located at 11610 Trek Drive E., Eatonville.

Learn more:
nwtrek.org

33.

Washington Capitol Campus

The Washington State Capitol Campus in Olympia has many sights and attractions for visitors to enjoy. The 50-acre West Capitol Campus is listed in the National Register of Historic places. People can visit the Legislative Building, the Governor's Mansion and the Temple of Justice. Washington state's Legislative Building was completed in 1928 after six years of construction. It serves as both a working governmental center and a symbol of Washington's free and democratic government. The Legislative Building is the centerpiece of the five historic buildings designed by New York architects Walter Wilder and Harry White. There's also the Washington State Veterans and Law Enforcement memorials. Tree lovers can take a self guided walking tour that highlights 21 of the over 100 species of trees on the Capitol campus. The campus features a trail around Capitol Lake and boasts a number of different parks as well.

Learn more:
des.wa.gov

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Chehalis: 360-748-3744

South Bend: 360-875-8102



Wolf Haven



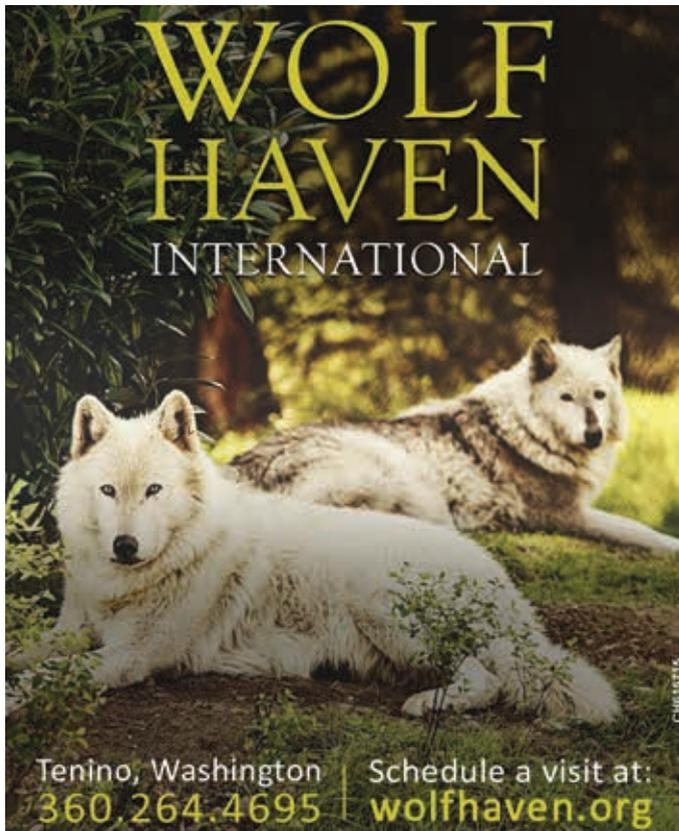
South Sound Speedway

34.

Wolf Haven

Wolf Haven International is hidden away as a sanctuary should be, and it's certainly worth the short drive north of Tenino. To visit, contact the sanctuary far in advance and make a reservation.

Its mission is to “conserve and protect wolves and their habitat.” The sanctuary has taken care of 180 displaced captive-born animals since 1982.



The nonprofit Wolf Haven accomplishes this mission through providing sanctuary, education and conservation. Wolf Haven rescues and provides sanctuary for displaced, captive-born wolves, offers educational programs about wolves and the value of all wildlife, promotes wolf restoration in historic ranges and works to protect the remaining wild wolves and their habitat.

Enjoy a 50-minute guided visit through the public portion of the wolf sanctuary. During your guided walk, learn about wolves, both in captivity and in the wild. Potentially see up to 10 sanctuary residents in a beautiful, natural and serene atmosphere. A self-guided prairie walk and stop at the memorial wolf cemetery are optional.

Wolf Haven is located at 3111 Offut Lake Road SE, Tenino.

Learn more: wolfhaven.org

35.

South Sound Speedway

For the gearheads, the South Sound Speedway just off Interstate 5 at Rochester offers a racing season full of roaring engines and more than a crash or two.

The .375 mile oval race track includes a figure-eight course with racing most Saturdays through September.

The South Sound Speedway, located at 3730 183rd Avenue SW in Rochester, can be accessed by taking Interstate 5 Exit 88 and going east on Old Highway 99.

Most races take place on Saturdays, although there are a few on Sundays.
Learn more: southsoundsspeedway.com

36. *Nisqually Red Wind Casino*

Nisqually Red Wind Casino features an expansive smoke-free area in its 95,000-square-foot facility plus more than 1,600 slot machines, 20 table games, keno games, and restaurants including a deli, fine-dining steakhouse and a smoke-free bar.

It's located at 12819 Yelm Highway SE, Olympia. Call 1-866-946-2444 for more information.

Learn more: redwindcasino.com



Nisqually Red Wind Casino

37. *Great Wolf Lodge*

The Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, which opened in March 2008, offers more than the average hotel stay. The lodge



Great Wolf Lodge



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features an enormous indoor water park, restaurants, an arcade, a gym and much more for toddlers, teens or the entire family.

It's located at 20500 Old Highway 99 SW, Grand Mound.

Learn more: greatwolf.com/grand-mound

38. *Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel*

Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel offers some of the finest entertainment experiences in the Pacific Northwest. It also has the largest variety of slot machines and table games in the area, plus world famous entertainers and an attractive 171-room hotel. The casino and hotel is operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis and, in addition to gaming, offers a wide range of fine cuisine. It's located on 188th Ave. SW, Rochester.

Learn more: luckyeagle.com



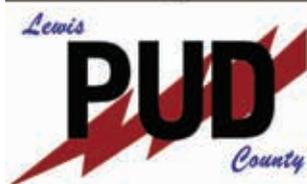
39. *Tenino*

The Thurston County city of Tenino is a little town with a lot of history. It's also known for grabbing a lot of headlines, most recently by recreating the wooden money that first put the town on the map during the Great Depression. The town dusted off the concept during the pandemic, creating local currency to help aid local businesses and residents.

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It's known as the "Stone City." In 1888, the sandstone industry took hold, and the legacy of that history is on display in the form of buildings throughout the city. The Tenino Stone Carvers carry on that history today, operating out of a shop in the downtown area. The Tenino Depot Museum is a great spot for learning all about the town. You'll also want to visit the Quarry Pool, a recreational hotspot which, as the name indicates, is located in the remnants of a former quarry. Every July, the town holds its Oregon Trail Days festival, celebrating the history of the town with a parade and several days of activities.

Learn more: cityoftenino.us



Tenino

40. *Mima Mounds*

The Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve is one of 17 landmarks found in Washington state. It was established in 1976 to protect rare examples of mima mound landforms and Puget prairie grasslands. The



Mima Mounds

site includes a small Garry oak woodland and a savannah of widely spaced oak trees with grass understory. It also supports a variety of prairie dependent butterflies and birds, and a Douglas-fir forest. The preserve comprises 641 acres of grassland covered mima mounds, forest and oak woodland. Dogs are not allowed at the Mima Mounds Preserve. It's located at 12315 Waddell Creek Road SW, Olympia.

Learn more: dnr.wa.gov/mimamounds

41. *Offut Lake Resort*

The small family-owned campground of Offut Lake Resort near Tenino offers cabins, RV and tent camping, as well as the lakefront restaurant and bar named Lady of the Lake Restaurant. The lake is open for fishing year round. Visitors can rent boats, buy fishing licenses and tackle. The atmosphere aims to be family-friendly and laid back. It's located at 4005 120th Ave. SE, Tenino.

Learn more: offutlakeresort.com

42. *Lattin's Country Cider Mill & Farm*

Stop by Lattin's Country Cider Mill and Farm to shop for apple cider, jams, syrups, cookies, fritters and more. The Olympia-based



Offut Lake Resort



Lattin's Country Cider Mill and Farm

cider mill has been operating since 1976. Known for its award-winning apple cider, all of Lattin's products are homemade with natural ingredients. It's located at 9402 Rich Road SE, Olympia.

