



Compass

A guide to Puget Sound living

Washington State Ferries **DESTINATIONS**

EMERALD CITY SIGHTS

Museums, restaurants
and nightlife

SEASIDE COMMUNITIES

Beaches, parks and family fun

SPECTACULAR SAN JUAN ISLANDS

Where to go, what to see,
where to stay

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Leslie Forsberg



Washington State Ferries



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A guide to Puget Sound living

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PUBLISHER Peter Philips
(206) 284-8285
peter@philipspublishing.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Heidi Witt 206-284-8285
heidi.witt@philipspublishing.com

EDITOR
Leslie Forsberg www.lesieforsberg.com

ART DIRECTOR Marilyn Esguerra

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A Proud Legacy

Few areas enjoy a geographic setting as visually memorable as Seattle and the Puget Sound region. Snowcapped mountains—Mount Rainier, the Cascades, Mount Baker, the Olympics—benchmark the horizon south, east, west and north. The emerald waters of Seattle’s Elliott Bay lead the eye onward to the azure depths of Puget Sound. The glistening urban towers of Seattle’s downtown reflect the high light of long summer days, and hark back to the towering forests that grew here two centuries ago.



The deep golden rays of a summer sunset illuminate a ferry on the Seattle-Bainbridge run. Kitsap Tours

Washington State Ferries has sailed this sparkling inland sea for six decades, using and respecting a natural resource that has been the centerpiece of human life here for millennia. Since humans first arrived here more than 10,000 years ago, Puget Sound has been both a pathway and a livelihood. The bustling waterfront of Seattle’s downtown and port were once the locale for thriving villages of indigenous Salish peoples who relied on salmon and cedar as the mainstays of life. Tall conifers marched up the hillsides behind, and these caught the eyes of tall-ship captains sailing north from California seeking timber for San Francisco.

In the ensuing trade, the ballast that was offloaded at the foot of Seattle’s hills became today’s waterfront—Washington State Ferries headquarters at Colman

Dock, and much of Alaskan Way north and south from there, is built on Golden State castoff dirt and rocks. Along this shore, the long, hand-carved canoes of the Northwest’s First Peoples were supplanted in 1852 by the jaunty vessels of the “Mosquito Fleet,” thousands of boats ranging from tiny aquatic jitneys to large sternwheelers that carried residents, visitors and goods back and forth across the Sound. In the late 19th and early 20th century, these routes linked virtually every wharf from south of Olympia to the Canadian border, and were the primary means of travel in a region where roads were poor or nonexistent.

That’s the proud legacy Washington State Ferries has carried for 60 years since the state acquired the assets of the last Mosquito Fleet company, Puget Sound Navigation, in 1951.

SAILING THE SALISH SEA

Today America’s largest ferry system operates 22 ferries serving 20 terminals on ten routes. More than 22 million passengers ride the sapphire waters of our Sound every year, ranging from commuters who stream into those downtown Seattle office towers five days a week, to international visitors marveling at the sight of our native orcas in the channels around the San Juan Islands.

Our ten routes connect the two sides of Puget Sound on a daily basis. Though the largest share of ferry riders board at Colman Dock, in downtown Seattle, several other routes are key transportation links as well.

From downtown Seattle, boats reach Bremerton and Bainbridge Island, two very different but equally interesting communities on the Olympic side of the Sound. Vashon Island is served by boats departing from West Seattle’s Fauntleroy dock, a half-hour south of downtown Seattle; departures from here also cross to Southworth, on the Kitsap Peninsula, gateway to communities such as the aptly named Port Orchard. Edmonds is the departure point for Kingston, gateway to the Hood Canal Bridge and the north Olympic Peninsula. Mukilteo sailings reach the south end of Whidbey Island; from there, the Coupeville terminal is the departure point for historic Port Townsend.

Our northernmost terminal, at Anacortes, is the departure point for some of the best-known island destinations in North America. The four San Juan Islands—San Juan, Lopez, Orcas and Shaw—are all lovely, peaceful



Robert Demnar

Cruising through the San Juan Islands aboard a Washington State ferry is one of our state's most scenic excursions.

travel destinations with charming towns, beautiful countryside and relaxed atmospheres. Past the San Juans, Sidney, B.C. is the gateway to Canada's Vancouver Island, a rich destination sought by travelers from around the world.

FULL SPEED AHEAD

Heritage is a fine foundation, but the future beckons as well: Construction has begun on the first of our fleet's newest boats, a 144-car vessel that can be deployed on almost any of our routes, and will provide better fuel consumption, cleaner emissions, enhanced passenger safety and comfort, better ADA access and reduced wake and noise. The \$147 million project is underway at Vigor Industrial shipyards in Seattle, and supports more than 500 jobs around Puget Sound. The new ferry will enter service in 2014.

Our existing Washington State Ferries boats are among the most technologically advanced vessels in the world, with electronic guidance systems enabling operations in poor-visibility conditions that 60 years ago would have forced ships back to dock. Our guidance engineers continually keep abreast of innovations in safety and navigation.

Though safety is our most important operational mission, new technologies offer great potential for improvements

in other areas. Ferries managers are currently investigating adoption of liquefied natural gas (LNG) propulsion systems for future operations. Natural gas is an abundant hydrocarbon in North America; LNG is thus an economical and environmentally friendly fuel already in widespread use by public-transit systems, largely on buses. Using LNG saves money, significantly reduces combustion emissions and supports American energy producers.

The future is already here on several of our boats and in terminals where we have begun phasing in a state-of-the-art visual paging system. Liquid-crystal-display monitors provide our passengers real-time information on system operations, enhance our current broadcast announcement systems, and offer hearing-impaired customers the chance to receive vital information visually. This system won a national award earlier this year for its innovative approach to information conveyance.

Washington State Ferries has come a long way since the state stepped in to meet public transportation needs back in 1951. Just as our captains must scan a wide area as they guide our boats, we are proud to look both back in time and forward into the future while we sail the wonderful inland sea that's our home.

What's in a Name? Sea, Sound or Strait

The complicated marine landscape that Washington State shares with British Columbia is roughly divided into three main bodies:

Strait of Juan de Fuca is the long arm of the Pacific Ocean that reaches eastward 95 miles from Cape Flattery to Whidbey Island. It is a major international shipping channel, serving the ports of Seattle, Tacoma and Vancouver, as well as the refineries near Anacortes, Bellingham and Tsawassen, B.C.

Puget Sound is the term for the small inland sea—also called a saltwater estuary system, an underwater fjord system, and a large bay with many channels and inlets—that stretches south from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Olympia. Though it's only 100 miles long, it contains 1,332 miles of shoreline.

The **Strait of Georgia** separates Vancouver Island from the British Columbia mainland, and generally lies between the north end of the San Juan Islands and the Discovery Islands, near Campbell River, B.C. It's about 150 miles long.

