

*itineraries*  
*for*  
*independent travel*  
itforit

**WASHINGTON STATE**

*16 day itinerary*



## **WASHINGTON STATE**

### **16 day itinerary**

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Butterworth Investments Limited  
25 Priors Crescent  
Salford Priors  
Evesham  
WR11 8AN  
UK  
Telephone +44 (0)1789 638511  
email info@itforit.com

Registered in England No. 233763

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B3 2FD  
UK

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Cover image Mount Shuksan from Picture Lake in the Heather Meadows area of  
Mount Baker Wilderness, Washington

# WASHINGTON STATE

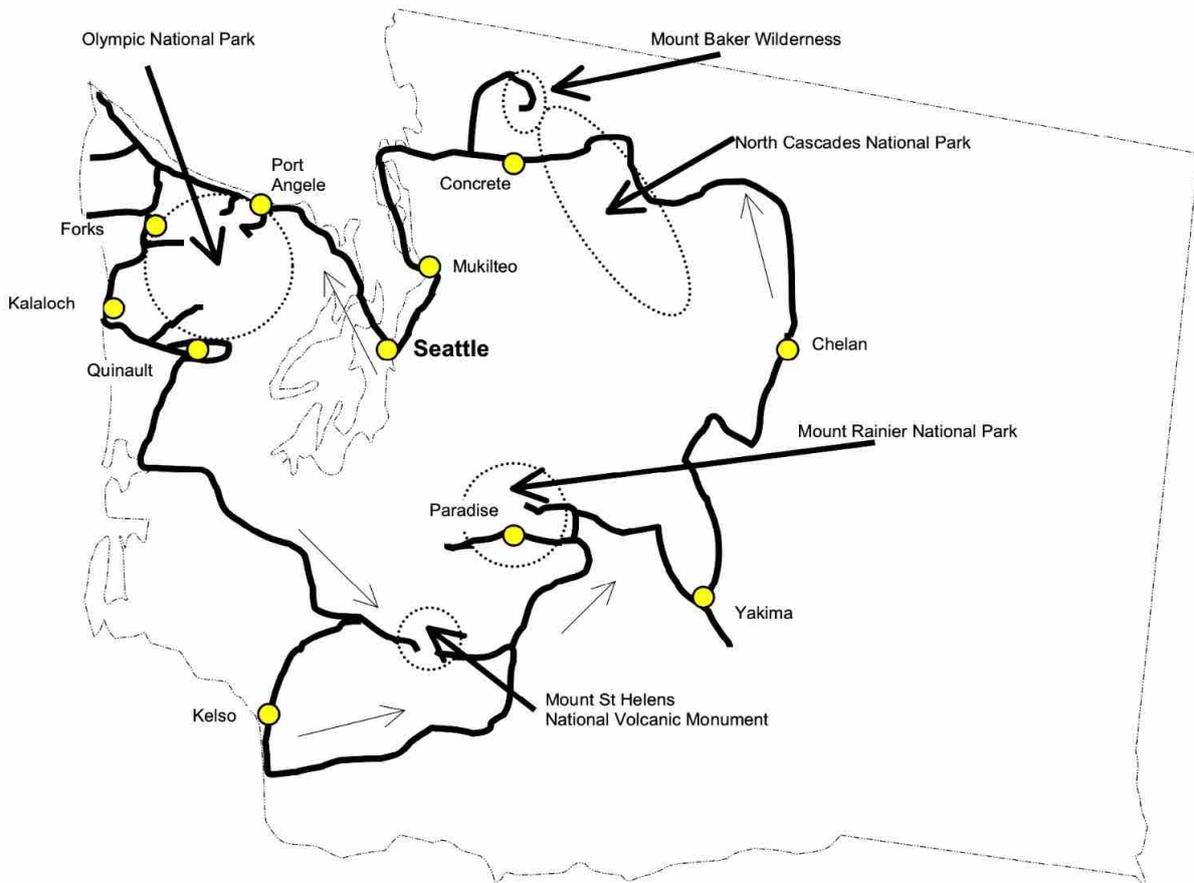
## 16 day itinerary

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## 16 day itinerary

Many years of travelling, and thoroughly enjoying, the States and National Parks of the USA have provided a good insight into the essential features to see and things to do, at all the locations along this route. There are so many books to read, and tourist information to absorb on arrival at each destination, that precious time can be lost in trying to discover the most advantageous points of interest. This itinerary sets out in clear bulleted lists just what to see and do.

There is no preoccupation with giving advice about the cheapest or best airline, car-hire company, restaurant, or hotel. You are free to choose any of these, without any reference to the itinerary. No inducements or enticements are taken from organisations trying to boost their profits. This itinerary is pure fact, to help you get the best out of your holiday.

Although we are unashamedly English, we have toured the USA for many years, and love it. We keep on returning to the same places, and 'test' the routes with friends who enjoy the clear itineraries. We make no apology for some 'English' ways of expressing (and spelling) the details, and do not pretend to try to write in an 'American' manner. We have no doubts about the ease of understanding the content.

This itinerary has been prepared with various assumptions, and attempts to provide good, hard facts, without the need to instruct travellers in the art of travelling. This means that there has been no attempt to give tiny details, such as how to read a map, or where to find specific places, unless the signposts are not clear enough. Most places are well signposted.

The necessity to purchase expensive road maps is very doubtful. It has been our experience that the very cheap State maps, which are available in so many outlets, such as filling stations, book shops and gift shops, are easily the best way to find one's way about. They are small, easy to fold, easy to follow, and easy to replace if they become worn, or lost.

