



*Sunset*

# Travel Guide

Seattle Hotels and Washington Vacations 2010



# Sunset Travel Guide



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COVER: JOHN CLARK. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, THOMAS J. STORY, ANDREA M. GOMEZ.

View of Pike Place Market from the inn's rooftop deck **RIGHT** Friendly staff



## Perks to staying steps away

Unless you're planning on camping out in the stalls, you can't get any closer to the market than, well, the **Inn at the Market**. Celebrating its 25th birthday this year, the inn has simple, stylish rooms and a sunny rooftop deck with sweeping views of the Seattle skyline and sparkling Elliott Bay.

Book the **"Catch and Relax" package** and they'll arrange for the guys at Pike Place Fish Market to toss you the fish of your choice, then hand you a gift card for \$100 worth of smoked salmon, crab, or whatever you want to have shipped home on ice. *From \$339; rooms from \$245; [innatthemarket.com](http://innatthemarket.com) or 800/446-4484.*

When the **Crumpet Shop** (\$; 1503 First Ave.; 206/682-1598) opens at 7 a.m., shuffle over for just-baked goods that will make a crumpet convert out of anyone. Slippers welcome.

The inn's rooftop deck is for guests only—and makes the perfect place to picnic with all the good stuff you picked up at the market.

# Market watch

Get the most out of Pike Place Market—book a room overhead

It has more than 500 shops and restaurants and farmers and craftspeople; its 103-year-old buildings stretch over eight city blocks; and 10 million people visit it each year. Summer is prime Pike Place Market time—when the produce tastes perfect, literally tons of wild salmon are tossed, and many of those millions descend upon Seattle's beloved landmark. Even locals could use a little expert guidance.

Guidance is here—just across the street at the Inn at the Market, a popular crash pad for marketgoers for 25 years. Not only does a stay here mean you can be first in line for Daily Dozen's doughnuts, but the inn's staff knows Pike Place better than anyone. We asked concierge Noelle Donahue, general manager David Watkins, and Daisley Gordon, chef at Campagne restaurant at the inn, for their secrets, strategies, and under-the-radar stalls.

## Eating

**Le Panier.** Paris overlooking Elliott Bay, its brioche and tarte poires pair superbly with a latte. "Always busy," notes Watkins. Deservedly. *1902 Pike Place; [lepanier.com](http://lepanier.com)*  
**Beecher's Handmade Cheese.** "World's Best" mac and cheese is Beecher's claim, and they



Pastry paradise at Le Panier  
**ABOVE** The stalls at Sosio's  
**LEFT** Say cheese at Beecher's

just might be right. "Incredible!" is Watkins's judgment. Beecher's sells cheese and addictive curds too, produced in the glass-fronted kitchen. 1600 Pike Place; [beecherscheese.com](http://beecherscheese.com)

**Cafe Yarmarka.** "For a quick lunch, I love this Russian place," says Donahue. "Cabbage rolls and handmade pierogi." \$; 1530 Post Alley, Ste. 3A; 206/521-9054.

**Place Pigalle.** Tucked at the back of the market, with a killer view of Elliott Bay, it impresses with assured renditions of French classics—bouillabaisse Provençale, rabbit cassoulet. \$\$\$; 81 Pike St.; [placepigalle-seattle.com](http://placepigalle-seattle.com)

## Shopping

### Sosio's Produce and Frank's Quality Produce.

Come summer, the market is crowded with seasonal produce vendors, but Gordon is especially fond of these two year-round stalwarts. "Both of them source really well; you always get something good. Sosio's has this summer peach they call the 'Oh My God' peach, because that's what you say when you bite into it." Sosio's: 1527 Pike Place; 206/622-1370. Frank's: 1508 Pike Place; 206/624-5666.

**Fay Farm.** On the crafts tables toward the north end of the market, you'll find goat's-milk lotions and soaps—the cucumber-jasmine body butter is a particular favorite of

## Market essentials

**GO EARLY (OR LATE)** Some stalls, like Pike Place Fish Market, and restaurants open by 6:30 a.m., and crowds don't build until 11. Most shops close by 6 p.m., but the less-crowded evening is great for dinner or a drink.

**KNOW YOUR STALLS** If you want to talk like a market insider, use the proper lingo. "Highstalls" are the permanent produce stands. "Daystalls" are the temporary stalls where you'll find seasonal vendors selling fruit, flowers, and crafts.

**HEAD DOWN** Make sure to go downstairs three levels, then continue to the waterfront, advises Donahue. That's where some of the quirkiest shops "and a lot fewer people" can be found.

Donahue's. Closed Tue–Wed; 85 Pike St.; [thefayfarm.com](http://thefayfarm.com)

**Pike Place Fish Market.** Yeah, yeah, the flying fish routine. But, says Watkins, the crab, salmon, and halibut are consistently very high quality. And, really, who can resist a soaring sockeye? 86 Pike Place (at the main market entrance); [pikeplacefish.com](http://pikeplacefish.com)

**Old Seattle Paperworks.** "I always send people here," for vintage maps, posters, and prints, says Donahue. 1514 Pike Place; 206/623-2870.

## Dining (and drinking)

**Campagne and Café Campagne.** Executive Chef Gordon's restaurants take full advantage of produce from the market across the street. Especially this month, when he turns the first asparagus of the season into asperges tempura. Restaurant: \$\$\$; closed Mon; 206/728-2800. Cafe: \$\$; 206/728-2233. 86 Pine St.

**The Alibi Room.** A local's hangout, says Donahue, thanks to the slightly out-of-the-way location down Post Alley. The dimly lit, brick-walled room has incognito glamour and potent cocktails. \$\$; 85 Pike St. (down Post Alley); 206/623-3180.