Salish Sea is the term used by ecologists, oceanographers and environmental advocates to define the whole marine system that includes the three bodies of water above. The Salish were the original indigenous inhabitants of most of this area, and just as their heritage spans borders both national and geographic, so do the flora and fauna, tidal waters and climatic systems of the region. The resident orca pods that are so emblematic of the region, for instance, travel freely throughout the Salish Sea. Pacific salmon, Puget Sound octopus, geoduck clams—all are found throughout these waters. Advocates of the term "Salish Sea" thus favor it as a reminder that all of us who live or travel here enjoy the gifts of one special place—no matter the lines drawn on maps.

Meet Your Captain

Captain Ty Anderson serves aboard the MV Tacoma, on the Seattle-Bainbridge run; he's been a captain for 17 years.

What does your job entail?

I'm tasked with the safe navigation of the vessel and seeing that passengers, freight, cargo and crew are transported safely. I keep the vessel on time and in good repair.

What got you interested in the field?

I started very young. When I was in high school I worked summers on the ferry *Coho*. After I went to the University of Washington I got a job working on the *Thomas G. Thompson* oceanography vessel. Working for the ferry system made a lot of sense.

What does it take to become a captain?

It's not necessary to have degrees, but there's a lot of study, and you have to work your way up. The U.S. Coast Guard requires you to have time and grade and take quite a few exams for each step along the way to increase your license size. It takes many years.

How have things changed over your 17 years?

The equipment has changed dramatically. I have two GPS receivers and two fully computerized radars that show an incredible amount of data, and I have five radios I listen to, versus one. Back then we just had a little green screen that showed blips. The number of regulatory rules that come out is increasing every year. We have EPA rules

that are increasing and Coast Guard rules that are increasing. Every time a New York ferry hits a dock the rules increase. But Washington State Ferries is one of the leaders in the industry in the U.S., and we work with the Coast Guard on formulating those new regulations. They really listen to us.

What are some of the challenges of the job?

On an average day it runs pretty smoothly. Then there are other days—like when there's a 70-mph wind. Or a big snafu downtown that causes traffic delays to the point where the vessel can't run in and out of the slip. Or something goes wrong on the boat; though we have a great deal of redundancy on the boat, sometimes things break.

What's your favorite part of the job?

No one else in the world will give me a 460-foot boat to run. I enjoy the job because I'm on the water, which I love. I live on Bainbridge Island, and these are my friends and neighbors I see every day. I get to talk to them. And I have a nice crew, some of them here for 30 years. It's an extremely stable job. It's a wonderful, wonderful way to make a living...and I have the best view in all of Seattle.

Anything else you'd like to add?

We're the cheapest tourist experience in the whole state!



Bike riders exiting ferry for Chilly Hilly

BIKES ONBOARD

We are delighted to provide bicycle riders access to some of the most popular riding destinations in the United States. In particular, our islands are justly famed as bicycle touring venues. Whidbey, Vashon and Bainbridge Islands are places where day-trippers can hop aboard a ferry in the morning, ride off into peaceful country lanes through small towns where cafes offer savory lunch and dinner options, and sail back with us to the city in the evening. Vashon challenges riders with a steep start, followed by miles of level pedaling; Bainbridge and Whidbey pose gentler beginnings.

The San Juan Islands are among the best overnight bicycle touring locations anywhere. Lopez, especially, is famed for its low-traffic back roads that pass through scenic farmlands; all the islands have small inns that welcome overnight bike travelers.

In every case, clean, fresh air; spectacular scenery; bike-friendly communities; and uncrowded roads and trails beckon. Bike riders pay passenger rates to get onboard, so this is a true travel bargain good for all concerned.



Why is That U.S. Coast Guard Boat Following Us?

On some of the Washington State Ferries runs, you may notice a U.S. Coast Guard vessel with a gun mounted on the front, charging alongside the ferry. It's nothing to worry about; this is actually a routine occurrence. The Coast Guard has been tasked with the safe passage of Washington State Ferries and their passengers, so they make regular, random runs alongside the ferries to provide a security presence and let the public know they're protected. Each of the escort boats—whether a 25-foot or 45-foot vessel—has a M240B gun on the bow and is operated by a crew of four.

While the Coast Guard monitors the ferries' passage, the Washington State Patrol and yet another Coast Guard unit conducts surveillance on ferry docks and onboard the ferries, so passengers can be assured of a high level of security throughout their ferry-riding experience.

Meet Your Chief Engineer

Judy Fosmo, the Staff Chief Engineer aboard the MV Yakima, in Anacortes, has worked for Washington State Ferries for 30 years; she retires this spring. In her time off, she and her husband have traveled around the world.

What does a chief engineer do?

A chief engineer is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the entire vessel. We do plumbing, electrical work, welding and repairs of engines, boilers and other machinery. We're responsible for everything from machine parts to certain types of grease, to maintain all the equipment. On my vessel, a Super Class, it's engine-room controlled, so we still get telegraph commands from the pilothouse, and I'm in the control room, maneuvering during landings and departures.

How did you get your start in the field?

My father and grandfather were both Masters, my brothers are Chief Mates, offshore. My husband, James Whitefield, who was a Vacation Relief Chief Engineer until his retirement, was the one who took me down into the engine room of the vessel he was working on, in 1979. I was mesmerized by the whole thing and thought it looked like a great job. James encouraged me and has been incredibly supportive throughout my career.

What was it like for you as a woman, doing this job in the early '80s?

Back then, some of the crew didn't think a woman should be in the engine room—they thought a woman would jinx the ship. I faced a lot of that early on, but now it's such a different attitude.



Brackett's Landing South is a sand beach with splendid Puget Sound views.

Bruce Conley

The younger guys don't have those prejudices. I'm still the only woman Chief Engineer. But now there are two women working their way up; two are Assistant Engineers already, so things are changing.

What special skills do you need to do your job?

You need a lot of manual dexterity because you're dealing with tiny snap rings. You have to be able to look at diagrams and put them together in your mind. And you do have to be mechanically inclined, so you understand what happens when, say, someone flushes the toilet.

What are your typical hours?

We work seven 12-hour days on, seven days off, switching between day and night shifts. We spend more time with our crew—usually three or four of us—than with our families.

What's your favorite part of the job?

The best part of my job is the crews. I've been extremely fortunate in my whole career to have nothing but really good crews. They're like family, and I'll miss them when I'm retired.



WSDOT

ISLAND TIME & HOLIDAY CROWDS

Washington State Ferries' cross-sound terminals, especially those serving the San Juan Islands, are extremely popular destinations during major holidays and summer weekends. Reservations are available, and highly advisable, on the Anacortes-Sidney B.C. route, and the Port Townsend-Coupeville route. On all other routes, for holiday travel, plan on arriving at the dock an hour or more before your desired sailing. Especially subject to backups are the San Juan Islands, Kingston, Bainbridge and Vashon sailings, and the return to the east side of the Sound from those points at the end of holidays.

