

HOOD CANAL & SOUTH PUGET SOUND
WASHINGTON STATE



MAPS • HIKES • HISTORY • EVENTS

ADVENTURE GUIDE

22
PET *Friendly*
TRAILS
Page 44 | Hikes



EXPLORE
HOOD
CANAL.COM

FREE Local Resource Guide

USEFUL LINKS/CONTACTS

EXPLORE HOOD CANAL

866-922-7469 | explorehoodcanal.com

HOODSPORT VISITOR CENTER

150 N Lake Cushman Rd, Hoodspport
(360) 877-2021 | (800) 576-2021

NORTH MASON CHAMBER

30 NE Romance Hill Rd, Belfair
(360) 275-4267

SHELTON MASON CHAMBER

230 W Railroad Ave, Shelton
(360) 426-2021

MASON COUNTY

411 N 5th St, Shelton (360) 427-0670
masoncountywa.gov

MASON COUNTY MUSEUM

427 W Railroad Ave, Shelton
masoncountyhistoricalsociety.org

MASON TRANSIT

FREE | masontransit.com

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

dnr.wa.gov

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

Park updates: nps.gov/olym

UNION VISITOR CENTER

Hunter Farm E 1921 SR 106

SHELTON MASON COUNTY JOURNAL

masoncounty.com

TRACING THE FJORD MAGAZINE

tracingthefjord.com

US FOREST SERVICE

fs.usda.gov | recreation.gov

WA DEPT. FISH & WILDLIFE

Fish and wildlife regulations & licenses
wdfw.wa.gov

KMAS RADIO 103.3 FM / 1030 AM

kmas.com

Cover image: "Waylon, Hiking with Your Pet,"
page 44, photo credit Michael Z. Ping

Welcome to the WILD SIDE

Welcome to a place filled with outdoor activities and plenty of room when you just want the world to yourself. This guide includes ideas to help you discover your **NEXT BEST MEMORIES.**

Call **866-922-7469** with questions or comments.

Visit explorehoodcanal.com

#wildsideWA



LET'S DO THIS.

OUR TOWNS 6

HISTORY 10

EVENTS 15

TASTING ROOMS 17

MUSEUMS 19

GOLF 21

FARM MARKETS 22

BOATING 24

SCUBA 28

ADRENALINE 29

ORV & BIKING 30

CAMP & PARKS 33

TRAILS 40

WATERFALLS 46

FLORA 48

FAUNA 54

HOOD CANAL is the **only saltwater fjord** in the lower 48 states.

Hood Canal is less developed than other Puget Sound basins.
AROUND 90% OF THE DRAINAGE IS FOREST and
70% of the shoreline remains in natural habitats.

“Glacial Till sea bottom & glacial carving
is key to the fjord’s underwater biomes.”

HOOD CANAL is home to
Giant Pacific Octopuses
up to 29.5’ tip of one arm
to the tip of another and 44
lbs. They can change color
in one-tenth of a second.

average depth
177’
maximum depth
600 FEET

The retreat of the **Cordilleran Ice Sheet** excavated long, straight valleys and the channels of Puget Sound, Lake Washington, and Hood Canal over 13,000 years ago. With the formation of glacial lakes & erosion, the glacier altered it's course, creating a "hook." Troughing of glacial till and massive erosion account for the giant sills of sediment that make up much of the Canal's sea floor.



The Olympic Range contains
60 NAMED GLACIERS

hood canal

 **68**
miles long

Rivers from **the Olympics**:
**Skokomish, Hamma Hamma,
Dosewallips, and Quilcene.**

Hood Canal's low oxygen has natural causes from geography. The water in the inlet mixes poorly due to an deep underwater sill south of the Hood Canal Bridge. In addition freshwater run-off from the Olympics forms stratification of the water. The sensitive ecosystem is carefully monitored and requires constant stewardship. **Take care of the fjord.**

Visit Our

COMMUNITIES



1 Allyn located in the protected waters of Case Inlet is known for kayaking and boating. Enjoy restaurants and shops including a unique chainsaw carving school & retail outlet, **Bear in the Box**.

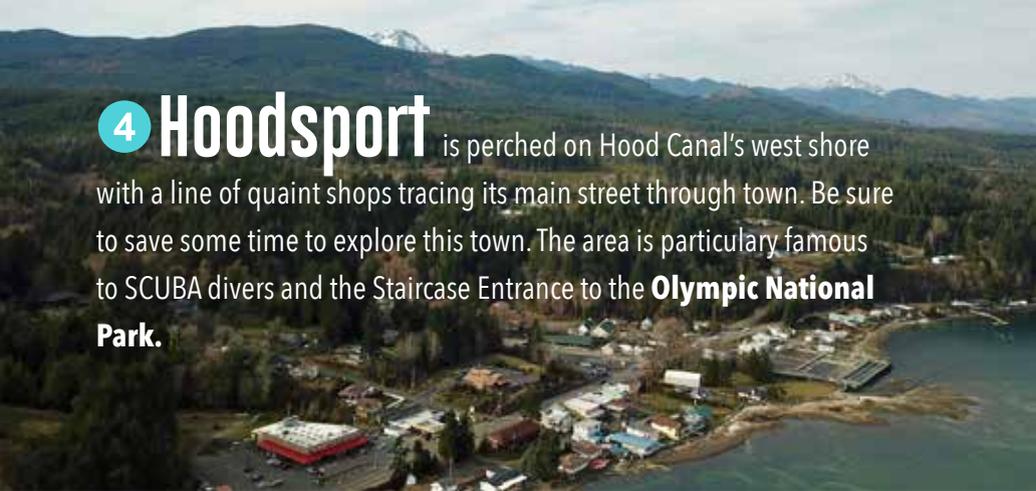


2 Belfair is nestled in the tip of Hood Canal. Belfair hosts local and chain restaurants and grocery stores and unique shops to explore. Don't miss **Theler Wetlands** and **Belfair State Park**.



3 Cushman is a 4,010-acre lake at the top of the Skokomish River above the west shore of Hood Canal. The shoreline is dotted with camping and rental cabins. Cushman is notable for its beautiful crystal clear blue water, fishing, swimming, boating and kayaking as well as a lacing of popular hiking trails surrounding the area.

4 Hoodsport is perched on Hood Canal's west shore with a line of quaint shops tracing its main street through town. Be sure to save some time to explore this town. The area is particularly famous to SCUBA divers and the Staircase Entrance to the **Olympic National Park**.



5 Lilliwaup was settled by pioneers in the mid 1800s and put on the map in 1890 by explorer, Joseph O'Neil, when he aimed to discover a route from Hood Canal to the Pacific Ocean. Although his team couldn't find what they were seeking in the Olympics, O'Neil advocated for the Olympic National Park. Hwy 101 passes the hamlet. **Lilliwaup General Store** is a great stop for ice cream!



6 Potlatch is located on the western shore of Hood Canal's "bend," near the mouth of the Skokomish River. Potlatch State Park is camping park with 5,700-feet of saltwater shoreline including a public beach.

7 Union is historically recognized as an artists' haven. With a range of lodging, restaurants, shops, and jaw-dropping view of the Olympic Mountains over the Hood Canal, the town was recognized as a "Prettiest Town in America." Don't miss the historic **Dalby Waterwheel**.





8 Kamilche, at the cross-roads of Hwy 101 and SR 108, sits at the edge of Little Skookum Inlet, a waterway of Puget Sound. Primarily farming area, it is home to **Squaxin Island Museum Library, Taylor Shellfish, Walter Dacon Wines** and **Hunter's** dahlia U-pick.

9 Matlock is a small community with a church, general store, post office, grange hall, the Mary M. Knight School and miles of forests. The area features nearby lakes and recreation including fishing, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. The nearest lake to Matlock is Lake Nahwatzel. Each first weekend in May, Matlock hosts the **Old Timers' Fair**.

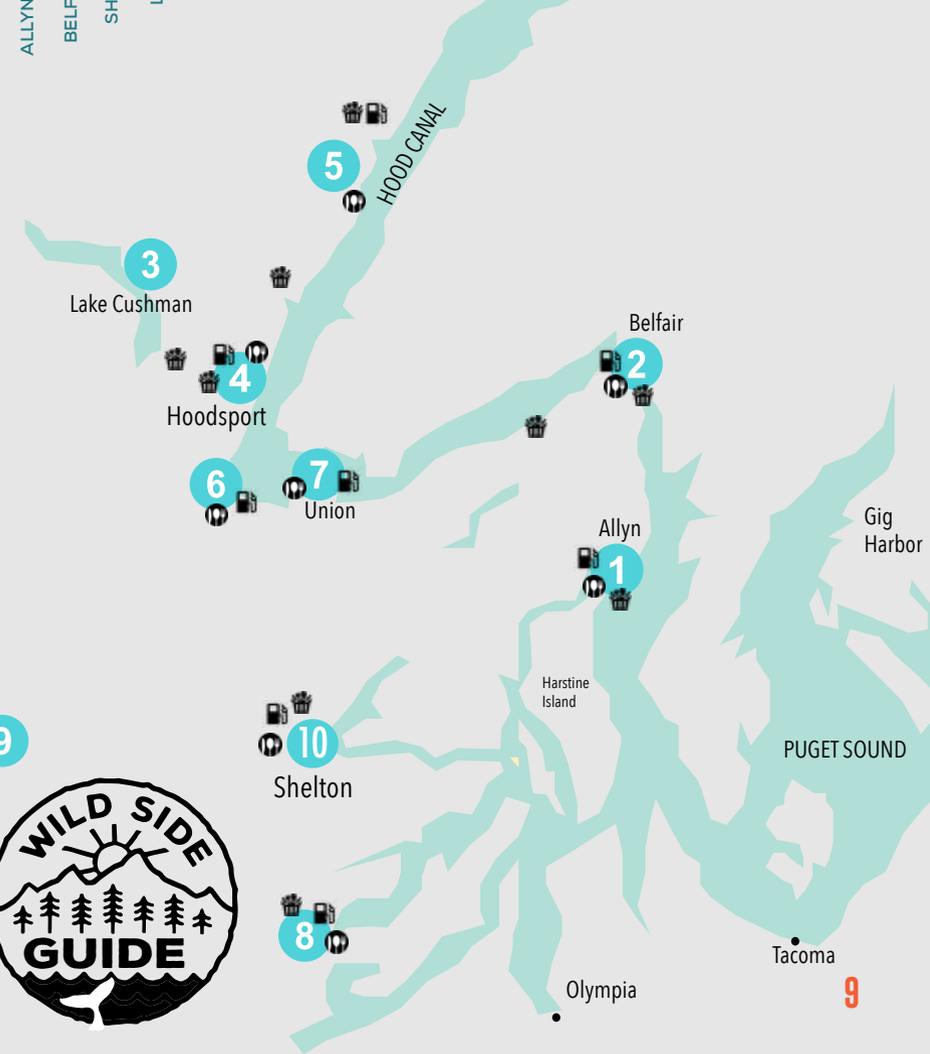


10 SHELTON also known as **"Christmastown, USA"** owing to it's rich history in Christmas trees. In December the streets light up with a parade, lights and a historical mural of a 32' tall Santa greeting arrivals to the town.

Shelton was once served by a fleet of steamboats. Traveling Hammersley inlet on the tidal currents, the ships delivered supplies, passengers, and mail. There is plenty of shopping and dining in Shelton's downtown.

MILEAGE BETWEEN DESTINATIONS

92	86	99	79	83	95	78	120	106	125	132	230
151	156	133	152	148	146	173	115	144	34	174	
40	34	82	82	96	84	65	62	33	15		
40	60	74	92	88	74	57	58	26			
33	37	51	70	66	55	34	30				
40	45	22	41	37	37	60					
18	13	37	44	40	30						
19	22	11	15	11							
30	27	15	4								
35	31	20									
18	24										
5											



Hood Canal's first inhabitants: **TWANA**

Wintering near the mouths of local rivers, the Twana people lived in cedar plank homes enjoying a rich livelihood on the fjord. Fish, shellfish, plants, and game provided all year for the families.

PHOTO: E. CURTIS COLLECTION, WA HISTORY.ORG

The warmer months were marked with visits to neighboring settlements going overland through the Olympic Mountains. They followed the shorelines by dugout canoe to trade as far away as what is now Alaska's outer coast.

The Twana language, *t'it'uwaduqutid*, is a Salishan dialect, but the Twana people spoke many languages forming alliances through marriage and trade with tribes along the Pacific coast.

In 1792, Vancouver visited Hood Canal. Vancouver journeyed to the Skokomish River, where Menzies, his botanist, marveled at the vegetation as well as the natural beauty. He found the Twana marked by the ravages of smallpox, an epidemic introduced by European contact.

After a few days of exploring and trade with the Twana people, Vancouver and his men retraced their path from the Canal leaving a legacy of European names in their wake.



Hood Canal was named by Royal Navy **Captain George Vancouver**, May 13, 1792, to honor **Admiral Lord Samuel Hood**.

10



Skokomish

Skokomish are descendants of the Twana with traditional territory from the Canal and inland to the Olympic Mountains.

This territory was reduced to the Skokomish Reservation in 1855 by the Treaty of Point No Point as these peoples were allotted the territory of the Skokomish Twana or *sq Wuq Wu'3sH*, "the people of the river," located along the Skokomish River. No longer could they travel freely to summer villages to collect and tend resources, including berries and root crops, as areas became pre-empted by newcomers.

Skokomish (sko-KO-mish) comes from two words: "big river people," skookum (river) and mish (a suffix meaning "people").

Vancouver wrote “Hood’s Channel” in his journal, but “Hood’s Canal” on his charts. The US Board on Geographic Names choose “Hood Canal” in 1932.

The Skokomish diversified their skills to become loggers and mill-workers, as well as land and shellfish farmers and fisher-people. The Skokomish are passionate about their heritage and are one of twenty-six tribes in the US that have been designated with a Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO).

The Skokomish recently oversaw the excavation of an archaeological site in partnership with the WA State Department of Wildlife on a wetland rehabilitation project along the Union River at the **Theler Wetlands Centre** in Belfair. Artifacts recovered here were transferred to the care of the Skokomish Tribe. Theler Wetlands Centre hosts this archaeological site as part of an interpretative trail system.

Skokomish Tribal Center

80 N Tribal Center Rd, Skokomish
(360) 426-4232 skokomish.org
Artifacts, carvings, totems, baskets, historical photos, documents.
Call for hours of operation.

Lucky Dog Casino

19330 N Highway 101, Skokomish
(360) 877-5656 theluckydogcasino.net
Games, entertainment, regular promotions, as well as a restaurant,

North Fork Bar & Grill.

Skokomish Park

7211 N Lake Cushman Rd, Hoodspport
(360) 877-5656
Campsites, RV Sites, Boating, Hiking



The 375' high **High Steel Bridge** is a truss arch bridge that spans the south fork of the Skokomish River (685' long), on Forest Service road #2340.



Squaxin Island

The “People of the Water,” territory, encompass “the seven inlets” of South Puget Sound. In 1854 the Squaxin people were forced to leave nearby settlements and live together on Squaxin Island. Access to schools and stores was difficult and there was no electricity.