**The Pink Door.** It's an Italian restaurant, but Donahue goes for the cabaret shows: Trapeze artists perform overhead, and on Saturday nights, burlesque. \$\$; 1919 Post Alley; 206/443-3241.

Cozy at the Arctic Club  
BELOW Olive 8's stately  
lobby



# Our fave Seattle hotels

5 downtown superstars—plus more fabulous citywide sleeps



## The most serendipitous deals Doubletree Arctic Club

The hotel is barely over a year old, but it's in a 1917 landmark building that was once a men's club. You may know it as the "walrus" building, and you may have been to a wedding in the breathtaking Northern Lights Dome Room. Whereas the other new downtown

hotels are sleek and spare, the Arctic Club is plush and plump. Rooms on the Club Level have terraces with knockout views.

**THE HOOD** Most locals come to Pioneer Square after dark for the clubs and bars. A daylight walk reveals Seattle's original downtown is still grand—a symphony of red brick, limestone arches, and cobbled streets. Start your tour on the observation deck of **Smith Tower** (\$7.50; 506 Second Ave.; [smithtower.com](http://smithtower.com) or 206/622-4004), Seattle's first skyscraper, for views that rival the Space Needle's.

**THE CAN'T-MISS MEAL** One bite of garlic-infused linguine and clams and you'll know why **Il Terrazzo Carmine** (\$\$\$; closed Sun; 411 First Ave. S.; 206/467-7797), the godfather of Italian restaurants in Seattle, has such a following.

**THE DEAL** \$199 gets you a room (with an



Swim-up views at the Four Seasons pool **RIGHT** A cheerful palette at Hotel **Ändra**

upgrade if available) and full breakfast for two.  
**INFO** From \$119; [arcticclubhotel.com](http://arcticclubhotel.com) or 206/340-0340.

### Four Seasons Hotel Seattle

The look is all clean lines, exposed stone, blond wood, and fun nods to 1960s mod. And that view—the Olympic Mountains and sparkling saltwater crisscrossed by ferries. Be sure to check out the bathwater-warm outdoor infinity pool with a panorama of Puget Sound.

**THE HOOD** On a coveted corner next to Pike Place Market. Haven't been in a while? Check out the best bargain bite in town at **Daily Dozen Doughnut Company** (\$; 93 Pike St., Ste. 7; 206/467-7769). Behind the sign, **Place Pigalle Restaurant** (\$\$; 81 Pike; 206/624-1756) is now open for Sunday brunch for the first time in its 27-year history.

**THE CAN'T-MISS MEAL** The best new restaurant in the neighborhood is back at the hotel, actually. **Art** (\$\$\$; 99 Union St.; 206/749-7000), with star chef Kerry Sear, lives up to the name. Savor dishes like lamb with olive tapenade and five-spice Alaska king salmon.

**THE DEAL** On Friday, book a mani-pedi in the Four Seasons' spa and get a complimentary glass of Champagne.

**INFO** From \$275; [fourseasons.com/seattle](http://fourseasons.com/seattle) or 206/749-7000.

### Hyatt at Olive 8

Maybe you've noticed the skyscraper with the blue glass fins at Eighth Avenue and Olive Way. The first 17 stories are a Hyatt hotel, with environmentally conscious rooms, some of which have a view over the green roof with drought-tolerant sedums.

**THE HOOD** A shopper's sweet spot. At first

glance, it might look like it's all national chains—until you recall that Seattle is the birthplace of Nordstrom, Starbucks, Eddie Bauer, and REI. Feel some local pride as you order a Frappuccino and hit the sales.

**THE CAN'T-MISS MEAL** Believe it or not, the place to be is Pacific Place Shopping Center. At lunch, those in the know order a sweet, fresh Dungeness crab sandwich and a cup of creamy smoked-salmon chowder at **Pike Place Chowder** (\$; 600 Pine St., fourth floor; 206/838-5680). By late afternoon, **Sixth Avenue Wine Seller** (\$; 600 Pine; 206-621-2669) is serving fun snacks like savory Tuscan-style bread pudding and flights of Northwest wines. Friday and Saturday nights, nab a cozy table in the candlelit wine bar and listen to live piano.

**THE DEAL** The \$540 Romance package gets you two nights in a king room, a bottle of sparkling wine, 60-minute massages for two, full in-room breakfast, and valet parking.

**INFO** From \$229; [olive8.hyatt.com](http://olive8.hyatt.com) or 206/695-1234.

## The coolest lobbies

### Hotel Ändra

**THE LOOK** Sweeping orange egg chairs, chocolate-colored sofas, and curvy leopard-print loungers tempt you to play modern musical chairs. The Ändra's lobby has a smart, Scandinavian design, but with Northwest elements of wood, stone, and water. Low lighting, down-tempo beats, and a flickering fireplace keep the two-story loft warm and cozy, drawing in groups for pre- and post-theater glasses of grappa.

**THE SCENE** BlackBerry-addicted Belltown types mix with European tourists.

**THE SEATS TO SCORE** In the lobby's loft, where you can survey the scene below.

**THE RATES UPSTAIRS** From \$189; [hotelandra.com](http://hotelandra.com) or 877/448-8600.

### W Seattle

**THE LOOK** Swank and sexy, with low lighting and plush sofas inside the Fourth Avenue

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entrance downstairs. After dark, music thumps, candles glow, and cocktail waitresses pop bottles of Veuve Clicquot.

**THE SCENE** Upstairs, it's all business as guests check in at buzzing computer stations. But downstairs, couples canoodle, singles pretend to peck away on iPhones, and tech types talk shop.