Learn more: lattinsciderolympia.com

43. Scatter Creek Wildlife Area

Located in Thurston and Grays Harbor counties, the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area comprises around 3,600 acres. The glacial outwash plain is rimmed by low-lying hills formed by the last continental ice sheet 12,000 years ago. The wildlife area is located in the Puget Sound Trough lowlands with the Cascade Mountain Range to the east, the Willapa Hills to the southwest and the Black Hills to the northwest. The area features tributaries of the Chehalis River and is home to a plethora of wildlife. The Scatter Creek Wildlife Area unit can be accessed from Case Road and Guava Street Southwest near Rochester.

Learn more: wdfw.wa.gov/places-to-go/wildlife-areas/scatter-creek-wildlife-area

44. Millersylvania State Park

Conveniently located between Olympia and Centralia, Millersylvania State Park houses Deep Lake and a historic kitchen shelter. The park features a 903-acre camping park with 3,300 feet of freshwater shoreline. There are 7.6 miles of bike trails and 8.1 miles of hiking



Scatter Creek Wildlife Area



Millersylvania State Park



Stacey Johnson, MPA

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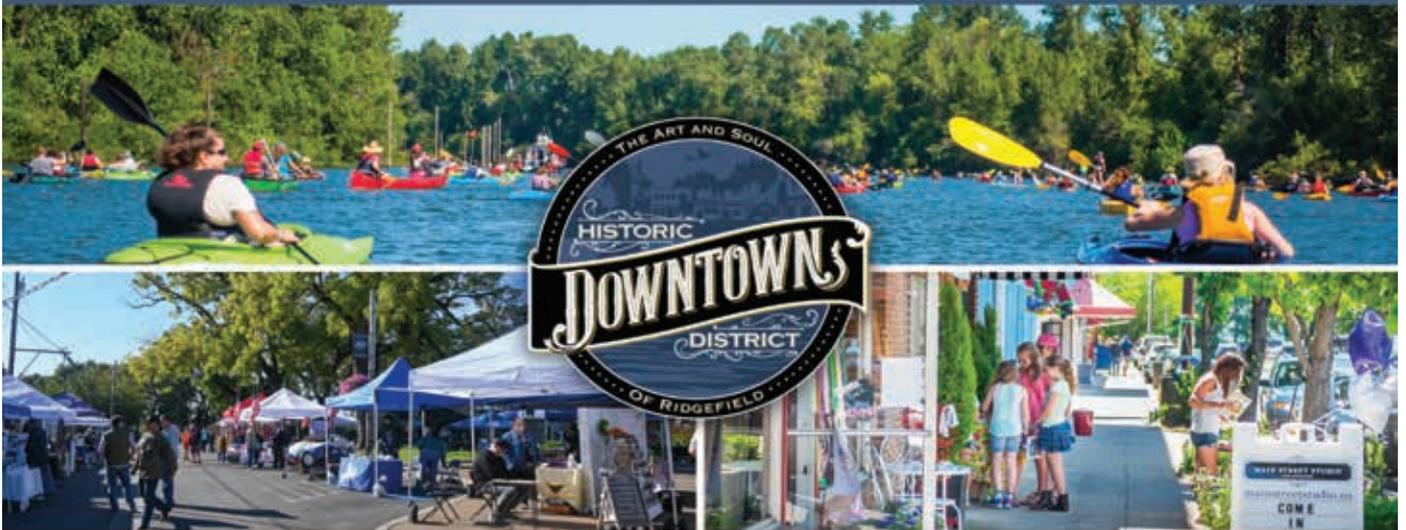
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Ridgefield Washington is conveniently located in north Clark County on Interstate 5. The Historic Downtown area overlooks the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and boasts dining, shopping, community festivals, and walking trails. With nearby wineries, water recreation, and hiking there is something for everyone in Ridgefield.

Plan your visit at www.RidgefieldWa.us

CH615551

trails. The park also has an amphitheater and horseshoe pits. It's an ideal location for bird watching and wildlife viewing. A Discover Pass is required for vehicle access to state parks for day use. Millersylvania State Park is equipped with an automated pay station where visitors can purchase a one-day or annual Discover Pass. It's located at 12245 Tilley Road S., Olympia.

Learn more: parks.wa.gov/546/millersylvania

45.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Named after Meriwether Lewis of the famed Lewis and Clark expedition, Fort Lewis was born out of World War I. Joint Base Lewis-McChord, oftentimes now referred to as JBLM, became one of 12 joint bases across the Department of Defense in 2010. It encompasses 413,714 acres. Joint Base Lewis-McChord supports more than 40,000 service members, including active duty, National Guard and reserve members, approximately 14,000 full-time civilian employees, and more than 90,000 family members, veterans and retirees. Visitors can head to the Lewis Army Museum at 4320 Main St. and Constitution Drive at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the McChord Air Museum.

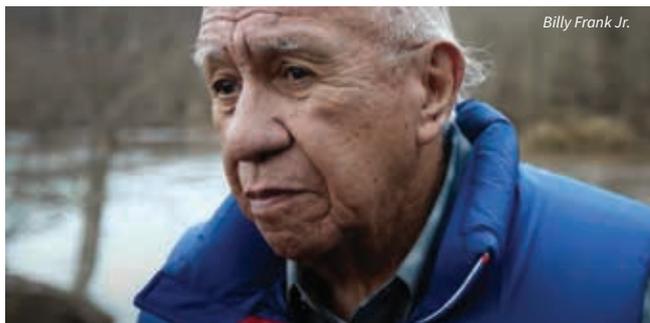
Learn more:

home.army.mil/lewis-mcchord/index.php

46.

Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Year-round trails meander through a diversity of habitats at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can view



Billy Frank Jr.

wildlife or enjoy a mile-long walk on the Nisqually Estuary Boardwalk that extends over the estuary. Established in 1974, the refuge is located where the freshwater of the Nisqually River flows into Puget Sound. It features a salt marsh, marine waters, riparian forest, freshwater wetlands, grassland and upland forest. It is located at 100 Brown Farm Road, Olympia.

Learn more: fws.gov/refuge/billy-frank-jr-nisqually

47.

Centralia

“If there's any decent place in this world, I'm going to find it.”

These words, uttered almost 170 years ago by a young African American man from Missouri, would influence the history of what is now Western Washington. George Washington, the son of a Black slave and a white woman of English descent, crossed the continent on the Oregon Trail and settled where the Chehalis and Skookumchuck rivers



Centralia



Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge



Centralia

converge. He and his wife, Mary Jane, founded the town that would become Centralia and sustained it through its darkest hours.

Washington's legacy is celebrated in the form of a statue along Pearl Street in Centralia, Lewis County's largest town by population.

Today, Centralia, also known as the Hub City, has grown into an important halfway point between Seattle and Portland and a hotbed of shopping opportunities. Downtown Centralia, located to the east of Interstate 5, is a world unto itself, filled with great food, drinks and entertainment. McMenamins Olympic Club and Hotel offers all three with a theater that shows movies each day,



Seminary Hill Natural Area

hotel rooms and fine food. New to the scene, the Insert Coin bar and arcade provides fun for adults and youths in the same setting. For live entertainment, The Evergreen Playhouse puts on a full slate of plays all year. Throughout the downtown area, you'll find information and observances of what has come to be known as the Centralia Massacre, a 1919 conflict between the American Legion and Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or "Wobblies") that "resulted in six deaths, others being wounded, multiple prison terms, and an ongoing and especially bitter dispute over the motivations and events that precipitated the event."

Closer to Interstate 5 are the popular Centralia Outlets, a collection of dozens of storefronts that offer deep rebates on name brand items. Nearby you'll find Fort Borst Park which, in addition to having an exciting history, is also home to ballparks, trails and access to the Chehalis and Skookumchuck rivers. Fort Borst Lake is a favorite for fishing.

In December, the city holds an increasingly popular Lighted Tractor Parade that attracts thousands of people from throughout the region. Its summer counterpart, Summerfest, is held throughout the city on the Fourth of July.

Learn more about Centralia at discoverlewiscounty.com and chamberway.com.