In the 1970s the Squaxin Tribe obtained the Kamilche School near Shelton, where in they built the Little Creek Casino Resort (1995). Revenues generated allowed them to provide housing and infrastructure for their people. The waterways of the seven inlets had been historically connected by dugout cedar canoes. In recent years efforts have been focused on a cultural resurgence centered on language preservation and canoe carving. In 1995, Squaxin Island Tribe began carving two 22,000-pound cedar logs from the Wynoochee Valley.

Little Creek Casino & Resort

91 WSR-108, Kamilche | (800) 667-7711

little-creek-casino.com

Lodging with pool and sauna, spa, dining, gaming, and entertainment.

Salish Cliffs Golf Course

91 WA-108, Kamilch | (360) 462-3673

salish-cliffs.com

Par 72 golf course, proshop and restaurant

The process brought a revitalization of interest in carving both as an art and as a highly technical craft. The canoes are housed at the Canoe Shed at **Squaxin Island Tribe’s Museum Library and Research Centre**, where visitors are can view them.

Squaxin Island Tribe Museum Library & Research Center

150 SE KWUH-DEEGS-ALTXW, Kamiche
(360) 432-3839

The museum tell the story of the People of the Water depicting the relationship of Squaxin tribe and the seven inlets of South Puget Sound.

With architecture inspired by a petroglyph of a thunderbird, the plank-style big-house is surrounded by plants and pools. The museum features a gift shop, as well as library and research center. The interior features an amphitheater reminiscent of a traditional space for sharing stories and drumming.

SQUAXINISLANDMUSEUM.ORG



Tempera mural "Skid Row" in Shelton Post Office (1940) by Richard Haines was a winner of the Treasury Section's 48-State Post Office Mural Competition.

TIMBER ROOTS

The land for the first Mason County sawmill was staked in 1853 by Col. Simmons on Hammersley Inlet to allow easy access to shipping, the mill produced 12,000 board feet a day, but the mill did not survive its first winter when it was destroyed by heavy rains.

Early loggers used two-handled cross-cut saws and axes to fall trees. Springboards were inserted to create a platform to avoid the lower part of the trunk that fans out making it difficult to drag the tree across the forest floor. A wedge cut was axed into the tree to encourage it to fall in a particular direction. Oxen dragged the logs over timbers known as a "skid" road.

Mills were at Port Gamble and Seabeck on Hood Canal. When nearby timber was run out, mills hired lumbermen up and down the Canal to made giant floats of logs, barging logs to the mills.

Simpson Log. Co.; Kinsey Photo; UW Collection

Simpson Logging Company

Simpson Logging Company was started by Sol Simpson in the 1890s. Simpson connected camps throughout Mason County by transporting logs by steam locomotives and technologies such as the *donkey engine* – a steam driven winch that could pull logs.

Simpson and his partner Anderson changed the way logging companies looked at land and were proponents to sustainable tree practices. Today Simpson's descendants – the Reed Family – own 1.37 million acres of land across the Northwest, making them the fifth-largest private landowners in the U.S. Much of this land is available for camping, hunting and day uses.



TOLLIE THE “SHAY”

Tollie (1924), a Simpson Logging locomotive is displayed on **Railroad Avenue** in Shelton.

Designed by Ephraim Shay the locomotive negotiated heavy grades and curves. The design included a flat car built on two trucks for four wheels each, an upright boiler with two vertical engines was fastened to the center of the car, and power was extended to the trucks through a flexible shaft. A barrel of water was placed at one end with firewood at the other. Interlocking shafts allowed the tender twist the most awkward turns. A Shay operated on lighter tracks and outran rod engines on curves. The Shay was so simply built that a blacksmith could mend it.

Excerpt from David A. James article, Mason County Historical Museum



Mason County Historical Society Museum

5th Street & Railroad Ave, Shelton | 360) 426-1020
Open to the public Tuesday through Saturday. **FREE**
masoncountyhistoricalsociety.org

The Simpson locomotive, “Tollie,” was placed in Shelton May 1, 1959, (Shay Day). It was joined by Caboose No.700; and a 1920's log car.*Mason County Historical Museum Photo*

Peninsular Railway & Lumberman's Museum

Shelton, WA | simpsonrailroad.org
An interactive exhibit museum preserving the Simpson Railroad. simpsonrailroad.org

The Peninsular Railway & Lumberman's Museum was established in 2017 to preserve the former Simpson Railroad, which ceased operations in 2015 and was **the last logging railroad operating in the United States.**

EVENTS

*Event dates subject to change.
For updates and full information visit
explorehoodcanal.com*



Fjordin Crossin
George Stenberg Photo

St Paddles Day (March, Union)

Open to paddlers: vendors, workshops, and races. alderbrookresort.com

Old Timers Fair (May, Matlock)

Fair celebrates timber heritage with historical displays, crafts, vendors, and music.

MotoAmerica (June, Shelton)

Televised superbikes featuring national racers. ridgemotorsportspark.com

Mason County Forest Festival

(June, Shelton)

Parade, carnival, car show, logging show, royalty. masoncountyforestfestival.com

Fjordin Crossin

(June, Hoodspott)

A barrel procession, paddle race, vendors, local activities fjordincrossin.com

Bluegrass from the Forest

(July, Shelton)

National bands, workshops, camping on site. bluegrassfromtheforest.com

Tahuya Day & Parade

(July, Tahuya)

Celebrate a quirky heritage flanked by a variety food, vendors, and live music.

4th of July Fireworks

(July, Union)

Fireworks display crowns this full weekend event at Alderbrook Resort.

Allyn Days (July, Allyn)

Salmon bake (Saturday), geoduck, amateur oyster shucking contest (Sunday), vendors, and live music all weekend.

Grapeview Water & Art Festival

(July, Grapeview)

Artists, crafts, fishing derby, music, and food. FREE grapeviewwa.com

Hood Canal Summerfest

(August, Belfair Park)

Antique and classic cars, music, wine-tasting, and vendors.



Hoodstock (August, Union)

Floating music festival. hoodstock.org

Historical Society Car Show (August, Shelton)

Antiques, classics, trucks and motorcycles. masoncountyhistoricalsociety.org

Water Sounds

(September, Shelton)

Traditional dinner and auction to benefit the Squaxin Island Museum and historical programs. squaxiniland.org



OysterFest (October, Shelton)

Food, wine, beer, music, exhibits and West Coast Oyster Shucking Championship. oysterfest.org

Pumpkin Fest (October, Union)

Hayrides, corn maze, and catapult contest.

Christmastown USA & Holiday Magic (December, Shelton)

Celebrate the heritage of Christmastown USA with parade, tree lighting, and events. In 2019 Mason County was awarded the Guinness World Record for most lit Christmas trees (797) in one location. christmastownwa.org





Beer, Wine & Spirit Tasting Rooms

Mason County is home to a variety of unique tasting rooms & restaurants focusing on Northwest craft creations. Here are a few spots to put on the list.

Wine Tastings

The Grotto – Hood Canale's Beer & Wine Bar

(360) 898-0300 | 6871 E SR 106, Union
hoodcanale.com

Built in 1922, one of the oldest buildings in Union. A worldwide wine variety. Wood fired pizza as well as 600+ wines.

Hoodsport Winery

(800) 580-9894 | 23501 US Hwy 101,
Hoodsport hoodsport.com

Traditional wines as well as variety of fruit wines. Tours and tasting daily.

Mosquito Fleet Winery

(360) 275-9100 | 21 NE Old Belfair Hwy,
Belfair mosquitofleetwinery.com

Award winning Bordeaux-styled wines.
Tours and tasting room open year round.

Stottle Winery Tasting Room

(360) 877-2247 | 24180 US Hwy 101,
Hoodsport stottlewinery.com
Award-winning, hand crafted wines.

Walter Dacon Wines

(360) 426-5913 | 50 SE Skookum Inlet Rd.,
Kamilche walterdaconwines.com
Handcrafted Rhone & Mediterranean style
blends. Tasting by appointment.

Distillery Tasting Room

The Hardware Distillery

(206) 300-0877 | 24210 N US Hwy 101,
Hoodsport hardwaredistillery.com
A variety of hand crafted spirits created on
site in their ambient tasting room.
Tasting room and shop.

Independent Vintage Cinemas

Head over to Shelton's hometown theater or experience outdoor tailgate nostalgia at either of the area drive-in movie theaters.

Shelton Cinemas

517 W. Franklin St. Shelton
360-426- 1000 | sheltoncinemas.com

Skyline Drive-In Theater

182 SE Brewer Rd, Shelton
(360) 426-4707 | skylinedrive-in.com

Rodeo Drive-In Theatre

7369 WA-3, Bremerton
(360) 698-6030 | rodeodrivein.com

Casinos

Little Creek Casino & Resort

(800) 667-7711 | 91 W SR-108, Kamilche
little-creek-casino.com

Lodging, pool, spa, dining, gaming, and entertainment. Championship golf course graces the hillside behind.

Lucky Dog Casino

(360) 877-5656
19330 N Hwy 101, Skokomish
theluckydogcasino.net

Games, entertainment, monthly and weekly promotions, as well as a full service restaurant – North Fork Bar & Grill.

Breweries

High Steel Beer @ Smoking Mo's

(360) 462-0163 | 233 S 1st St, Shelton
smokingmos.com

Potlach Brewing Co.

(360) 877-2391
24180 N US HWY 101, Hoodspport
potlatchbrewing.com

Local beer & wine

Hood Canale

(360) 898-0300
6871 E State Route 106, Union
hoodcanale.com

Canalside Gifts & Liquor

(360) 877-5252
24230 N US Highway 101, Hoodspport

Eldon Store

(360) 660-1082
36870 US-101, Lilliwaup

Fjord Oyster Bank Café

(360) 877-2102
24341 N US Hwy 101, Hoodspport

Hama Hama Oyster Co.

(360) 877-5811 | 35846 Hwy 101, Lilliwaup

Railroad Tap Station

(360) 868-2500 | 221 W Railroad Ave, Shelton

Shelton Liquor and Wine

(360) 427-2168 | 330 W Railroad Ave, Shelton

Union City Market

(360) 898-3500 | 5101 WA-106, Union

Wilde Irish Pub

(360) 868-2905 | 423 W Railroad Ave, Shelton

MUSEUMS

Mason County is one of the nation's important logging and shellfishing regions.

Long before the European settlers, the first people valued their relationship with plants and marine resources. This natural and cultural history are reflected in the thoughtful archiving at local museums.

*High Steel
Bridge*

Squaxin Island Tribe Museum Library & Research Center

150 SE KWUH-DEEGS-ALTXW, Kamiche
(360) 432-3839

Skokomish Tribal Museum

80 North Tribal Center Rd, Skokomish Nation
(360) 426-4232

Mason County Historical Museum

(360) 426-1020 | 427 W Railroad Ave, Shelton
Artifacts from timber, shellfish, farming, and early pioneers. Access to materials including photos, tapes, letters, diaries, and newspapers.

Matlock Museum

(360) 490-6036 | 3115 Matlock-Brady Rd, Elma
Open during events or by appointment.

Dalby Water Wheel

6940 WA-106, Union
Wheel was originally part of a cable car system in Seattle and was brought to the waterside town of Union by Ed and Ethel Dalby. The wheel generated enough electricity to power their home and several cabins until the 1940s.

Allyn Church

E. 18510 SR 3, Allyn | (360) 275-3568
Established in 1909, the Allyn Historic Church is Allyn's oldest building. The landmark's mission is to provide a meeting place for community groups, weddings, religious services, art shows, bazaars, and more.

McReavy House Museum

Constructed in 1890, this Victorian mansion sits atop a hill in Union overlooking the Hood Canal. Believed to be one of the earliest extant houses on the canal, it was home to John McReavy. McReavy prospered as the principal lumberman on Hood Canal from 1870-1893, served in the Territorial Legislature, and was a signer of Washington's Declaration of Statehood. McReavy played a key role in Union City's development and was engaged in the construction of the hotel, wharf, sawmill, store, Masonic Lodge and church.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Vance Creek Railriders

Pedal decommissioned Simpson Logging rail line for a scenic 12-mile work out.

As you pedal the multi-seat "railrider" along the track you will have the opportunity to see wildlife, old growth and new forests as well as diverse meadows teeming with wild flowers, moss, and ferns. You will pedal down across the winding Goldsborough Creek and return back up the gradual grade. This gentle, but vigorous ride is suitable for all ages. If you tire on the adventure there is a motorized railrider to give you a little extra push up the hills. The excursions run daily though the summer. The rail head is at 421 West Hanks Lake Road, nine miles west of Hwy 101 on the Shelton/Matlock Rd. **Reservations at (541) 519-4200 or online at vcrailriders.com**



Worth Noting!

Mason County Concerts

(360) 426-1842

masoncountymusic.org

Concerts feature all kinds of music including classical, folk and popular music.

Fair Harbor Marina

5050 E Grapeview Loop Rd, Grapeview

(360) 426-4028 | fairharbormarina.com

Waterfront setting perfect for weddings, receptions and private gatherings for up to 250 guests. Outdoor BBQ facilities, tables, chairs & tents staged on the green overlooking the marina.

Harmony Hill

7362 E SR 106, Union | harmonyhill.org

Retreat overlooks Hood Canal and the Olympic Mountains. Rooms and meeting spaces surrounded by gardens and walking trails. Open for events and meetings with groups from 10 to 125 with onsite lodging for up to 34.

St. Andrew's House

7550 E SR 106, Union

(360) 898-2362 | saintandrewshouse.org

A retreat and conference facility, providing a haven for individuals and groups for over 50 years. A nearly million dollar remodel in 1999 has put St. Andrew's House in a class by itself for non-profit retreat facilities of its size.

World-class golf courses

If you are looking for a challenging course or if you're a recreational golfer looking for an affordable game and a beautiful stroll, check out one of Mason County's destination golf courses.

Alderbrook Golf Course

330 E Country Club Dr, Union
(360) 898-2560 | alderbrookgolf.com
Par 72 course follows natural contours and views over Hood Canal. On site restaurant and Pro Shop.

Lake Cushman Golf Course

210 N Fairway Dr, Hoodspport
(360) 877-5505 | lakecushmangolfcourse.com
9-hole course with dual tees, open driving range, putting green and practice bunker.

Lake Limerick Golf Course

790 E St Andrews Dr, Shelton
(360) 426-6290 | lakelimerick.com
Gentle hills and sand make for a challenging round of golf on this 5864-yard course. Facilities include a Pro Shop and Café.

LakeLand Village Golf Course

200 E Old Ranch Rd, Allyn
(360) 275-6100 | lakelandliving.com
Numerous ponds, gaping bunkers and views of the Olympics and Mount Rainier. In addition to a restaurant, cafe and espresso bar, LakeLand Village has 27 holes of golf with three distinct nine-hole courses.

Salish Cliffs

(360) 462-3673 | salish-cliffs.com
91 SR 108, Kamilche
Par 72 plays 7,269 yards from the championship tees. GPS-enabled fleet, driving range, practice areas, restaurant and golf shop.

Disc Golf

The growing popularity of this frisbee throwing golf adaptation has been met enthusiastically by the Mason County Disc Association.

Shelton Springs Disc Golf (off of the Huff n' Puff Trail) has 8000' of fairway. The 18-hole course has dual tees and plays in and out of power lines. The course is predominated by trees that make every play a test.