Readout monitors along main ferry access highways provide real-time information on wait times, and the system's online **Commuter Center** (www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/commuterupdates) offers extremely useful terminal wait time information and a real-time Vessel Watch feature, which tracks where ferries are currently and indicates when ferries are running late.

Ferry Worker Heroes: Savings Lives on the Water and Off

A ferry passenger had a heart attack and fell down stairs. A windsurfer bobbing in the waves alongside his board could not get out of the water off Alki Point. A diver in Edmonds' Underwater Dive Park was floating, unresponsive, on the surface of the water.

In each of these cases the outcome might not have been positive. Yet, thanks to the regular training and drills of Washington State Ferries personnel, each of these individuals was at the center of a highly skilled rescue effort ranging from administering first aid to maneuvering a ferry alongside to assist and then getting the individual onboard, in the case of the windsurfer. Speed is of the essence in Puget Sound, where the low water temperatures can lead to hypothermia in just 10 to 15 minutes.

"When we're out on the water our people don't have the ability to just call 911, so our personnel are trained as first responders for medical assistance," says Steve Rodgers, director of marine operations.

The Washington State Ferries' annual Life Ring Awards Ceremony

More than 40 ferry personnel have been honored for their speedy responses to medical emergencies, to date.

recognizes the individuals who put themselves on the front line of emergencies, rendering life-saving procedures. More than 40 ferry personnel have been honored for their speedy responses to medical emergencies, to date.

One of the most-memorable rescues occurred at the Edmonds Underwater Dive Park on a sunny March morning. As a ferry was departing with a full load, a deck hand noted a diver in trouble, floating on the surface. Captain John Tullis was alerted, and he ordered the launch of a rescue boat. "Once I ring the bells, the crew goes on muscle memory.

They've done the drill every week for years. They were on the water in less than a minute," says Tullis. "We called for an aid car, and the rescue boat got her ashore just as the aid car arrived," he recalls. Then the unthinkable happened. Another diver was in distress. "We went back into the dive park and got him, and brought him to shore, too."

It was only later that they learned the whole story: The divers were husband and wife. The woman experienced a medical emergency while underwater, and as she was being rescued her husband was searching for her exhaustively throughout the dive park. In the beginning stages of hypothermia, he was unable to swim to shore.

The U.S. Coast Guard awarded the captain and two able seamen the highly esteemed Public Service Award for their rescue. Yet their best reward came days after the rescue when the couple, restored to health, came aboard the ferry with a box of chocolates and hugs all around, to thank the captain and crew for saving their lives.

Fleet Statistics									
Class	Length	Beam	Draft	Auto Deck Clearance	Knots	Horsepower	Engines	Autos	Passengers
Jumbo Mark II Class Tacoma (1997), Wenatchee (1998), Puyallup (1999)	460'2"	90'	17'3"	15'4"-15'6"	18	13,200	4	202	2,500
Jumbo Class Spokane (1972/2004), Walla Walla (1973/2005)	440'	87'	18'	15'6"-15'8"	18	11,500	4	188	2,000
Super Class Hyak (1967), Kaleetan (1967/2005), Yakima (1967/2005), Elwha (1967/1991)	382'	73'	18'6"-18'9"	14'5"-15'6"	17-20	8,000-10,200	4	144	1,221-2,000
Issaquah Class Issaquah (1979/1989), Kitsap (1980/1992), Kittitas (1980/1990), Cathlamet (1981/1993), Chelan (1981/2005), Sealh (1982)	328'	78'8"	15'8"-16'6"	15'2"-15'10"	16	5,000	2	90-124	1,090-1,200
Evergreen State Class Evergreen State (1954/1988), Klahowya (1958/1995), Tillikum (1959/1994)	310'-310'2"	73'-73'2"	15'6"-15'10"	13'6"-13'8"	13	2,500	2	87	2,300-2,413
Kwa-Di-Tabil Class Chetzemoka (2010), Salish (2011), Kennewick (2012)	273'8"	64'	11'	16'5"	15.5	6,000	2	64	750
Hiyu Class Hiyu (1967)	162'	63'1"	11'3"	15'	10	860	2	34	200



Stuart Neethling

Routes and Communities

The Washington State Ferries system operates 22 ferries serving 20 terminals on ten routes that lace back and forth across the waters of Puget Sound, linking communities. Come cruise with us as we explore some of the region's most picturesque ferry communities.



James Mayo

An orca spyhops in Haro Strait, off the west coast of San Juan Island.

Wildlife Watching Onboard

The Washington State Ferries that ply the waters of Puget Sound—particularly between Anacortes, the San Juan Islands and Sidney, B.C.—are primarily transport vessels, carrying people, vehicles and goods back and forth. But they are also excellent venues for marine wildlife watching, as these waters are rich in maritime bird life and those most-sought denizens of our area, whales.

Bald eagles are seen from observation decks on almost every sailing; kingfishers, loons (in winter), ducks, puffins (in winter) and innumerable other water birds are common. Harbor seals poke their heads up in the quiet waters of the ports we sail into; California sea lions bark boisterously from channel buoys, tideline rocks and small skerries along our routes. Occasionally Steller sea lions, their much-larger cousins, haul out on rocks.

Perhaps the most famous whales in the world, the 90 or so members of the J, K and L pods of orcas, inhabit the area around the San Juans much of the year, especially during the peak summer visitor months; Haro Strait, west of San Juan Island, is one of their key summering grounds. Orcas, by the way, are not technically whales; they are the world's largest dolphins, ranging up to 26 feet and 6 tons. Pacific white-sided dolphins are often seen year-round, racing through the waves (sometimes racing the boat). Minke whales, California gray whales and the occasional humpback whale are possible sightings, as well.

Whether you are scanning the waters around the boat or not, we are—it's our job. And you can be sure the crew will announce whale sightings en route. We enjoy the spectacle as much as anyone.



Ferry service between Seattle and Bainbridge Island connects islanders, Olympic Peninsula residents and other visitors with the city of Seattle; the westward route serves as a passageway to Kitsap Peninsula and points beyond. This is the system's most heavily traveled route, carrying more than 6 million ferry passengers annually. The crossing takes approximately 35 minutes.

Seattle

For a progressive, innovative metropolis, Seattle has an easygoing vibe often ascribed to its spectacular setting, surrounded by mountains, lakes and the gorgeous inland waterways of Puget Sound. Once known primarily as a center for aircraft manufacturing, with Boeing located here, Seattle today has a diverse economy fueled by software, biotech and Internet companies, including giants Microsoft and Amazon. It's also fueled by coffee—Starbucks got its start here, with the original location in the city's Pike Place Market.

Just below the famous hillside market, Seattle's waterfront has always been a catalyst for the city. In 1897 the first Gold Rush ship docked on Seattle's waterfront, putting the city on the map. Decades later, in 1962, the Seattle World's Fair put Seattle on the map internationally, bringing with it a lasting legacy of arts and culture.