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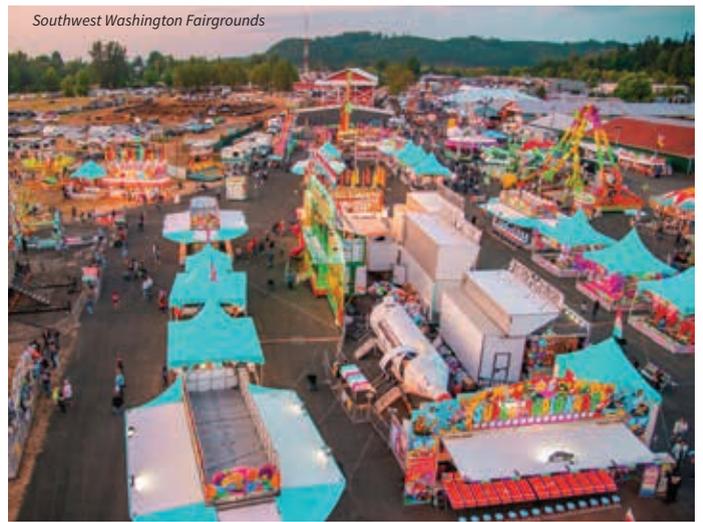
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Southwest Washington Fairgrounds



48. Seminary Hill Natural Area

The large urban natural area of Seminary Hill occupies hilltop property overlooking Centralia, the Chehalis and Skookumchuck river valleys and the municipal water reservoirs on Seminary Hill Road. The natural area features primitive parking and trails, as well as interpretive signage and picnic tables. There's a 2.25-mile trail system. Located at 902 E. Locust St., it's situated five blocks east of Tower Avenue in downtown Centralia.

Learn more:
cityofcentralia.com/Page.asp?NavID=461

49. Southwest Washington Fairgrounds

Home of the Southwest Washington Fair every August, the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds on the border of Centralia and Chehalis is actually bustling with activity all year. The agricultural showcases of the Southwest

41

Washington Fair and the Spring Youth Fair, which occurs the last weekend of April, are complemented by gun shows, dog shows, the Country Chicks Market and, on the Fourth of July and during the fair, demolition derbies. It's also the site of rodeos and, on occasion, traveling entertainment spectacles like monster trucks. Keep your eyes on the calendar at southwestwashingtonfairgrounds.org. You never know what will be happening on any given weekend.

50. Rollerdrome

The Centralia Rollerdrome location — just off North Pearl Street at the intersection of Maple in downtown Centralia — was built in 1904 and was originally called McNitt Hall for its owner Frank McNitt, a prominent Centralia businessman who also owned a successful hardware store. McNitt Hall was used for dances. If there was evidence that proved roller skating

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was taking place there in 1904, the Rollerdrome would be the oldest continually operating roller rink in the United States. Today, despite the difficulties brought by pandemic restrictions, the Rollerdrome continues to operate offering food, beverages, games and, yes, skating.

Learn more: centraliarollerdrome.com

51.

Chehalis

The county seat of Lewis County requires much more than a day if you're hoping to take it all in. The downtown area to the east of Interstate 5 is a great place to start. Locally-owned businesses offer all the services a traveler will need while the Lewis County Historical Museum provides a look back in time that highlights the history of Native Americans, pioneers, the timber industry and a look at the historic fabric that holds our communities together. The city is loaded with great parks, with the recently renovated Penny Playground perhaps being the crown jewel. In the summer, the Shaw Aquatics Center offers a state of the art water experience complete with water slides, water toys and a beach-entry-style pool. Another great spot is Stan Hedwall Park. This is Chehalis' largest park with roughly 100 acres of wooded land and 100 acres of open meadows and fields, along with ball fields and access to the Newaukum River.

The city is well-known for its Santa Parade each December, which courses through downtown Chehalis and is a tradition that brings in folks from throughout the region.

To learn more about the city of Chehalis and all it has to offer, visit experiencechehalis.com.



Chehalis



Chehalis

52.

Willapa Hills Trail

The Willapa Hills Trail stretches for 56 miles from Chehalis to South Bend. It features two century old trestles that cross the Newaukum and Chehalis rivers, providing picturesque country scenes and glimpses of Mount Rainier. The trail features a 5-mile paved portion from Chehalis to Adna, compact gravel for 21 miles from Adna to Pe Ell, mixed surfaces for 24 miles from Pe Ell to Raymond and a 6-mile paved portion from Raymond to South Bend. The Chehalis trailhead can be accessed from Exit 77 on Interstate 5. Take a left at the light on Riverside Drive, followed by a slight left on Southeast Newaukum Avenue, a left turn on Southwest Sylvenus Street and then a right turn onto Southwest Hillberger Road to access the large paved parking area at the Chehalis trailhead.

Learn more:

lewiscountytrails.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=2



53. *Veterans Memorial Museum*

The Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis aims to honor and perpetuate the memory of the men and women who have served in the nation's armed forces, during peacetime or war. The 9,000-square-foot main gallery has 85 display cases. The museum has a military history reference library with thousands of volumes, as well as a gift shop filled with patriotic items. It also features a line up of events that include a swap meet, a car show and a Revolutionary War Encampment. It's located at 100 SW Veterans Way, Chehalis. Learn more: veteransmuseum.org

54. *Take a Ride on State Route 6*

Whether you're heading for the coast or somewhere in between, the journey on State Route 6 from Interstate 5 to the beach offers loads of opportunities for travelers. Heading west, one of your first stops could be Lintott-Alexander Park. Along with river access and a playground, this park has two covered areas perfect for gatherings of all sizes. As you continue west, be sure to swing by Claquato Church. Built in 1857, from the first lumber processed by L.H. Davis' Mill, the Claquato Church is the oldest standing church in Washington state. To get there from Chehalis, take State Route 6 about 3 miles west of downtown and turn right on Chilvers Road, then take an immediate left onto Stearns Road. Take



another left onto Water Street, and the church will be on your left. Rainbow Falls State Park, located along the Chehalis River, is another must-stop destination for travelers. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935, Rainbow Falls showcases several structures designed in the rustic style of the National Park Service during the Great Depression, including kitchen shelters and comfort stations still in use today. Camping opportunities amid the old growth forest abound. Learn more at parks.wa.gov/570/Rainbow-Falls.

The town of Pe Ell offers an opportunity to fuel up, shop local businesses and try out a number of great eateries. The town also hosts an annual Fourth of July celebration. Continuing west, travelers will find an idyllic and scenic stretch of Washington marked by wide open space and agriculture. The area is a hotbed for Swiss wrestling, with Schwingfest being celebrated each year. Learn more about that here: lpss.info/schwingfest.

State Route 6 will ultimately deliver travelers to the town of Raymond and Willapa Bay, along with a whole new slate of possible adventures.

55. *Winlock*

The south Lewis County town of Winlock is home to the "World's Largest Egg." With a history rich in poultry, the city to the west of Interstate 5 hosts an Egg Day festival,

which is held in June. Learn about area history at the quickly growing Winlock History Museum and be sure to spend some time shopping downtown. Winlock is swiftly transforming into a larger town as more industry arrives, but it has maintained its idyllic downtown.

Learn more:

discoverlewiscounty.com/cities/winlock/

56.

Toledo

Toledo, to the east of Morton on the other side of Interstate 5 on State Route 505, is a lot more than the Gateway to Mount St. Helens, but it does offer volcanic travelers an ideal location to fuel up for the journey. Located along the Cowlitz River, the city is loaded with history. “Settled along the Cowlitz River, Toledo offers an array of visitor attractions,” according to the city. The St. Francis Mission is the oldest Catholic Mission in the Northwest. Historic Knab was established in 1888. Toledo Historical Jail is also featured in the city. The historical Jackson Courthouse, built in 1851, is the first courthouse in Washington state. Kemp Olson Memorial Park offers picnicking and wildlife while the Front Street Boat Launch and South County Pond provide opportunities for fishing and kayaking. And if you’re into real adventure, check out Skydive Toledo!

And if you’re looking for a great festival, Toledo Cheese Days provides festive fun, typically on the second weekend of June.

Learn more:

discoverlewiscounty.com/cities/toledo



Toledo Cheese Days



McMurphy Park

57.