Hoodspport Trail Park hosts the modest **Hoodspport Hills Disc Golf** course. There are 9-holes available on this hilly wooded course.

Olympic Disc Pro Shop

1306 Olympic Hwy S, Shelton
(360) 427-2822

Farmers Markets

Belfair Market

Saturdays 9 AM-2 PM

Open May through September.

Harstine Island Farmers Market

Saturdays 10 AM-2 PM

3371 E Harstine Is Rd, Harstine

Open Memorial Day weekend through the end of September.

Shelton Market

Saturdays 9AM-2PM

425 Cota St, Shelton

Open May - Sept.

sheltonfarmersmarket.org

Growers list adapted from the
Mason County WSU Farm Map
360-427-9670 | Shelton
mason.wsu.edu

Fresh Produce in Mason County:

FJORD OYSTER BANK Hoodsport | oysters and clams

HAMA HAMA OYSTERS Lilliwaup | farm store, oysters, live crab, clams as well as snacks

HUNTER FARMS Union | produce, plants, ice cream

UNION CITY MARKET Union | shellfish, produce, snacks

JAY'S FARMSTAND - Shelton | produce, dairy

TAYLOR SHELLFISH Kamilche | oysters, clams, mussels and other seafood items fresh & processed



Get Fresh

Farmers are a great source of information on all things local - where to eat, drink, and play during your stay. And if you have a kitchen during your travels then you have access fresh, local, seasonal food for your table. Farmers markets host artists and crafters where you can pick up a locally handmade souvenir of your trip.

Brewer's Tree Farm

2382 W Deegan Rd W, Shelton

360-339-3252

U-Cut Christmas tree fields.

Catalyst Park Garden

799 W Harvard Ave, Shelton

Mason County WSU Master Gardeners

Garden beds available to the community.

Gardening workshops. Volunteers on-site

Tues. 9AM to noon, April - October.



Davis Farm

(360) 275-4101 | 31 NE Davis Farm Rd, Belfair
Family farm: fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Farm at Water's Edge

(360) -275- 3575 | 600 NE Roessel Rd, Belfair
USDA-Certified Organic U-Pick and P-Patch.
pnwsalmoncenter.org

Hama Hama Oysters

(360) 877-5811 | 35846 Hwy 101, Lilliwaup
Working farm/store. hamahamaoysters.com

Hood Canal Snail Oyster Farm

6502 E. SR 106, Union | 253-350-9217
Family-run oyster farm on Hood Canal.

HOPE Garden Project

hopegardenproject.org
Bordeaux, Evergreen Elementary and Mason
General gardens. Contact for a tour.

Humble Stump Farm

(206) 713-3597 | Shelton Matlock Rd, Shelton
Vegetables and herbs. humblestumpfarm.com

Hungry Hollow Farm

2490 E. Pickering Rd, Shelton
hungryhollowfarm.com

Hunter Farms

(360) 898-2222 | E 1921 Hwy 106, Union
Hay, nursery, general store, ice cream, fall
festival and holiday trees. hunter-farms.com

Indigo Sun Farms

311 SE Mill Creek Rd., Shelton
Herbs, flowers, vegetables, fruits, and eggs.

Loertscher Farm

Katrinka.wellspring@gmail.com
U-Pick blueberry (July-Sept) apples (Sept-Oct)
U-cut Christmas trees (Nov-Dec).

Lynch Creek Dahlias

(360) 427-8145 | 880 SE Lynch Rd, Shelton
U-Cut dahlias, bouquets fresh daily. Aug - Oct.
Dawn to dusk. lynchcreekdahlias.com

Malaney Creek Farm

(360) 509-4499 | Spencer Lake Rd, Shelton
124 secluded acres for camping, dog walking,
foraging and more. malaneycreekfarm.com

Pint Size Posies

(253) 217-5330 | Hoodspport
Fresh flower bouquets, classes, weddings
pintsizeposies.com

Richert Farms

2631 W Skokomish Valley Rd, Shelton
Seasonal farm stand, family owned farm, fresh
veggies, and farm stand and veggie U-Pick.
richertfarmsofmasoncountywa.com

Ridge Creek Farms

(360)701-0728 | Binns Swiger Loop Rd, Shelton
Full care boarding facility. Year-round riding in
indoor arena. ridgecreekfarms.com

Skokomish Valley Farms

360-545-5970 | 10 N Sweetgrass Ln, Shelton
CSA, markets, online, and South Sound Fresh.
Farm walks. skokomishvalleyfarms.com

Skokomish Ridge Mushrooms

Shelton | 360-462-1123
Mushroom sales are direct to retailers

Shelton Valley Farm

(360) 870-1466 | W Deegan Rd, Shelton
Flowers for every occasion.

The Thicket on Hood Canal

(564) 200-2992 | Hoodspport
Fresh cut flower bouquets, weddings, flower
subscriptions, Dahlia tubers, thicketpnw.com



Boating

There are numerous fresh water lakes and salt water ramps accessing the southern portion of Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Fuel is limited, but launching ramps and pump out stations are available. Boating offers access to shellfish beaches, and seasonal fishing, crabbing and shrimping.

Rentals & Charters

MV TWANOH private charters

Shelton |(360) 490-8276
captainleegeist.com
42' wood Classic Grand Banks boat.

YSS Dive private charters

Hoodsport |(360) 877-2318
yssdive.com

Lady Alderbrook

Union |(360) 898 2200
alderbrookresort.com
The 54' MV Lady Alderbrook charter

SummerTide Resort & Marina

Tahuya |(360) 275-9313
summertideresort.com
Small boats for rental as well as boat launch available.

WATER ACCESS OVERVIEW

30 lowland lakes are stocked with trout.
List (coordinates) visit **wdfw.wa.gov**

Kokanee & Cushman – Swimming beaches and picnics. Access for canoes, kayaks, or tubes from parking.

Mason Lake & Lake Isabella
Access through county park/launch.

Nahwatzel Year-round fishing.
Shoreline access at boat launch.

Puget Sound – Access to Olympia, and Tacoma. Ramps at Allyn, Grapeview, Arcadia, Harstine, and Shelton.

Hood Canal – Fuel dock in Union, access at Belfair, Dewatto, Tahuya, Union, Triton, Potlatch, and Twanoh State Parks.

South Puget Sound Launches & Marinas

Allyn Dock & Park

(360) 275-2430 | portofallyn.com
Launch, moorage and a marine pump-out.
Gazebo, play area; dining/shops nearby.

Grapeview's Fair Harbor Marina

(360) 426-4028 | fairharbormarina.com
Fuel, moorage, store, restrooms.

Harstine Island's Jarrell Cove

(800) 362-8823 or (360) 426-8823
Moorage, pump-out, RV sites, laundry/
shower, picnic area, fuel, store, and beach.

Jarrell Cove State Park

Harstine Island | parks.wa.gov
Moorage, pump-out, camping, restrooms

Latimer's Landing on Pickering Passage

Hartstine Island
Adjacent to the Hartstine Island bridge.

Shelton Marina & Yacht Club

(360) 426-9476 | Shelton, WA
Moorage, launch, and emergency haul-outs.

Arcadia Point Boat Launch

Arcadia (near Shelton, WA)
The Squaxin Island Tribe owns launching site,
which is open to the public.

Hope Island State Park

parks.wa.gov
Buoys offer tie-ups for boat access to a 106-
acre marine camping park.

Hood Canal Launches & Marinas

Belfair's North Shore Dock & Launch

(360) 372-2408 | portofallyn.com
Launch ramp and dock one mile past
Belfair State Park. Marine pump-out.

Twanoh State Park

parks.wa.gov | Between Belfair & Union
Launch, moorage, campings, restrooms/
showers swimming, and picnic areas.

Alderbrook Resort & Spa

(360) 898-2200 | alderbrookresort.com
7101 E State Highway 106, Union WA
1500' dock with guest moorage. Dining,
golfing, and lodging at resort. Boat rentals
also available.

Hood Canal Marina in Union

(360) 898-2252 | hood-canal-marina.com
5101 E. Hwy 106, Union, WA

Rest-A-While Marina near Hoodspport

(360) 877-9122 | restawhile.com
27001 Highway 101 N., Hoodspport, WA
Sling boat launch, moorage, storage and
rentals. Camping, RV hook-ups and supplies.

Tahuya's SummerTide Resort & Marina

(360) 275-9313 | summertideresort.com
Lodging, RV space, boat rentals and supplies.
Seasonal dock moorage is available.



*Allyn
Case Inlet*



Paddling



Few places can match the stunning scenery and access of Mason County's waterways. Kayakers explore endless miles of saltwater shoreline, cruise Kokanee & Lake Cushman in the foothills of the Olympic Mountains, or glide with the gentle currents of the Skokomish and Tahuya Rivers.

Wet your paddle with these adventure ideas:

Explore **SKOKOMISH RIVER**, using public put-in on Sunnyside Rd.

Launch at Shelton Marina or Walker Park and paddle **HAMMERSLEY INLET** to **HOPE ISLAND**. Ride the tide back. There is a current in this passage that is great to use to your advantage. Hope Is. can be reached with a short paddle from **ARCADIA POINT** launch. Hope Island has sandy beaches for easy landing and trails to explore.

Paddle **SKOKOMISH** near Union, explore the shores of **HOOD CANAL** or explore any of the lakes. **LAKE KOKANEE** (Lower Lake Cushman) is a popular lake destination.

An interesting two-hour paddle starts at the boat launch at **LAKE ISABELLA**. At the far end of the lake, enter **MILL CREEK** through a patch of water lily pads. Glide through the willows for half a mile before the stream begins to drop and becomes too shallow to navigate.

Local Kayak Rentals

Alderbrook Waterfront Center (Union)

(360) 898-2252 | alderbrookresort.com
Kayaks, SUPs, and motorized boats.

Hood Canal Adventures (Brinnon)

(360) 301-6310 | hoodcanaladventures.com
Kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, and crab pots. **Delivery available.**

Hood Canal Events (Union)

(360) 710-7452 | hoodcanalevents.com
Experience packages including kayaks.

Hoodsport Kayak (Hoodsport)

(360) 970-0213 | Kayak and pedal boat rentals with drop off at Lake Kokanee

North Shore Hood Canal Kayaks

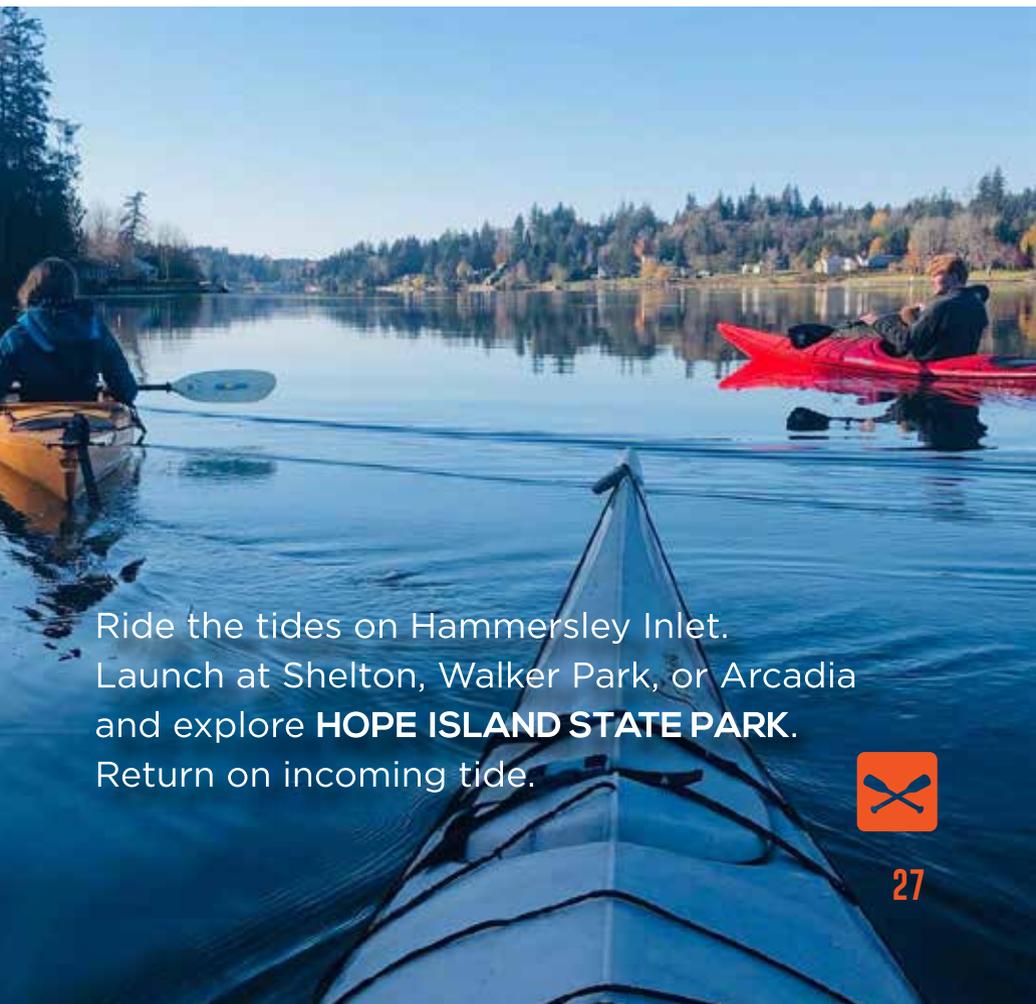
(360) 473-9289 | hoodcanalkayaks.com
4790 Northeast North Shore Rd, Belfair

Summertide Resort & Marina (360)

275-9313 | summertideresort.com
15781 NE Northshore Road, Tahuya
Boat and kayak rentals as well as a boat launch and parking for boat trailers.

Whitewater on area rivers

The rivers of Olympic Peninsula are renown for their great beauty as well as their technically difficult white water rafting and kayaking routes. Placed high in the wilderness of the Olympics, the rivers that drain into Hood Canal are wild, steep and undeveloped. **Many are Class IV - V rapids and are not to be attempted by the novice paddler.** For information on white water sites in the area, **americanwhitewater.org** to view classifications /descriptions. Gary Korb's, **A Paddlers Guide to the Olympic Peninsula** (1997), is also an invaluable resource before attempting these rivers.



Ride the tides on Hammersley Inlet.
Launch at Shelton, Walker Park, or Arcadia
and explore **HOPE ISLAND STATE PARK**.
Return on incoming tide.





Scuba Diving

Hood Canal is a SCUBA diver's dream known for its gentle currents and curious rock formations. Divers from all over the world visit for a chance to mingle with giant Pacific octopuses, wolf eels, ancient rockfish, and plumose anemones. Preserves at Octopus Hole and Sund Rock ensure that this proliferation of life will be around for years to come.

Popular Hood Canal Dive Sites

1. FLAG POLE POINT

Outside of Lilliwaup is a dive site comfortably accessed by boat (but you can free swim to it also). Dubbed "the knuckle," this dive site consists of a series of rock formations, rising like a mini range of mountains from the ocean floor. Since this formation is farther out and more exposed to currents, this site usually has excellent visibility and there are lots to see. Ling cod lay eggs at this protected site, and there are resident wolf eel and octopus populations.