The Emerald City has a lively cultural scene today with a wide range of top-notch museums, performing-arts venues downtown and at the Seattle Center, and scores of galleries in Pioneer Square and other neighborhoods. When Seattleites aren't exploring the arts or enjoying festivals, they're enjoying the out-of-doors—kayaking on Lake Union, hiking in the city's parks or nearby mountains, biking on the Burke Gilman Trail or sailing on Puget Sound.

WATERFRONT WALK

Seattle's waterfront bustles year-round with visitors and locals alike strolling its broad promenade, watching massive container vessels cruise past and ferries slipping in and out of the Seattle ferry terminal at Pier 52.

Next to Coleman Dock at Pier 54, **Ivar's Acres of Clams**, founded by Seattle



A Pike Place Market icon—a neon coffee cup—glows at sunset.

impresario Ivar Haglund, is a Seattle institution known for its fish-and-chips. Farther north, at Pier 56, **Argosy Cruises** (www.argosycruises.com) features Puget Sound and Lake Washington cruises, as well as a sailing to nearby **Tillicum Village**, on Blake Island, for a Northwest Native-inspired dinner and performance.

Miners Landing, at Pier 57, teems with excited kids year-round, with arcade games and an indoor carousel and, beginning this summer, a 175-foot-tall Ferris wheel that will offer birds-eye views of the waterfront.

Between piers 57 and 59, **Waterfront Park** offers additional views of the waterfront and downtown from atop two viewing platforms, and a fountain sprays a welcome mist on strollers in hot summer weather.

At Pier 59, the **Seattle Aquarium**, one of the largest aquariums in the nation, showcases marine life from the Northwest and beyond, including slinky sea otters and evanescent seahorses; the



Downtown Seattle's Myrtle Edwards Park features shoreline access.

aquarium's Underwater Dome surrounds visitors with Puget Sound sea life.

Anthony's Fish Bar offers carryout seafood at Pier 66; many diners enjoy their meals outdoors overlooking the Bell Harbor Marina. Just beyond, **Myrtle Edwards Park** is a 1.25-mile shoreline park with grassy meadows and a small sand beach, as well as bike and pedestrian trails. Near the entrance to the park, a sloping path leads upward to the landscaped terraces of the free, outdoor **Olympic Sculpture Park**, known for the grandeur of its views across Puget Sound to the Olympics as much as for its collection of contemporary artworks by international artists.

SEAFOOD AND FLOWERS AT THE PIKE PLACE MARKET

Across from the Seattle Aquarium, stairs climb the steep hillside to the city's venerable **Pike Place Market**, one of the oldest continually operating markets in the nation. A lively mix of farmers, flower growers, fishmongers and craftspeople peddle their wares here in historic wooden covered arcades, while buskers play on nearly every corner. The market is much more than a tourist attraction; Seattleites shop here, too, alongside tourists from countries around the world. Beneath the main arcade, stairs lead to several levels with a maze of tiny shops selling everything from antiques to comic books to imports.



Benaroya Hall is the home of the Seattle Symphony.

Fred Housel

The market is an ideal spot to sample regional foods, with booths selling local preserves, cheeses, smoked salmon and many other snack items. One of the most-popular snack stops is the **Daily Dozen Doughnut Co.**, where you can watch a conveyor belt lifting miniature doughnuts out of hot oil. Another great gawking opportunity can be found at **Beecher's Handmade Cheese**, where workers churn fresh cream in immense vats viewable through street-side windows.

Several of the city's best restaurants can be found in or near the market: Famed Northwest chef Tom Douglas' **Etta's Seafood** (2020 Western Ave.) overlooks scenic Victor Steinbrueck Park. **The Pink Door** (1919 Post Alley) features Northern Italian fare served on a view deck overlooking Elliott Bay, and **Chez Shea** (94 Pike St.) is a peerless French restaurant with a seasonal, local-foods menu.

DOWNTOWN SHOPPING

Westlake Center (400 Pine St.), a glass-fronted multilevel shopping mall, anchors the pedestrian Westlake Park in downtown Seattle, surrounded by a thriving retail district. **Macy's** (1601 Third Ave.) and **Nordstrom** (500 Pine St.), the

upscale chain's flagship store, as well as scads of national-brand stores can be found in the surrounding blocks. Upscale shoppers head to ritzy **5th Avenue**, which is lined with couture fashion shops; it's also the home of the venerable **5th Avenue Theatre** (1308 Fifth Ave), which produces live musicals inside a vintage jewel box of a theater with an intricate Chinese motif.

The acclaimed **Seattle Art Museum** (1300 First Ave.), featuring Northwest and international artworks in a contemporary building, and **Benaroya Hall** (200 University St.), home of the Seattle Symphony, face each other across Second Avenue. Across from Benaroya **The Triple Door** (216 Union St.) is

a top-notch music venue that books national touring acts.

BREWS AND NIGHTLIFE IN BELLTOWN

Just north of the Pike Place Market, Belltown boasts one of the city's trendiest club and nightlife scenes. On summer evenings, especially, throngs of revelers leave their downtown jobs behind to savor fruits of the vine in intimate wine bars, dine in trendy restaurants or rock out in music venues.

Belltown has an extraordinary number of eateries, including Tom Douglas' Contemporary American restaurant the **Dahlia Lounge** (2001 Fourth Ave.); acclaimed chef Ethan Stowell's aria to Italian food, **Tavolata** (2323 Second Ave.); **Shiro's** sushi bar (2401 Second Ave.); and the New American cuisine spot **Spur Gastropub** (113 Blanchard St.).

Music lovers flock to Belltown's live-music venues, which range from the classy **Dimitriou's Jazz Alley** (www.jazzalley.com), the epicenter of Seattle's jazz and blues scene, to **The Crocodile** (2200 Second Ave.)—the historic home base of many music startups, including Nirvana, Pearl Jam and R.E.M.—for hip-hop, punk, electronica and more.



Museum of Flight

The Museum of Flight's Great Hall is filled with historic planes.

MILESTONES OF AVIATION AT THE MUSEUM OF FLIGHT

The Museum of Flight (www.museumofflight.org), on East Marginal Way South, 9 miles south of downtown, is one of the largest air-and-space museums in the nation. This massive, airy complex holds more than 150 historically significant air- and spacecraft, including the Concorde, one of only 20 built, and the Blackbird, one of the fastest planes ever built, with a speed of more than Mach 3.

Exciting interactive exhibits detail the history of aviation, including Boeing's original Red Barn, where the company's first planes were built a century ago. The Personal Courage Wing highlights the role of fighters during WWII and the valiant men who flew them, as well as the hard-working women who built them.

The Museum recently opened the Charles Simonyi Space Gallery with the Soyuz TMA-14 spacecraft as its centerpiece. NASA's Full Fuselage Trainer is slated to arrive this summer, and an accompanying exhibit will detail the rigors of training required to prepare astronauts for spaceflight.