**THE SEATS TO SCORE** The be-seen velvet sofas skirting the central fireplace.

**THE RATES UPSTAIRS** From \$159; [whotels.com/seattle](http://whotels.com/seattle) or 206/264-6000.

### More places to try

**Ace Hotel.** This Belltown property is sleek and fashionably minimalist, and it's within walking distance of downtown and the waterfront. The chic rooms are a true Seattle bargain. From \$99; [www.acehotel.com](http://www.acehotel.com) or 206/448-4721.

**Alexis Hotel.** This recently spruced-up, arty downtown property is great for book lovers—you can curl up next to a fire with a book pulled from the room's private library. Look closely and you'll find signed copies from authors who have stayed in the room. From \$180, *Author's Suite* from \$265; 1007 First Ave.; [alexishotel.com](http://alexishotel.com) or 888/850-1155.

**Elliott Grand Hyatt.** It will make you think of New York in the 1930s. Run with that, imbibing a martini or two before dinner at the in-house Ruth's Chris Steak House. Then lose yourself in the hustle of downtown, only a short walk away. From \$169; [grandseattle.hyatt.com](http://grandseattle.hyatt.com), 800/233-1234, or 206/774-1234.

**Hotel Max.** All 10 floors feature imagery from Seattle-based photographers, and public areas and guest-room walls are adorned with paintings from 39 local artists, making it the city's most thoughtfully curated art gallery. The swanky guest rooms have a more subdued aesthetic. As for the artwork, none is for sale, but all of the commissioned pieces are gathered in *Maximalism*, a slick paperback available at the hotel. From \$129; [www.hotelmaxseattle.com](http://www.hotelmaxseattle.com) or 866/833-6299.

**Hotel Monaco Seattle.** Leave it to the Kimpton Group to see a 189-room hotel in a structure originally built for a phone company. An on-site fitness center will keep splurges at Sazerac (\$\$\$), the hotel's restaurant, in check. From \$216; [www.monaco-seattle.com](http://www.monaco-seattle.com) or 800-945-2240.

**Inn at Harbor Steps.** "Condo at Harbor Steps" is probably a better description of this warren tucked into the massive development



Sleekness at the W  
**BELOW** Euro-style charm  
at Pensione Nichols  
**LEFT** The MarQueen's  
Victorian elegance



at the base of University Street—which makes the inn a great place to try out downtown living. All rooms have fireplaces and overlook Post Alley. The inn is just steps from the Seattle Art Museum, and blocks from Pioneer Square and Pike Place Market. From \$225, including breakfast and tea; [www.innatharborsteps.com](http://www.innatharborsteps.com) or 800/234-1425.

**MarQueen Hotel.** Situated in the charming Queen Anne neighborhood, enjoy a room with a view at this cozy property. From \$130; [marqueen.com](http://marqueen.com) or 888/445-3076.

**Paramount Hotel.** A downtown hotel with great rates on rooms with private baths. From \$129; [www.paramounthotelseattle.com](http://www.paramounthotelseattle.com) or 206/292-9500.

**Pensione Nichols.** Most of the rooms in the Pike Place Market walk-up share baths. But everything is neat as a pin in this budget-priced European-style gem, where breakfast is served at antique wooden tables overlooking the Puget Sound and rooms are appointed with antiques and crisp white linens. (Two second-floor suites include both kitchens and private baths.) The property sits above trendy First Avenue, which bustles with good restaurants and interesting boutiques—so stash your bags, take in the sights, and pat yourself on the back for scoring such a steal. From \$120, including continental breakfast; [pensionenichols.com](http://pensionenichols.com) or 206/441-7125.



mate tour from **106 Pine**, a new wine bar and shop, led by Shannon Borg, who curates an exhaustive collection of ultra-local producers. (Like, from just up the street at Atlantic Street Vintners, the winemakers' co-op in Seattle's emerging SoDo district.) You can pop in anytime, but we recommend signing up for one of Borg's new Urban Wine Tours (2–5 Sat; \$50; reservations required) for a behind-the-scenes tasting. Start with sparkling wine in the shop's tasting room, then head to a cheese-and-Chardonnay pairing at Ward Johnson Winery, the small family outfit hidden at the bottom of Queen Anne Hill, where you can see firsthand how wine is made. Next, attend a mini wine-pairing seminar with Richard Kinssies, director of the Seattle Wine School, before hitting its SoDo store. The tasting bar is open to the public, but only tour guests get to tilt their glasses toward the barrel for sips of upcoming vintages. Finally, head back to 106 Pine for a quick lesson on dessert wine—and a bite from the chocolate shop next door. 106 Pine St.; 106pine.com or 206/427-2515.

# Wine city

Enjoy a wine country weekend without ever leaving Seattle

## Mingle with winemakers

You have a better chance of actually meeting winemakers in town than you do in their tasting rooms. At **Picnic**, meet-and-greet tastings (5:30–7:30 Thu, 3–5 Sat; \$8; 6801 Greenwood Ave. N.; picnicseattle.com or 206/453-5867) let you chat with the folks actually blending and bottling—like the owners of Walla Walla's Rulo Winery. The vibe is relaxed and the pours are generous, with very little pretension. On

Saturday afternoons, **Aster CoffeeLounge** (3–6; \$5; 5615 24th Ave. N.W.; astercoffeelounge.com or 206/784-0615) turns its espresso bar over to local vintners, such as Parejas Cellars' Mark Wysling, who come from the country armed with wine and conversation.