2. POTLATCH PARK

While diving at Potlatch is less dramatic than other sites in the area, this is a great place to start out. This shore diving spot is easy to get to, has showers to wash off gear.

3. OCTOPUS HOLE

Although parking is limited, this popular wall site is easy to access from shore. Bring a flashlight, there are plenty of octopuses and wolf eels. Protected site, no harvesting or disturbing the inhabitants.

4. SUND ROCK MARINE PRESERVE

Site open for drop in diving weekends from 8:30-5 PM. Entry is \$15 per person. Visit sundrock.com and fill out a request for a day and time to dive. From the beach swim through eelgrass filled with perch and other sea life. You are greeted by wolf eels, octopus, and giant cod.

5. TWANOH STATE PARK

Full service park has a gentle current, giving divers the freedom to dive whenever— independent of slack tides. A large eelgrass bed filled with fish, such as tube-snouts, black eye gobies and sticklebacks. After 40' depth find tube-dwelling anemones. These anemones feed with their long graceful tentacles.

Scuba lessons, air, & sales/rentals

YSS Dive Sales & Charters

(360) 877-2318 | 24080 Hwy 101, Hoodspout
Open daily, charters & lessons, yssdive.com

Scuba Diver Lodging:

Glen Ayr Waterfront Resort

25381 Hwy 101, Hoodspout | (360) 877-9522
Private dock with moorage. garesort.com

Mike's Beach Resort

38470 Hwy 101, Lilliwaup | (360) 877-5324
Private dock/ beach access to sites. Dorm facilities available for large groups. mikesbeachresort.com

Sunrise Resort and Motel

24520 Hwy 101, Hoodspout | (360) 877-5301

Adrenaline Sports

Looking for extreme adventure? Here's some local examples of adrenaline sports in Mason County.

Climbing

Mason County is home to nearly forty mountain summits and peaks accessible to a variety of itineraries and skill levels. Guides and organized tours are available. Unlike the solid granite in the Cascades and other destinations, Olympic formations are shale, sandstone, soft basalt or pillow lava and pose unique challenges for climbers.

For More Information

The Wilderness Information Center (WIC) can provide planning assistance, safety information, weather forecasts, protection tips and permits. For trail and other information, check nps.gov/olymp. For road conditions call (360) 565-3131.

Permit/Information Offices:

Wilderness Information Center

600 East Park Ave, Port Angeles
(360) 565-3100 | olymp_wic@nps.gov

Staircase Ranger Station

(360) 877-5569 | nps.gov



Skydiving

Feel the freefall rush, experiencing the roaring wind and spectacular landscapes below. Kapowsin Air Sports is a certified skydiving center located in Shelton.

Kapowsin Air Sports

(360) 432-8000 | skydivekapowsin.com
141 W Airview Way, Shelton

Motorsports

Whether you prefer the thrill of watching motorists rip around one of the Northwest's most famous racing tracks or feeling the wind in your own hair as you navigate 23,000 acres of working forest networked by extensive and winding trails, Hood Canal has something for every adrenaline junkie.

The Ridge Motorsports Park

(360) 427-7223 | ridgemotorsportspark.com
1060 W Eells Hill Rd, Shelton
The Ridge annually hosts MotoAmerica along with numerous club racing.

The Ridge Karting Grand Prix

A 1/5th version of the Ridge Motorsports Park road course. The kart track is 26 feet wide and is 6/10th of a mile long. Our rental karts are 9 HP Sodi GT5 karts with gearing tuned to this challenging racecourse.

DNR Tahuya State Forest Trail System

A 23,000-acre working forest with a network of ORV trails that are also used by hikers, fishermen, bicycles, and hunters. DNR: (360) 825-1631.

Mission Creek Trailhead

Access to single and two-track trunk trails, including Mission Creek, Stoffer Trail, and Tahuya River Trail. **Directions:** SR-300 3.5 miles. Right on Belfair-Tahuya Road, 1.1 mile.

Elfendahl Pass Staging Area

A main trail access point to miles of trail for recreationists. **Directions:** SR-300 (3.5 miles). Right on Belfair Tahuya Rd, (1.9); right Elfendahl Pass Rd (2.3).

Kammenga Canyon

Primarily motorized, rustic camp near the Tahuya River and the Tahuya River Trail. **Directions:** Elfendahl Pass Staging Area, north on Elfendahl Pass Rd (.6), Left, (.1).

4x4 Trailhead

Trailhead provides access to the only exclusively 4x4-designated trailhead in Tahuya State Forest. The trail follows 7 miles of 4x4 obstacles. **Directions:** SR-300 (3.5). Right on Belfair-Tahuya Rd. (1.9). Right on Elfendahl Pass Rd, (2.3).

Camp Spilman

This year-round recreation site offers access to more than 200 miles of multi-use, deep-wooded trails. **Directions:** SR-300, (3.5). Right on Belfair-Tahuya Rd (1.9 miles). Right on Elfendahl Pass Rd (2.6). Left on Goat Ranch Rd. (.7).

Sand Hill

A popular take-off point for exploring trail systems in the eastern half of Tahuya State Forest. **Directions:** West on SR-3. Turn right on Sandhill Rd north 2.8 miles. Trailhead is on your left north of Sand Hill Pit.

Twin Lakes

Picnics, boating, fishing, swimming and viewing near a forested lake. **Directions:** From the Belfair-Tahuya Rd go past Elfendahl Pass Rd. Turn right on Haven Way at the "Y." Go about .8 miles, turn right on Bennettson Lake Rd. Turn right at the "T" on the Twin Lakes Road. Turn left to lake access.

Map & info: dnr.wa.gov

SHARE THE ROADS & TRAILS, AND BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

Watch out for heavy truck traffic on forest roads. Always yield to these vehicles.

Enjoy Your Visit!

When a horse is nearby, dismount bike, and stand off the trail, downhill if possible.

YIELD

- Horses always have the right-of-way.
- Hikers yield to horses.
- Bicycles yield to hikers, horses.
- Motorized traffic yields to all non-motorized traffic.
- In general, downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic.

EVERYBODY YIELDS TO (Horse)

BICYCLES YIELD TO (Hiker)

MOTORIZED TRAFFIC YIELDS TO (Bicyclist)

1 2 3 4

dnr.wa.gov/recreation

YIELD PRIORITY



Mountain Biking

The long distance cyclist, adventurer seeking downhill biker, or a family looking for a fun outing, a circumnavigation of the Hood Canal will uncover many local favorites.

#1. SOUTH FORK SKOKOMISH

The **South Fork Skokomish Trail** wanders through old-growth forest as it crosses the river and streams along the way while climbing gently for the first two miles. Beyond that, it continues up at a steep grade as the trail rises above the river valley. Another five miles, the trail ends at the Olympic National Park boundary.

Lower South Fork Skokomish Trail heads nine miles in the opposite direction. This section tends to be less maintained but if you're up for an adventure it's worth the challenge. The trail takes you through more Olympic National Forest old-growth. A mile in from the northern trail entrance, it fords a river that can only safely be crossed between August and early October. Despite the challenge of fallen trees, this section of South Fork Skokomish Trail has far less elevation to contend with than the upper and it can be shuttled as it has parking at both ends.

Skokomish Coordinates:

47.4190, -123.3297

From Shelton north on Hwy101 6 miles, west on Skokomish Valley Rd. 5.3 miles, right on FS #23, 9 miles to FS Rd #2353. Right on FS #2353 and drive 3/4 mile. Left, 3/4 mile to the #120 spur.

#2. WEST SHELTON

Nine miles of cross-country trails accessed from the heart of Shelton. Nearly all the trails are rated green and while there are a few punchy climbs, there is no sustained elevation for beginner riders to worry about. Flowy trails like "Au Natural," "She's a Pitch," "Single Track," and "Tie In," tend to have flowy sections, pitchy climbs, and some gentle flats. A few, especially the aptly named "Sometimes a River," can turn into small streams after a good rain but generally, this area makes for great year-round riding.

Directions: Exit Hwy 101 North at Wallace Kneeland exit Shelton. Head south on Old Olympic Hwy N. Turn right on C street Dr to end of street parking at the yellow gate. To view this network, visit trailforks.com/region/shelton

Popular Biking Loops

Harstine Island | 9.4 miles

Mason Lake | 24 miles

Skokomish Valley Rd | 11 miles

Grapeview Loop | 7.8 miles

#3. GREEN MOUNTAIN

A 22 mile network of multi use trails with a couple of advanced downhill routes. There are two trailheads, Gold Creek and Wildcat, both lead to the Vista Summit and fun descents. Climbing up the rocky and loose Wildcat Trail will give you a challenging 1100' of gain in 4.5 miles and deliver stunning views of Bremerton and Seattle. On clear days, riders are treated to Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams too. While the trails here are primarily cross-country, there is quite a bit of variety to be had. Wildcat Trail from the summit is loose and fast with flowy berms and plenty of tech available. For those looking for a long and more challenging climb on an out-and-back that delivers a speedy descent on the return, Gold Creek Trail would be the best choice. But with the same elevation gain of 1100', this time in just over 2 miles, riders need to make sure their legs are ready for the challenge.

#5. LOWER BIG QUILCENE

Intermediate 6.2 miles of lowland forested trail offers a scenic pedal along the Big Quilcene River. Lush moss lines an old roadbed through a young forest before winding through massive old-growth cedars. Rhododendrons add bursts of color to the forest greens in spring and summer. For anyone looking for a bike-packing adventure, there is an established campsite just under 3 miles from the trailhead right on the banks of the river. The trailhead has parking for approximately 5-7 vehicles, along with a pit toilet, a garbage can, and picnic tables. There are even a few unofficial tent sites and a rock-lined campfire ring for those interested in camping at the trailhead. Land Manager: USFS - Hood Canal Ranger District.

#6. Ranger Hole Trail #824

This trail shares a trailhead with the accessible interpretive Interrorem Trail #804 which forms a loop. Ranger Hole Trail leads 0.8 miles down to the Duckabush River and the historic fishing spot of the first ranger stationed at Interrorem Cabin. This trail goes through an area of large second growth timber, and then drops steeply to the loudly sounding river below. The trail follows the river for a short way to a bluff that overlooks a deep pool. Above the pool the water churns in white rapids as it rushes through a narrow rock passage, cascading down to the "Ranger Hole," so named because Forest Rangers who used to live at Interrorem Cabin fished there.

TRAILHEAD Co-ordinates:

47.5517, -122.8266

Tahuya Peninsula - Holly Rd to left turn @ Lake Tahuya Rd; 1.25 miles, turn left @ Gold Creek Rd. Follow for 2 miles to trailhead and large parking lot on left. Restrooms available, Discover Pass.

TRAILHEAD Co-ordinates:

47.7835, -122.9651

Hwy 101 -- left on Penny Creek Rd, left on Big Quilcene River Rd/NF-27, Big Quilcene Rd/NF-2812, slight right and becomes NF-27, keep right to stay on NF-27, continue straight on National NF-011, destination on left.

TRAILHEAD Directions:

From Hoodspout travel 101 north for 22 miles to the Duckabush Recreation Area. Turn west on Duckabush River Rd.; 4 miles to end of pavement. Interrorem Cabin and Ranger Hole are on the left.

Mason County Transit is Bicycle Friendly!

Convenient, secure and easy-to-use, bicycle racks are great when conditions worsen or visibility lessens. masontransit.org



Campgrounds around Mason County

Allynview RV Park

18289 SR 3, Allyn | (360) 275-3120
Located minutes from Allyn, all RV parking spots enjoy views of Case Inlet.

Belfair State Park

3151 WA SR 300, Belfair | (360) 275-0668
A 65-acre, year-round camping park on 3,720 feet of saltwater shoreline at the southern end of Hood Canal. Saltwater tide flats, wetlands, and areas for walking and saltwater swimming.

Big Creek Campground

USFS Rd 24, Hoodsport | (360) 765-2200
Campsites accommodate tents, trailers, and RVs and are spaced for privacy in a second-growth forested area. Lake Cushman and Staircase entrance to Olympic National Park are nearby.

Brown Creek Campground

USFS Rd 2340, Shelton | (360) 765-2200
Along the shore of the South Fork Skokomish River at the confluence with Brown Creek. 20 campsites: twelve accommodate trailers and RVs; eight of the sites are suitable for tents.

Collins Campground

USFS Rd 2510, Hoodsport | (360) 765-2200
Located along the shore of the Duckabush River. Several of the campsites are near the river. There are 16 campsites, 10 that will accommodate tents, trailers, and RVs.

Dewatto River Campground

1001 Dewatto-Holly Road, Dewatto
Drive or walk the Dewatto River 3/4-mile to the beach on Dewatto Bay. Camping, hiking, fishing, shellfish. Electricity is available for 37 campsites; maintained toilets; covered kitchen area. No water, sewage dump, or garbage facilities.

Dow Creek RV Resort

2670 Lake Cushman Rd, Hoodsport
(360) 877-5022
Access to Lake Cushman. Open year round. RV and tent camping, showers and laundry on-site.

Glen Ayr Waterfront Resort

25381 Hwy 101, Hoodsport | (360) 877-9522
Marina and views of Hood Canal from decks and guest room. Waterfront RV park and boat moorage. Swim spa hot tub, game room, and recreation lodge. Pets welcome in select rooms.

Hamma Hamma Campground

River Rd/USFS Rd 25, Hoodsport
(360) 902-8500
5 campsites will accommodate tents, trailers, and RV's up to 21' in length. Tables, fire rings, paved road, vault toilets and trails available.

Hope Island

Near Arcadia Point, Shelton
106-acre marine camping park reachable only by boat. Old-growth forests and saltwater marshes, beaches, and trails. parks.state.wa.us

Jarrel Cove State Park

391 Wingert Rd, Harstine Is | (360) 426-9226
22 tent spaces, restroom/shower. Maximum length is 34-feet (limited).

Lebar Horse Camp

USFS Rd 2353, Skokomish | (360) 765-2200
Campsites reserved for campers with stock. Vault toilet and picnic shelter.

Lena Creek Campground

USFS Rd 25, Hoodspout | (360) 902-8500
Potable water and a vault toilet are provided.

Lena Lake Campground

USFS Rd 25, Hoodspout | (360) 902-8500
Heavily used campground accessed by hiking 3.5 miles on Lena Lake Trail #810. The camp is at 1,800 feet elevation. Pit toilets on the west and north shores. Pack out trash, camp in developed sites, and respect other visitors.

Lucky Dog Casino

19330 Hwy 101, Skokomish | (360) 877-5656
RV Sites located behind casino. 50 AMP/water hookup.

Potlatch State Park

21020 Hwy 101, Shelton | (360) 902-8844
38 tent spaces, 35 utility spaces, 2 primitive sites; dump, restrooms/showers in the camp.

Rest-A-While RV Park

27001 Hwy 101, Hoodspout | (360) 877-9474
Waterfront and wooded RV sites, marina, RV supplies, group facilities.

Schafer State Park

1365 W Schafer Park Rd, Elma
119-acre camping park on the Satsop River, midway between Olympia and Ocean Park. Abundant fishing for steelhead, cutthroat trout, and salmon on the Satsop River. 41 tent spaces, dump station, and restroom with showers.

Seal Rock State Campground

Hwy 101, Brinnon | (360) 902-850
National forest campground located on salt water with oysters for public use. 41 tent/RV sites spaced among the trees with several along the waterfront. There are no hookups.