Sensational Seafair

Seafair (www.seafair.com), a multi-layered summertime cultural and arts festival that takes place in neighborhoods across the city, reaches its apex at the **Seafair Torchlight Parade** (July 28) and the **Albert Lee Cup** hydroplane races and **Boeing Air Show** (Aug. 3-5). The festival encompasses dozens of entertaining events, including a **Milk Carton Derby** (July 14) at Green Lake, 5 miles north of downtown, **Fleet Week** (Aug. 1-5), and numerous ethnic parades and celebrations.



Center for Wooden Boats

ONE OF SEATTLE'S MOST FASCINATING RECREATIONAL OPTIONS can be found at **The Center for Wooden Boats** (www.cwb.org) on South Lake Union, where a fleet of vintage wooden vessels, including sail- and rowboats, is available for rent. The center celebrates and sustains the region's small-craft heritage through classes in boatbuilding and sailing. On Sundays, May through November, CWB offers free sailboat rentals and free pond-boat rentals, for use in the nearby Model Boat Pond.

ART-FILLED PIONEER SQUARE

South of the Seattle ferry terminal and a block inland from the waterfront, the oldest part of Seattle, Pioneer Square, dates from 1852. Tree-shaded historic brick buildings here house cafes, sports bars, nightclubs and galleries. The **Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park** (319 Second Ave. S.) draws history buffs with its excellent interactive exhibits that bring the Gold Rush days and other moments in Seattle's history to life. Yet more historic details can be gleaned on a **Seattle Underground Tour** (www.seattleundergroundtour.com), such as the fact that the city was once built on tidal flats, causing some unfortunate plumbing problems. Early city planners raised the entire city by a story, leaving behind storied tunnels traversed on the tours.

Pioneer Square is also known for its numerous fine-art galleries. The **First Thursday Seattle Art Walk**, noon to 8 p.m. the first Thursday of each month, offers opportunities to meet the artists and view new exhibits.

South of Pioneer Square, in the SoDo District, Seattle's stadium complex—**Safeco Field** (Mariners) and **CenturyLink Field** (Seahawks and Sounders)—draws legions of sports fans on game days.

COLORFUL INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

A few blocks southeast of Pioneer Square, the Chinatown-International District is the city's most colorfully ethnic neighborhood. Roast ducks hang in store windows, baskets of Asian vegetables and spices spill out of hole-in-the-wall storefronts, and family-owned restaurants attract diners for dim sum and plates of ethnic fare.

Uwajimaya (600 Fifth Ave. S.), a sprawling complex stacked high with imported goods, fresh seafood and exotic groceries, is a Seattle institution; a busy food court here features Asian delicacies in many forms.

Visitors can better understand the history of this vibrant neighborhood by visiting the small, but exceptional **Wing Luke Museum** (719 S. King St.), which tells the poignant tales of early immigrants through interactive exhibits and tours of the historic Yick Fung company store and a historic hotel.

The fire-engine-red **Grand Pavilion**, in **Hing Hay Park** (423 Maynard Avenue S.), is a mark of pride for area residents, who turn out in large numbers alongside visitors several times a year for multicultural festivals, including the Bon Odori and Moon festivals and the Lunar New Year celebration.



Leslie Fordsberg

SEATTLE CENTER

Seattle's iconic Space Needle, built for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, is the centerpiece of the 74-acre Seattle Center, the city's civic center, where arts venues, museums and theaters surround the dramatic International Fountain. The Center draws arts patrons to the Pacific Northwest Ballet, the Seattle Opera and Seattle Repertory Theatre, and kids and families to the Seattle Children's Museum, Seattle Children's Theater and Pacific Science Center. There's much more to experience here, though, from art exhibits and concerts to a popular skateboard park.

The Seattle Center thrums with music and crowds during festivals, including classics such as the **Northwest Folklife Festival** (May 25-28), **Bite of Seattle** (July 20-22) and **Bumbershoot** (Sept. 1-3), in addition to many ethnic festivals held throughout the year.

The **Next Fifty**, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the city's World's Fair, through October 21, will add many other entertaining options, including historical exhibits and **"King Tut: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs"** (May 24–Jan. 6, 2013) at the Pacific Science Center, with more than 100 objects from King Tut's tomb.

East of the Center, across Fifth Avenue, the spectacular new, 11,000-square-foot **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center** (1551 Eastlake Ave. E) has received worldwide attention for its inspiring exhibits dedicated to humanitarian efforts around the world. You'll never encounter another museum like it—it's meant to provoke thoughts and action. Even the restroom stall doors have large photos of rustic latrines one might encounter in a remote village in India or Africa, and a question posed at the drinking fountains asks "What if you had to walk three miles for a sip?"



Leslie Forberg

Bainbridge Island

With 53 miles of shoreline offering spectacular views of Mount Rainier, the Olympics and the Cascades, as well as Douglas fir forests and small-town charm, Bainbridge Island is one of the most-visited tourist attractions in Washington State. The ease of getting there, via a scenic 35-minute Washington State Ferries cruise from Seattle's waterfront, draws visitors year-round to the friendly, artsy town center, just a five-minute walk from the terminal.

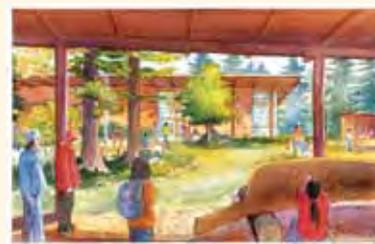
Following a major renovation project, the town is at its most-beautiful ever, with fashionable boutiques facing broad new sidewalks and baskets of blooms adding reflective sparks of color to jewelry and gift shop windows. Downtown Bainbridge Island is only a block from the ferry terminal; to reach downtown, turn left on Winslow Way East.

History buffs will be fascinated by the **Bainbridge Island Historical Society & Museum** (125 Ericksen Ave.), which showcases the island's history. Originally the home of the Suquamish Nation, in the 1800s Bainbridge Island boasted the world's largest sawmill, at Port Blakely,

which drew Japanese and Hawaiian millworkers. The rich mix of ethnicities grew as shipyards attracted workers from the Philippines and other nations. The museum has a particularly poignant exhibit about Executive Order 9066 of 1942, which forced island residents of Japanese descent into internment camps in eastern California and Idaho.

The nearby **Kids Discovery Museum** (301 Ravine Lane NE), with its Pirate Tree House, Our Town exhibit and outdoor play space (complete with a pint-sized ferry boat) is a great place to engage children's imaginations.

Bainbridge Island is known for its spectacular gardens, whether public show gardens or private gardens opened to the public one weekend a year, during the annual **Bainbridge in Bloom** (www.gardentour.info), July 8-10. One



SUQUAMISH SHOWCASE

Entering through the door of a longhouse, visitors will walk between a representation of a forest on one side and the ocean on the other as they're immersed in the sights and sounds of the world of the Suquamish Nation (www.suquamish.org) at the tribe's spectacular new interactive museum, the Suquamish Museum & Arts Center, opening September 15, just beyond Bainbridge Island, on Suquamish Way. The "People of the Clear Salt Water" have lived on Puget Sound's tidelands from time immemorial; the esteemed Chief Seattle, born in 1786, was one of their ancestral leaders. The new museum, dedicated to the rich history of the Suquamish, will explain their origin legends and their legacies by means of a 2,000-square-foot exhibit hall and a gallery with temporary exhibits. Outside, a native plants garden will offer details about how these plants were used by the Suquamish.

of the West Coast's most-enchancing examples of natural woodlands and landscaped gardens can be found at **Bloedel Reserve** (www.bloedelreserve.org), a world-class 150-acre public garden with a reflecting pool, Japanese Garden and elegant estate home.