## Take a tour

Instead of rambling through rows of grapes with a big group fresh off the bus, try an inti-

## Pick up pairing tips from the pros

Ballard's **Portalis** is a little, local wine shop with a big selection of affordable bottles and a bar that acts as a private tasting room—and classroom. A new monthly series (\$40; reservations required) focuses on pairing wines with one food each class. In a recent session on lamb, attendees learned why different cuts require different tannin levels, and which full-bodied white wine is (surprise!) a perfect partner for a Mediterranean-style tagine. Closed Mon; tastings from \$15; 5205 Ballard Ave. N.W.; portaliswines.com or 206/783-2007.

## Study with the wine experts

For a broader wine education, sign up for a continuing-education course at **South**



A winemaker greets the table at Volunteer Park Café **RIGHT** 106 Pine's Shannon Borg



## Let it breathe

Take a break from Seattle wine tasting and enjoy some fresh air at these downtown parks

**KERRY PARK** Skip spendy views from the Space Needle and walk underneath the icon. Head to Kerry Park via Queen Anne's mansion-lined streets. Sweeping vistas from Kerry are free; the Space Needle is in the panorama for the perfect postcard shot. 211 W. Highland Dr.

**OLYMPIC SCULPTURE PARK** If the weather agrees, choose the Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park over SAM Downtown. There's a giant Calder, a Serra, and impressive espresso in the cafe, plus a pocket beach strewn with driftwood seating. Free; 2901 Western Ave.; [seattleartmuseum.org/visit/osp](http://seattleartmuseum.org/visit/osp).

**ELLIOTT BAY PARK** Continue from the beach through Myrtle Edwards Park and along Elliott Bay for wraparound Puget Sound views. Strolling 20 minutes brings you to a pretty rose garden; 40 minutes to Pier 90, with views of docked cruise ships and the Olympic Mountains. At the waterfront near Pier 86.

**KING COUNTY WATER TAXI TO ALKI BEACH** Departing Pier 55 once an hour, it's a 12-minute ride with stunning city skyline views and speedy, cheap access to a sandy local hangout. A free shuttle on the other side whisks you right to the beach, and an hour's stroll along the sound brings you back to the dock. Taxi \$6 round-trip; through Oct 31; [metro.kingcounty.gov](http://metro.kingcounty.gov).

**FREEWAY PARK** The best way to cross the freeway bordering downtown, the park has cascading planters and water features that mask the sight and sound of I-5. 700 Seneca St.

**Seattle Community College.** At \$75 per series plus an \$18 materials fee, tuition is cheap. This month, Dieter Schafer's "Washington Wines and Wineries" series tastes through all 11 of Washington's AVAs. [southseattle.edu](http://southseattle.edu).

## Wine and dine

What's a wine country weekend without gluttony? You'll find the most exciting food and Washington wine pairings at **Monsoon** in Seattle and **Monsoon East** in Bellevue (\$\$\$; [monsoonrestaurants.com](http://monsoonrestaurants.com)), where chef-owner Eric Banh gives customers an easy tableside talk on pairing with Vietnamese food while pouring, say, an elegant Pinot Noir with an otherworldly steamed black cod. **Volunteer Park Café** (\$\$; closed Mon; 1501 17th Ave. E.; [alwaysfreshgoodness.com](http://alwaysfreshgoodness.com) or 206/328-3155) hosts wine dinners (\$95), where chef Ericka Burke creates a festive vibe and a homey menu with a particular wine in mind. The winemaker is

always at the table too. At **Sip** (\$12 for three tastings; 909 Fifth Ave.; [siprestaurant.com](http://siprestaurant.com) or 206/682-2779)—a group of three wine bars with a new downtown location—flights, seasonal bites, and business are conducted from chocolate-toned couches that are as easy to sink into as its inter-national wine list.

## Bring home a bottle (or four)

You'll have to dodge the tourists, but Pike Place Market has some of the city's best shops for Washington wines. **Pike & Western** (\$25 for seven tastings; 1934 Pike Place; [pikeandwestern.com](http://pikeandwestern.com) or 206/441-1307) has limited releases of local cult labels like Woodward Canyon Winery and Mark Ryan Winery, plus a staff that gives excellent pairing advice. A half-block up, the **Tasting Room** (tastings from \$2; 1924 Post Alley; [thetastingroomseattle.com](http://thetastingroomseattle.com) or 206/770-9463), tucked away on Post Alley, lets you taste any boutique wines before buying.

Two Mountain Winery's unique barrels



# Yakima Valley

Venture beyond the Emerald City to WA's wine hotspot

**GET THE LAY OF THE LAND** You'll find some charming companions at **Two Mountain Winery** (free tastings by appointment only; 2151 Cheyne Rd., Zillah; twomountainwinery.com or 509/829-3900), where you're greeted by the property's four dogs; our favorite is Bentley the basset hound.

**EXPLORE ON HORSEBACK** Sign up for a ride at **Cherry Wood Bed, Breakfast, and Barn** and get a backstage pass to Yakima's gorgeous

vineyard and orchard land. Starting this month, owner Pepper Fewel offers winery tours by horse-drawn cart, complete with a picnic lunch. \$160 for horseback or horse-and-cart tours including lunch; reservations required; 509/829-3500.

**SIP IN STYLE** Gilbert Cellars' new small-plates menu, tasting flights, and chic reclaimed-wood furniture give its tasting room a wine bar atmosphere. Try the gorgonzola-stuffed,

## What to know

**WHY GO NOW** A boom in local wineries has turned the sleepy Yakima Valley into a go-to tasting area.

**WINERIES IN 1986** 13 **WINERIES IN 2009** More than 80 **DOWNTOWN TASTING ROOMS** 5 **WHAT YAKIMA HAS ON NAPA** No crowd-surfing required. **WHAT YAKIMA HAS ON SEATTLE** More than 300 days of sunshine each year. **HOURS FROM SEATTLE** 2 1/2 **SISTER SPIRIT** Locals like to call Yakima "the Palm Springs of Washington."