Skokomish Park at Cushman

7211 Lake Cushman Rd, Hoodspout
Over 500 acres with 3 boat-launch ramps on Lake Cushman.

Spencer Lake RV Park

1111 E Pickering Rd, Shelton | (360) 426-3178
Over 275 feet of lake frontage with a boat ramp, boat and seaplane docking, 40 RV sites with hookups, laundromat, and restaurant.

Staircase Campground | ONP

SR 119, Hoodspout | (360) 565-3130
Open year round. Flush toilets and potable water late May- late September.

Summertide RV Resort

15781 Northshore Rd, Tahuya | (360) 275-931
Grocery and boat rentals, RV hookups – water, power, septic, garbage.

Twanoh State Park

12190 SR 106, Union | (360) 275-2222
25 tent spaces, 22 full hookup spaces, two restrooms, and one shower. Beach access. trails.

Tahuya Adventure Resort

Tahuya State Forest | 800-296-6421
Luxury tents, RV sites, and dry camping. Outdoor kitchen available. tahuyaresort.com

Waterfront at Potlatch

21660 Hwy 101, Potlatch | (360) 877-9422
BBQ/picnic area, laundry and ice, 450 feet on Hood Canal. Full hook-ups, cable TV, and internet. skokomishtourism.com/waterfront

Dispersed Camping

Campers can stay in the Olympic National Forest outside of a designated campground (not posted as closed). Choose a campsite on bare or compacted soil when possible, or areas that have already been established. Avoid alpine meadows. Campers are subject to the following restrictions:

- Do not blaze new roads or harm vegetation.
- Do not drive beyond barriers, such as gates.
- Do not drive through streams/wetlands.
- Use precautions when building campfires.
- Pack out trash and dispose of all waste properly.

Parks

One of the last unexplored wildernesses in the lower United States, the Olympics remained unmapped until 1890. Here is an overview of the many open public spaces available to explore in Mason County.

Mason County Parks

Belfair/ Tahuya/ Allyn

SANDHILL COUNTY PARK

1000 NE Sand Hill Rd, Belfair
30 acre multi-use park with multiple baseball fields, reservations required for ball field use.

WILLIAM O. HUNTER PARK

Clifton Lane and Old Belfair Hwy, Belfair
Small year-round community park with picnic tables, benches and transit connection.

WATSON WILDWOOD VIEW PARK

Watson Lane, Belfair
Year round open space 36 acre park. Allyn, turn onto North Bay Rd toward Victor, turn left onto E Victor Rd to Corbin Rd, turn left onto Corbin Rd.

HARVEY RENDSLAND

10991 NE Belfair Tahuya Rd, Tahuya
Year-around 8 acre undeveloped park available for hiking, open space, and access to Jiggs Lake.

MASON COUNTY PARK:

360-427-9670 ext. 535

masoncountywa.gov

MENARD'S LANDING

18931 NE North Shore Rd, Tahuya
Year-round half acre park with covered gazebo, picnic areas and boat launch for small watercraft. Limited parking on left side of road, additional parking in dirt lot on right. Next to Rendsland Creek shellfish beach.

COULTER CREEK PICNIC AREA

North Bay Road and SR 302, Belfair
Year round, water access, toilets and parking.

Matlock

TRUMAN GLICK COUNTY PARK

1291 W Ford Rd, Matlock
35+ acre park features shelter, barbecue grills, vault toilets, nature trails and an arch bridge over Decker Creek. Reunions, picnics, weddings, and receptions.

Shelton

SUNSET BLUFF PARK

End of E Sunset Rd, Shelton
Year round 35 acre undeveloped natural open space provides water access to Oakland Bay

WALKER COUNTY PARK

2400 SE Walker Park Rd, Shelton
Playground, shelters, access to Hammersley Inlet and part of the Cascadia Marine Trail. No shellfish harvest.

PHILLIPS LAKE COUNTY PARK

50 E Phillips Lake Loop Rd, Shelton
Small park with day use picnic area located adjacent to State of Washington boat launch with vault toilets.

MASON COUNTY SKATE PARK

110 Wallace Kneeland Boulevard, Shelton
Half acre recreation park features portable toilet, skate board ramps, and picnic tables.

MASON COUNTY RECREATION AREA

2100 E Johns Prairie Rd, Shelton
40 acre park is open year-round, Reservations required for ball field use. (360) 427-7755

OAKLAND BAY HISTORICAL PARK

1570 E Agate Bay Rd, Shelton
Year round 81+ acre open space park with trails, vault toilets, and access to Malaney Creek and Oakland Bay. Site of Malaney Historical Homestead. NO PETS.

LATIMER'S LANDING BOAT LAUNCH

51 E Harstine Bridge Rd, Shelton
Year Round small park with beach access, portable toilets, picnic areas and boat launch area to Pickering Passage, Case Inlet and Puget Sound.

LATIMER'S LANDING PARK

3291 Pickering Rd, Shelton
Year-round 2+ acre park with picnic areas, beach, and portable toilet. Boat launch parking.

JACOBY (SHORECREST) PARK

120 E Shorecrest Parkway, Shelton
Picnic area and access to Hammersley Inlet and small boat launch. No shellfish harvest.

Grapeview

MASON LAKE COUNTY PARK

6011 E Mason Lake Drive West, Grapeview
Boat Launch is open all year at this 17+ acrea recreation area featuring restrooms, picnic areas and forests. Parking for vehicle with trailer.

Hoodsport

FOOTHILLS PARK

241 N Foothills Park Rd, Hoodsport
80 acre park with children's play area, open field, and restrooms. Good site for picnic and field games. Reservations recommended.

Union

UNION COUNTY PARK

61 E Port Townsend St, Union
Park (1.92 acres) hosts small shelter with restrooms, day use picnic area, children's play area, one small baseball/softball field, small two-hoop basketball court, and is a good site for picnics, birthday parties, and reunions.

UNION COUNTY BOAT LAUNCH

5093 E SR 106, Union
Year round launch near Hood Canal Marina provides access to Hood Canal and is ideal to launch kayaks for access to Skokomish River and Hood Canal. No launch parking.



State Parks

BELFAIR (Hood Canal 's North Shore)

3151 NE SR 300, Belfair

Grassy lawns, streams and access to Hood Canal make this park perfect for family outings. Picnic areas, playground, swimming acces, cabins, tent and RV sites. Mountain bikers and ORV enthusiasts use park as a base camp while riding the nearby Tahuya State Forest trails.

HOPE ISLAND (Near Arcadia Point)

106-acre marine camping park reachable only by boat. Historic buildings, orchard, deer, old-growth forests and saltwater marshes, beaches, and over two miles of trails. The island can be accessed by kayak from Arcadia Boat Launch. The park offers camping and moorage.

JARRELL COVE (South of Allyn)

91 E. Wingert Rd, Shelton

43-acre marine camping park on Harstine Island. Densely forested with short trails and easy access to South Puget Sound, offers excellent boating opportunities. Tent and trailer sites are available near the 650- foot dock, or visitors may camp on the rolling grass. Nearby islands and "boat only" parks.

PLANNING A TRIP TO A STATE PARK?

Reserve a campsite, yurt, cabin, rustic structure, vacation house, group camp or group day-use facility at many Washington state parks. Drop-in visitors are welcome if space is available. Book online at washington.goingtocamp.com, or call (888) CAMPOUT or (888) -226-7688).

Discover Pass

A Discover Pass is required when visiting WA State Parks, and areas managed by WA State Fish & Wildlife .

DISCOVER PASS FEES

Annual – \$30 (\$35 with fees if purchased at a license vendor, by phone or online).

Day-use – \$10 (\$11.50 with fees)

Annual permit is transferable between two vehicles. No pass needed to access lands by boat or by foot, horse, bicycle, etc. If you just drive through state lands managed by DNR and WDFW and do not leave your vehicle, you do not need a pass. You also have a 15 minute grace period to stretch legs or use facilities.

POTLATCH (South of Hoodspport)

Hwy 101, Potlach

Enjoy camping, picnic areas, and shellfish-rich shoreline at Potlatch. Nearby recreation includes kayaking, birding, fishing, shellfish gathering.

SCHAFER (Near Matlock)

W.Shafer State Park Rd, Elma

Fishing, wading, and swimming in the shallow Satsop River. Plenty of shaded camping spots make this a favorite for overnight visits.

TWANOH (between Union & Belfair)

12190 E. SR 106, Union

Home to the warmest swimming beach on Hood Canal. Busy public boat launch, RV/ tent campsites, trail network, shelters, and restrooms.



Olympic National Park Staircase Entrance

6 Day Hikes Around Staircase

1. Staircase Rapids Loop: Easy 2-mile trail winds through old growth forest to a bridge over the North Fork Skokomish River, 200' elevation gain. Spur trail leads to a huge fallen cedar. The 0.6 miles to the Big Cedar, and the 0.5 mile to river viewpoint are accessible with assistance.

2. Four Stream: Pass Staircase Rapids Bridge on southwest side of river and hike 1.2 miles to Beaver Flat, a swampy section of red alder and red cedar forest. Elevation loss 100'.

3. Wagonwheel Lake: 2.9 mile s, with an elevation gain of 3,365'. Strenuous hike up forested slopes, with mountain views.

4. Shady Lane: Flat 0.9 mile to Four Stream Road and Lake Cushman.

5. Flapjack Lakes: 7.8-mile one-way hike with a 3,115' elevation gain; a day hike only for very strong hikers.

6. North Fork Skokomish River: Dayhikers can walk the valley part of this 15.1-mile trail that leads eventually to the Duckabush River.

How Staircase Got Its Name

You will see no staircase at Staircase today. In 1890, when **Lt. O'Neil** and his crew blazed through the Skokomish wilderness, the rock bluff across the river was a major obstacle. To get over they built a cedar staircase. Until 1911, the Devil's Staircase was the only path over the bluff. The name, and O'Neil's legacy, remains.

Staircase Ranger Station: open in summer when staffing allows, with information, exhibits, wilderness permits, bear canisters, map sales and wheelchair available. Stock corral, trails and restroom and picnic area nearby. Call (360) 565-3131 for status during inclement weather.

Camping: 49 sites, picnic tables, fire rings, restrooms, potable water, animal-proof food lockers. Pit toilets and no water or trash collection mid-fall into May. May be walk-in in winter.

Visit [nps.gov/olymp](https://www.nps.gov/olymp) for permits and reservations.

Olympic Park & Forest: *What's the difference?*

The National Forest system is based on multiple uses (including, logging, grazing, recreation, preservation) while the National Parks are only for recreation and preservation. There is overlap but the missions are different. The Parks are generally more scenic and with far more restrictions on use. Forests often have multiple use - more roads, timber harvest, cattle grazing, hunting and fishing and other public uses such as tree/mushroom/berry picking etc.

National Park Passes recreation.gov

Vehicle access into the Olympic National Park within the Hood Canal area is at Staircase. Located at the far end of Lake Cushman accessed via Hwy 119 from Hoodport, there are a variety of pass options to enter:

- Olympic National Park Annual Pass \$55 - 12 month vehicle pass for the ONP only.
- Vehicle Pass \$30 - 1 vehicle/7 days
- Motorcycle \$25 - motorcycle and driver for 7 consecutive days
- Person Pass \$15 - One person on foot or bike for 7 (kids 15 and under free)
- Wilderness Camping Permit - \$8/person per night plus \$6/permit fee (15/under free)

Passes to enter ONP are sold at Staircase Ranger Station. Other areas of the Olympic National Park may be accessed by foot via a number of trailheads beginning in the National Forest. No fee is required to walk into the Park for day use.

America The Beautiful Annual \$80

This pass covers federal lands such as National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and BLM areas throughout USA. Use for ONP trails requiring a NW Forest Pass.

Overview courtesy of
hoodcanaladventures.com

Northwest Forest Pass

Required at U.S. Forest Service (USFS) trailheads in Washington that offer facilities such as restrooms, pit toilets and picnic tables. Annual pass costs \$30 and day passes are offered at \$5. Purchase a NW Forest Pass at Hood Canal Adventures (Brinnon); USFS Ranger Station (Quilcene); Eldon Store, Hoodport Visitor Center (Hoodport); and N Mason Visitor Center (Belfair). fs.usda.gov.

The following local trailheads require NW Forest or America The Beautiful:

- Big Creek 4 Mile Trail (Lake Cushman)
- Mt. Ellinor, Upper (Lake Cushman)
- Big Quilcene (Quilcene)
- Skokomish Lower South Fork
- Lena Lake / Brothers (Hamma Hamma)
- Mildred Lakes (Hamma Hamma)
- Duckabush Trail (Duckabush Rec)
- Ranger Hole (Duckabush Rec. Olympic





Mason County Popular Trails

Exceptional trails lace the Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest wilderness. There are also lowland recreation areas available throughout Mason County. Below are a few highlighted trails.

24 POPULAR WALKS AND TRAILS

#1. Huff n Puff Trail

3600 Shelton Springs Rd, Shelton
Length: 1.5 miles; easy, flat forest well maintained trails; Parking available 🐕. NO FEE

#2. Goldsborough Creek Trail

Length: 1 mile; easy, dirt trail features concrete fish ladder, educational kiosk, covered shelter, and railroad trestle spanning creek. Shelton-Matlock Exit from Hwy 101. Back of dealership, near power lines/🐕. NO FEE

#3. 6th Avenue Park

Length: .5 miles; easy, trail. Waterfall with pond.
Directions: Parking at end of Sixth St, beyond Laurel. Falls visible from street 🐕. NO FEE

#4. Isabella Lake State Park

Length: 2.5 mile loops; meadows, restroom, picnic table and trails. **Directions:** Exit Hwy 101 at Hwy 3, south on Golden Pheasant Rd, right Delight Park Rd. Discover Pass 🐕

#5. Kennedy Creek Trail

Half mile flat trail follows creek with platforms and bridges. **Directions:** Northbound, turn west on Old Olympic HWY just before milepost 357. Southbound turn west on Old Olympic HWY at milepost 356, go 3/4 mile to the salmon trail entrance road. NO FEE 🐕

#6. Schafer State Park Trail

1365 West Schafer Park Rd, Elma
Length: 1 mile loop, easy to moderate riverside trail loops back along hillside. Interpretive center, camping, picnic, swimming, fishing. 🐕

#7. Jarrell Cove Trail

Length: 1 mile, easy, forest trail with beach access. Trail follows park boundary, circles campground 🐕. NO FEE

#8. Harstine Island Trail

Length: 1.5 roundtrip, easy, forest, ravine, and beach. 300+ acres, great family 🐕 hike. NO FEE

#9. Spider Lake Loop

Length: varies; easy, level trail through old growth forest. **Directions:** Hwy 101 to the Skokomish Valley Rd. West on the Valley Rd, 5.5 miles to junction with FS Rd #23. Turn right, 10 miles on FS Rd #23 to junction of FS Rd #2353. Left and continue on FS Rd #23, 8 miles to the trailhead.

