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*Tourism Guide 2021-2022*

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# CHEHALIS RIVER VALLEY 2021 VINTAGE TRAIN SCHEDULE

## REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULES

### APRIL – MAY

**Saturday & Sunday (1 ¼ hours roundtrip)**  
Departs Chehalis to Milburn  
1:00pm and 3:00pm

### JUNE – AUGUST

**Saturday & Sunday (1 ¼ hours roundtrip)**  
Departs Chehalis to Milburn  
1:00pm and 3:00pm

**Saturdays Only (1 ¾ hours roundtrip)**  
Departs Chehalis to Ruth 5:00pm

~~~

Dates and times subject to change.

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# Welcome to Southwest Washington

## — You Won't Want to Leave

While the Pacific Northwest as a whole offers endless recreation and tourism opportunities, Southwest Washington by itself is home to an embarrassment of such riches.

The biggest draw is our resident volcanoes. A trip to Mount St. Helens National Monument is awe inspiring, with stunning views available on a landscape that just 41 years ago was decimated by a catastrophic eruption that reshaped the horizon. Today, visitors can see vegetation

and wildlife springing to life at a speed that has continued to stun researchers. The more ambitious adventurers can climb the volcano itself, a feat that provides stunning views of mountains across the region.

Just to the north, Mount Rainier National Park provides another magnet for travelers. With endless trails and viewpoints, it's a can't miss for those visiting the region. Find your way there through the lovely and welcoming cities of Ashford,

Morton, Packwood or Yelm, all of which embrace tourists looking to grab a meal or souvenir.

For the outdoor recreationalist, the entire region — including Gifford Pinchot National Park — is a mecca for fishing and hunting. You can gear up for those adventures in any number of local cities and towns, from Centralia and Chehalis in the population center of Lewis County to smaller stops such as Toledo, Winlock, Onalaska, Randle,

Rainier or Mossyrock.

That's not to say all available adventures are of the outdoor variety.

As you'll find in this visitor's guide, those who choose to spend time in our region can also find fantastic food, entertainment options from roller skating and swimming to movies and a steam train, and so much more.

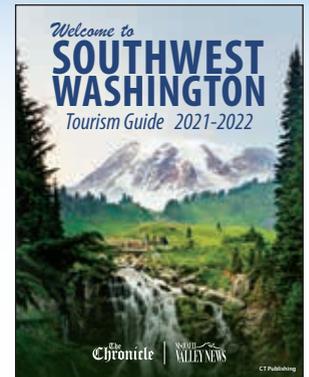
Use this guide as a starting point for charting your next great adventure. Be warned, though; you won't want to leave.

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Myrtle Falls during sunset at Mount Rainier Washington.  
freepik.com

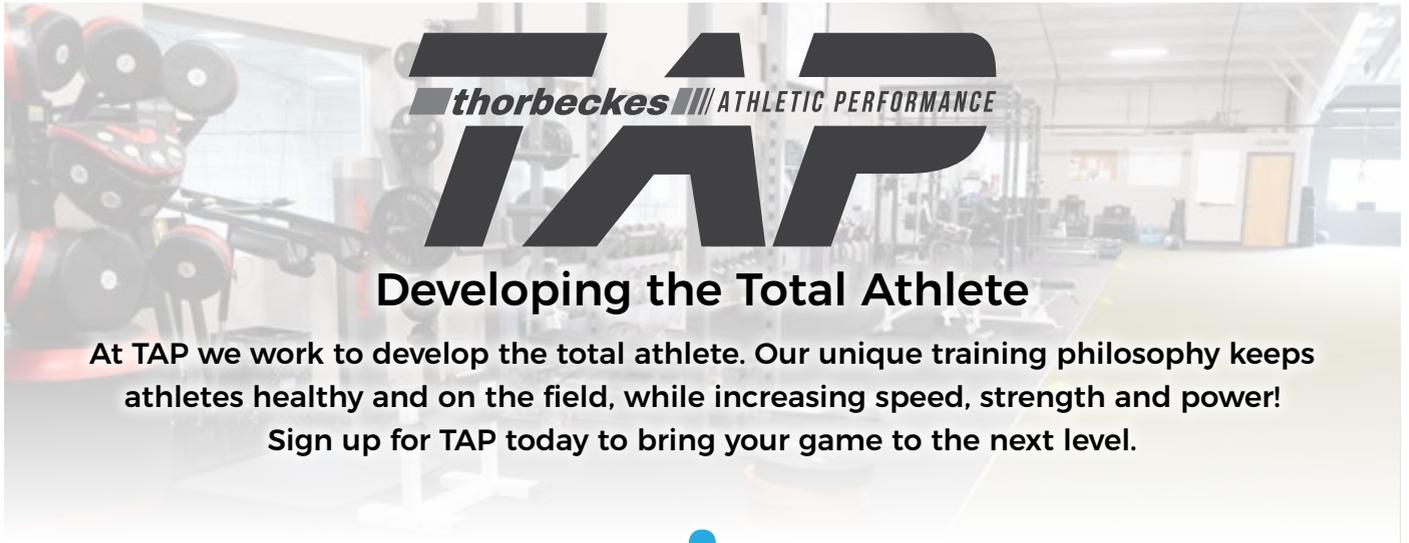


Goat Rocks Wilderness  
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# Visit the Volcanoes: *Mount Rainier, St. Helens Offer Recreational Bliss*

## Mount Rainier

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

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

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

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

Mount Rainier is part of a scenic region of the Cascades that separates the east and west sides of the state, making the mountain more than just a destination in its own right, but an outdoors haven for anyone



Jared Wenzelburger

Mount Rainier from McKenna.

whose heart calls the hills and peaks of the region home.

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

The Cougar Rock campground in the southwest section of the park is open from late May to late September, offering 173 camp-

sites; Ohanapecosh in the southeast section offers 188 sites; and White River offers 112 sites. All these campgrounds offer water, restrooms and fire grates; RVs and trailers are welcome, but visit [nps.gov/mora](https://www.nps.gov/mora) for maximum length allowances.

Reservations are also required at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh.

For those wishing to camp in the wilderness, a permit is required. Pick one up from any of the visi-

tor centers throughout the park.

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

For a list of maps and other resources with which to plan a camping trip, visit [nps.gov/mora/planyour-visit/maps.htm](https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyour-visit/maps.htm).

From Interstate 5, Mount Rainier is best accessed by taking U.S.

*Please see* **VOLCANOES**, page 6

# Volcanoes

Continued from page 5

Highway 12 to Morton then bearing north on state Route 7. Head north into Elbe, then take state Route 706 east all the way to the park entrance. A National Park Pass is required; for more information visit [nps.gov/mora](http://nps.gov/mora). Additional information can be found online at [visitrainier.com](http://visitrainier.com).

## Mount St. Helens

Unlike its unspoiled neighbor on the Cascade mountain range, Mount St. Helens is still recovering from a devastating eruption 41 years ago.

The Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument stands as a living testament to nature's regenerative power. It's easily accessible



Jared Wenzelburger

Mount Rainier as seen from White Pass.

from Lewis County for those who want to get a close-up view of the mountain and the surrounding area by car or by foot.

Evidence of the destruction still marks the landscape, with pieces of the mountain known as hummocks deposited through-

out the blast zone.

The signs of regeneration are best explored closely.

Please see **VOLCANOES**, page 7

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# Volcanoes

Continued from page 6

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

To get the closest you can to the mountain — or even the crater itself — you'll have to use your feet. Several hikes offer the opportunity to view the mountain from a variety of angles, including the Hummocks Trail, a two-mile loop around several hummocks that allow for views of the mountain.

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

To get even more majestic views of the mountain — and maybe more importantly for some, away from the throngs at Johnston



Jared Wenzelburger

Signage is posted outside the Johnston Ridge Observatory for the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Ridge Observatory — park at the far end of the observatory lot and take the Boundary Trail to Harry's Ridge or Coldwater Peak.

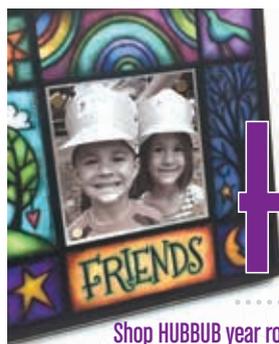
The Washington Trails Association website at [www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org) offers detailed information on several other hikes, complete with trip reports from people who have been there and can offer advice for the trail.