**WAY TO WORK OFF THE VINO** Pedal part or all of the 60-mile bike ride through Yakima ([wineglasscellars.com](http://wineglasscellars.com)), designed by Wineglass Cellars' winemaker David Lowe.

bacon-wrapped dates with a gutsy, earthy Malbec. 5 N. Front St.; [gilbertcellars.com](http://gilbertcellars.com).

**CURL UP AT A COFFEEHOUSE** Need a break from the grape? Get cozy with a latte at **North Town Coffeehouse**. The absurdly comfy couches downstairs create a great reading nook. 28 N. First St.; [northtowncoffee.com](http://northtowncoffee.com).

## Beyond the vines in (and close to) Yakima

**DISCOVER THE SHOPS** If you catch Yakima on one of its rare drizzly days, spend an afternoon browsing the boutiques in the town's historic Opera House. **Garden Girl** (25 N. Front St., Shop 2; 509/452-2612) has a great selection of indoor and outdoor plants, while the **French Hen** (closed Sun; 25 N. Front St., Shop 5; 509/248-5783) sells charming country antiques.

**HIT THE LOCAL WINE STORE** Shop instead of sip at downtown Yakima's **Cascade Wine Co.**, which sells local vintages at prices equal to (or often less than) what you'll find at the wineries themselves. Owner Jim Collins specializes in small producers and is happy to answer questions; he also stocks some of the best boutique vintners from across the state. Closed Sun; 26 N. First St.; [cwcwine.com](http://cwcwine.com)

**TAKE A DINING DETOUR** Prosser, a tiny town known for its food, is just 40 minutes east of Yakima on I-82. Grab dinner at **Picazo 7 Seventeen** (\$\$-\$\$\$; closed Sun, Mon; 717 Sixth St.; 509/786-1116).

Friday Harbor on San Juan Island **BELOW** Orcas Island bounty



# Explore the San Juan Islands

4 days of happiness with the artists and the whales



The long summer weekend was invented in Washington's San Juan Islands, or should have been. Summer stretches languorously here, with 16 hours of daylight—enough time to savor the islands' patented pleasures: orcas and eagles, kayaking and hiking, and a food scene that shows the influence of a burgeoning slow-food movement. Orcas Island local Bob Friel guides us on an island hopper's midsummer dream.

## DAY 1: Orcas

Orcas is the island of superlatives. It's the biggest of all the San Juans' 750 islands, with the highest mountain, the deepest fjords, and the most jaw-dropping views. All this inspiration draws a notably creative crowd, and many artists call Orcas home for at least part of the year, from potters, painters, and sculptors to Gary Larson of *The Far Side* fame.

Go with it. Drive off the early ferry from Anacortes (an hour crossing) and onto Orcas Road to begin your art- and nature-packed tour. First stop, **Crow Valley Pottery & Gallery**, showing 100 artists, most inspired by native Northwest culture and wildlife. Outside Eastsound, keep an eye out for the dazzling kinetic metal sculptures spinning and flashing in the fir trees at **Howe Art Sculpture Park & Gallery**.



Shearwater Kayaking  
Tours **RIGHT** A tasty plate  
at Market Chef



Eastsound is Orcas's main village. Depending on your mood, it can entertain you for 20 minutes or fill a day with eating and gallery hopping. At **Roses Bakery Cafe**, crowd your picnic basket with bread, cheese, and Northwest wine. Then head east out of town along Crescent Beach and south around the bay. Here, 5,200-acre **Moran State Park** offers great picnic spots, from placid Cascade Lake to the top of 2,409-foot Mt. Constitution for the San Juans' best view.

Try to squeeze in the **Lambiel Museum**, an impressive private collection of San Juan Islands art that can be toured with the collector himself, Leo Lambiel.

Complete your Orcas day with Alaska scallops or Northwest bouillabaisse at the bayside **Inn at Ship Bay** (it's a fine overnight option too). The halibut tacos served at the restaurant of the waterfront **Kingfish Inn** (another good overnight choice) are a local

favorite. Be sure to ask that they be served on a regular plate; the taco baskets make the tortillas soggy.

### DAY 2: Orcas & San Juan

Water morning. Head to Orcas's far west coast and the hamlet of Deer Harbor. At Bellport Deer Harbor Marina, meet your guide from **Shearwater Kayak Tours** for a three-hour exploration of clear waters and kelp forests surrounding the Wasp Islands, which dot the sea between Orcas and Shaw Islands. Then it's back to the ferry landing to catch the 40-minute boat ride to San Juan Island.

San Juan is the most populated island of the chain—so relatively cosmopolitan that its largest town, Friday Harbor, is dubbed "Sin City" by residents of other islands because of its wider selection of bars.

Still, urban misbehaving isn't what you

first notice here: It's the bucolic photo ops, like those at fragrant **Pelindaba Lavender Farm**. More views and cliffside driving come along West Side Road overlooking the Haro Strait and Vancouver Island. Then continue north, navigating your way to Roche Harbor Resort, and join the posse of wealthy yachties and wannabes grabbing cool ones at the **Madrona Bar & Grill**. If you can withstand yacht envy, stroll the docks afterward and drool over the costly boats.