McMurphy Park

Located in the small city of Vader, McMurphy Park features over 600 feet of Olequa Creek shaded by natural foliage and also has large, open grassy areas. It’s home to a 100-year-old black walnut tree. The park has barbecue pits and picnic tables, as well as the picturesque Little Falls. The park was dedicated in 2007 and is 10.5 acres in size. It’s located east of downtown Vader.

Learn more:

vaderwa.org/parks-and-facilities/mcmurphy-park



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Cowlitz County

Cowlitz & Clark Counties

58.

Castle Rock

Situated between the Cowlitz River and Interstate 5, Castle Rock is also known as a gateway to Mount St. Helens. It is the northernmost city in Cowlitz County. Spirit Lake Memorial Highway connects the city to the Mount St. Helens National Monument

and Spirit Lake recreation areas. The historic downtown features an array of shops, antique stores, restaurants and accommodations. The town's namesake, a 190-foot-high rock, was a landmark for Cowlitz Indians and Hudson's Bay Company traders as early as 1832. Castle Rock features a number of parks, including Memory Lane Volunteer Park and Coldwater Park.

Learn more: ci.castle-rock.wa.us/index.htm

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Castle Rock

59.

Lake Sacajawea Park

Nestled in the middle of the City of Longview, Lake Sacajawea Park is 67 acres. There's miles of trails that wind under landscaped bridges. Along with opportunities for boating, fishing and picnicking, the park is home to the



Lake Sacajawea Park

Frank Willis Arboretum, which highlights 119 species of trees that can be viewed on a 3.5-mile walking tour around the periphery of the lake. The park is home to otters, beavers, weasels and a large variety of birds. It's located between Nichols and Kessler boulevards in Longview.

Learn more: mylongview.com/facilities/facility/details/Lake-Sacajawea-12

60.

Cowlitz County Historical Museum

The Cowlitz County Historical Museum celebrates the evolving cultural heritage of the people of the Lower Columbia region. The museum features a collection of over 35,000 objects and nearly a million photographs relating to Cowlitz County and the lower Columbia region. It also features various exhibits. It is located at 405 Allen St., Kelso.

Learn more: cowlitzcountyhistory.org

61.

Daybreak Regional Park

The 77.3-acre park and boat launch at Daybreak Regional Park is located along the East Fork of the Lewis River northwest of Battle Ground. The park includes multi-use paths, picnic tables and restrooms. The Lower Daybreak trailhead can be accessed from the boat launch parking lot on the west



Cowlitz County Historical Museum

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Daybreak Regional Park

side of Northeast Daybreak Road across from the Daybreak Regional Park. The paved trail is just over a half mile long and the gravel loop trail is about one-third of a mile.

Learn more: clark.wa.gov/public-works/daybreak-regional-park-and-boat-launch

62.

Lake Merwin

Merwin Reservoir was formed after the completion of Merwin Dam in 1931 by the Inland Power and Light Company. The reservoir fluctuates depending on the amount of run-off making boat access difficult at times. Lake Merwin features a plethora of opportunities for anglers. While kokanee are the main target, tiger muskie planted in 1995 are also popular. The North Fork Lewis River impoundment located near the town of Ariel, on the south side of State Route 503, is located in Clark and Cowlitz counties.

Learn more: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/lowland-lakes/lake-merwin



Lake Merwin



63. *Gifford Pinchot National Forest*

Whether you seek solitude, social activity, creative inspiration, wildlife, forest products or scenic beauty, you can find it in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. In fact, one could create an entire visitors guide of locations to see just inside this sprawling land. With an area of 1.32 million acres, it extends 72 miles along the western slopes of Cascade Range from Mount Rainier National Park to the Columbia River. The forest straddles the crest of the South Cascades of Washington state, spread out over broad, old growth forests, high mountain meadows, several glaciers and numerous volcanic peaks. The forest's highest point is at 12,276 feet at the top of Mount Adams, the second tallest volcano in the state after Rainier.

Learn more: fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot

64. *Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens*

The historic Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens feature an arboretum and a 19th century Victorian-era garden in front of a historic Victorian home. Many of the gardens were planted by Hulda Klager or her parents in the late 1880s. Klager immigrated from Germany with her family in 1865 when she was 2 years old and moved to the farmland in Woodland in 1877, where they built a home. In 1905,

2022-2023 • *Southwest Washington Visitors Guide*

Klager hybridized lilacs. She created 14 new varieties by 1910, a number that continued to grow. Hulda died in 1960 at the age of 96. When the Woodland Federated Garden Club learned the site would be bulldozed and turned into an industrial area, they successfully had it declared a state and national historic site. It is located at 115 South Pekin Road, Woodland.

Learn more: lilacgardens.com



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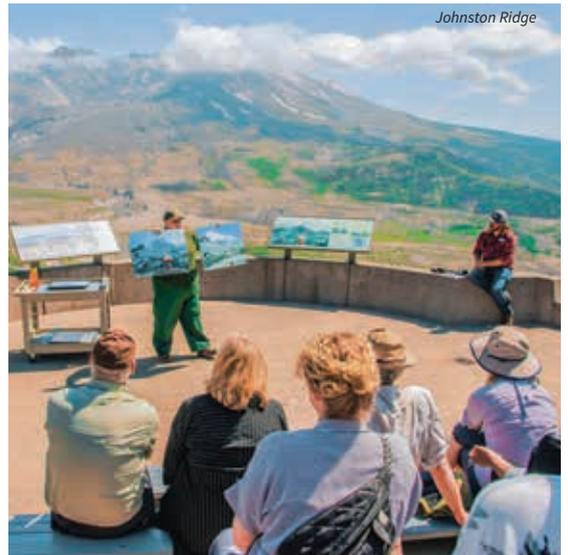
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Holland America Flower Gardens



Johnston Ridge



65.

Mount St. Helens Visitors Center, Castle Rock

The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center opened its doors to the public a few years after the monumental eruption of Mount St. Helens. Functioning as a gateway to the mountain, over 30 miles away, its goal is to educate visitors on the historical significance of the landscape before and during the eruption. The center also focuses on the resulting impact on nearby ecosystems. The vantage point offers a view of the western slope of the mountain, visible from both the center and walking trail. This unique building features expansive windows providing a glimpse of a towering second-growth forest all around. A high archway and elaborately carved wooden columns contribute to the feeling of magnificence. Inside, visitors can enjoy a variety of interpretive displays that include comprehensive information on local history, geology, re-growth and recovery of the land in the years immediately after the eruption.

Learn more: parks.wa.gov/245/Mount-St-Helens

North Clark County Historical Museum



and Klazina settled in Woodland. As the land bloomed, so did their company. In 2002, the first Woodland Tulip Festival was launched. The Woodland farm grows tulips, peonies and stores lily bulbs for commercial sales. There is a show field and a u-pick field. It's located at 1066 S. Pekin Road, Woodland.

Learn more:

hollandamericaflowergardens.com

66.

Holland America Flower Gardens

Holland America Flower Gardens began when the Dobbe family came from Holland to begin a life in America in 1980. Coming over with tulip bulbs and three children, Benno

67.

North Clark County Historical Museum

The North Clark Historical Museum shares the area's historical legacy through educational exhibits on pioneer heritage, Native American culture and logging at the turn of the century, highlighting the Yacont burn. The museum is located in the former Amboy United Brethren Church, which was dedicated in 1910. The museum was founded in 1988 and is a 501(C)3

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non-profit organization governed by a board of directors. The doors to the museum opened in June of 2000. It's located at 21416 399th St. in Amboy at the junction of State Route 503.

Learn more:

amboywa.com/museum.htm

68.

Battle Ground

Located in the heart of Clark County, the City of Battle Ground has a longstanding tradition of honoring the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. The Battle Ground Veterans Memorial features the names of local servicemembers who have died while serving the country. It's located at Kiwanis Park, 422 SW Second Ave. The downtown area has a variety of boutique shops and restaurants. The city features a plethora of parks and Battle Ground Lake State Park. The city is the commercial and social hub for the larger north Clark County area. Located between the Pacific Coast and the Cascade Mountains, Battle Ground offers many parks, lakes, streams and forested areas that provide a multitude of recreation activities.

Learn more: cityofbg.org



Pomeroy Farm

69.