The Mount St. Helens Institute, a nonprofit organization aiming to enhance people's experiences at the mountain, offers a wide variety of activities from summit climbs with geologists to its annual Volcano

Outdoor School and Volcano Camp. For more information on their offerings, visit [mshinstitute.org](http://mshinstitute.org) or follow them on Facebook.

Mount St. Helens is truly

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



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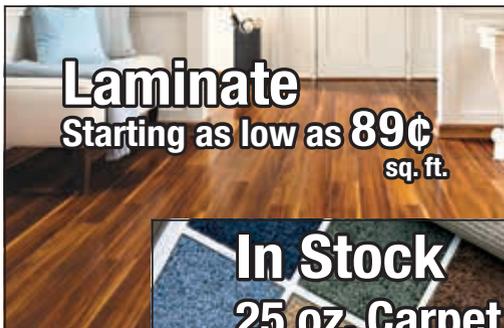
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Alex Brown

Packwood Lake Trail

## Southwest Washington Trails for a Short Stroll or a Long Hike

Whether you're looking to stretch your legs or go on a challenging hike, Southwest Washington is loaded with opportunities.

Thousands of trails offer endless opportunities, but here is a brief guide to some of the trails in the region.

tralia Airport or connect with the new Airport Road trail to Centralia on this flat, compact gravel path that's just two minutes away from downtown Chehalis.

### **Chehalis River Discovery Trail**

2.6 miles — easy  
*Centralia*

Bring the dog or the whole family to the peaceful Chehalis River Discovery Trail at 1101 Goodrich Road, Centralia. Designated trail parking is located in the Centralia Wastewater Treatment Plant parking lot.

### **Willapa Hills Trail**

56 miles — easy  
*Chehalis*

This flat rail-to-trail is managed by Washington State Parks. It begins near the Veterans Museum in Chehalis and spans 56 miles to Raymond across rivers, roads and historic Lewis and Pacific County farms. Paved for

### **Grove of the Patriarchs**

1.5 miles — easy

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

National Park Pass required.

### **Airport Levee Trail**

3.5 miles — easy  
*Chehalis*

Circle the Chehalis-Cen-

Please see **TRAILS**, page 9

## Trails

*Continued from page 8*

6 miles from the start, this is the ideal destination for walkers, runners and bikers of all skill levels.

Discover Passes are required in some parking locations but are not sold along the trail. Street parking is available at many access points.

### Yelm-Tenino Trail

14 miles — easy  
*Tenino*

Starting at Tenino City Park, this accessible rail-to-trail runs through the towns of Yelm, Rainier, and Tenino. Bikers, runners and dog-walkers alike can enjoy the diverse scenery along this trail, including farms, forests and great blue heron hotspots.

### Lake Mayfield Trail

1.3 miles — easy  
*Mossyrock*

Take in some of the most breathtaking sights of Lewis County at Lake Mayfield Trail in Ike Kinswa State Park. This steady 1.3 mile out-and-back is great for campers or day-trippers who are yearning for the quintessential Washingtonian nature walk.

Discover Passes are required for parking at Washington State Parks. Day passes are available on-site.

### Mima Mounds Trail

2.6 miles — easy  
*Olympia*

Walkers, runners and bird watchers on this year-round accessible loop can traverse the Mima Mounds, the greatest mystery in Southwest Washington. Re-

search over the decades has failed to explain the origin of the mounds. This is a worthwhile trail any time of year, but it is especially popular in the spring, when the mounds are covered in purple wildflowers.

### Walupt Lake Trail No. 101

3.8 miles — easy  
*Packwood*

On the border between Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the Goat Rocks Wilderness sits Walupt Lake, a popular eastern Lewis County destination for hikers and campers when it opens in the summer. The Walupt Lake Trail No. 101 follows the lakeshore until it reaches Walupt Creek.

Wilderness Permit required.

### Seminary Hill Natural Area

2.25 miles — moderate

*Centralia*

Seminary Hill Natural Area in Centralia features a 2.25 mile trail system of varying difficulty, including an elevation gain of 357 feet on the out-and-back Canyon Trail. Maps are available in the parking lot. Only a few blocks east of downtown at 902 E. Locust St., step out of the Hub City and into this 71 acre park for a breath of fresh air.

### Rainbow Falls State Park

3 miles — moderate  
*Pe Ell*

With a variable 3 mile trail system, Rainbow Falls State Park is located just 7 miles northeast of Pe Ell. The Chehalis river runs through this tranquil park, and while it is famous for its amenities and campsites, the park

*Please see TRAILS, page 10*



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The Wonderland Trail in Mount Rainier National Park.

## Trails

*Continued from page 9*

is open year-round to hikers who are willing to get a little mud on their boots.

Discover Passes are required for parking at Washington State Parks.

### Covell Creek and Angel Falls

3.4 miles — moderate  
*Randle*

Southwest of Randle, depart from the Cispus Environmental Learning Center to see the falls.

This out-and-back trail with a 1,100 foot elevation is the waterfall chaser's dream destination.

Northwest Forest Pass required.

### Packwood Lake Trail

9.6 miles — moderate  
*Packwood*

While the rest of the Goat Rocks Wilderness defrosts, enjoy the springtime favorite Packwood Lake Trail. Through lush old-growth forests and wildflowers galore, hikers make their way to Packwood Lake and back.

### Goat Creek Trail to Cathedral Falls

5.5 miles — hard  
*Glenoma*

Take the 9.8 mile out-and-back Goat Creek Trail to see the 250-foot Cathedral Falls. Find this challenging but rewarding hike just south of Riffe Lake among a network of trails around Goat Creek. Beware of possible road closures during fire season.

Northwest Forest Pass required.

### Loowit Trail

32 miles — hard  
*Randle*

Starting from Windy Ridge near Randle, hikers who are ready for a serious challenge between can experience the otherworldly beauty of circumnavigating Mount St. Helens on the Loowit Trail. This loop is best completed over several days, with more for those who plan to summit. Be-

cause of harsh conditions, many will choose to complete only part of this trail. Plan trips according to ability and equipment.

Northwest Forest Pass required.

### Wonderland Trail

93 miles — hard  
*Ashford*

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

Wilderness Pass required for camping.

Gifford Pinchot National Forest Accessibility Guide:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/giffordpinchot/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5161181>

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# Alpine Lakes Provide Pristine Views, Plentiful Trout



Courtesy Photo

Bertha May Lake is pictured in this photo from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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

Alpine or high-altitude lakes, some off the beaten path and some readily accessible from a vehicle, are scattered throughout the region and, often, provide

a pristine view along with the challenge of pulling in a juicy trout.

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

There are about 1,600 lakes at elevations of 2,500 feet above sea level throughout the state, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. An online WDFW database lists 47 high lakes in the Lewis County area where fishing is permitted.

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

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

opportunity afforded to you by the state and the forest service,” said Wieman.

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

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

Further online resources from WDFW provide an extensive catalogue of the different high elevations lakes throughout the state, and can be accessed at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/high-lakes>.

Please see **LAKES**, page 12

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## Lakes

Continued from page 11

The largest such lake in the Lewis County area is Walupt Lake, which can be accessed from Forest Road 2160 — a winding roadway through the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

“The lake is normally ice free from mid-May though late November. The lake contains wild cutthroat and rainbow trout,” reads a description from WDFW

It’s 381.6 acres, and Wieman said it’s a pretty popular site, largely because of its easy access. There’s a campsite for overnight accommodations.

Blue Lake, another of the larger high lakes in the Lewis County area, is accessible by U.S. Forest Service Trail No. 271. It sits southwest of Mount St. Helens, and is boxed in by fir, hem-

lock and cedar. At 128 acres, the lake maintains its own population of eastern brook trout, according to WDFW, with some occasional rainbow and cutthroat trout being brought in once in a while.

Wieman said lakes in the Mount Adams area, like Takhlakh and Council lakes in Skamania County provide a good combination of beautiful sights and plenty of good trout. Both sit to the northeast of Mount Adams in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

### *An Incomplete List of the Dozens of Area Alpine Lakes*

**Anderson lakes:** Two connected lakes, the upper at 3,960 feet elevation and 1.5 acres, the lower at 3,870 feet and 8 acres. A logging road passes between the

lakes, which are located on state lands. T14N, R6E, Sec 15; 46 deg 41.68 min N, 122 deg 01.97 min W (46.6946, -122.0333) at outlet of upper lake.