The island has several beautiful shoreline parks overlooking Puget Sound and the surrounding mountains. On the southern tip, **Fort Ward State Park** is a 137-acre marine park with more than a mile of picnic-perfect shoreline on Rich Passage, where Seattle-Bainbridge ferries strike a pose



The pond at Bloedel Reserve is a serene setting amid woods and gardens.



The Chilly Hilly, in March, draws thousands of bike riders to Bainbridge.

Bloedel Reserve

Kitsap Tours

against emerald forests as they cruise past. On the northeastern edge, **Fay Bainbridge State Park** has log-strewn sand beaches with the skyline of Seattle in the distance.

With salt-air breezes and miles of rolling country roads, Bainbridge is beloved by outdoors enthusiasts, especially bikers, who flock aboard the Seattle-Bainbridge ferry year-round. **Classic Cycle** (740 Winslow Way NE) rents bikes and provides island biking maps.

Exotic Aquatics Scuba and Kayaking (146 Winslow Way W) and **Back of Beyond Explorations** (181 Winslow Way) offer kayak rentals and guided tours of the island's wildlife-rich bays, and **Eagle Harbor Electric Boat Rentals** (www.theeagleharborinn.com) features

canopied wooden boats ideal for ogling spectacular waterfront homes.

Bainbridge Island's downtown is a magnet for shoppers, with boutiques selling women's and children's fashions, home décor, art and jewelry. **Bainbridge Arts & Crafts** (151 Winslow Way E) is a cooperative gallery with works by West Coast artists.

For a small island, Bainbridge boasts a lot of wineries; seven can be found throughout the island. Three—Amelia Wynn, Fletcher Bay and Victor Alexander—offer samples of their handcrafted, premium wines in the cozy **Island Vintners** (450 Winslow Way E) tasting room, downtown; to fashion your own wine trail, check out www.bainbridgewineries.com. The island is also home to a craft distillery and a brewery: **Bainbridge Organic Distillers** (www.bainbridgedistillers.com) creates small-batch whiskey, gin and vodka, and offers tastings and tours; and **Bainbridge Island Brewing** (www.bainbridgebeer.com), a new microbrewery, will open a taproom this summer.

Bainbridge Island has become a

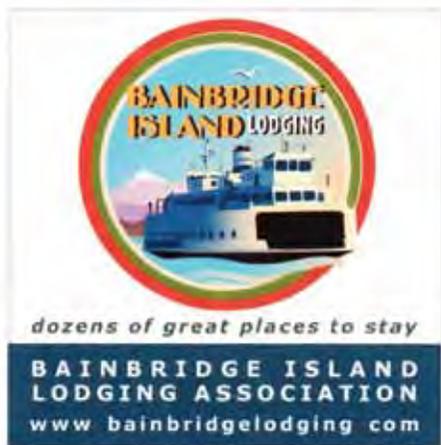
Bainbridge Island and the Mosquito Fleet

Before modern ferries and interior roads, the only way to get to and around Bainbridge Island was via water. The island was served by dozens of small steamships that carried passengers and freight between landings where communities formed and grew. The 10-mile-long island had an astonishing 30 steamship landings. Island residents could discern the differences among captains' whistles, hustling down to the dock to catch the requisite steamer.

culinary hub, drawing diners from Seattle and farther afield to restaurants specializing in local foods. Among the best are acclaimed Northwest chef Greg Atkinson's newly opened **Restaurant Marché** (150 Madrone Lane), a contemporary Northwest bistro using foods from island farms; and **Four Swallows** (481 Madison Ave. N), featuring fresh, local seafood in a charming historic home.

Blackbird Bakery (210 Winslow Way E) always has a lineup for homespun pies and tarts, pastries and coffee cakes, and **Mora Iced Creamery** (139 Madrone Lane) specializes in premium frozen concoctions made with natural ingredients; their blueberry ice-cream bursts with whole berries.

While downtown Bainbridge has many charms and activities to keep visitors busy, travelers who are interested in exploring farther afield can take an excursion on a **Kitsap Tours** (www.kitsap-tours.com) bus, which picks them up in downtown Bainbridge, and embarks on history, shopping and dining tours of the island and the Kitsap Peninsula, or the Olympic Peninsula.



Beyond Bainbridge: Poulsbo

On State Route 104 just past Agate Pass, set on a sapphire, fjord-like arm of Puget Sound, Poulsbo is often called “Little Norway.” Settled by Norwegian fishermen and loggers,



Joe Mabel

Poulsbo today still has hints of its Scandinavian past: The prominent **Sons of Norway** (18891 Front St. NE) hosts pancake breakfasts and Scandinavian dance classes; **The Nordic Maid** (18954 Front St. NE) sells imported linens, candleholders and more; and the town’s popular **Viking Fest** (see below) allows everyone to channel their inner Viking.

Boutiques and galleries line the town’s compact Front Street. Four parks are within easy walking distance of downtown, including **Muriel Iverson Williams Waterfront Park** near the marina.



Steven Paulow

Left: The historic First Lutheran church sits on a hill top offering a magnificent view of Poulsbo.

Above: Downtown Poulsbo—a treasure trove for shoppers.

Formerly known as **Liberty Bay Park**, it’s ideal for picnics. The nearby **Olympic Outdoor Center** has a rental dock with kayaks and stand-up paddleboards for conveying visitors on their own aquatic voyages.

POULSBO IS A DELIGHTFUL COMMUNITY between Bainbridge Island, Kingston and the Hood Canal Bridge.

It was established in 1886 as a fishing and boatbuilding village on scenic Dog Fish Bay, now known as Liberty Bay. Due to the likeness of the founding father’s motherland, Poulsbo has been nicknamed “Little Norway on the Fjord”.

No shortage of things to do. Poulsbo’s historic downtown district on the waterfront features 65 shops and services plus 13 restaurants for a day of shopping and dining. Naturalists can explore miles of walking trails and water parks — Poulsbo is famous for bird watching and marine life exploration as well. You can take in a tour through Poulsbo’s historical museum, visit the free Marine Science Center or rent a boat on Liberty Bay during the summer months.

Celebrate with locals at events throughout the year. Voted 2nd best in the state by it’s peers, Poulsbo’s Farmers Market runs from April through December. Art walks are every second Saturday. This year, Poulsbo will be the official greeter to the 2012 Babe Ruth World Series, held in Central Kitsap and will honor the area with a parade down Front Street.