#10. Theler Wildlife Refuge

22871 NE State Route 3, Belfair, WA
Length: 3.5 miles, easy. Tidal estuary marsh, riparian zone, farm & forested wetland. Wide, well-groomed trails pass grassy marshland beside the Union River where it meets Hood Canal. Views, birds and wildlife on accessible trail. No Dogs (dog park nearby) NO FEE



Quilcene

Buckhorn Wilderness

Olympic National Park

Mount Skokomish Wilderness

The Brothers Wilderness

Lake Cushman

Hoodport

Union

Shelton

Olympia

Tacoma

Gig Harbor

Belfair

Bremerton

PUGET SOUND

Harstine Island

41



Hoodsport Trail Nurse Stump

As they decay, the tops of the stumps are also moist, fertile ground for seedlings that eventually grow into substantial shrubs or trees. These stumps that provide nourishment are sometimes called "nurse stumps."

#11. Hoodsport Trail

Length: 1.5 mile easy loops; footbridges span Dow Creek. Picnic area/restrooms. **Direction:** Hoodsport, Hwy 119, 2 miles. 🐕 NO FEE

#12. Living Legacy Trail

Length: 1.5 mile easy loop, interpretive signs, trail passes Hamma Hamma Cabin (1930s). Great for kids. 🐕 NO FEE

#13. Lower Lena Lake Trail

Length: moderate 3 mile climb with forest and mossy boulders and switchbacks, maintained, well-traveled trail to lake. **Directions:** Hwy 101 at Hamma Hamma Recreation Area, FS #25 to junction; right 1 mile, FOREST PASS

#14. Upper Lena Lake Trail

Length: moderate to difficult 7.3 mile climb; 3,800' to subalpine lake. Steep unstable bed; not recommended in wet weather. **Directions:** Same as Lower Lena Lake, wilderness permit required for overnight camps. 🐕

#15. Mount Ellinor Trail

Length: moderate/difficult 3.1 miles (from lower trailhead); 1.6 miles from upper trailhead climb. Forest becomes subalpine meadow, with canal views. Snow often until July. **Directions:** SR 119, right on FS #24, FS# 2419, to the lower trailhead. 🐕 NW FOREST PASS

#16. Big Creek Trail

Length: light moderate 4 mile; mixed conifer forest. Looping trail with creeks at mid-point. **Direction:** Where FR # 24 and SR 119 meet, toward Staircase. 🐕 NW FOREST PASS

#17. Mount Rose

Length: difficult 6.4 miles; forested slopes. Views of Bear Gulch Valley, Olympic range. **Directions:** SR 119 to junction FR #24, left toward Staircase. 🐕 NO FEE

#18. Staircase Rapids Loop

Length: easy mile loop through forest following North Fork Skokomish River. **Direction:** SR 119, to FR #24. No dogs, NATIONAL PARK PASS

#19. Shady Lane Trail

Length: easy 1 mile trail, small cave, swimming, and old growth forest. Trailhead just beyond Staircase Ranger Station; left and follow river downstream instead of straight (Rapids Loop Trail) No dogs FEE

#20. Wagonwheel Lake

Length: difficult 2.9 miles, one of the steepest trails in Park, tight switchbacks. Once you stop climbing, traverse a brushy avalanche chute. No dogs FEE

#21. North Fork Skokomish

Moderate difficult 12.7 miles,; follows river as it climbs steadily through forest. Backpacking trail leading into Olympics, connecting with several main trails through the Park. Designated campgrounds every few miles. Ascends to 4,688' at First Divide. Some creek fording and often large trees down over trail. 🐾 FEE

#22. Lower S. Fork Skokomish

Moderate difficult 10.3 miles lower trail, upper 7.3 miles, old growth along river, views and campsites. **Direction:** From Highway 101, take Skokomish Valley Road for 5.5 miles, then turn right on FS 23 for 9 miles, turn right on 2353 for .75 mile, cross the river. 🐾 FEE

#23. Brown Creek Campground

Easy 1 mile loops around a beaver pond. Interpretive signs discuss the wetland. **Directions:** Near the hand pump in Brown Creek Campground located in the South Fork Skokomish area. 🐾 NO FEE

#24. Potlatch Park & Beach

Park has camping, picnic tables, restrooms and beach access with long stretch of public beach providing a good walking towards Annas Bay.

🐾 DISCOVER PASS



10 Hikes Essentials

Some area hikes involve easy terrain and distances that do not require any special preparations. However, other hikes can involve backcountry locations that require appropriate gear for a variety of conditions.

- #1. NAVIGATION (map and/or GPS unit)
- #2. SUN PROTECTION (sunglasses/sunscreen)
- #3. INSULATION (layers/rain/wind jacket)
- #4. ILLUMINATION (flashlight/headlamp)
- #5. FIRST-AID supplies
- #6. FIRE (fire-starter and matches)
- #7. REPAIR KIT and tools (including a knife)
- #8. NUTRITION (extra food)
- #9. HYDRATION (extra water/filter device)
- #10. EMERGENCY SHELTER (space blanket)

PET FRIENDLY TRAILS

Hiking with your dog? If the trail is located in Olympic National Forest, DNR Land, or at a State Park, most trails are dog friendly. Most County and State parks are dog friendly as well (just a couple sports park or sensitive area exceptions). And, while your dog is welcome in Olympic National Park campgrounds, picnic areas and paved or dirt roads, most trails within the Olympic National Park prohibit pets. Here's a few tips & hike ideas -- check out the hikes with the  icon on the previous pages for additional ideas.

Five Tips FOR HIKE SAVVY CANINES

#1 TAKE IT EASY

Start with easy trails and slowly build up stamina.

#2 CARE FOR TENDER PAWS

Make sure your dog's pads are toughened or purchase hiking booties and get used to them before heading out.

#3 YIELD TO ONCOMING TRAFFIC

Step off the trail when hikers pass and heel your dog and verbalize how friendly he is.

#4 LEASH CONTROL

If the trail requires leashes or if your dog might run into other hikers, keep him on a short leash (-6') - long leashes may get tangled in the bushes.

#5 LEAVE NO TRACE

Bring bags to collect and carry out your dog's poop. If you'll be backpacking overnight, bury it at least 6" deep and at least 200' from walkways, camps, and water sources.



*It pays to practice the National Parks **B.A.R.K.** rule wherever you hike with your dog. B.A.R.K. stands for:*

BAG YOUR PET'S WASTE

ALWAYS LEASH YOUR PET

RESPECT WILDLIFE

KNOW WHERE YOU CAN GO.

Easy Access

- Dosewallips State Park
- Twanoh State Park
- Ranger Hole

Next Level Destinations

- Upper South Fork Skokomish
- Lena Lake

Stunning Canine Adventures

- The Valley of Silent Men
- Marmot Pass

Be courteous of other hikers

If the trail requires leashes or if your dog might run into other hikers, keep him on a short leash. Other hikers don't know how nice your pup is.

Why so many waterfalls?

As storms from the Pacific Ocean move across the peninsula, they crash into the Olympics and are forced to release moisture in the impact. The clouds release massive amounts of moisture, **up to 170 inches annually**, on the coastal side – creating the “rain shadow effect.” Above the Olympics this moisture lands as snow frosting the peaks with **35+ feet each year!** Each spring the snow melts and creates icy run-off. Mix in a little more rain-fall and the result is a waterfalls ring envelops the base of Olympic range.

FALL COORDINATES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Tumwater Falls | N47 00.895 W122 54.256 |
| 2. Kennedy Creek Falls | N47 04.663 W123 07.619 |
| 3. Vincent Creek Falls | N47 22.088 W123 16.889 |
| 4. Big Creek Cascades | N47 30.464 W123 13.451 |
| 5. Staircase Rapids | N47 31.173 W123 20.086 |
| 6. Hamma Hamma Falls | N47 34.531 W123 15.631 |
| 7. Murhut Falls | N47 40.458 W123 03.040 |
| 8. Rocky Brook Falls | N47 43.241 W122 56.500 |
| 9. Dosewallips Falls | N47 43.921 W123 09.164 |
| 10. Fallsview Falls | N47 47.466 W122 55.787 |





Chasing Waterfalls

With 21 feet of snow or rain falling on the Olympics, it's no wonder there is a myriad of waterfalls lacing the area. Explore this sampling curated by celebrated author and hiker, Craig Romano.

10 AREA WATERFALLS

1 Tumwater Falls Loop

(1 MILE - EASY) OLYMPIA

Exit #103 off of I-5 S to Deschutes Way

No pass required, kid 🐕 friendly

Iconic landmark, multi-tiered showy falls.

2 Kennedy Creek Falls

(6.8 MILE RT - MODERATE) KAMILCHE

Hwy 101 N, left at Old Olympic

No pass required, kid 🐕 friendly

Kennedy Creek tumbles over basalt flow.

3 Vincent Creek Falls

(ROAD ACCESS - EASY) SKOKOMISH

FR 23; 2.3 miles to FR 2340

No pass, caution: low guardrail

Arched truss 685' **High Steel Bridge**

(1929) spans 375' and is the 14th highest bridge in USA. Falls drop 250' in canyon.

4 Big Creek Cascades Loop

(4.2 MILE - MODERATE) CUSHMAN

SR 119 for 9.3

National Forest pass, kid 🐕 friendly

Loop follows old log road bed, trails and bridges constructed by volunteers.

5 Staircase Rapids Loop

(2 MILE - EASY) CUSHMAN

SR 119; FR 24 for 14.7 miles

Olympic National Park kids ok, no pets

Follow river to suspension bridge, cross North Fork Skokomish River.

6 Hamma Hamma Falls

(ROAD ACCESS - EASY) LILLIWAUP

FR 25 for 13.3 miles

Olympic Forest, no pass, kid 🐕 friendly

Bridge spans two-tiered falls (80'). Enjoy views of falls along river.

7 Murhut Falls

(1.6 MILES RT - EASY) DUCKABUSH

FR 2510 6.3 miles, FR 2530, 1.3 miles

Olympic Forest, no pass, kid 🐕 friendly

Well-built trail to 130' two-tiered waterfall.

8 Rocky Brook Falls

(ROADSIDE - EASY) BRINNON

Hwy 101, Dosewallips Road 3 miles

Private, no pass, kid 🐕 friendly

Classic horsetail waterfall crashes more than 200' from hanging valley.

9 Dosewallips Falls

(9.0 MILE RT - MODERATE) BRINNON

Hwy 101, Dosewallips Rd 9.7 miles

Olympic National Park, no dogs

100' waterfall, hike or mountain bike closed road to falls.

10 Fallsview Falls

(0.2 MILE RT - EASY) QUILCENE

Hwy 101 at Falls View Campground.

National Forest pass, kid 🐕 friendly

ADA Trail in picnic area to seasonal (rainy) falls cascading 100'.

Flora Gathering Mushrooms

Although mushrooms and plants share similar features, mushrooms are not a plant. They do not contain chlorophyll the substance that makes plants green and which derives the plants nutrients from sunlight. Mushrooms are classified as a fungi.

Many NW mushroom species are edible but identification is tricky with potentially dire results as this area is home to some of the deadliest mushrooms. Additionally, because nearly 80% of the mushrooms body is water, their quick rate of growth, and their ability to absorb nutrients with impunity, they are highly susceptible to concentrating environmental toxins. Cooking is recommended to remove many of the natural toxins.

Some varieties can also produce adverse effects when paired with alcohol. Individuals may also experience allergic reactions to certain varieties of mushrooms, which others do not experience. **Broadly, mushrooms can be very dangerous if not consumed carefully.**

However, wild mushrooms are a culinary treat and are a satisfying way to taste the forest. In a manner similar to oysters and wines, mushrooms reflect environment through a subtle terroir. Mushrooms are known to be low in calories, rich in proteins, and abounding in important vitamins such as B, C and D.



Shelton's **Paul Stamet** is a mycology pioneer, with numerous mushroom-based patents to his name. Stamet grows mushroom cultures in his laboratory at Fungi Perfecti in Shelton (fungi.com) for researchers to study the medicinal properties of mushrooms.

Shop local

There are many mushroom farmers in the Hood Canal area that grow local varieties.

Duckabush Mushrooms specialize in Shitake mushrooms and they also feature a full line of medicinal mushroom powders.

Skokomish Ridge Mushrooms is a cooperative organization offering a variety of mushrooms including King Trumpets, Lion's Mane and Maitake mushrooms for sale at farmers markets, restaurants, local grocery stores and through the cooperative online storefront.

Photography tips

Photographing fungi is a good excuse to go exploring. When in the forest it is good idea to bring a buddy; a compass and a map or GPS; water and snacks. Letting someone know where you are going and when you plan to be back is important.



Mushroom Tips

Mushrooms are the reproductive structures or “fruit” of certain fungi. Unlike green plants, fungi cannot use sunlight to make food, but the web-like root structures called mycelium decompose organic matter, which the organism utilizes for food.

Mushrooms and truffles are important wildlife food. They are consumed by deer, elk, bear, small mammals, and mollusks. Some rodents rely on mushrooms for a significant part of their food supply and are, in turn, primary prey for larger species such as the northern spotted owl. Preserving the diversity of fungal species in forest ecosystems is essential to the well being of our National Forests.

Harvest Technique: For the best possible recovery of mushroom sites year after year, proper harvesting techniques are necessary and required for both personal and commercial gathering. Mushroom stems are to be cut at or above ground level keeping the growing site as undisturbed as possible. Use only a knife or scissors to harvest mushrooms. Equip yourself properly before going to the field.

Equipment Checklist: Prepare for a safe and efficient trip by carrying the following: 1) Extra food, water and clothing 2) Compass and map of the area 3) Whistle 4) Mushroom field guide 5) Small knife for harvesting and trimming 6) Bucket to carry mushrooms 7) Waxed paper or waxed bags (not plastic) for separating and protecting the mushrooms.

Use Caution: Know the mushroom before you pick it. There are many poisonous mushrooms, but there also are many edible, delicious, and easily identified species. Use guidebooks and pamphlets for identification.

Personal Use:

Our policy allows for the incidental removal of mushrooms by those intending to simply gather enough for a meal. No permit is required for incidental gathering of mushrooms for personal use. For a single species, the daily limit for personal use is one (1) gallon. For multiple species, the daily limit is three (3) species, (1) gallon each. Harvested chanterelle mushrooms must have a cap diameter of one inch or greater.

*Adapted from Olympic National Forest
fs.usda.gov/olympic*



Home cultivation

Mushroom cultivation is a fairly intuitive process and kits are sold locally promoting productive backyard crops. For information and kits visit fungi.com. Plug spawns are inserted or ‘inoculated’ in decaying deciduous logs to create mushroom crops.

Further Reading

***All that the Rain
Promises and More***
David Arora

Mushroom
Nicholas Money

The Mushroom Cultivator
Paul Stamets

Mycophilia | Eugenia Bone
The Mushroom Hunters
Langdon Cook

Edible plant Foraging

Article compiled by By
Christina Maloney, Hood
Canal Adventures. HCA hosts
seasonal foraging classes



Did you know that a large percentage of Washington's native plants are edible? They may not all taste good, but many are nutritious and delicious. Some can be eaten raw and others are best cooked or used in soups or tea.