**Bertha May lakes:** Located in Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (but shown on the GPNF map), access is by a three-quarter mile hike on Trail No. 251 off of USFS Road 8410. T14N, R7E, Sec 16; 46 deg 41.976 min N, 121 deg 56.16 min W (46.6996, -121.936) at upper lake outlet.

**Bill Lake:** Elevation 5,100 feet, size 4 acres; drains via Summit Creek to the Ohanapecosh River. Total elevation gain from the Trail No. 44 trailhead at Soda Springs campground is 1,880 feet. T14N, R11E, Sec 11; 46 deg 43.104 min N, 121 deg 23.322 min W

(46.7184, -121.3887) at west shore.

**Bishop Ridge Pond:** Elevation 4,275 feet, 2.5 acres; drains to the North Fork Cispus River. In Gifford Pinchot National Forest, several hundred feet east from USFS Road 7802. T11N, R9E, Sec 21; 46 deg 25.884 min N, 121 deg 42.264 min W (46.4314, -121.7044) at west shore.

**Blue Lake:** Elevation 4,058 feet, size 128 acres; drains via Blue Lake Creek to the Cispus River. Unlike most National Forest trails, Blue Lake Trail is open to motorized bikes. T11N, R9E, Sec 33; 46 deg 24.222 min N, 121 deg 41.916 min W (46.4037, -121.6986) at outlet.

Please see **LAKES**, page 13



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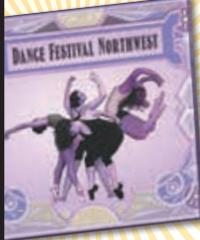
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# Lakes

Continued from page 12

**Bluff Lake:** Elevation 3,845 feet, size 8 acres; drains via Purcell Creek to the Cowlitz River. Located in the Goat Rocks Wilderness, access is via a two-mile hike on Trail No. 65 off of USFS Road 4612, with 1,000 feet of elevation gain. T14N, R10E, Sec 34; 46 deg 39.48 min N, 121 deg 32.832 min W (46.658, -121.5472) at south end of lake. The trail heads at approximately 46 deg 39.27 min N, 121 deg 34.20 min W (46.6535, -121.570).

**Chambers Lake:** Elevation 4,438 feet, size 14.4 acres; drains via Chambers Creek to the Cispus River. Located in Gifford Pinchot National Forest, USFS Road 2150 leads to a well-devel-

oped campground near the eastern shore. T11N, R10E, Sec 2.

**Coyote Lake:** Elevation 5,140 feet, size 4 acres; drains via Coyote Creek to the Clear Fork

**Cowlitz River.** Located in the Goat Rocks Wilderness, this beautiful lake in a spectacular setting is accessible off of Trail No. 76, with a lung-testing 1,900 foot elevation gain from the Clear Fork. T13N, R10E, Sec 13; 46 deg 36.8 min N, 121 deg 29.82 min W (46.6127, -121.496) at eastern corner.

**Fizrenken Lake:** Elevation 3,907 feet, size 2.8 acres; drains via a small unnamed stream and Horse Creek to the Nisqually River. T14N, R8E, Sec 4; 46 deg 43.926 min N, 121 deg 48.312 min



Courtesy Photo

Walupt Lake is pictured in this Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife photo.

W (46.7321, -121.8052) at north end. deg 35.256 min W (46.548, -121.5876) at west end.

**Glacier Lake:** Elevation 2,905 feet, size 19.8 acres; drains via Glacier Creek and Johnson Creek to Cowlitz River. T12N, R10E, Sec 8; 46 deg 32.87 min N, 121

**Hager Lake:** Elevation 2,932 feet, size 2 acres; drains via Hager Creek and Hall Creek to the Cowlitz

Please see **LAKES**, page 14

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COURTESY

## Lakes

*Continued from page 13*

River. USFS Road 48 passes close by the south end of the lake, and secondary road 4830 crosses the outlet just west of the lake. T13N, R9E, Sec 35; 46 deg 34.668 min N, 121 deg 38.202 min W (46.5778, -121.6367) at west end.

**Johnson Lake:** Elevation 4,222 feet, size varies 4 to 8 acres; drains via Johnson Creek and Skate Creek to the Cowlitz River. T14N, R8E, Sec 2; 46 deg 43.82 min N, 121 deg 46.098 min W (46.730, -121.7683) at outlet.

**Jug Lake:** Elevation 4,416 feet, size 28 acres; drains via Jug Creek and Summit Creek to the Ohanapecosh River. T14N, R11E, Sec 9; 46 deg 43.42 min N, 121 deg 26.13 min W (46.724, -121.436) at northeast corner.

**Lost Lake:** Elevation 5,165 feet, size 21 acres; drains via Lost Creek and Coal Creek to the Cowlitz River. Located in the Goat Rocks Wilderness; access is by way of Clear Creek Trail No. 76 to Trail No. 78, a strenuous hike of almost eight miles from Highway US-12, with an elevation gain of 2,750 feet. An alternative and probably easier route is from the end of USFS Road 46 via Trail #61 to Trail No. 76 and then to Trail No. 78. It can also be reached from Bluff Lake Trail No. 65. T13N, R10E, Sec 23; 46 deg 36.0 min N, 121 deg 30.69 min W (46.600, -121.5115) at south end.

**Lost Hat Lake:** Elevation 5,580 feet, size 3 acres; drains via Lava Creek to the Clear

Fork Cowlitz River. Located in the Goat Rocks Wilderness about two miles north of Lost Lake (see above); access is via trails No. 76 and No. 78. T13N, R10E, Sec 13; 46 deg 37.152 min N, 121 deg 30.53 min W (46.6192, -121.509) at north end.

**Packwood Lake:** Elevation 2,857 feet, size 452 acres; drains via Lake Creek to the Cowlitz River. Unlike other alpine lakes listed here, Packwood has a closed season: open last Saturday in April through October 31. Packwood Trail No. 78 heads at USFS Road 1260; motor bikes are allowed. Distance to the lake is 4.6 miles, with an overall elevation gain of only about 50 feet. T13N, R10E, Sec 21; 46 deg 35.73 min N, 121 deg 34.07 min W (46.5955, -121.568) at outlet.

**Spud Lake:** Elevation 2,986 feet, size variable (3 acres when full). T14N, R3E, Sec 30; 46 deg 39.84 min N, 122 deg 28.44 min W (46.664, -122.474) at outlet.

**Vanson Lake:** Elevation 4,514 feet, size 10 acres; drains via Green River to the Toutle River. Over-populated and stunted eastern brook trout are available. Located in the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Vanson Lake Trail No. 217-B is a quarter-mile spur off of Goat Mountain Trail No. 217, which heads on USFS Road 2612 near Ryan Lake. An alternative route is by way of Trail No. 205, which heads at the end of USFS Road 2750, to trails No. 217 and No. 217-B. T11N, R5E, Sec 27; 46 deg 24.192 min N, 122 deg 09.54 min W (46.4032, -122.159) at access on east shore.

# All Aboard the Chehalis-Centralia Steam Train

As one of the few remaining steam powered railroads in Washington State, the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum is a popular site for people near and far to visit.

The railroad's regular season starts in May and runs into September, but there are special events that occur throughout the year, starting with the Valentine Sweetheart dinner train that runs for two weekends in February. The railroad has four kinds of trains: regular excursions, dinner trains, special events and the Polar Express rides. Everything outside of the regular excursions requires buying tickets in advance, since most events sell out.

The train's regular excursions are available during the season on Saturdays and Sundays.

Other dinner trains include the Mother's Day and Father's Day trains, where passengers can choose what dinner they would like when they purchase their tickets online. All of the dinners are catered, with entree choices like prime rib, baked salmon and vegetarian pasta dishes.

The railroad's special events include the Steam Train Eggspress, Pumpkin Trains and the Santa Steam Train. Special events include fun activities for families and are also a shorter train ride to accommodate the amount of children in attendance.

On the Eggspress, there will be an egg hunt for children and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Pumpkin Trains include cos-



Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum

tume contests, candy and a chance for children to find a pumpkin. In December, Santa will make an appearance on the Santa Steam Train.

Special events at the railroad bring visitors from all over the Pacific Northwest, but the most popular train is the Polar Express. On the Polar Express, passengers will be read the book, "The Polar Express," and children are encouraged to come in their pajamas, just like the movie. There are cookies and cocoa provided and children will receive their first gift of the season from Santa.