The Pomeroy Living History Farm, located in the town of Yacolt, works to support the preservation of history by providing educational opportunities and sharing farm life with the community. The Clark County-based farm features a historic house, barn, blacksmith shop, various outbuildings, gardens and grounds that aim to portray life from the 1920s. The farm features educational programs, hosts community events and can also be rented out for weddings and private events. It's located at 20902 NE Lucia Falls Road, Yacolt.

Learn more: pomeroyfarm.org

70.

Clark County Historical Museum

The Vancouver-based Clark County Historical Museum has collected and preserved over 60,000 items of local historical significance. It features a number of exhibits, events, workshops, tours and activities. It's located at 1511 Main St., Vancouver.

Learn more: cchmuseum.org



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge



ilani

71.

ilani

Dubbed the Pacific Northwest's premier gaming, dining, entertainment and meeting destination, *ilani* features 400,000 total square feet. It's located on the Cowlitz Reservation in Ridgefield. It features 100,000-square-foot of gaming space with nearly 3,000 slots and 75 gaming tables, as well as 18 restaurants, bars, and retail outlets. There's also a 2,500-seat meeting and entertainment venue that hosts nationally recognized performances. The Cowlitz Tribe has gradually expanded the venue since it opened in April of 2017. It will later feature a 14-story, nearly 300-room hotel, which is currently under construction. It is expected to open in 2023. *ilani* is located at 1 Cowlitz Way, Ridgefield.

Learn more: ilaniresort.com

53

72. *Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge*

Located north of Vancouver, the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge offers a unique retreat to nature nestled between the Columbia River and the city of Ridgefield. The refuge protects more than 5,200 acres of marshes, grasslands and woodlands. It was established in 1965 to provide wintering habitat for the dusky subspecies of the Canada goose. Since then, smaller pieces of land have been added to create what is now the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex is one of four refuges along the lower Columbia River. They include the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Franz Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Pierce National Wildlife Refuge. Seasonal trails close on Sept. 30 and re-open May 1.

Learn more: fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

73.

Fort Vancouver

Located on the north bank of the Columbia River, in sight of snowy mountain peaks and a vibrant urban landscape, the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site has a rich cultural past. From a frontier fur trading post,

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Fort Vancouver



Battle Ground Lake State Park



Chelatchie Prairie Railroad

to a powerful military legacy, the magic of flight, and the origin of the American Pacific Northwest, history is shared at four unique sites. The sites include a reconstruction of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver, the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks, Pearson Air Museum and the McLoughlin House in Oregon City, Oregon. The park's visitor center is open to the public and

features hands-on exhibits. Park headquarters are located at 612 E. Reserve St., Vancouver.

Learn more: nps.gov/fova/index.htm

74. *Battle Ground Lake State Park*

Battle Ground Lake State Park is a forested camping park in the Cascade Mountain foothills. Its proximity to Vancouver and Portland and its cool green lake make it a great escape from the bustle of city and suburbs. The 280-acre park offers hiking, biking, horse trails and a primitive equestrian camping area. The spring-fed lake is a major attraction for swimmers and paddlers. It is also stocked with trout, making it a favorite of anglers. A Discover Pass is required for vehicle access to state parks for day use. The park is equipped with an automated pay station for visitors to purchase a one-day or annual Discover Pass and boat launch permit. It's located at 18002 NE 249th St., Battle Ground.

Learn more:
parks.wa.gov/472/Battle-Ground-Lake

75. *Chelatchie Prairie Railroad*

The Chelatchie Prairie Railroad operates from May through December. The North Clark

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County-based railroad is run by volunteers, who first convened in 1998 with the goal of restoring the line and building the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad into a functioning historical railroad. It offers scenic rides that stretch from Yacolt to Moulton Falls and to the Chelatchie Prairie and back, offering views of farmland and forests. It's located at 207 N. Railroad Ave., Yacolt.

Learn more: bycx.com



Moulton Falls Regional Park

76. *Moulton Falls Regional Park*

Moulton Falls Regional Park in Yacolt features 387 acres at the confluence of the East Fork of the Lewis River and Big Tree Creek where visitors can view two waterfalls and an arch bridge that is more than three stories high. The park sits on both sides of the river and is heavily forested. It features volcanic rock formations from early lava flows, a swing bridge on Big Tree Creek, historic Indian meeting grounds and trails. The Chelatchie Prairie Railroad excursion train passes through the park. Amenities include a barbecue grill, picnic tables and a restroom. It's located at 27781 NE Lucia Falls Road, Yacolt.

Learn more: clark.wa.gov/public-works/moulton-falls-regional-park



Lewis River Recreation Area

77. *Lewis River Recreation Area*

The Lewis River Recreation Area is a 10-mile corridor, situated alongside the Lewis River and Forest Road 90 within the

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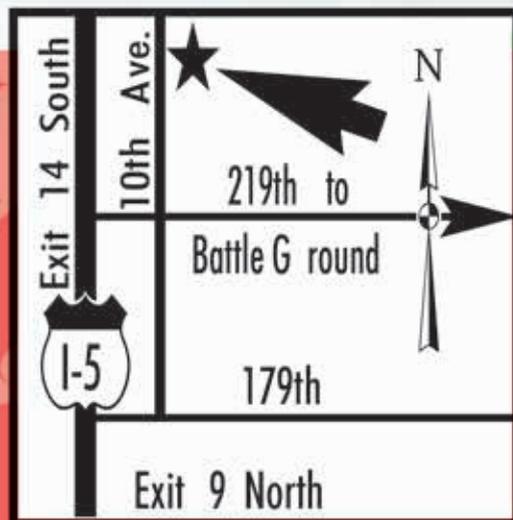
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Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This popular recreation area is located 26 miles east of Cougar and 29 miles west of Trout Lake. This area provides access to the popular Lewis River Trail #31 and associated waterfall viewing.

The area includes Lower Falls Campground & Day Use area, Lewis River Horse Camp, and parking areas associated with Crab Creek, Middle Falls, Platinum Creek, Upper Falls (Quartz Creek) and Wright Meadows.

Visitors camping at Lewis River Horse Camp or Lower Falls Campground do not need a parking reservation.

Learn more: fs.usda.gov/recarea/giffordpinchot/recarea/?recid=83725

78.

Ridgefield

The city of Ridgefield is located in the pastoral, rolling hills countryside of northern Clark County. It is home to a wide variety of local and regional attractions, which include a historic tree-lined downtown with a number of unique shops and restaurants. Ridgefield is also home to more than 10



vineyards and wineries. The wineries combine the best traditions of winemaking with the nearly perfect growing climate of southwest Washington to produce wines with distinct flavor and character. On the first Saturday of every month, Ridgefield holds a First Saturdays event that includes theme-related events and activities. The festivities include a farmers market, sidewalk sales and outdoor concerts.

Learn more: ridgefieldwa.us

79.

Port of Kalama

Located on the banks of the Columbia River, the Port of Kalama boasts miles of riverfront playgrounds, beaches, public parks and a marina. It also features a vibrant community of antiques, shops, restaurants and a rich small-town culture. Parks at the Port of Kalama include Westin Amphitheater, the 5-acre Marine Park with walking and bicycle pathways, as well as the Louis Rasmussen Day Use Park, which has sand volleyball courts, tennis and basketball courts and horseshoe pits. There's also Haydu Park, which encompasses 24 acres. The port's industrial area includes 5 miles of riverfront property. The Port of Kalama is home to more than 30 companies that employ over 1,000 people.

Learn more: portofkalama.com



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Downtown Vancouver

80.

Downtown Vancouver

Offering a mix of historic and modern buildings, downtown Vancouver is known for its public art and business-filled blocks between Fifth Street and East Mill Plain Boulevard. The downtown area includes the Vancouver Arts District that displays murals and sculptures. There's also a plethora of food trucks, restaurants and boutiques. Take a stroll down Main Street and visit the historic Kiggins Theatre or take a private glassblowing lesson at Firehouse Glass. The downtown farmers market on Eighth and Esther streets runs from March to October. It's open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays.

Learn more: visitvancouverwa.com/trip-planning/neighborhoods/downtown

81.