Welcome boaters. Poulsbo boasts the areas finest marine port with ample guest moorage and services — 130 slips, restrooms, showers, laundry and fuel dock. Visit the port’s website at www.poulsbo.com

So turn left at Hostmark Street and come see what “Velkommen” is all about!

www.historicdowntownpoulsbo.com

For more to do on Kitsap visit www.visitkitsap.com

What’s Happening in Poulsbo



VOTED 2ND BEST FARMERS MARKET IN THE STATE
Every Saturday, 9am-1pm, through December 22.
www.poulsbofarmersmarket.org



Steven Paulow

DON’T MISS VIKING FEST NEXT YEAR - Celebrate the spirit of our Scandinavian Founders. Occurs annually in May. www.vikingfest.org

3RD OF JULY - Independence Day Celebration. www.3rdofJuly.org

AMERICANA MUSIC FESTIVAL September 8th - Concert for the entire family. Poulsbo waterfront. www.poulsbomusicfestival.com

CHRISTMAS IN POULSBO 65 shops, hay rides, Father Christmas and Yulefest. www.historicdowntownPoulsbo.com

Velkommen
Poulsbo!

Little Norway on the Fjord

Only 8 miles from Bainbridge and
17 miles from Kingston



Indoors or outdoors there’s lots to do in Poulsbo—shopping, dining, hiking, bird watching, fishing and boating.

Come and find out why they call ours one of the friendliest places in the state.



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www.guesthousintl.com/hotels/poulsbo
1.800.214.8378

www.historicdowntownpoulsbo.com

Puget Sound Farmers Markets

ANACORTES FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
May–early October
7th Street & R Avenue
www.anacortesfarmersmarket.org

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
mid-April–November,
until 2 p.m. July–Labor Day
Town Square at City Hall Park
www.bainbridgefarmersmarket.com

BAYVIEW FARMERS MARKET (WHIDBEY ISLAND)
Saturdays 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
late April–October
State Route 525 & Bayview Road
www.bayviewfarmersmarket.com

BREMERTON FARMERS MARKET
Thursdays 4–7 p.m. at
Evergreen Park
www.bremertonmarket.wordpress.com

COUPEVILLE FARMERS MARKET (WHIDBEY ISLAND)
Saturdays 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
late April–late October
788 Alexander Street

EDMONDS MUSEUM SUMMER MARKET
Saturdays 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
July–early October
Fifth and Bell streets
www.historicedmonds.org/Summer_Market.html

GREENBANK FARM SUNDAY MARKET (WHIDBEY ISLAND)
Sundays 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
mid-May–September
State Route 525 & Wonn Road
www.greenbankfarm.com

KINGSTON FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
May–mid-October
Mike Wallace Park at the Port of
Kingston
www.kingstonfarmersmarket.com

LANGLEY SECOND STREET MARKET (WHIDBEY ISLAND)
Fridays 3–7 p.m.
June–September
221 Second Street
www.visitlangley.com

LOPEZ ISLAND FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
May–September
Lopez Village
www.lopezfarmersmarket.com

MUKILTEO FARMERS MARKET
Wednesdays 3–7 p.m.
June–September
Lighthouse Park next to the ferry dock
www.mukilteofarmersmarket.org

OAK HARBOR PUBLIC MARKET (WHIDBEY ISLAND)
Thursdays 4–7 p.m.
mid-May–September
State Route 20 next to Visitor
Information Center
www.oakharborchamber.com

ORCAS ISLAND FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
May–September
Village Green in Eastsound
www.orcasislandfarmersmarket.org

PIKE PLACE MARKET (SEATTLE)
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until 5 p.m. Sundays
First Avenue & Pike Street
www.pikeplacemarket.org

POULSBO FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
early April–December
Poulsbo Village Medical/Dental Center
(7th and Iverson)
www.poulsbofarmersmarket.org



Christina Pivank

SAN JUAN ISLAND FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
late April–September
Brickworks Plaza in Friday Harbor
www.sjfarmersmarket.com

SOUTH WHIDBEY FARMERS MARKET
Sundays 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
late April–October
2812 Thompson Road, www.
southwhidbeytilth.org

VASHON ISLAND FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
April–mid-November
Village Green Park, Vashon Highway
SW & Bank Road
www.stov.us/at/farmersMark.html

WEST SEATTLE FARMERS MARKET
Sundays 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
year-round
44th Avenue SW and SW Alaska
www.seattlefarmersmarkets.org

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Bremerton

A bustling Navy town—the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard dominates Bremerton’s waterfront—Bremerton has remade itself in recent years into an appealing stop for visitors. The town, the largest on the Olympic Peninsula (pop. 38,000), is proud of its service to the country, and a visit invariably includes an enlightening and fascinating trip to the nation’s military past. The population of the town swelled during WWII, when 80,000 residents lived here, working in the shipbuilding and repair yards.

Bremerton’s deep and personal commitment to military service takes shape on the waterfront, where the **Puget Sound Navy Museum** (251 First St.) features historical exhibits about



Bremerton’s art-filled Harborside Fountain Park is a relaxing retreat.

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the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. On the waterfront just east of the ferry terminal, the **Louis Mentor Boardwalk** ends at the **U.S.S. Turner Joy**, a renowned Navy destroyer that took part in the Vietnam War. Today it's a floating museum that offers insights into life onboard naval vessels.

Modern-day tributes to the efforts of Bremerton shipbuilders can be found while strolling through the town's lovely **Harborside Fountain Park**, just west of the ferry dock, with its dramatic fountains that evoke submarine towers, and spout water 60 feet into the air. Artworks here include bronzes that capture the contribution of individual shipbuilders.

If you've arrived in Bremerton by car, you'll find that traffic is channeled through a tunnel, diverting it from downtown streets. To reach downtown, turn right at the end of the tunnel onto Park Avenue, and then take any right. The next main street to the west, Pacific Avenue, is the town's main shopping district. Starting at Fifth Avenue and heading south, you'll find **Two Sisters** (520 Pacific Ave.), with lovely handmade jewelry; **Simply Renewed** (408 Pacific Ave.), with antique collectables; and the **Amy Burnett Gallery** (402 Pacific Ave.), where the whimsical **Pyrex Museum** recalls memories of the '50s for boomers. At 331 Pacific Avenue, **Collective Visions** is a cooperative gallery with a broad array of works by artists from around West Puget Sound.

Families with young children have a treat in store at the **Aurora Valentinetti Puppet Museum** (257 Fourth St.), which displays puppets from around the world and even has a pint-sized version of a puppet theater and puppets in the lobby for kids to put on their own plays. They'll also likely enjoy **The Kitsap County Historical Museum** (280 Fourth St.), where visitors can walk through the entryway of the 1919 Washington School and stroll down "Main Street," with storefronts from the early 20th century.