Some unique ticket options that people may not know about are cab rides and charters. During train rides, there are two tickets available for passengers to

sit in the cab with the train crew and see how a steam locomotive operates.

People can also charter one car or an entire train for special events, where they can take a train ride for a couple of hours. The train has two main routes, a shorter ride to Milburn and a longer ride along the river to Ruth.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [steamtrainride.com](http://steamtrainride.com).

## Chehalis-Centralia Railroad

1101 Southwest Sylvenus Street  
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The view from the summit of Mount St. Helens.

# Southwest Washington Adventurer's Bucket List

## *Climb a Volcano, Enter the STP and Hang Glide All in One Region*

Any local with a pair of hiking boots can tell you that Southwest Washington enjoys an endless bounty of

outdoor opportunities. From popular trails in Mount Rainier National Park to fishing holes on nearby riv-

ers to cycling routes in the Willapa Hills, it would probably be hard to find a long-time resident who hasn't experienced some of what the area has to offer.

Then there are those who see faraway peaks as a beckoning challenge, white-water rapids as an invitation and groaning muscles as a reward. For the adventurous, Southwest Washington offers an equal measure of opportunity. And even for those who don't count themselves that bold, plenty of the area's "bucket list" ad-

ventures are attainable with a little bit of preparation — and perhaps a slight willingness to suffer.

With that, here's a list of activities that every outdoors enthusiast in the region should do at least once.

### Climb a Volcano

The mountains that dominate the region's horizon — Rainier, St. Helens and Adams — also cast an outsized imprint on the

*Please see LIST, page 17*

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## List

Continued from page 16

imaginations of many of us living down below. And luckily, the trio of peaks offers something for everyone from the novice day-hiker to the experienced alpinist.

Mount St. Helens, by

far the easiest of the volcanoes, is a pretty straightforward hike up, provided you get one of the in-demand permits. The climb takes you up lava flows of volcanic rock, through the blast zone of the 1980 eruption. You'll see downed trees like matchsticks on surrounding

hillsides and floating on the surface of Spirit Lake. The slog up through ash can be strenuous, but the epic view down into the blast crater offers a rare, up-close look at nature's power.

Not far away, Mount Adams presents more of a mountaineering challenge. Standing over 12,000 feet tall, reaching the summit requires gear such as ice axes and crampons — and usually involves camping on snow overnight. Unlike other big climbs, though, it's possible to reach the summit without navigating crevasse fields or learning advanced technical skills like linking up to a rope team.

Mount Rainier, of course, is Washington's most iconic peak. It's also the biggest challenge, reaching more than 14,000 feet into the sky and presenting lots of

treacherous terrain on the climb up. It's an expedition reserved for those with alpine know-how and gear. Many opt to pay a guide service company, linking up with professional climbers who can teach the necessary skills and keep a group out of harm's way.

## Ride the Seattle-to-Portland Bicycle Classic

Every year, 10,000 or so riders come pedaling through Southwest Washington, about halfway through their journey from Seattle to Portland. The 200-mile ride in July brings together riders from all over the world, then sends them onto Washington's

Please see **LIST**, page 18



Seattle-to-Portland Bicycle Classic

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Sunday: 10am to 5pm  
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360-748-0061

## List

Continued from page 17

backroads for two days of cycling (or just one day, for the very ambitious).

Though it's possible to do the ride with little training, your legs and butt will thank you if you spend some time in the saddle building up endurance before the event. The ride itself is not a race, but a social affair where riders hang out with their friends, get to know new people and take in the countryside.

The ride's halfway point is Centralia College, where many riders camp out and enjoy the festive party atmosphere. From there, it's on to Portland, where throngs of cheering locals line the streets to greet riders at the finish line.

## Hike the Wonderland Trail

Making a 93-mile circuit around Mount Rainier, the Wonderland Trail puts the full beauty of the national park on display — raging waterfalls, massive glaciers, quiet old-growth forest, wildflower-filled meadows and rugged ridgeline views. Mountain goats, bears, elk, deer and marmots are all regularly seen along the trail.

While it's possible to hike the trail in five days, it's best enjoyed over a week or more, giving time to swim in alpine lakes, stretch out in meadows and wait out an occasional rainstorm. Be prepared for lots of ups and downs, as the trail features 22,000 feet of elevation gain — and an equal amount of descending.



Hikers at Mount St. Helens Summit

## Paddle the Pe Ell River Run

On the second Saturday in April, scores of paddlers hop into the Chehalis River at Pe Ell and float the 10 miles downstream to Rainbow Falls. The annual

River Run is a celebration of spring, and features all sorts of colorful vessels and costumes.

When the weather's good, you'll find festive parties on all of the beaches alongside the river. When

*Please see LIST, page 19*



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Pe Ell River Run

# List

Continued from page 18

the weather's gross, the party atmosphere seems to carry on anyway. In years when the water's high, occasional rapids and eddies may present a challenge — many a river runner has been dumped overboard.

The real thrill ride is at the end of the event, where some brave souls opt to go over Rainbow Falls. It's doable, though the current and waves make it tricky. Whether or not you capsize in the falls, plenty of onlookers will cheer you on and haul your bedraggled self and boat to shore.

## Hang Glide from Dog Mountain

The skies of Southwest

Washington make a perfect venue for another type of adventurer: hang gliders. On a summer day, many of their colorful craft can be seen above Riffe Lake, taking advantage of some of the most consistently so-arable terrain in the state. While hang gliding is for experts only, the members of the Cloudbase Country Club, who maintain the launch site on Dog Mountain, are a friendly bunch who are happy to share their sport. Some enthusiasts have tandem gliders, which gives the opportunity to offer lessons.

If nothing else, it's worth hanging out at the east end of the lake to watch the gliders do their stunts. And if you ask around, and you're willing to pay for a lesson, you may get a chance to soar yourself.



Hang gliders gather at Dog Mountain.



Hang gliders drift above Riffe Lake.

**AUG. 17-22, 2021**



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# Adventuring at the Ape Cave

Take a Trip to the South Side of Mount St. Helens for Some Bigfoot Lore and Hidden Gems

By Claudia Yaw

The Chronicle

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

If you're lucky, you'll spot a



Jared Wenzelburger

The Ape Cave is an often overlooked gem south of Mount St. Helens near the town of Cougar.

bat — or perhaps a Sasquatch. The Ape Cave, nearby Ape Canyon and the mountain as a whole are cloaked in the lore of Bigfoot, Sasquatch, the

Apeman, or what some have called “hairy apes.”

To prepare for the excursion, spend the drive out to the National Volcanic Monument brushing up on the epic 1924 battle in Ape Canyon between a gold mining crew and a score of “hairy apes.” Kelso Resident Fred Beck recounts a key piece of Mount St. Helens’ Bigfoot history: the tense standoff between himself and the apparently angry creatures, one of which reaches into his cabin to take hold of an axe.

Find the story under “The Classics” at [bigfootencounters.com](http://bigfootencounters.com).

Your trip may or may not

include a violent Sasquatch encounter, but you'll get your fair share of views, from the seraphic skylight where lush ferns drape into the barren cave, to the ancient lava fields now hosting blankets of moss and lichen. Pay attention to the lava rock below your feet, where ridges appear frozen mid-flow.

U.S. Forest Service rangers said that more of these lava tubes likely exist below the surface of the mountain. Deer mice and bats now dwell where molten rock used to flow.

Please see **CAVES**, page 21

AUG. 27-28-29, 2021

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## Caves

Continued from page 20

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

According to the U.S. Forest Service, the Ape Cave is the third longest lava tube in North America at 2.5 miles. It was discovered in 1947 by Lawrence Johnson, a logger, but was only explored a few years later by a troop of Scouts, who lowered themselves into the cave and named it after their sponsor, the St. Helens Apes.

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

On your way out, stop at the Trail of Two Forests, where a boardwalk trail meanders through a young forest situated on a mossy lava field.

Gaping holes and tubes show where trees once stood, until burning lava surrounded the trunks, making near-perfect casts that visitors can now climb into. One tunnel, formed by fallen trees encompassed in lava, provides a claustrophobic crawl space for the brave-hearted.