The best dinner choice, **Duck Soup Inn**, shines with its grilled kelp-dusted Alaska sea scallops, its applewood smoked local oysters, and an exemplary fresh corn soufflé. For lodging, tony **Bird Rock Hotel** is in the center of Friday Harbor (innkeepers dispense earplugs in case guests are bothered by small-town bustle). Outside town, very close to Duck Soup, the pastoral 82-acre **Lakedale Resort at Three Lakes** offers rustic canvas tent cabins, private log cabins, and lodge rooms.

### DAY 3: San Juan

Whale day. Power breakfast on omelets and hash browns at locals' favorite Rocky Bay Cafe, then meet the San Juan Islands' most famous summer inhabitants, the up-to-25-foot-long, 12,000-pound southern resident killer whales.

To try for an eye-level orca sighting, **Outdoor Odysseys** is genuinely one of the greatest beginner's kayaking experiences you'll find anywhere: Orcas aren't absolutely guaranteed but are likely. Or, if you don't want to have your whale experience out on the water, hit the **Whale Museum**, by far the San Juans' best indoor attraction, with whale exhibits, whale skeletons, and a whale phone booth where you hear whale songs, with no long-distance charges. For lunch, the nearby **Market Chef** has excellent sandwiches and salads.

Now for a San Juan Island secret. The **Backdoor Kitchen** isn't exactly flashy: This inti-



Kayaking with Outdoor Odysseys **ABOVE** Moran State Park **LEFT** Local plums



mate bamboo-screened oasis is squirreled away behind Friday Harbor Freight yard. No wonder few visitors find themselves here. But you should, and be sure to allow enough time before your reservation to sit at the tiny copper bar and order a cocktail. The dinner menu continent-hops from Thailand to the Middle East, then back to the Northwest, and it's all stellar.

#### DAY 4: Lopez

"Slow-peez" San Juaneros call it, for Lopez Island's bucolic, unpeopled setting and its friendly, finger-wave pace. You'll probably notice the island's relaxed rhythm as soon as you dock after the hourlong ferry ride from

Friday Harbor. Because it's flatter than its sister islands, one of the best things to do here is ride bikes.

You can rent them at Cascadia Kayak and Bike and head to the tiny smattering of shops that makes up Lopez Village. Stop at **Caffe La Boheme** for coffee, and then, fortified, pedal north the 3.5 miles to 138-acre **Spencer Spit State Park**, where a triangle of sandy beach surrounding a saltwater lagoon is loaded with driftwood like Lincoln Logs, which locals like to pile into fantastical sculptures. Back at Fisherman Bay after returning your wheels, have your last island meal at the **Galley**, where fresh halibut and Lopez oysters are served on hand-painted tables.

### Where to stay

- » **Bird Rock Hotel** From \$117; [birdrockhotel.com](http://birdrockhotel.com) SJ
- » **Inn at Ship Bay Restaurant** \$\$\$; closed Sun–Mon; rooms from \$175; [innatshipbay.com](http://innatshipbay.com) O
- » **Kingfish Inn Restaurant** \$\$; rooms from \$160; [kingfishinn.com](http://kingfishinn.com) O
- » **Lakedale Resort at Three Lakes** From \$249; [lakedale.com](http://lakedale.com) SJ
- » **MacKaye Harbor Inn** From \$155; [mackayeharborinn.com](http://mackayeharborinn.com) L

### Where to eat

- » **The Backdoor Kitchen** \$\$\$; 400 A St., Friday Harbor; 360/378-9540. SJ
- » **Caffe La Boheme** 211 Lopez Rd., Lopez Village; 360/468-3533. L
- » **Duck Soup Inn** \$\$\$; 50 Duck Soup Lane; 360/378-4878. SJ
- » **The Galley** \$\$; 3365 Fisherman Bay Rd.; 360/468-2713. L
- » **Madrona Bar & Grill** \$\$; opens for the season May 14; in Roche Harbor Resort; 800/451-8910. SJ
- » **The Market Chef** \$; closed Sat–Sun; 225 A St., Friday Harbor; 360/378-4546. SJ
- » **Rocky Bay Cafe** \$; 225 Spring St., Friday Harbor; 360/378-5051. SJ
- » **Roses Bakery Cafe** \$; closed Sun; 382 Prune Alley, Eastsound; 360/376-5805. O

### What not to miss

- » **Cascadia Kayak and Bike** Bikes \$7 an hour; 360/468-3008. L
- » **Crow Valley Pottery & Gallery** 2274 Orcas Rd., Eastsound; 360/376-4260. O
- » **Howe Art Sculpture Park & Gallery** 236 Double Hill Rd.; 360/376-2945. O
- » **Lambiel Museum** By appointment only; 668 Olga Rd.; 360/376-4544. O
- » **Outdoor Odysseys** \$95; [outdoorodysseys.com](http://outdoorodysseys.com) SJ
- » **Pelindaba Lavender Farm** 33 Hawthorne Lane; 866/819-1911. SJ
- » **Shearwater Kayak Tours** \$65; 360/376-4699. O
- » **Whale Museum** 62 First St. N., Friday Harbor; 800/946-7227. SJ

L = LOPEZ ISLAND  
O = ORCAS ISLAND  
SJ = SAN JUAN ISLAND

The food is so good, the setting so beautiful, that when you consider boarding the ferry back to “the real world”—what islanders call the mainland—you may just decide to stay. And if you do, **MacKaye Harbor Inn** is a gracious farmhouse turned five-room inn right on the water..



One of the park's many stellar landscapes  
**BELOW** Spot sea creatures in the park's coastal tidepools

# The jewel of the Northwest

Your best 3 days in Olympic National Park



When best-selling author Stephenie Meyer needed a locale to set her *Twilight* novels, she chose Forks, Washington, right next to Olympic National Park.