Native plants were critical to the survival of the first people. They used them in all aspects of their daily lives – for food, medicine, construction, and even for ceremony. Early pioneers also used native plants to balance their diets and relied on them in the spring to relieve the monotony of dried meat, fish and bread. Here are some highlights of the more flavorful plants found locally:

#1: Western Wild Ginger

Asarum caudatum

This inconspicuous plant is found low to middle elevations with substantial tree cover and rich soils. Look for moist Douglas tree forests with undergrowth plant colonies of ferns, trillium, and mosses. The leaves are dark green and waxy with an undeniable heart shaped. During the spring and summer they produce a small purple flower growing from underneath the leaves. The root of wild ginger is edible and has a spicy,

even peppery, strong ginger flavor. Native Americans used this plant to treat headaches, intestinal pain, knee pain, arthritis, indigestion, tuberculosis, colic and as a general tonic.

#2: Licorice Fern

Polypodium glycyrrhiza

Often found growing on the trunks and branches of deciduous trees, the fronds do not stem from a central location like a sword fern but are creeping, appearing to have a single root for each frond. The root and young stems of this fern tastes just like strong black licorice! It was chewed for flavor and was traditionally used medicinally as a treatment for the cold and sore throats.

#3: Fiddleheads

The edible young unfurled fern fronds that rise in the Spring are called fiddleheads because they are usually tightly coiled and resemble the head of a fiddle.

The Bracken Fern and Lady Fern are the two edible fiddlehead species. Fiddleheads taste like a cross between asparagus with almonds, or artichoke but can sometimes be bitter. Collect bracken fern before the fiddle is unfurled. Lady Fern grows in moist woods and along streams. You may recognize ornamental varieties used in landscaping. Fiddleheads should be cooked well before eating.

#4: Big Leaf Maple Flowers

Acer macrophyllum

To identify a Big Leaf Maple, look for large trees with 5 lobed-leaves sometimes growing over a foot in diameter. Trees can be as tall as 150 feet with a multi-branching trunk and hefty branches that are often covered in mosses and licorice ferns. Flowers bloom March through April before the leaves emerge, are greenish-yellow, and numerous, on short stalks that hang in clusters. The sweet flower clusters may also be found on the ground after a windstorm. Try eating them straight, adding them to salads, or making maple blossom fritters.

RULES OF WILD FOOD COLLECTION

- Know what you are picking
- Collect only what you identify as edible
- Harvest only plants that look healthy
- Clean and prepare like you do cultivated crops
- Eat small quantities when first trying a plant
- Get property owners permission
- Never over-harvest.

If you are foraging on Forest Service lands you do not need a permit for “incidental use,” meaning your use of plants while you are camping or hiking in the forest. If you are harvesting for at-home use you may need a “Free Use Permit.” Contact your Forest Service District Office for details.

Get an expert to guide you.

Heading out into the woods can be a daunting experience -- especially if you intend to gather berries, forage for plants or mushrooms. Research and proper guide books are a must but the best is to have an expert on hand when you are starting out.

Hood Canal Adventures

306146 Hwy 101 N, Brinnon
(360) 301-6310

hoodcanaladventures.com

Guided walks and hikes, canoe & kayak rental service in Brinnon

Hike Your Own Hike

Union | 360.349.3373

explorehyoh.com

HYOH is a group of local outdoor guides specializing in trips on the Olympic Peninsula. From half day excursions for beginners to multi day custom trips.

5 Local Berries

The Pacific Northwest with its lush temperate climate is home to some mouth watering berry bushes. The Native Americans have a tradition of picking and preserving and promoting the growth of these “nature’s candy” and with long summer days ahead of us, why not try your hand at picking wild berries? Prepare yourself for a productive and palatable adventure.

#1: Salmonberry

Salmonberries typically ripen in late April to mid-June – making it the first berry of the season. The fresh shoots cleaned of its prickly outer layer are harvested by first people and are reported to taste similar to asparagus when steamed.



#2: Thimbleberry

Fruiting in early July, these berries are also drupelet in shape, but the fleshy part is much thinner and the berry is hollow inside allowing the whole picked product to easily fit over the fingertip, just as a thimble would. The large soft maple-shaped leaves are covered in a fine hair and are known to be one of the best natural substitutes for toilet paper if you are ever without in the woods. Besides harvesting the stems, Native Americans would press and dry the berries into cakes for later use.

#3: Red Huckleberry

The bush and berry are very similar to the domesticated blueberry. The Native American Salishan word for Red Huckleberry, *t'əəxw* (Twana dialect known amongst the Skokomish) or *t'ix(i)* (Lushootseed dialect known amongst the Squaxin) both describe how it was traditionally picked with combs 'to brush, sweep, [or] shake out' the berries. Slightly sour to taste, these berries do well in jams and pies.



#4: Salal

Popular amongst florists as a filler since the 1940s, this cut green is a huge industry and is actively gathered by permitted commercial harvesters. The dark-purple berries ripen in August, once the sticky white bell-shaped flowers have been pollinated. The berries form on the branch in a way similar to grapes. Packed with antioxidants, flavonoids, and 5 times more tannins than blueberries, these sweet, slightly mealy berries are a re-discovered superfood.

oregon grape



#5: Oregon Grape

Jelly and jam makers often combine the sweet flavor of the Salal with the tangy, sour of the Oregon Grape another August fruit. Oregon Grape, the state flower of Oregon (surprise there!), grows on a three-foot tall bush that has large sharply, serrated green to red leaves reminiscent of holly. The berry matures from a bright yellow flower, changing in color from green, yellow, red, purple before ripening to a pale chalky blue. The berries themselves, though perfectly edible are bitterly sour and don't release their deliciousness until cooked into a syrup or jelly.

There are many more native and newly wild berries offer picking pleasure over the summer, including the Himalayan Blackberries wild Blackberries, Blackcap Raspberry, Blue Elderberries, and Blue Huckleberries (*Vaccinium ovalifolium*). Check out Pojar and Mackinnon's definitive classic *Plants of the Pacific Northwest* (2004) to find out more.

The internet has many great sources, such as the Burke Herbarium Image Collection (biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium) and Dana Kelley Bressette's Pacific Northwest plant encyclopedia (native-plantspnw.com) to continue your berry hunt. Happy Harvesting!



blackberry



The Artist's Conk

Ganoderma applanatum

These are commonly found on rotting trees. This fleshy, inedible bracket-like fungus is easily identifiable by its dark woody top and soft pale underside.

This pale underside is valued by artists because when scratched with a nail or other sharp implement it reveals a dark brown tissue that become permanent visible lines when the conk is dried.

Himalayan Blackberry is a Eurasian species introduced for fruit production.

Trailing Blackberry is a native species that is smaller, grows along the ground, has narrow prickly stems instead of stout or ridged canes, and has only three narrower leaflets instead of five rounded leaflets (Himalayan blackberry). All species of blackberry have edible fruits, but the fruits on the native trail blackberry are smaller (but tastier!).

Fauna 10 Bird Watching Locations

With a majestic and varied landscape, Hood Canal and South Puget Sound are the perfect place to search for the over 250 species that call it home. Chock full of life – birds like bald eagles, rhinoceros auklets and more – this is a birder's paradise!

1. Theler Wildlife Wetland

Belfair | 22871 NE Hwy 3 | thelercenter.org

Enjoy 139 acres of wildlife rich estuary in the Union River Delta at the farthest reaches of fjord-like Hood Canal. The preserve contains five distinct trails that utilize levees and bridges across channels and creeks. The main path leads to a Wetlands Project Center and a native plant demonstration garden. **NO PASS**

2. Potlatch State Park

Potlatch | Hwy 101 near Hoodspout

Potlatch consists of 84 acres on the Canal at its bend just north of the Skokomish River Delta. The delta consists of estuary, riparian forests and extensive wetlands. It hosts populations of several avian species including a great blue heron rookery. In the spring watch for dowitchers, western sandpipers, and Wilson's snipes. **DISCOVER PASS**

3. Twanoh State Park

Hood Canal | Hwy 106, Union / Belfair, IBA

With 182 acres of mature forest and shoreline, the park retains many of its Depression-era CCC structures. It contains 2.5 miles of trails that traverse cedar groves and a lush emerald ravine cradling a salmon-spawning creek. The canal's much warmer here than to the west and north attracting large populations of waterfowl. **DISCOVER PASS**

4. Jarrell Cove State Park

Harstine Island | Forests and bluffs on a quiet cove, the park's uplands provide excellent habitat for songbirds. Look for creepers, finches, flycatchers, nuthatches, towhees, and vireos in the forest. Hike down to the docks for some great cove views—and to spot goldeneyes, grebes, kingfishers, mergansers, loons, scaups, and gulls. **DISCOVER PASS**

5. George Adams Hatchery

Skokomish | 40 W Skokomish Valley Rd

WDFW 30-acre riparian corridor of conifers, deciduous foliage. Wood Ducks highlight spring birding. Autumn berries beckon flocks of Cedar Waxwings. Wintering ducks: Buffleheads, Common and Hooded Mergansers. **NO PASS**

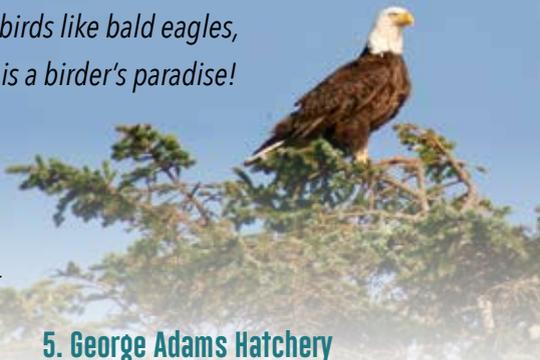
6. PANHANDLE LAKE 4H CAMP

Shelton | 370 W Panhandle Lake Rd

Private 450-acre woodland sanctuary of old conifers amid clear-cut. Spring attractions include Wood Ducks, Wilson's Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Tree and Violet-green Swallows, American Goldfinches. Check snags for Northern Flickers; Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers, and Pine Siskins, Dark-eyed Juncos, Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Redbreasted Sapsuckers. **NO PASS**

7. Oakland Bay County Park

Shelton | Four mile long narrow and shallow estuary, Oakland Bay is one of the most productive shellfish growing areas in the country. While the WDFD property and adjacent Bayshore Preserve on the northern shore of the bay is a good place to scope for birds, the county park directly across the bay offers a wilder setting and good trail system. From the trailhead hike through old-growth trees and an old orchard to the historic 1892 Malaney-O'Neill House on a bluff above Oakland Bay. Walk the path behind it to overlook the mudflats and oyster beds. **NO PASS**



8. SKOKOMISH DELTA

Skokomish River Delta

Shore hosts flocks of Dunlins; on saltwater, find Marbled Murrelets, Canvasbacks, Northern Pintails; Common, Red-breasted, and Hooded Mergansers; Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, Black, Surf, and White-winged Scoters; in marsh are Gadwalls, Green-winged Teals, Northern Shovelers. Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Short-eared Owls. Early spring brings Longbilled Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipes, Western Sandpipers. [NO PASS](#)

9. DOSEWALLIPS STATE PARK

Brinnon, WA | 306996 Hwy 101

Over 1000 acres of wildlife habitat along the Dosewallips River at its delta on the fjord. Explore rich tidal wetlands, riparian forest, and mature forest. Follow the short and flat North Tidal Trail across salt marshes to an observation deck.

[DISCOVER PASS](#)

#WILDSIDEWA



ROOSEVELT ELK of this area tend to congregate close to where Lake Cushman meets the Skokomish during the fall, winter and spring months, when the snowpack limits travel upriver, the elk. Those who frequent Dosewallips State Park and the town of Brinnon in the fall, winter and spring months commonly see elk roaming the open areas, even crossing Hwy 101.

THE OLYMPIC MARMOTS, typically live above 4,000 ft in elevation and tend to thrive in the Olympics at around 5,000 to 6,000 ft. Marmots hibernate during the cooler weather seasons, giving you just a few months over the summer to catch a glimpse of these endemic giant ground squirrels.

10. Kennedy Creek Preserve

Kamilche, WA | 1350 SE Old Olympic Hwy IBA (Important Birding Area)

340 acres of salt flats on Oyster Bay at its confluence with Kennedy and Schneider Creeks. Inlet has one of Puget Sound's largest flocks of wintering black-bellied plovers. Kennedy Creek produces up to 80,000 spawning salmon. The salmon carcasses wash downstream to the estuary providing food for eagles, and other animals. [DISCOVER PASS](#)

OLYMPIC BIRDING LOOP

The Olympic Peninsula region is the ideal destination to explore unique places that these birds call home. Trail advocate, Craig Romano, shared 25 of his favorite bird viewing destinations around the Olympic Peninsula loop:

olympicbirdtrail.com



BLACKTAIL DEER, a subspecies of the mule deer (named for their ears which are large like those of a mule). Blacktail deer feed on grasses, lichens, plants, and sometimes berries. Oddly enough, around the Staircase Entrance to the National Park they are particularly unbothered by humans. They will stand in the middle of the road, as in this photos, and gaze calmly at you. Don't be fooled, though, they are very much still wild and you must always give them space.

BEAR AND COUGARS

Although sightings are rare, the trails and communities near Lake Cushman and Mount Rose have spotted mountain lions in recent years, especially during the spring and summer months. Bear generally visit river and creek drainage areas, especially in fall.

Wild in the Water



Hood Canal and the many inlets of Mason County are rich in marine resources. Salmon, clams, oysters, shrimp and crabs are just some of the bounty this unique area yields. Whether you want to harvest yourself or would like to purchase from a local fisher, you are sure to be well fed.

An Oyster Overview

The Olympia oysters were important to early settlers. The first group of settlers arrived in Puget Sound late in the year of 1845 – too late to plant a garden or stock up on food for the winter. Oysters saved these early settlers from starvation.

With the development of Seattle and Tacoma and the completion of the transcontinental railway other insatiable oyster markets developed. When Washington received statehood in 1889, it became the only state to legalize private ownership of tidelands. This unique law allowed shellfish farmers to develop an industry that could treat its foreshore like agricultural lands.

By the early 1900s, the Olympia oysters in Puget Sound were facing pressures from over harvest and pollution. Although methodologies had developed that brought harvesting closer to agriculture, such as creating diked oyster beds (to keep the oysters in water when the tide receded), the Olympia oyster's natural stocks were in trouble. In a bid to reinvigorate the industry non-native varieties were introduced to Washington waters.

In the 1890s, the larger, faster growing Virginia oysters, were introduced from the Atlantic seaboard, but these proved temperamental.

By 1900 Japanese labor supplied most of the workers in the oyster industry as Japanese immigrants came to work in oyster production and brought with them experience from the Japanese oyster industry.

In 1920, two enterprising oystermen Emy Tsukimoto and Joe Miyagi decided to form their own company and introduced oyster seed from Japan – the *Pacific*. It is now the popular variety harvested in Washington State.

Although over 150 years have passed since the first Olympia oysters were shipped from entrepreneurs in pre-statehood Washington to gold miners in San Francisco, this industry has only grown stronger and more lucrative. With an annual farmgate over \$108 million, Washington is the largest producer of hatchery-reared and farmed shellfish in the U.S.

Shellfish Gathering

Below are local beaches that offer public harvesting opportunities.

South Puget Sound

Hope Island State Park, accessible only by boat, between Steamboat and Squaxin Islands, clams and oysters.

North Bay, between Allyn and Victor, clams and oysters.

DNR 24/Grapeview, clams and oysters

DNR 20/Stretch Island, clams and oysters

McMicken Island State Park, clams and oysters – open all year.