Rangers also said that a special, unmarked “Lake



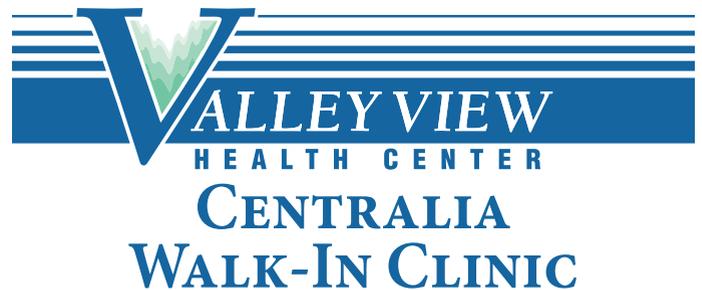
Jared Wenzelburger

A hiker enters the Ape Cave while wearing a head lamp.

Cave” is situated behind the restrooms at the Trail of Two Forests. And while the interwebs claim the secret gem is real, reporters traversed several overgrown trails and were unsuccessful in finding it. Perhaps we had our leg pulled.

Be sure to reserve your spot at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov), and bring your coat and plenty of light sources.

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



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Thursday —  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Friday — 7 to 9 p.m.  
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Sunday — 1 to 4 p.m.

### Website:

centraliarollerdrome.com

Contact: 360-736-7376

## Prairie Lanes Bowling

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The RollerDrome is located in downtown Centralia.

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6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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Saturday —

10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

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yelmprairielan.es.com

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Please see **FUN**, page 23

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# Fun

Continued from page 22

## Victory Lanes

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Victory Lanes in Morton is the bowling venue for East Lewis County, containing a 12-lane bowling alley that also offers an arcade, go-karts and mini golf.

Contact: 360-496-6797

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The "World's Largest Egg" in Winlock.

Website:  
greatwolf.com

## World's Largest Egg

520 Kerron St., Winlock  
Winlock, right in south

Lewis County, boasts an unusual roadside attraction: the World's Largest Egg. In the 1950s, Winlock was America's second largest egg producing town, and the egg pride is still strong to this day.

## Wolf Haven

311 Offut Lake Road SE, Tenino

Wolf Haven International

Please see **FUN**, page 24

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Wolf Haven

## Fun

*Continued from page 23*

is a nonprofit organization near Olympia that provides sanctuary to wolves. Many of the wolves were privately owned or come from similar unfortunate situations, but Wolf Haven provides care that simulates their natural habitats while nurturing those that have been harmed.

Wolf Haven tours must be reserved at [wolfhaven.org](http://wolfhaven.org).

### Shankz Blacklight Miniature Golf

2100 N. National Ave.,  
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specializes in birthday parties, with three birthday packages to choose from.

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*Please see FUN, page 25*

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# Fun

Continued from page 24

## South Sound Speedway

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

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

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

Most races take place on Saturdays, although there are a few on Sundays.

**Where:** 3730 183rd Avenue S.W. in Rochester

**When:**

Saturdays through September

**Info:**

southsoundspeedway.com

## Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel

Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel offers some of the finest entertainment experiences in the Pacific Northwest. It also has the largest variety of slot machines and table games in the area, plus world famous entertainers and an attractive 171-room hotel.



South Sound Speedway



Nisqually Red Wind Casino

**Website:**

www.luckyeagle.com

**Address:** 188th Ave. SW, Rochester

**Telephone:** 360-273-2000

## Nisqually Red Wind Casino

Nisqually Red Wind Casino features an expansive smoke-free area in its 95,000

*Please see FUN, page 26*

## Start your adventure

### at Chehalis Thousand Trails

- 300 acres of forest
- meadows • views
- lodges • campsites
- rental units • horse & hiking trails • scheduled activities • swimming pools
- sports courts • playgrounds
- food service • country store • laundry

**Campsites, rental units and facilities available for your special events**



**Call for reservations, rates and membership specials:**

# 360-262-9489

**Chehalis Thousand Trails**

2228 Centralia-Alpha Road  
Chehalis, WA 98532



CH610984bw.nk

## Fun

Continued from page 25

square-foot facility plus more than 1,600 slot machines, 20 table games, keno games, and restaurants including a deli, fine-dining steakhouse, and a smoke-free bar.

**Website:** redwindcasino.com

**Address:**

12819 Yelm Hwy SE, Olympia

**Telephone:** 1-866-946-2444

### Centralia Factory Outlets and Downtown Centralia

Perhaps the most well-known shopping opportunity in the county known to people outside the local area, the Centralia Factory Outlet offers more than 30 outlet stores on both sides of Interstate 5. Nike, Un-

der Armour, Coach, Polo Ralph Lauren, Van Heusen and more represent a variety of stores that offer discounted pricing on name-brand clothing and more.

But there's more to the shopping scene in Centralia than the outlets. A renewed economic landscape in the city's downtown core has resulted in business activity increasing among locally-owned stores that offer everything from antiques to books and a whole lot of other stuff in between.

And if you're fortunate enough to visit downtown Centralia, check out the Fox Theatre. The theater, which was once the place to be in Centralia for movies and silent films, is regaining its status as a cultural and arts center of the Hub City through a revitalization project that continues.



Yard Birds

### Yard Birds

Once a mega-store that carried everything from clothing to pets, the building that housed it has now been repurposed into a home for several small shops comprising the larg-

est swap meet in the region. The Yard Bird itself, the giant structure greeting people on National Avenue, has been voted KING 5 Evening Magazine's Best Roadside Attraction.

Please see **FUN**, page 27

**79th  
LOGGERS  
JUBILEE**

**79th Morton  
Loggers Jubilee**

**The Granddaddy of  
All Logging Shows  
August 12-15, 2021**

**MORTON LOGGERS' JUBILEE**  
SECOND WEEKEND IN AUGUST **AUGUST 12-15**

**Come on out to Historic Morton, Washington and  
enjoy a 2-day logging show, lawn mower races, parade,  
flea-market, food, music and more!**

For more information visit our website [www.loggersjubilee.com](http://www.loggersjubilee.com) or call 360-523-4049

Find us on Facebook

CH610979rc.nk

# Fun

Continued from page 26

**Where:** 2100 N. National Ave., Chehalis  
**Contact:** 360-748-1489  
**Website:** yardbirdsmall.com

## Pools

### Gail And Carolyn Shaw Aquatic Center

401 SW Parkland Dr.,  
Chehalis

The Gail and Carolyn Shaw Aquatic Center features slides, water toys, a beach-entry-style pool, new fencing, concrete walkways and benches. The aquatics center is ADA accessible. It also hosts swimming lessons and classes for children and adults.

### Tenino Quarry Pool

319 Park Ave. W, Tenino

The Tenino Quarry Pool Website claims “There’s nothing like this anywhere!” In the late 1800s, this sandstone quarry flooded and never drained. There is a shallow wading pool and a deep end, and a lifeguard is always on duty when the pool is open. Day passes and season passes are available.

### Thorbeckes FitLife Aquatic Center

2020 Borst Ave. No. 2,  
Centralia

Thorbeckes offers the only indoor pool in Lewis County. There is a charge for non-members.

## Parks

### Fort Borst Park

Centralia

Name any outdoor ac-



Tenino Quarry Pool

tivity. You can probably do it at Fort Borst Park. It has: soccer fields, tennis courts, baseball-softball fields, rentable shelters, a public boat ramp into the Chehalis River, arboretum, rhododendron gardens, rentable kitchens, playgrounds, trails, volleyball nets, wading pools, fishing, swimming and more.

### Lintott-Alexander Park

Chehalis

Right off state Route 6 on the Chehalis River is Lintott-Alexander Park. Along with river access and a playground, this park has two covered areas perfect for gatherings of all sizes. Call the City of Chehalis at 360-748-0271 to rent one of the areas.

### Mayfield Lake Park

180 Beach Road, Mossyrock

With a playground and access to Mayfield Lake, this

Please see **FUN**, page 28



Fort Borst Park

## Fun

Continued from page 27

is an ideal summer day-trip for families with children of all ages.

## Museums

### White Pass Country Museum

12989 US-12, Randle

Featuring six ever-changing rooms with historical exhibits on local tribes, artists and events, the White Pass Country Museum is a unique experience in Randle for children and families interested in learning about the area.