Cedar Creek Grist Mill

The Cedar Creek Grist Mill in Woodland is a working museum that shows visitors the inside workings of a grist mill. The mill rests on a



Cedar Creek Grist Mill



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La Center

steep and rocky slope at the bottom of the narrow gorge of Cedar Creek. It is the only grist mill in Washington that has maintained its original structural integrity, mills with stones, and is water-powered. A covered bridge spanning Cedar Creek was completed in 1994 and continues to draw visitors from all over the United States. The mill was originally built in 1876 by George Woodham and his sons. Farmers throughout north Clark County brought their grain to the mill to be ground into flour, cornmeal or livestock feed. It's located at 43907 NE Grist Mill Road, Woodland.

Learn more: cedarcreekgristmill.org

82.

La Center

The city of La Center turned 112 years old in 2021. The city of about 3,400 people offers a variety of parks and recreational choices for visitors. It features Elmer Soehl Park, Heritage Park, Holley Park and Sternwheeler Park, along with the Brezee Creek and Heritage trails. La Center also has outdoor entertainment at its amphitheater and water recreational activities on the East Fork Lewis River.

Learn more: ci.lacenter.wa.us

83.

Pearson Air Museum

The Pearson Air Museum and the Jack Murdock Aviation Center, operated by the National Park Service at Fort Vancouver, connect



Pearson Air Museum

visitors to the history of aviation at Pearson Field. From its roots as a military airfield, to its history as the site of the Spruce Mill and its transformation into a civilian field, Pearson Air Museum helps provide a detailed look into the golden age of aviation at Pearson Field.

Through amazing, hand-painted murals and exhibit panels, visitors gain a chronological perspective of the many varied aviation events that occurred here. These events are further brought to life with five early 20th century airplanes that display the incredibly fragile, complex and daring nature of early aviation.

Learn more: nps.gov/fova/planyourvisit/pearsonairmuseum.htm

84.

Camas Potholes

Colloquially known as “the potholes,” the waterfall on Lacamas Creek features eroded soft rock punctured by deeper holes. The landscape was crafted when harder stones were trapped in a depression on the softer rock. As the stronger, winter currents of the creek swirled the rocks around, they grinded away at the softer stone, creating a unique topography. The pools attract plenty of tourists. The Camas Potholes can be accessed from Lacamas Regional Park.

Learn more: [oregonhikers.org/field_guide/Potholes_\(Lacamas_Creek\)](https://oregonhikers.org/field_guide/Potholes_(Lacamas_Creek))



85.

Esther Short Park

Located in the heart of downtown Vancouver, Esther Short Park is the oldest public square in the state of Washington. The 5-acre park features benches, a gazebo, walking paths, a water feature/fountain and a picnic shelter and stage. The park was bequeathed to the city of Vancouver in 1853 by its namesake. The city's first piece of public art, a bronze statue of "The

Pioneer Mother" was ceremoniously unveiled in 1929. The statue still stands at the north entrance to the park. The park is open to the public from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m. It serves as a year-round venue for a plethora of public and private events, concerts and other activities. It's located at West Eighth Street and Columbia Street in Vancouver.

Learn more: cityofvancouver.us/parksrecculture/page/esther-short-park

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Clark County Event Center at the Fairgrounds



Vancouver Barracks



Woodland Horseshoe Lake

86.

Vancouver Barracks

The United States Army established the Vancouver Barracks, which was originally known as Camp Vancouver in 1849 on a low ridge above the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver to provide for American settlement of the Oregon Territory. It was the first Army post in the Pacific Northwest and served as a major headquarters and supply depot during the Civil War and Indian War eras. It later served as a recruitment, mobilization and training facility for the Spanish-American War, the Philippine War and other foreign engagements. The Vancouver Barracks are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Learn more: nps.gov/fova/learn/historyculture/vb.htm

square feet of column free exhibit space, along with several multi-use buildings like an indoor equestrian arena and an outdoor grandstand. The Clark County Fair is set to take place from Aug. 5 to Aug. 14, 2022. The event center is located at 17402 NE Delfel Road, Ridgefield.

Learn more: clarkcoeventcenter.com

87.

Clark County Event Center at the Fairgrounds

Home to the Clark County Fair and the Washington State Horse Expo, the Clark County Event Center at the Fairgrounds features a year-round facility that hosts a plethora of events. The event center features over 97,000

88.

Woodland

Known as the southern gateway to Mount St. Helens, the City of Woodland was incorporated in 1906. The city is home of the famous Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens and the annual celebration of The Lilac Festival. Woodland is also known for its Planters Days celebration which commences with the coronation of a Planters Day Queen. The celebration, which takes place in June of 2022, is the oldest of its type in the Pacific Northwest and reflects Woodland's passion for tradition. Woodland is one of the oldest communities in Washington state and also serves as a gateway to the Lewis River recreational area.

Learn more: ci.woodland.wa.us



Paradise Point State Park

89. *Paradise Point State Park*

The long, sandy beach at Paradise Point State Park makes it a popular swimming destination for Clark County residents. The 101-acre camping park has 6,180 feet of freshwater shoreline on the east fork of the Lewis River. There's 2 miles of hiking trails, a picnic area and an amphitheater. There's also a disc golf course. It's located at 33914 NW Paradise Park Road in Ridgefield.

Learn more: parks.wa.gov/560/Paradise-Point

90. *Bells Mountain Trail*

Featuring views of Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams, the Bells Mountain Trail is 7.7-miles long. It travels through fir and alder forests. The primitive trail serves hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. The highest point of the trail at the north end reaches about 1,500 feet of elevation. The trail can be accessed from Moulton Falls Regional Park at the Hantwick Road Trailhead or from the Cold Creek Day Use Area, which is operated by the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Learn more: clark.wa.gov/public-works/bells-mountain-trail-8-miles

91. *Lacamas Regional Park*

The 312-acre Lacamas Regional Park offers fishing, hiking and recreational opportunities. Anglers can fish for bass, bluegill and perch at Round Lake. There's a network of scenic hiking trails and a plethora of opportunities for birdwatchers. The upland forest section is home to osprey and bald eagles as well as wildlife like deer, beavers and coyotes. The park features barbecue grills, play equipment, picnic tables and 9.5 miles of gravel and dirt trails. It is located at 2244 NE Everett St., Camas.

Learn more: clark.wa.gov/public-works/lacamas-regional-park

92. *Washougal*

Washougal is located on the banks of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area which borders the city to the east. It is a popular tourist and wind surfing area. The city

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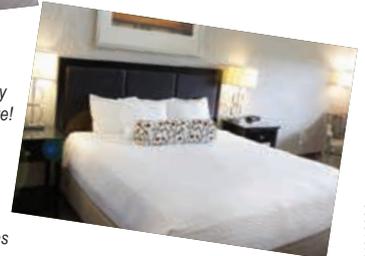
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Washougal

is located next to the Columbia and Washougal rivers, which offer fishing opportunities. The area has family-friendly parks and hiking trails. The downtown area is home to Reflection Plaza which hosts a variety of community events year-round.

Learn more: cityofwashougal.us

93.

Downtown Camas

Known for its tree-lined streets, unique boutiques, eateries and small town charm, downtown Camas features historic shopping and dining districts, as well as nearby recreational areas. Take in a movie at the historic theater, enjoy public art, rent a bike or kayak, get a massage or read a book in the city's award winning library. The downtown area features architecture from the 1920s. A variety of events are hosted in the city's downtown core, including a farmers market, car shows and fairs.

Learn more: downtowncamas.com

94.

Vancouver's Waterfront

Situated along one half mile of south-facing riverfront, The Waterfront Vancouver extends the city's urban core to the waters



Camas

of the Columbia River. It features upscale dining opportunities and hosts a variety of retail shops and boutiques overlooking the river. Located within walking distance of the Vancouver Convention Center and the Vancouver business district, The Waterfront also boasts natural gathering places for casual get-togethers at its waterfront park. It's located on Waterfront Way in Vancouver.

Learn more: thewaterfrontvancouverusa.com



More to Explore

95.