Meyer chose well. Not only is Forks and the nearby park famed for their rains and gray skies—useful for the sun-shunning vampires of *Twilight*—all of Olympic National Park possesses a dreamy, other-worldly quality.

Here are some of the densest temperate

rain forests in the world, with some of the biggest trees. Here are waterfalls splashing through moss-softened gorges. Here are 7,000 foot mountains and some sixty named glaciers. And here are long, gorgeously empty beaches where the Pacific tosses immense wave-carved chunks of driftwood onto the bare sands like children's toys.

If you have three days to explore the park, plan a roughly counter-clockwise loop, starting at Port Angeles then following U.S. 101 west and south.

## Day One

**Grab maps and information.** The Olympic National Park Visitor Center in Port Angeles is your natural starting point.

**Hit Hurricane Ridge.** From Port Angeles, drive south on Hurricane Ridge road for 17 miles. Named for the 75-mile-an-hour winds that



Lovely Rialto Beach  
LEFT A rainforest stroll

can blow here in winter, in summer the Ridge is merely spectacular, offering amazing views of the Olympic Mountains and the Olympic Peninsula coastline. Two good easy hikes start near the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center: Hurricane Hill and Cirque Rim.

**Paddle Lake Crescent.** This deep, clear, glacier-carved lake is a great place to test your paddling skills—you can rent rowboats at Lake Crescent Lodge, an appealingly simple, 1916 lodge that makes a good base camp for this part of the park. Nearby, the short hike to Marymere Falls shows off both the park's old growth forest and a 90-foot waterfall.

**Get in hot water.** Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort is especially good for kids—there are three hot springs pools plus a cooler freshwater pool open for day use. There are cabins, too, if you decide to stay the night.

### Day Two

**Visits with vampires.** If you want to make a pilgrimage to Twilight Land, Forks is a former logging town now world-famous as vampire central. The Forks Chamber of Commerce ([www.forks.wa.com](http://www.forks.wa.com)) has lists of local lodging and businesses, as well as a Twilight-themed page that shows the real locations of many of the scenes in the novels. A local favorite is Forks Community Hospital, which has a space reserved for Dr. Cullen (the vampire dad and physician from the novels). At the Chamber's Forks Visitor Center, manager Mike Gurling—a former Olympic National Park ranger—will give you a specially made Twilight map, which includes some non-public stops like the “Swan House” (actually a private residence) and the “Cullen House” (actually a bed and breakfast), as well as a trivia quiz to test your knowledge of the four books.

**Plunge into the rain forest.** The Hoh Rain Forest proves the luxuriant power of water. The region's annual 135 inches of rain has nurtured some of the biggest trees you'll see in your life—giant Sitka spruce and western hemlock—rise from carpets of moss and ferns. Here, too is the park's herd of Roosevelt elk—named for Teddy, they were an important reason Olympic was set aside as a national monument in 1909 then as national park in 1938. Good trails include the Hall of Mosses trail and the Spruce Nature Trail.

**Comb the coast.** From the rainforest, Highway 101 runs southwest to the Pacific. Here a string of beaches make for sublime strolling, surf fishing, sand castle building. A good place to spend the night is Kalaloch Lodge, where bluff top cabins sit less than 100 feet from the Pacific.

### Day Three

**Explore Lake Quinalt and Quinalt Valley.** Follow U.S. 101 out of the park to Lake Quinalt and Lake Quinalt Lodge. This grand, historic lodge has the feel of a classic summer resort. If you're feeling ambitious you can explore the trails of the Quinalt Valley, which has its own old growth rainforest, or take a kayak or canoe out onto the lake. Or simply enjoy the view of blue water backed by green trees.

For a complete list of things to do, see the **National Park Service** ([www.nps.gov/olymp/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/olymp/index.htm)) and **Olympic Peninsula Visitor's Bureau** ([www.visitolympicpeninsula.com](http://www.visitolympicpeninsula.com)).

Performances abound at Olympia's premier theater



# Visit Olympia

The ultimate day trip to Washington's arty capital

## Movies minus the multiplex

The spot for indie films and live shows, the 1924 **Capitol Theater** recently got a facelift, showing off round stained-glass windows on its historic façade. Volunteers from the Olympia Film Society fuel bold programming, including lots of Q&As with filmmakers. Don't miss the Free Wall at the back of the building, an ever-changing display of graffiti

art. Movie tickets from \$7; 206 Fifth Ave. S.E.; [olympiafilmsociety.org](http://olympiafilmsociety.org)

## Another person's trash ...

Diane Kurzynia, aka Ruby Re-Usable, turns what others see as garbage into art. In her shoe box-size **Cast Off Art Lab** (open by appointment; [rubyreusable.com](http://rubyreusable.com)), detergent bottles and Wonder bread bags become

## The scoop

**WHY GO NOW** Politicians moonlight as musicians, and creativity runs through the streets. **KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR** Public benches that double as canvases, painted with eye-catching commissioned works.

**ART YOU CAN AFFORD** Paintings, jewelry, ceramics, and more from Northwest artists at the co-op **Artist's Gallery** (closed Sun; 113 Legion Way S.W.; [theartistsgallery.com](http://theartistsgallery.com)) and at **Childhood's End Gallery** (222 Fourth Ave. W.; 360/943-3724).

**WHAT'S YOUR SCENT?** At **Archibald Sisters** (406 Capitol Way S.; 360/943-2707), you can mix up fragrances and sweet-smelling lotions.