### Lewis County Historical Museum

599 NW Front Way,  
Chehalis



**Winlock's Annual Egg Day Festival**  
Celebrated since 1921  
3rd Saturday in June  
**Check out our BIG EGG, Parade, Car Show, Free Egg Salad Sandwiches, Vendors & More!**  
[www.winlockeggday.com](http://www.winlockeggday.com)  
for details



Come get carried away at the...  
**Northwest Carriage Museum**  
Over 60 vehicles from the 19th century! Call to schedule a tour!  
(360) 942-4150  
Open Daily 10am-4pm  
nwcarragemuseum.org  
314 Alder Street (corner of HWY 101 & State Route 6)  
Raymond, WA  
Fun for all ages!

The Lewis County Historical museum hosts a permanent, comprehensive collection of Lewis County historical artifacts along with rotating exhibits. Some exhibits are very hands-on while others are not, but all are family friendly.

#### Winter hours

Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

#### Summer hours

(Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

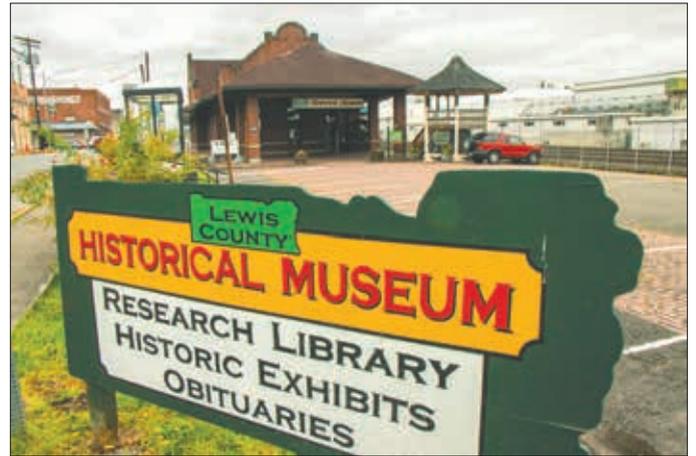
### Veterans Memorial Museum

100 SW Veterans Way,  
Chehalis

With 85 display cases and an historic library, the Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis aims to honor the veterans of the area.

From the museum:

“Our mission is to honor and perpetuate the memory of the men and women who have served in our nation’s armed forces, during peacetime or war, throughout the history of our country. This mission began over two decades ago with the goal of making sure that our veter-



Lewis County Historical Museum



Veterans Memorial Museum

ans “shall not be forgotten.” This museum began with humble beginnings in 1997 at a storefront in Centralia. In 2005, we opened our new facility in Chehalis, which is visible from Interstate 5 just off of Exit 77. Our new facility features a 9,000 square-foot main gallery with 85 display cases filled with hundreds of displays honoring our veterans. The museum has a military history reference library with thousands of volumes. There is also a gift shop filled with patriotic items and don’t forget to visit the ‘USO’ where you can have a cup of coffee while enjoying conversations with

local or visiting veterans. What a privilege it is to hear firsthand from veterans who stormed the beaches of Normandy, went ashore on Iwo Jima or survived the Bataan Death March. Perhaps you’ll hear stories from some who shivered in the winters of the Korea War era or the battles fought during the Vietnam conflict. How interesting it is to hear conversations between veterans from Pearl Harbor survivors to those current returnees from the Desert War conflicts. Stop by and help us make sure ‘they shall not be forgotten.’”

Learn more at [veterans-museum.org](http://veterans-museum.org).

# Get to Know 'Our George Washington'

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

These words, uttered almost 170 years ago by a young African American man from Missouri, would influence the history of what is now Western Washington. George Washington, the son of a Black slave and a white woman of English descent, crossed the continent on the Oregon Trail and settled where the Chehalis and Skookumchuck rivers converge. He and his wife, Mary Jane, founded the town that would become Centralia and sustained it through its darkest hours. His spirit of cooperation, community support and hard work would lay the foundations for a community that still embodies the ideals that brought him here.

To celebrate his 200th birthday, the people of Centralia held a year-long celebration in 2017 and 2018. Events included parties in his namesake downtown park, a 5k fun run, historical celebrations, and much more.

The culmination of the celebration was the dedication of a bronze statue of George and Mary Jane Washington on Aug. 11, 2018, in the downtown park they donated to their fledgling town. To help extend the Washingtons' legacy of



George Washington is pictured with his dog in this portrait.



George Washington

service and community support, the George Washington Bicentennial Committee created a permanent endowed scholarship at Centralia College.

Learn more about Centralia's founder at [ourgeorgewashington.com](http://ourgeorgewashington.com), and stop by the pop up museum focused on his life and contributions. The museum is located at 328 N. Tower Ave. in the Wilson Hotel. The statue can be found nearby along Pearl Street at George Washington park.

For more on the history of Centralia and its founder, visit <https://www.historylink.org/file/8487>.

•••

*The information here was provided by [ourgeorgewashington.com](http://ourgeorgewashington.com).*



The statue honoring Centralia's founding couple is located at the aptly named George Washington Park.

## CASCADE PEAKS Family Campground

Located between Mt. Rainier and Mt. St. Helens,  
a scenic wonder for all to marvel!

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR EVENT LISTINGS!**

**RV'rs and Tent Campers, Cascade Peaks  
year-round family campground welcomes you.**

120 full hookups, 280 sites with water and electricity, and many dry sites. Where your camping fun begins! Whatever you like to do, you will find it at the campground or in the local area. 2 pools, children's zipline, playground, horseshoe pits, disc golf, volleyball, basketball, and much more. We also have some organized activities. Great fishing and golf are close by.

Please Call: 360.494.9202



*Multiple views of and walking access to the Cowlitz River!*

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**360.494.9202**

<http://www.cascadepeakscamping.com>

CHR11028WV-010

# Catch a Movie in Southwest Washington

Though there is no shortage of outdoor adventures to be had in Southwest Washington, sometimes there's nothing better after a long day traveling than a good movie.

We've got you covered when it comes to finding where to watch the latest blockbuster or a classic film.

## Yelm Cinemas

Catching a movie in style means watching it at Yelm Cinemas. The state-of-the-art movie theater features all the latest movies for fans watching from the comfort of extra-wide, reclinable seats. Arrive early and make a stop at the nearby Uptown Lounge, routinely chosen by area readers as one of the Best of the Nisqually for its food and drinks. For showtimes and more, visit [yelmcinemas.com](http://yelmcinemas.com) or call 360-458-8933. The theater is located at 201 Prairie Park St. SE in Yelm.



Yelm Cinemas

## Midway Cinema

Midway Cinema in Chehalis offers a standard movie-watching experience and features all of the latest movies. Located at 181 NE Hampe Way adjacent to the Lewis County Mall, Midway Cinema also offers an arcade for young moviegoers and a full menu of snacks and food. Call 360-740-9600 or visit <https://bit.ly/3yAuiPi> for more information on showtimes and pricing.



Midway Cinema

Please see **MOVIES**, page 31

## Movies

Continued from page 30

### McMenamins Olympic Club

Memorable movie-going experiences are what you'll get at the Olympic Club Theater where comfy sofas, squashy armchairs and intimate tables make you feel like you're at home. Pair that with a delicious meal (made even better with a handcrafted ale or a glass of wine) and you may just never leave.

Some truly impressive artwork adorns the walls. There's a mural depicting the capture of notorious train robber Roy Gardner at the hotel back in 1921, and of course, the ladies of ill repute who once worked in the hotel upstairs. And the original pressed tin ceiling has been fully restored. But even Hollywood couldn't equal the dramatic goings-on here over the last century: the space was once home to an upscale men's clothing store, bar, barber shop, pool hall and bowling alley.

The Olympic Club Theater is located in the heart of Centralia at 112 N. Tower Ave. Call 360-736-5164 or visit [mcmenamins.com/olympic-club/olympic-club-theater](http://mcmenamins.com/olympic-club/olympic-club-theater) for more information on costs, showtimes and more.

### The Roxy Theater

The Roxy Theater in the East Lewis County mountain town of Morton is the perfect stop for travelers looking for entertainment. In addition to live shows and theater programs, the



Olympic Club Theater



Roxy Theater

theater also offers current titles. First run movies are paired with comfortable seating inside a historic

building. For current showings and additional information, visit the Roxy Theater online at [mortonroxy.org](http://mortonroxy.org).