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

The Columbia River Gorge is 80 miles long and up to 4,000 feet deep. The river canyon meanders past cliffs, spires and ridges set against nearby peaks of the Pacific Northwest's Cascade Mountain Range. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area has a plethora of trails, recreation areas and campgrounds. One of its most popular attractions is Multnomah Falls which brings in more than 2 million visitors a year. Fed by underground springs from Larch Mountain, the flow of the falls is typically highest during the winter and spring seasons. Nearby is the Multnomah Falls Lodge which houses a restaurant, gift shop and visitor center.

Learn more: fs.usda.gov/crgnsa



96.

Pendleton Woolen Mill

The family-owned company of Pendleton was established in 1863. It's headquartered in Portland, Oregon. The company has woven world-class woolens from its two Pacific Northwest mills, one of which is in Washougal.

The intricate jacquard blankets and array of wool fabrics produced have earned a reputation on par with the greatest mills around the world. Mill tours have been suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so before visiting, check their website for updates.

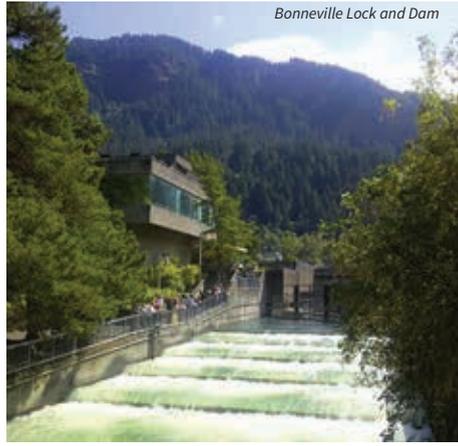
Learn more: pendleton-usa.com/mill-tours.html

97.

Beacon Rock State Park

Nestled in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Beacon Rock State Park features year-round camping. The over 4,450-acre park includes 9,500 feet of freshwater shoreline on the Columbia River and more than 26 miles of roads and trails for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian use. The 848-foot tall Beacon Rock can be reached by a mile-long switchback trail that offers an eagle-eye view of the Columbia River Gorge carved by Ice Age floods. Visitors can partake in rock climbing or hike to waterfalls. The park also offers a 1-mile interpretive trail at the Doetsch





day use area, which is ADA accessible. It's located at 34841 State Route 14, Skamania.

Learn more: parks.wa.gov/474/Beacon-Rock

98.

Bonneville Lock and Dam

Built and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Lock and Dam was the first federal lock and dam on the Columbia and Snake rivers. The project's first powerhouse, spillway and original navigation lock were completed in 1938 to improve navigation on the Columbia River and provide hydropower to the Pacific Northwest. A second powerhouse was completed in 1981, and a larger navigation lock in 1993. The National Historic Landmark is named for Army Captain Benjamin Bonneville, who was an early day visionary that led an exploration to the Oregon Country and charted extensive sections of what became the Oregon Trail. There's two visitor centers. The Bradford Island Visitor Center is located on Dam Road in Cascade Locks, Oregon, while the Washington Shore Visitor Complex is on Dam Road in North Bonneville, Washington.

Learn more: nwp.usace.army.mil/bonneville

99.

Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum

The mission of the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum is to share the story of Skamania

County and the Columbia River Gorge. It's located in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The museum houses exhibits and an art gallery that features local artists with distinct styles. It's open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. but closed on New Years Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's located at 990 SW Rock Creek Drive, Stevenson.

Learn more: columbiagorge.org

100.

Visit the Coastline

Look, we know the Washington Coast is much higher than 100 on the list of places to see in Southwest Washington. While this visitors guide focuses on the interior of Southwest Washington, any visitor would be missing out to avoid the beautiful sites of the coast. Plan your trip to the ocean online at stateofwatourism.com.



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Additional Visitor Information **Community Resources**



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360-748-8885

chamberway.com

Official Visitor's Center

605 E Yelm Ave,
Yelm, WA 98597

360-458-6608

yelmchamber.com

Official Visitor's Center

510 Pioneer St Suite D,
Ridgefield, WA 98642

360-857-5137

ridgefieldchamberofcommerce.com

*Scan to learn about the
Centralia-Chehalis Chamber.*



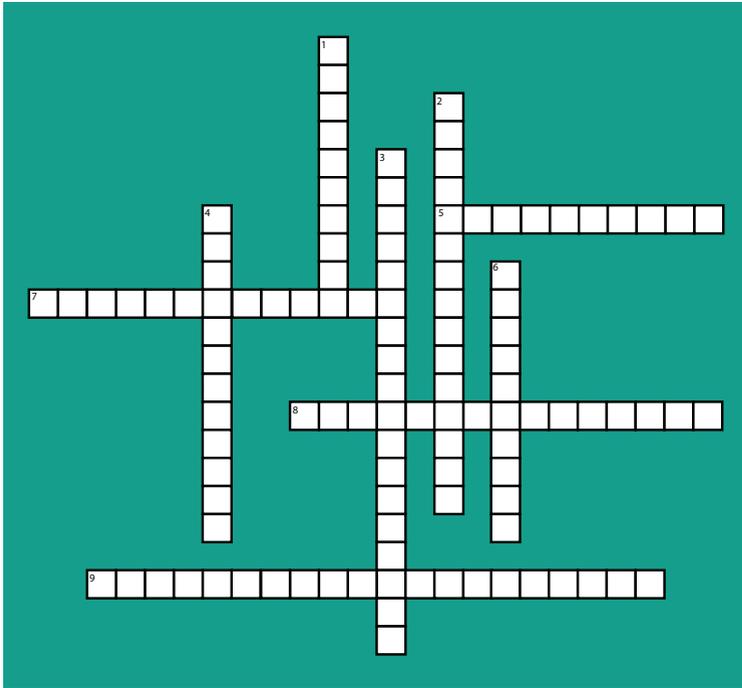
*Scan to learn more about the
Yelm Chamber of Commerce.*



*Scan to learn more about the
Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce.*



Southwest Washington Crossword Puzzle



DOWN: 1. THE APE CAVE 2. LAVA CANYON TRAIL 3. SOUTH SOUND SPEEDWAY
4. PORT OF KALAMA 6. CENTRALIA ACROSS: 5. CASTLE ROCK 7. MOUNT ST.
HELENS 8. WONDERLAND TRAIL 9. VANCOUVER'S WATERFRONT

Down:

1. This cave is the third longest lava tube in North America at 2.5 miles. (page 9)
2. This location has some lovely views of the Muddy River. (page 11-12)
3. This race track includes a figure-eight course with racing most Saturdays through September. (page 38)
4. This city is on the banks of the Columbia River. (page 62)
6. This city is also known as the Hub City. (page 45-46)

Across:

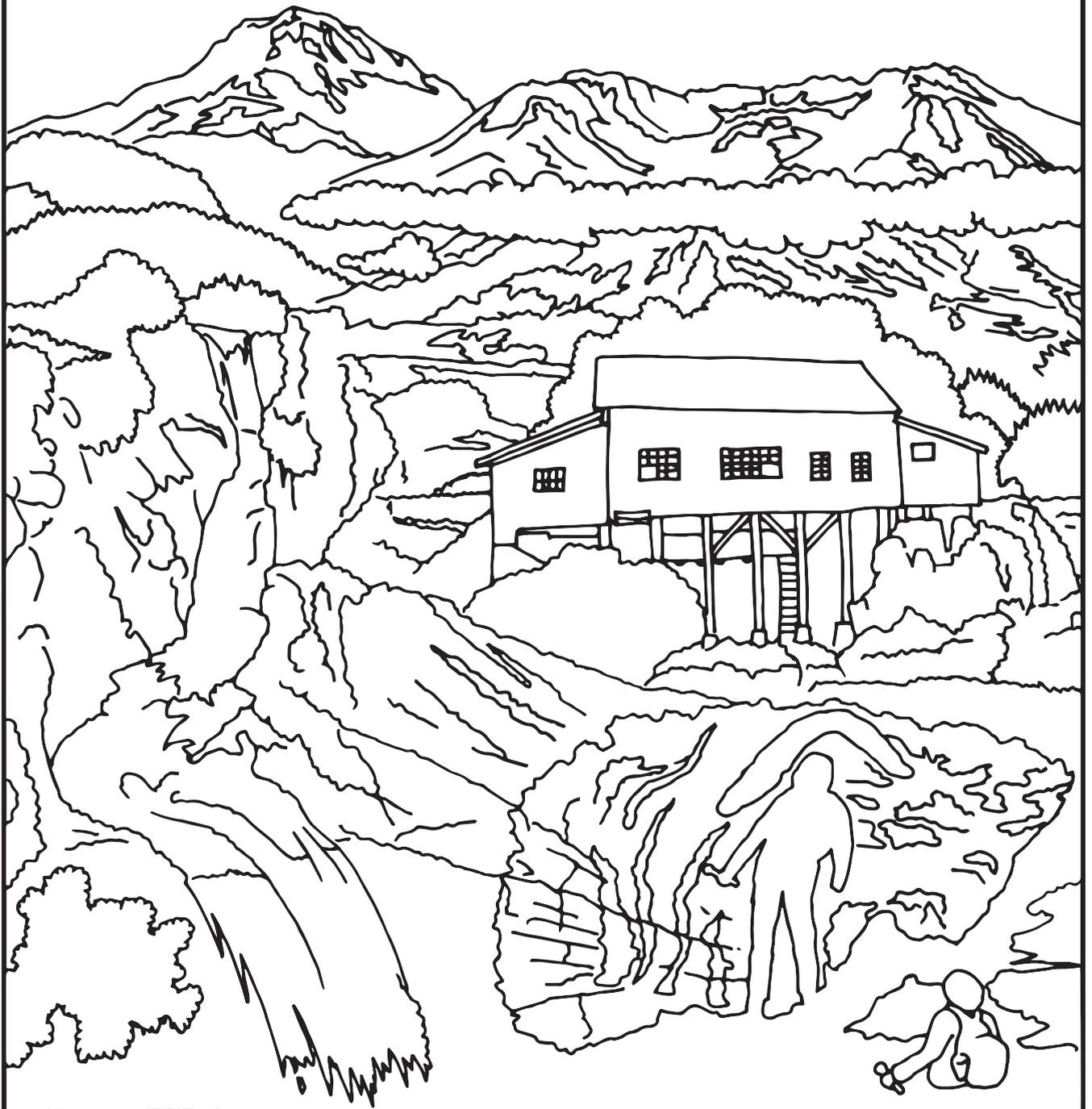
5. This city known as a gateway to Mount St. Helens. (page 51)
7. This mountain is still recovering from a devastating eruption 42 years ago. (page 7)
8. The first established park entrance for Mount Rainier National Park. (page 19)
9. This location is known for its Columbia River side park. (page 69)

Southwest Washington Word Scramble

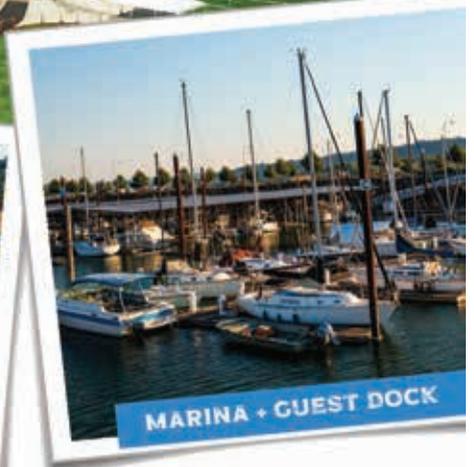
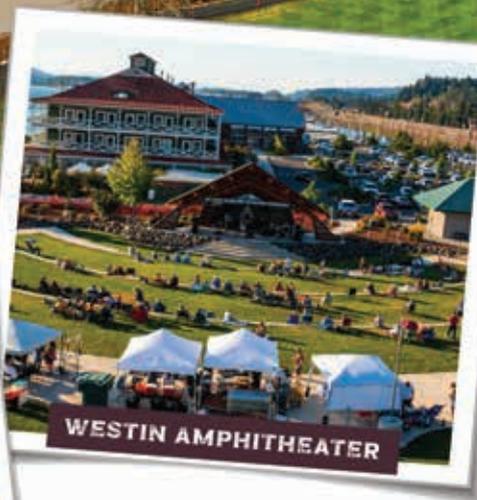
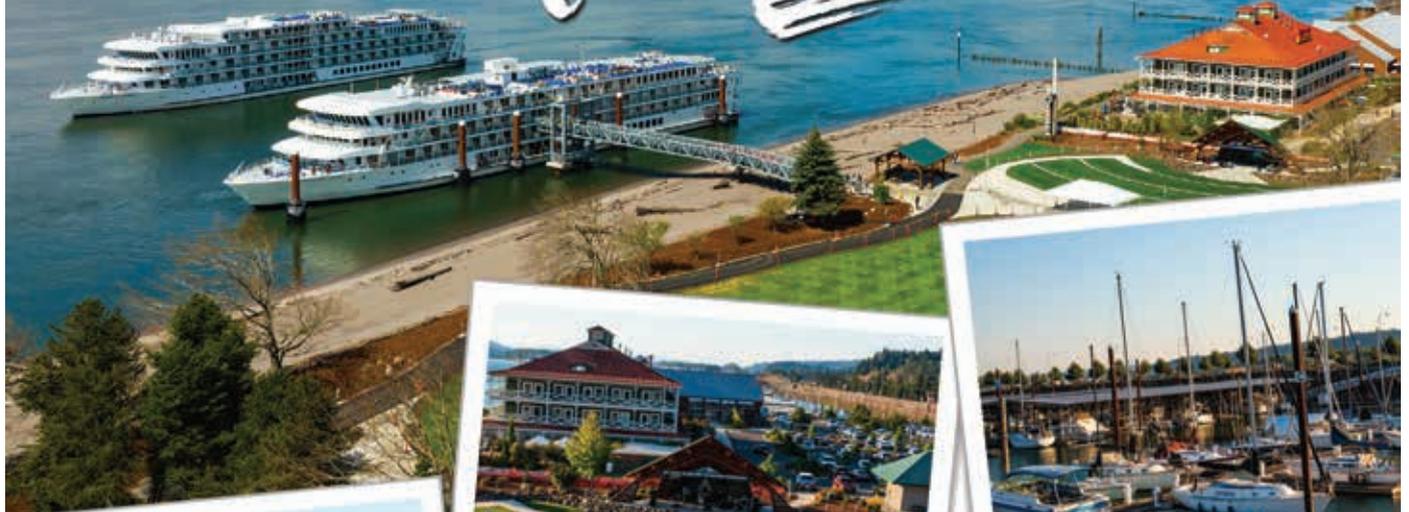
- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. LLSBE MTOINNUA RTLIA
_____ | 11. ACLREATIN _____ |
| 2. NEPAORS IRA UMEUSM
_____ | 12. MIMA DUONSM _____ |
| 3. RPOT FO ALAKMA _____ | 13. FLWO NVHAE _____ |
| 4. EDLEIGDFRI _____ | 14. LYME _____ |
| 5. RFTO ECVAONRVU _____ | 15. TLCWOIZ UROTT EATCHHRY
_____ |
| 6. REPOOYM RFAM _____ | 16. WSIEL ALCKR TASTE PKAR
_____ |
| 7. AKLE IWNRM _____ | 17. COODWPAK _____ |
| 8. BYERKDAA RALOENGI PARK
_____ | 18. ATOG KROCS REWDESSILN
_____ |
| 9. EOODLT _____ | 19. NIRSESU _____ |
| 10. TCLSEA CKRO _____ | 20. DFAROSH _____ |

1. BELLS MOUNTAIN TRAIL 2. PEARSON AIR MUSEUM 3. PORT OF KALAMA 4. RIDGEFIELD 5. FORT VANCOUVER 6. POMEROY FARM 7. LAKE MERWIN 8. DAVBREA REGIONAL PARK 9. TOLEDO 10. CASTLE ROCK 11. CENTRALIA 12. MIMA MOUNDS 13. WOLF HAVEN 14. YELM 15. COWLITZ TROUT HATCHERY 16. LEWIS & CLARK STATE PARK 17. PACKWOOD 18. GOAT ROCKS WILDERNESS 19. SUNRISE 20. ASHFORD

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