**CALLING ADVENTUROUS COOKS** To **Buck's** (closed Sun; 209 Fifth Ave. S.E.; [culinaryexotica.com](http://culinaryexotica.com)), stocked with cooking supplies like dried lemons and Scandinavian krumkake makers. **BOTTLED WATER BE GONE** Cold, clean H<sub>2</sub>O is free at this uncapped artesian well in a parking lot (Fourth Ave. E. between Adams and Jefferson Streets).

**LEG STRETCHER** Walk a scenic 1.5-mile loop at **Capitol Lake** (near Fifth Ave. S.W. at Water St.); be sure to admire the dancing jets at the Heritage Park fountain.

sculptures and dolls, and old plastic is transformed into a chiffonlike party dress. Or see her works, along with those of other artists focusing on recycled and sustainable materials, at the new **Matter Gallery** (113 Fifth Ave. S.W.; [matteroly.com](http://matteroly.com)).

## Coffee 101

Tastings at **Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters** are as nuanced and educational as a trip to a winery. Staffers will unpretentiously guide you through samples of fair-trade coffees featuring "intense notes of walnut and chocolate" or "a crisp finish." Free cuppings, including advice on food pairings, are the first Sunday of each month. While you sip, watch the factory floor through a large window to track the beans as they're roasted and processed. 200 Market St. N.E.; 360/753-4057.



Cast Off Art Lab  
RIGHT Whittle



## Art of woodworking

Spend some time with your inner child at or bring an actual kid to **Whittle**, a hands-on studio where you can choose from clocks, cheese boards, mobiles, or a range of wooden toys cut by owner Kyle Flynn. You'll sand, finish, and paint the wood with bright, environmentally friendly colors, while Flynn surveys the spattered tables, as proud of your work as any parent. *From \$12; 116 Capitol Way N.; whittleoly.com.*

## Best dining bets

**BREAKFAST** Those in the know make the **Bread Peddler** (\$; 222 Capitol Way N.; 360/352-1175) a daily stop for flaky croissants and oeufs en cocotte. Piquant tuna Niçoise sandwiches come on house-baked baguettes, and the almond meringue cookies are chewy, melt-in-your-mouth good.

**LUNCH** Snack on small plates or ultra-seasonal salads at **Acqua Via** (\$; 500 Capitol Way S.; 360/357-6677). It's hard to go wrong with any of the well-executed dishes at this informal place, with its clean design and big windows for prime people-watching.

**AFTERNOON (OR ANYTIME) TEA** **Sizizis** (704 Fourth Ave. E.; 360/236-9988) is a dimly lit shop, barely visible from the street, and a 24-hour haven for anyone craving interesting herbal concoctions, coffee, and elegant little cupcakes (\$3.50) in flavors like green tea.

**DINNER AND DRINKS** One of the few certified organic restaurants in the United States, the **Mark Olympia** (\$\$; closed Sun; 407 Columbia St. S.W.; 360/754-4414) satisfies with pastas and grilled meats by chef-owner Lisa Owen—and organic ingredients down to the herbs in the artfully mixed cocktails.

## Enjoy the arts on the cheap in Seattle

**SLIDING-SCALE THEATER** On pay-what-you-can preview nights at **Seattle Repertory Theatre**, there's a \$1 minimum per ticket. Yup, that's right—for less than a venti latte, you and your friends can catch Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* (Sep 29; [seattlerep.org](http://seattlerep.org)). At **ACT Theatre**, two shows of every mainstage run are pay-what-you-will—with a \$5 suggested donation. A steal when you consider tickets typically start at \$35. [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org).

**APRÈS-POETRY PARTY** At the **Subtext Reading Series**, not only do you get to listen to great experimental writing in a gorgeous 1907 chapel walled in stained glass, but you're also invited to join authors for a post-performance martini. 7:30 p.m. *first Wed of the month*; \$5–\$15 suggested donation; in the Good Shepherd Center; [subtextreadingseries.blogspot.com](http://subtextreadingseries.blogspot.com).

**BOOK READINGS AND MORE** Well known for its free reading series, **Elliott Bay Book Company** also hosts all sorts of inexpensive cultural events in its cozy basement. *Free–\$5*; [elliottbaybook.com](http://elliottbaybook.com).

**BALLET FOR 10 BUCKS?!** If you time it right, you can watch professionally trained bodies bending, leaping, and twirling every which way when the venerable **Pacific Northwest Ballet** offers its little-known \$10 preview days. Quite a score as tickets normally run \$25 to \$150. Call for a schedule, but preview nights are usually the Friday before a show opens. \$10; in **McCaw Hall**; [pnb.org](http://pnb.org)

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM** Things loosen up a little after-hours at the **Seattle Art Museum**. The first Thursday of every month is always free, but for an extra \$15 suggested donation, you also get cocktails and live music. *Free–\$15*; [seattleartmuseum.org](http://seattleartmuseum.org).

# Travel Resources

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[www.sunset.com/travel](http://www.sunset.com/travel)



## Fall Trips in the Northwest

Make this autumn your best one yet with these 9 trip ideas from *Sunset*. Savor the flavors of fall in Washington Apple Country, sip to your heart's content in B.C.'s Okanagan Valley, or get energized in the outdoor oasis of Sun Valley—just to name a few surefire bets.

[www.sunset.com/travel/northwest](http://www.sunset.com/travel/northwest)



## Olympic National Park

Rainforest and waterfalls and mountains, oh my! Want even more scoop on Washington's natural wonderland? *Sunset's* got you covered with the best park sights, activities, lodging, and more.

[www.sunset.com/travel/northwest](http://www.sunset.com/travel/northwest)

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