The theater is located at 233 W. Main Ave., Morton. Call 360-496-0541 for more information.

# Festivals Reflect Local History and Traditions

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Due to health restrictions, many of these events could be scaled back or canceled. Visit each events' website for up to date information.

In Southwest Washington, nearly all towns and communities host their own unique festival each year.

Festival season unofficially begins with May Day in Vader and ends in October with the Onalaska Apple Harvest Festival, though there are other community favorites outside of that time span. Communities from Yelm to Toledo and from Centralia to Morton celebrate with festivals based on their community heritage and traditions.



Please see **FESTIVALS**, page 32

White Pass Winter Carnival

## WELCOME TO PACKWOOD

With our close proximity to Mt. Rainier, Mt. St Helens, Mt. Adams, the Gifford Pincho National Forest and numerous wilderness sites, Packwood is your destination stopping place.

Enjoy hiking, fishing, hunting, skiing and the great outdoors along with the friendly people who live in the area.

OPEN: 9 AM - 4 PM ▶ 7 Days A Week

360.492.7365 ▶ [packwoodvisitorcenter.com](http://packwoodvisitorcenter.com)

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# Festivals

Continued from page 32

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these festivals were canceled in 2020. This year, many are offering rolled back affairs, but others are planning full steam ahead to return these beloved traditions. All festivals and events are subject to change based on Washington state COVID-19 regulations, but here's a look at where things stood in late May.

Check individual events' websites or social media for updates closer to each event for the most accurate information.



Packwood Flea Market

## FIRST WEEKEND IN MARCH

### White Pass Winter Carnival

White Pass Ski Area, 12 miles southeast of Mount Rainier National Park and 22 miles from Packwood, celebrates the winter season with a family-friendly Winter Carnival.

Held the first weekend of March each year, the carnival is jam-packed with activities for the whole family, including an interactive snow castle, outdoor games, snow sport competitions, a torchlight parade and colorful fireworks (Source: Visit Rainier.com).

Visit [www.skiwhitepass.com](http://www.skiwhitepass.com) for more.

## MAY 1

### Vader May Day

Held in the small south Lewis County town of Vader each year on the first day of May. The festival includes a parade and vendors. Learn more at [Vadermayday.weebly.com](http://Vadermayday.weebly.com).

## FIRST WEEK OF MAY

### Spring Youth Fair

Though the event was canceled in 2021, it traditionally offers a way to celebrate the agricultural roots of Southwest Washington as

the younger, smaller sibling of the Southwest Washington Fair. The event has all the features of a full-fledged fair — a carnival, food, vendors, live music — with a focus on area youth, their livestock, their collections and their passions.

Visit [springyouthfair.org](http://springyouthfair.org) to learn more.

## MAY 15-JUNE 15

### ARTrails of Southwest Washington Spring Online Show and Sale

Shop online or visit the studios and workspaces of notable local artists. Learn

more at [Artrailsfsww.org](http://Artrailsfsww.org) or [@ARTrailsOfSWWashington](https://www.facebook.com/ARTrailsOfSWWashington) on Facebook.

## MAY 28-31

### Packwood Spring Flea Market

Bargain shoppers and treasure hunters migrate to the picturesque Packwood community nestled at the foot of the Cascades in order to experience one of two flea markets each year.

The events draw thousands of people as vendors

Please see **FESTIVALS**, page 34



Vadar May Day

**Enjoy a visit in the country...**

Garden Vegetables • Frozen Berries/Jam • Fresh Fruit  
Ready to Bake Pies • Award Winning Ciders  
Donuts Daily • Apple Fritters Every Weekend



**Bring the Family** Apple Festival - Last Weekend of Sept & Every Weekend In Oct.  
to Feed Our Farm Pumpkins - Oct. • Easter Egg Hunt - April, day before Easter

**Animals!** 3 miles south of Olympia Airport, 1/2 mile down Rich Road.

**Open** Mon. - Sat. 9:00 am - 5:30 pm **www.lattinscider.com • Closed Sunday January - June**

**360-491-7328 • 9402 Rich Road SE • Olympia**

## Festivals

Continued from page 33

line U.S. Highway 12 and surrounding streets.

There are attractions for everyone from children to seniors.

The offerings are endless and it takes more than a day to see it all.

Fortunately, both the Labor Day weekend and Memorial Day weekend feature three and a half days of the flea market.

Learn more at [Packwood-fleamarket.com](http://Packwood-fleamarket.com).

### JUNE 19

#### Rochester Swede Day

Swede Day in Rochester has been an annual celebration since 1979. It is always held on the third Saturday of June and is formally titled “Swede Day Midsommar Festival” and referred to

as “Swede Day.” It is a time when the entire community can come together to celebrate the Swedish-Finnish people who populated this area many years ago.

Learn more at [Rochester-citizensgroupswedehall.net](http://Rochester-citizensgroupswedehall.net).

#### Winlock Egg Days

What festival would you imagine occurs in a town built on the poultry industry that is home to the World’s Largest Egg? Yes, Winlock Egg Days are the celebratory embodiment of this friendly South Lewis County town.

People flock from all around to attend the parade and events that last throughout the weekend. It all starts with the coronation of the Egg Day Queen on Friday. The festival also includes games, crafts, food, live music, an opportunity to tour such beloved local



Rochester Swede Day

establishments as the Winlock Historical Museum and of course, plenty of egg salad sandwiches.

Learn more at [Winlock-eggdays.com](http://Winlock-eggdays.com).

### JUNE 26

#### Ride the Willapa

Take part in the Ride the Willapa on the Willapa Hills Trail, which stretches from rural Chehalis to Pe Ell and beyond.

The aim is to showcase the beauty of the valleys that host the trail and highlight the farms along the way. Cyclists depart from the Veterans Memorial Museum at 100 SW Veterans Way, Chehalis and travel 22 miles to the West Lewis County town of Pe Ell along state Route 6. There will be a festival and an overnight stay before riders journey back to Chehalis on Sunday.

Learn more at [Ridethewillapa.com](http://Ridethewillapa.com) or [@ridethewillapa](https://www.facebook.com/ridethewillapa) on Facebook.

### LAST WEEKEND IN JUNE

#### Yelm Prairie Days

A parade through the city and a festival at Yelm City Park are among the highlights of this annual affair. Look for information as it becomes available at [yelmprairiedays.com](http://yelmprairiedays.com).

### JULY 3-4

#### Mossyrock Freedom Festival

New in 2021, the Mossyrock Freedom Festival will be a two-day event celebrating America, freedom and independence.

Learn more at [Mossyrockfestivals.org](http://Mossyrockfestivals.org).

### July 2-4

#### Francis Schwingfest

[Lpss.info](https://www.facebook.com/Lpss.info)

### JULY 3

#### Oakville Independence Day & Scoot the Route Car Show

[Oakvillecityhall.com](http://Oakvillecityhall.com) or Oakville WA Chamber of Commerce on Facebook

### JULY 3-5

#### Patriotic Revolutionary Encampment at Veterans Memorial Museum

[Veteransmuseum.org](http://Veteransmuseum.org)

### JULY 4

#### Centralia Summerfest

[Cityofcentralia.com](http://Cityofcentralia.com) or [CityofCentraliaWA](https://www.facebook.com/CityofCentraliaWA) on Facebook

#### Roy Fourth of July Parade

Follow [@roycityhall](https://www.facebook.com/@roycityhall) on Facebook

Please see **FESTIVALS**, page 35

**VISIT US**  
Summer Hours  
Memorial Day to Labor Day  
Thur., Fri. & Sat 11 am - 4 pm

Free Public Programs  
Walking Tours  
Meeting Room & Field Trips  
Kosmos Picnic  
August 15 in Glenoma

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS  
[www.whitepasscountrymuseum.org](http://www.whitepasscountrymuseum.org)



**WINTER HOURS**  
Sat. Noon - 4PM

By Appointment  
360-494-4007 • 360-494-4031  
12990 Hwy. 12, Packwood, WA  
White Pass Country Historical Society  
PO Box 958 • Packwood, WA 98361  
[www.whitepasscountrymuseum.org](http://www.whitepasscountrymuseum.org)

[facebook.com/White-Pass-Country-Museum](https://www.facebook.com/White-Pass-Country-Museum)

[twitter.com/WPCMuseum](https://twitter.com/WPCMuseum)

[instagram.com/wpcmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/wpcmuseum)

CH810988bw.d

# Festivals

Continued from page 34

## JULY 8-11

### Toledo Cheese Days

The city of Toledo is a beautiful, rural town on the road to improvement. The spirit of transformation can be found most potently in its annual Cheese Days celebration.