Oakland Bay Recreation Tideland, 6 miles north of Shelton, mud shore, clams and oysters, eastern softshell clams.

Hood Canal

Belfair State Park, 3 miles west of Belfair, oysters year-round.

Lilliwaup State Park, clams and oysters.

Rendsland Creek, clams and oysters.

Twanoh State Park, clams and oysters.

West Dewatto, clams and oysters.

South Dougall Point, clams and oysters.

DNR 33, 47 & 4, clams and oysters.

Cushman Park, 13 miles north of Shelton, Hwy 101, clams and oysters.

Eagle Creek, 3 miles north of Lilliwaup excellent oyster beds. The scenery along this stretch of highway make the extra drive to this little beach well worth the effort.

Visit wdfw.wa.gov for current openings and seasonal closures.

View Shellfishtrail.org
for updates & harvesting tips.



Local Seafood:

Locations serving Hood Canal & South Puget Sound products. Call for hours & reservations.

Bistro at Lakeland Village (Allyn)

470 E Country Club Dr | (360) 277-4137

Boat House Restaurant (Allyn)

18340 E WA 3, Allyn | (360) 275-2954

Burger Claim and More (Belfair)

24171 Hwy 3 | (360) 277-5141

Fjord Oyster Bank (Hoodsport)

24341 US-101 | (360) 877-2102

Hama Hama Oyster (Lilliwaup)

35846 US-101 | (360) 877-5811

Hook & Fork (Union)

5101 E SR 106 | (360) 898-3500

Model T Pub (Hoodsport)

24281 N US 101 | (360) 877-9883

Restaurant at Alderbrook (Union)

10 E Alderbrook Dr | (360) 898-2200

Robin Hood Restaurant (Union)

6790 E State Route 106 | (360) 490-8168

Spencer Lake Bar & Grill (Union)

1180 E Pickering Rd | (360) 426-2505

Squaxin Is. Seafood Bar (Kamilche)

91 West SR 108 | (360) 432-7120

Taylor Station (Shelton)

62 SE Lynch Rd | (360) 426-8501

Tides Family Restaurant (Hoodsport)

27061 US-101 | (360) 877-8921

Mason County's Beach and SHELLFISH MAP

Mason County's saltwater bays and inlets along Hood Canal and South Puget Sound are renown for the tastiest and freshest bivalves. Visit for the pristine waters, wilderness and public beaches stocked for families to enjoy!

www.eregulations.com/washington/fishing

Three C's of Shellfish:

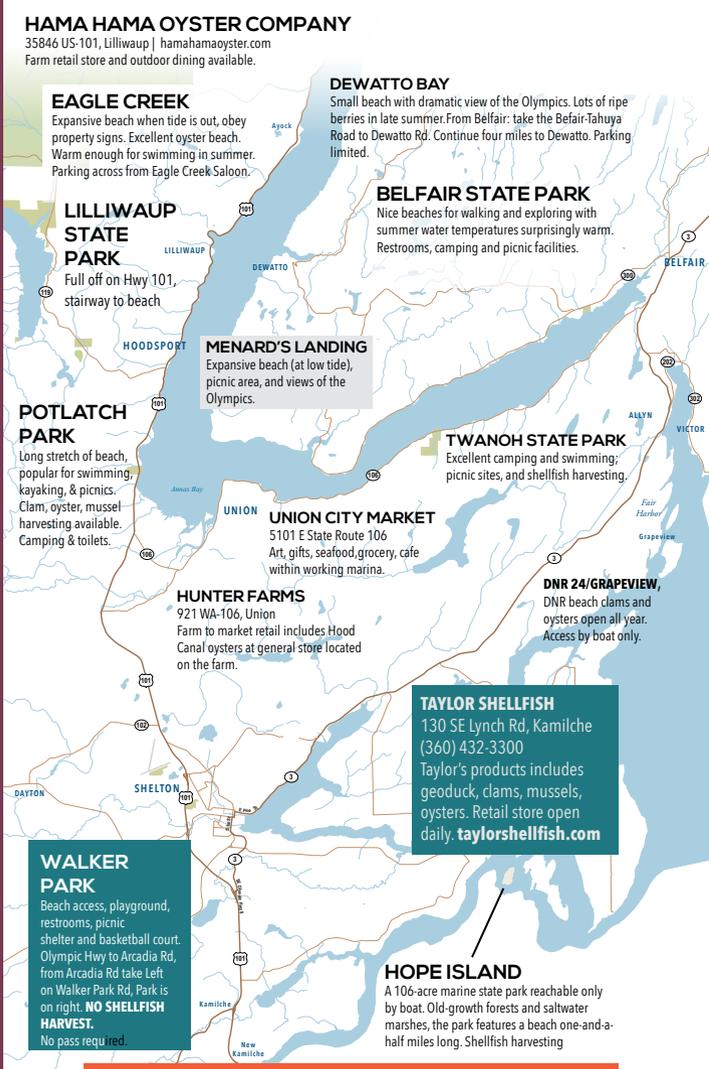
1. CHECK:
doh.wa.gov
wdfw.wa.gov/fishing
 Harvesting closures and follow posted warnings and respect private property.

2. CHILL:
 lice immediately to prevent bacteria growth. Keep cold and store in fridge with a wet cloth to prevent drying out.

3. COOK:
 Cook shellfish in summer when illnesses can occur. To kill bacteria cook shellfish to 145° F for at least 15 seconds, cooking does not destroy biotoxins.

Do not harvest in areas with closures.

Do not eat raw shellfish if you have concerns about allergies, medications, or have a weakened immune system.



CHELSEA FARMS OYSTER BAR
 222 CAPITOL WAY N, OLYMPIA | (360) 915-7784 chelseafarms.net
 Chelsea Farm have made a priority of farming the native Olympia oyster that was on it's way to extinction. Visit their oyster bar in Olympia for local seafood experience!

Shellfish Species

Regulations and licences:
FISHHUNT.DFW.WA.GOV
Toll-free: (866) 246-9453



NATIVE LITNECK

Up to 3.5", rounded, concentric radiating ridge lines, cream or mottled; white inside shell; 6-10" deep gravel, mud, mid-tide level.



BUTTER CLAM

Up to 5"; concentric rings (no radiating ridge lines); 1-1.5" in sand, gravel, or cobble in lower intertidal or shallow subtidal zone.



MANILA (NOT NATIVE)

Up to 2.5", oblong; grey, brown, or mottled and with "hand drawn" designs; purple on the inside; 2-4" in gravel, mud, sand.



COCKLE

Up to 5" with round shell; evenly-spaced radiating ridges fanning from hinge; mottled, light brown color; 1-2" in sand, mud in subtidal zone.



GEODUCK

Up to 10", 2.5 - 10 lbs. Gaping white oblong with concentric rings; siphon too large to withdraw. 2-3', found in mud, sand, gravel in subtidal zone.



PACIFIC OYSTER (NOT NATIVE)

Up to 12", white/gray oblong shell with irregular, wavy edges; found in intertidal zone.



MUSSELS

Blue 3", California 6", Mediterranean (non-native) up to 5". Oblong, blue-black or brown; attaches to hard surfaces.

OLYMPIA OYSTER

Up to 3", rounded, white to purplish black and striped yellow or brown; metallic flavor. Protected in wild habitats.



Purchase licenses locally

Fred Meyer

Shelton, (360) 427-2979

Happy Hollow

Belfair, (360) 275-6368

Hood Canal Outfitters

Hoodsport, (360) 877-9444

North Mason Chamber

Belfair, (360) 275-4267

Skokomish Park

Lake Cushman

Hoodsport, (360) 877-5760

Verles Sporting

Shelton, (360) 426-0933

Walmart

Shelton, (360) 427-6226

Beautiful Bivalves

A bivalve is an animal that has two hinged shells, which are called valves.



SALMON

Fall heralds annual return

As the weather chills, local streams and rivers are festooned with shades of the turning leaves. Fall also marks the last weeks in the life cycle of many salmon species who return upstream to spawn.

Millions of migratory salmon return to their home streams to lay eggs. After swimming upstream the female chooses a spot in the shallow, but swift flowing part of the river that is highly oxygenated, called the riffle.

Here she digs a depression in the gravel that will serve as her nest or redd. The eggs are laid in the redd, the male deposits sperm over them, and the female covers the eggs with gravel.

A female may create as many as seven redds before she is finished spawning and each redd may hold as many as 5,000 eggs.

As soon as the salmon enter the fresh water their skins begin to change color, they stop eating and they begin their decaying process. A migrating salmon lives for about two weeks after entering the freshwater.

The carcasses provide a food source to other animals and small invertebrates who in turn provide food for the salmon fry (baby salmon) as they get older.

The nutrients given off by the rotting carcass are important fertilizers to the plants and trees growing on the banks, which provide essential root systems that prevent erosion and protects the streams for further generations of salmon.

There are seven species of salmon in the Pacific Northwest: Pink (*Oncorhynchus gorboscha*), Sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*).

All of these species have very different life cycles – some spend several years before they migrate up streams; some can run and spawn several times before dying; some only spawn at the mouth of streams, where others need to spawn in lakes.

This unique phenomenon of the salmon running can be viewed in streams and rivers all across Mason County.

Salmon Identification

OCEAN PHASE



Chinook Salmon

Large black spots on back, dorsal fin, and both the upper and lower lobes of the tail. Black mouth with a **black gum line** and large prominent teeth. Silver pigment on the tail.



Coho Salmon

Black spots on back with spots only on the upper portion of the tail. White mouth with a **white gum line**, a dark tongue, and medium-sized teeth. Average size scales. Silver pigment on the tail.



Chum Salmon

No prominent spots on back or tail (small speckles may be present). White mouth with a **white gum line**, a dark tongue, and well developed teeth. Calico markings (vertical bars), but faint on bright fish. Silver pigment on the tail.



Pink Salmon

Generally large black spots on back and heavy **oval shaped black blotches** on the upper and lower lobes of the tail. White mouth with a black gum line and tongue. **Very small** scales. **No silver pigment** on the tail. Few if any teeth present.



Sockeye Salmon

No prominent spots on back or tail (small speckles may be present). White mouth with a **white gum line**, a dark tongue, and almost toothless. Average size scales. Prominent gold-colored eyes. No silver pigment on the tail. Small teeth.

Learn more by visiting: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/species>

SPAWNING PHASE



Chinook Salmon

Chinook salmon do not display the conspicuous morphological changes of pink, chum and sockeye salmon during the spawning stage. Typically Chinook turn from silvery bright ocean coloration to a darker bronze color. **Large spots** are found on the back and both lobes of the tail. Mouth is black with a **black to grey gum line**.



Coho Salmon

Mature coho salmon display a greenish-black head with a red to maroon colored body. Spots are found on the back and only **upper lobe** of the tail. The mouth is black with a **white gum line**. Typically male coho display brighter coloration and have a more pronounced elongated hooked snout.



Chum Salmon

Chum salmon display characteristic **olive-green vertical markings** on the sides of the body as they approach spawning. There are no spots on the back or tail. Male chum salmon develop a more elongated snout with large canine-like teeth and also have reddish-purple vertical markings in addition to the olive-green markings.



Pink Salmon

The majority of pink salmon return on odd-numbered years. Pink salmon have large **oblong spots** on the back and both lobes of the tail. Pink salmon, like most other salmon transform from silvery bright ocean coloration to a more dull and darker color. Males develop a pronounced hump as they approach spawning.



Sockeye Salmon

Sockeye turn **brick red to scarlet red** along their body with a greenish head. Female coloration is often more dull colored. There are **no distinct spots** on the back or tail. Sockeye can be found spawning in both lakes, streams, and rivers, while other Pacific salmon spawn in streams and rivers.

Chinook & Coho Fishing

Lower Hood Canal salmon fishery general opens July but the good fishing usually starts in the first weeks of August. The Chinook are first with weather and water temperature dictating how early they start. Visit wdfw.wa.gov site for details on opening dates, boundry lines and fishing tips.



Fishing



With over 30 lowland lakes annually stocked with fish and hundreds of miles of saltwater shoreline, Mason County has opportunities for anglers all year long. Visit wddfw.wa.gov for up to date license information, regional maps, fishing tips, identification and limits.

Year Round Opportunities:

Spring (March-May)

Dozens of lakes are open for fishing year-round but in the spring many are stocked with hatchery trout, improving chances of catching fish. Trout generally bite well until mid-summer, but tend to lose interest when the water temperature rises. Fishing for resident blackmouth salmon winds down in April. Wild steelhead run through mid-April on several Olympic Peninsula rivers.

Summer (June-August)

By late July, as more salmon move in from the coast, fishing heats up in the Puget Sound and Hood Canal. The chinook season gets busy on the Skokomish River.

Fall (September-November)

September is a prime time for coho and chum salmon fishing. Coho can be found in Hood Canal and South Puget Sound. Fishing for chinook salmon tapers off in October, but coho fishing is still good in the Skokomish and other Puget Sound rivers. By November, the main catch in Puget Sound is blackmouth salmon, which remain in nearshore waters throughout the year.

Winter (December -February)

Many lakes close for trout fishing Oct. 31, but some remain open all year, like Lake Isabella and Island Lake, providing fishing for those willing to brave the elements. Opportunities to catch salmon are limited during the winter months. Hatchery-reared fish return to rivers in the Puget Sound area and on the Olympic Peninsula throughout the winter months.

Salmon Viewing

Kennedy Creek Trail

Located off of Hwy 101, trail is maintained by the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. The Kennedy Creek was known as "Place of the Singing Fish" by the Squaxin Island Tribe due to the resonant singing of the frogs. Chum are the dominant species that run this stream.

Salmon Center

The Center in Belfair hosts exhibits on ecology and records returns of adult summer Chums on the Union River.

Twanoh Creek

Twanoh Creek in Twanoh State Park offers good vantage points to view running salmon.

Purdy Creek

The WDFW George Adams Fish Hatchery. Annual spring release of juvenile Coho.

Hoodspport Hathchery

Chum salmon fishing from the beach out front of the hatchery.

Quilcene National Hatchery

The hatchery reintroduced Chum salmon back to Big Quilcene River and increased winter Steelhead populations.

More Salmon Viewing

wdfw.wa.gov/salmonscape, interactive map showing streams and tributaries used by migratory salmon.



Spot Shrimp

Spot shrimp have a deep pink/red or pink/orange body with white lines on the head and two pairs of white spots on the tail end. Check area for opening dates (generally May - July).

Dungeness Crab

Purple-tinged, gray or brown on the back and the tips of the claws are typically white. The Dungeness crab may reach 10 inches across the back, though 6 to 7 inches is more common. In Puget Sound this crab is most abundant north of Seattle, in Hood Canal, and near the Pacific Coast. The Dungeness crab is frequently found in eelgrass beds and prefers sandy or muddy substrates.





WELCOME TO THE WILD SIDE.

Looking for adventure? Washington's Olympic Peninsula is home to Mason County, a special piece of wilderness with just the right mix of unique accommodations, great festivals, dining, activities and – of course – *unparalleled access to nature!*

Design your perfect adventure with this local guide to the **#wildsideWA**.



HOOD CANAL

LAKE CUSHMAN

MOUNT ELLINOR



EXPLORE
HOOD
CANAL.COM