When it's time to dine, **Anthony's at Sinclair Inlet** (20 Washington Ave.) offers Northwest seafood in a contemporary waterfront setting. For more casual fare, **Hi-Lo's 15th Street Café** (2720 15th St.) serves hearty breakfasts and lunches, and the tiny **Boogaloo's Bar-B-Que** (100 Washington Ave.), on the waterfront, features moist, smoky brisket sandwiches for take-away.

Seventeen miles north of Seattle, the attractive seaside town of Edmonds rolls gently downhill to Puget Sound and the gleaming white Washington State ferries that glide in and out of the Edmonds Terminal, en route to Kingston, on the west side of the Sound. The crossing takes approximately 30 minutes.

Edmonds

Shingle mills that processed the area's once-abundant Western red-cedar stretched along the waterfront during the early 1900s; today the waterfront is Edmonds' front porch, with lovely sand beaches ideal for sand-castle building, beachcombing or just breathing in the fresh salt air.

North of the ferry dock, **Brackett's Landing North** is one of the most charming, and accessible small beaches in Puget Sound, with public art, picnic tables and a front-row seat for viewing divers just offshore in the **Edmonds Underwater Park**. This park is no ordinary dive spot; it encompasses more than 27 acres of tidelands and sea floor, with manmade reef and sunken vessels providing habitat for a wide variety of Puget Sound sea life, from Dungeness crab and octopi to colorful sea anemones. **Brackett's Landing South**, a sand beach with grassy hillocks ideal for picnicking, flanks the ferry terminal to the south. Just beyond, **Olympic Beach**, with a fishing pier and picnic tables, offers yet more seashore access.

While Edmonds' beaches are a huge draw, there's a lot going on throughout town, especially in warm-weather months, when flowerpots brimming with blooms are set out in front of boutiques, and shoppers stroll the town's streets, which radiate outward from a fountain at the corner of Fifth and Main. The town has a ladies-who-lunch feel to it, with colorful store windows beckoning visitors inside to view local art, jewelry and other keepsakes. **Gallery North** (508 Main St.) is a cooperative gallery with works in pottery, woodwork, glass and other media by local artists, and the town's **Third Thursday Art Walk** draws arts lovers from around the region.

Edmonds has some of the region's



Bruce Conkey

best restaurants, including two large seafood emporiums on the waterfront with lovely water and Olympic Range views—the venerable, family-friendly **Arnie's** (300 Admiral Way) and **Anthony's HomePort** (456 Admiral Way), with a highly coveted outdoor dining area on the water. At the center of town several eateries attract diners looking for fresh, seasonal fare. Among them are **Epulo Bistro** (526 Main St.), which serves Mediterranean-meets-the-Northwest foods; and **The Loft Café and Social Lounge** (515-A Main St.), with artfully presented New American fare and specialty cocktails in a convivial courtyard setting.

With water's-edge parks and expansive views, it's no wonder that Edmonds is a popular place for festivals. Among the largest are the **Edmonds Rotary Waterfront Festival** (June 1-3); the **Edmonds Arts Festival** (June 15-17); and **An Edmonds Kind of 4th**, on the Fourth of July. On Sundays in the summer, free **Concerts in the Park** are held at City Park, at Third Avenue South and Howell Way.



Bruce Conkey

Top: The Edmonds Arts Festival, on Father's Day Weekend, offers a wide array of local arts and crafts.

Bottom: Brackett's Landing North, adjacent to the Edmonds ferry dock, is a scenic stretch of sand beach.

On summer Saturdays, the **Edmonds Museum Market**, held on Fifth Street near the fountain, is a great place to sample regional foods and produce; the nearby **Edmonds Historical Museum** (118 Fifth Ave. N) chronicles the history and changes that have shaped the city.

When sunsets paint the skies over Puget Sound, couples and families flock to the historic **Edmonds Theater** (415 Main St.), a vintage gem, or take in a play by the **Driftwood Players** at the 223-seat Wade James Theatre (950 Main St.).

Kingston

On the Kitsap Peninsula across from Edmonds, the seaside enclave of Kingston is centered on the Edmonds-Kingston Ferry Terminal. It's a busy place: The ferry carries more than 4 million passengers annually. While many pass through on their way to or from the Kitsap Peninsula or Olympic Peninsula, those in the know plan extra time to enjoy Kingston's compact, attractive downtown with gift shops and eateries catering to ferry riders.

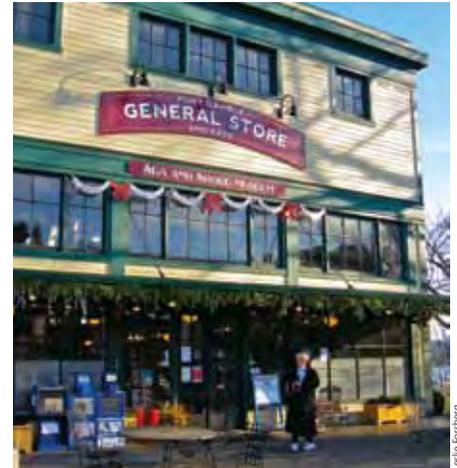
With so many travelers passing through, Kingston specializes in quick bites. **J'Aime Les Crepes** (11264 Hwy. 104 NE), with fruit- and chocolate-filled crepes, is a perennial favorite; **Cuppa Bella Coffee & Sweets** (10984 Hwy. 104 NE) features homemade fudge; and **Mora Iced Creamery** (11250 Hwy 104 NE) makes small-batch ice cream the



Kingston's quaint shops and cafes attract ferry riders.

old-fashioned way, with all-natural ingredients. In a historic wood building (the Old Kingston Hotel), the **Granola Factory & Bakery** (25931 Washington Blvd.) features fresh-made granola and pastries.

In summertime, bands frequently play at the band shell in **Mike Wallace Park**, between the terminal and the Port of Kingston Marina, and a sprawling farmers' market adds a festive feel on Saturdays.



The Port Gamble General Store has an old-fashioned candy shop and a shell museum.

Beyond Kingston: Port Gamble

Eight miles northwest of Kingston on State Route 104, the historic community of Port Gamble, a National Historic Landmark, is an idyllic hamlet where time seems to stand still. This placid setting with pastel, New England-style gabled homes and a tall-steepled, white church, has a main street lined by yet more vintage homes, new antiques shops and knick-knack boutiques.

During the timber boom days of the late 19th century, Port Gamble was a model company town. The owners of the Puget Mill Co. believed that workers with good homes and a stable community would be more productive, so the millworkers enjoyed everything from early indoor plumbing and electricity to a medical clinic, store and community hall. The quaint **Port Gamble Historic Museum** illuminates the lives of those who once lived and worked here.

Today, the community gathering spot of this bluff-top town is the venerable **Port Gamble General Store & Café**, with its second-floor shell museum, old-fashioned candy shop, and café that serves hearty sandwiches and burgers.

The historic **Port Gamble Theater**, just re-opened this year, will present *Anne of Green Gables* and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, among other productions. Next door, in a fire-engine-red building, **Olympic Outdoor Center** offers kayak rentals and tours.

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