Spearheaded by the Toledo Lions Club, the extravaganza lasts a full weekend and functions as a celebration of the dairy industry and the cheese it produces.

Find more information at [Toledolionsclub.org/cheese-days.html](http://Toledolionsclub.org/cheese-days.html).

## JULY 9-11

Lavender Celebration Weekend at Cowlitz Falls Lavender Company, Randle Whitepassbyway.com

## LAST WEEKEND IN JULY

### ChehalisFest

ChehalisFest hosts a variety of family friendly events planned for historic downtown Chehalis, including a community pancake breakfast, hot dog feed, bouncy houses, Kid-Zone for the kids and more. The event is organized by the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce, which can be reached at 360-748-8885. Visit [chamberway.com](http://chamberway.com) to learn more.

## JULY 23-25

### Tenino Oregon Trail Days

The city of Tenino's annual Oregon Trail Days is sure to be a blast — especially with the ever-popular Four Square Mile Music Festival.

There's something for everyone, from the Oregon Trails Days Parade at 11 a.m.



Toledo Cheese Days

on the 28th, Kids zone with dunk tank, rock and gem show and farmers market.

Some of the old-time actions people can participate in at the Tenino Depot Museum include stone carving, candle making, blacksmithing, rope-making and wood-working.

The black powder shoot

is another activity that throws people into the past. And as always, there are plenty of vendors and great food.

Visit [Teninoacc.org/Oregon-trail-days-otd.html](http://Teninoacc.org/Oregon-trail-days-otd.html) or [@oregontraildaystenino](https://www.facebook.com/oregontraildaystenino) on Facebook to learn more.

Please see **FESTIVALS**, page 36



# UPTOWN Lounge



- Contemporary Food and Drinks
- Fresh & House Made Ingredients
- Award Winning & Renowned Food and Service
- An Outstanding Gathering Place & Date Night
- Fun and creative craft cocktails

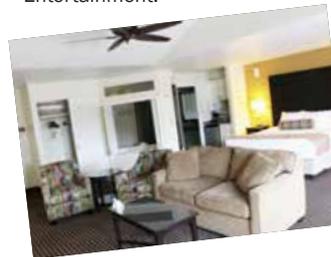
**360.400.3457**

**UPTOWNLOUNGE.COM**

*In the same building as the Yelm Cinemas*

## Small-town comfort without the big city hassle!

- Variety of Room Types Including Suites with Fireplace & Jetted Tub.
- Picturesque views of Mt. Rainier.
- Walking Distance to Food and Entertainment.



- Located in the Heart of the Community.
- Caring staff with cleanliness that matters.

**PRAIRIE HOTEL**

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**prairiehotel.com**

*Next to the Uptown Lounge and Yelm Cinemas*



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# Festivals

Continued from page 35

## AUG. 6-8

### Antique Fest Centralia

The Antique Fest gathers Centralia's already impressive display of antique dealers on the city streets for three days. Visit [Centraliadowntownfestivals.com](http://Centraliadowntownfestivals.com) to learn more.

## AUG. 12-15

### Morton Loggers Jubilee

You might know it as the Loggers Jubilee, but locals and regular attendees call it by another moniker — "The Granddaddy of All Logging Shows."

Choker setting, log rolling, axe throwing and speed climbing are just a few of the heart-stopping competitions Scheduled to occur in the friendly, rural logging town of Morton off of U.S. Highway 12.

That's not even mentioning all the opportunities and revelry throughout the town during the weekend. Lawnmower races, a parade, and a 10K run round out the offerings on a weekend that largely unites the East Lewis County town and draws in thousands of visitors.

Visit [Loggersjubilee.com](http://Loggersjubilee.com) or [@mortonloggersjubilee](https://www.facebook.com/mortonloggersjubilee) on Facebook to learn more.

## AUG. 17-22

### Southwest Washington Fair

Southwest Washington Fair is a showcase of all that's wonderful about this beautiful swath of the Evergreen State.

Bask in the smell of elephant ears and other fair-time food favorites as you wander through exhibits and vendors. Barns burst with livestock and poultry raised by the youth of the greater Lewis County area, the living results of hard work and a way of life that has remained stubbornly similar to yesteryears.

At the Southwest Washington Fair, you will also find staples such as the annual Diaper Derby, local performers, live music, rides, contests, a talent show and more.

Visit [Southwestwashingtonfair.org](http://Southwestwashingtonfair.org) or [@southwestwashingtonfair](https://www.facebook.com/southwestwashingtonfair) on Facebook to learn more.

## AUG. 26-29

### Rainier Bluegrass Festival

[rainierpickinparty.com](http://rainierpickinparty.com)



Morton Loggers Jubilee

## AUG. 26-29

### Rainier Round-Up Days

Generally held the same weekend as the Rainier Bluegrass Festival.

Follow [@rainier-roundupdays](https://www.facebook.com/rainier-roundupdays) on Facebook for details.

## AUG. 28-29

### Washington State

### Garlic Festival

[Wagarlicfest.com](http://Wagarlicfest.com) or [WashingtonStateGarlicFest](https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateGarlicFest) on Facebook

Please see **FESTIVALS**, page 37



Southwest Washington Fair



## HANDCRAFTED ARTISAN EATERY

Great food and amazing customer service is what we do, with over 30 years of catering and culinary experience



## MASONRY CAFE CATERING

Mon-Sat • 11am-7pm

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[masonrycafecatering.com](http://masonrycafecatering.com)

CH610887/c.nk

# Festivals

Continued from page 36

## SEPT. 3-6

### Packwood Fall Flea Market

Packwoodfleamarket.com or @packwoodfleamarket on Facebook

## SEPT. 5

### Rust or Shine Car Show & Music Festival at Veterans Memorial Museum

Veteransmuseum.org

## SEPT. 18-19 AND SEPT. 25-26

### ARTtrails of Southwest Washington Studio Tour

Artrailsosww.org or @ARTtrailsSWWashington on Facebook

## OCT. 1-3

### Onalaska Apple Harvest Festival

Onalaskaalliance.org/apple-harvest-festival.html

## ALL OF OCTOBER

### 'Boo-coda'

The small south Thurston County town of Boo-coda officially changes its name to "Boo-coda" each year as the town transforms into a Halloween haven of events, contests and decorations. Visit [boo-coda.com](http://boo-coda.com)



Boo-coda



The Santa Parade

for more information.

## DECEMBER

### The Santa Parade

Get into the Christmas spirit with a Chehalis tradition. Thousands of people turn out for the festivities, centered around a parade. For details, visit [chamberway.com](http://chamberway.com).

### Lighted Tractor Parade

The annual Lighted Tractor Parade brings large crowds to downtown Centralia for a unique parade highlighting the agricultural history of the area. The event has quickly be-

come a favorite, as dozens of tractors, trucks, floats and virtually anything with wheels parade down Main Street, Tower Avenue and Pearl Street, all adorned with bright lights as Christmas music fills the night

air. The parade has been known to attract thousands of attendees. The Centralia Downtown Association is the brains behind this fast-growing extravaganza.

Visit [downtowncentralia.org](http://downtowncentralia.org) to learn more.

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# Explore the Goat Rocks Wilderness

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

The Goat Rocks features a 120-mile trail system, much of which stays above the timberline. Hikers will see marmots and pikas sunbathing on the rocks during those few months without



Isabel Vander Stoep

The Goat Rocks Wilderness covers 108,023 acres across Lewis and Yakima counties.

snow. Miles of huckleberry bushes dotted by hungry gray jays will guide hikers up twisted paths until they reach sweeping fields of heathers.

The Pacific Crest Trail

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

In order to preserve this idyllic wilderness area, dogs and other pets are not allowed and fires are prohibited above 5,000 foot elevation. Backpackers and hikers should always pack

trash out and be sure to leave no trace.

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

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The Goat Rocks features a 120-mile trail system, much of which stays above the timberline.

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