Many of the places in this itinerary can be visited at any time of the year. However, we have assumed that the itinerary will be followed during the summer months, and so there will be few problems with opening times of parks, monuments, museums, or hotels, etc. The walks suggested are suitable for the summer months.

Accommodation is always easy to find, and on most occasions it is not necessary to book in advance. However, if you wish to stay at specific locations, then it is very strongly advised to book several months in advance. Camping is sometimes allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis, and allocation usually starts early each day. Some campsites do accept reservations - we recommend that you enquire.

Day numbers allow for one day of travelling at each end of the itinerary. Most people will need these travelling days.

Although the days are marked as Day 1, Day 2, etc., there is no reason why you cannot spend two or more days at one of the overnight stops. You may have relatives in the area, or just wish to lengthen the tour a little, to accommodate some aspect you find particularly interesting, or do some shopping. Just alter the day number, and carry on at your own pace.

Mileages on each day should be taken as being rather approximate, depending on how many features you visit along the route. Some days you may find you cover fewer miles. Some days you may cover more - but the overall distance should be about right.

# WASHINGTON STATE

## 16 day itinerary

### **OVERVIEW**

This itinerary covers a variety of land-forms, from the massive log-strewn Pacific beaches and fjord-like inlets around the Puget Sound, to the craggy peaks, glaciers and volcanoes of the mountain ranges, and the lower fruit-growing plateau area to the east of the mountains.

The elevation for the itinerary ranges from sea level to over 6,000 feet in the mountain ranges. East of the extended Cascade Range, the elevation is around 1,000 feet.

The summer temperatures can vary depending on the location. On the Pacific coastline and at the higher altitudes, it is usually between 60° and 80°F (and occasionally below 50°F). However, in the eastern plateau areas, it is often over 90°F, and can easily rise to over 100°F. It has been the experience of *itforit* during summer reconnoitres, that the weather has been pleasantly warm and favourable. On occasions, there has been low cloud on the mountains, obscuring the view.

### **Brief History**

It is thought that the first humans arrived in the area about 20,000 years ago. They had migrated from Asia, and travelled south into Northern America, through areas we now call Alaska and Canada. There are many Native Indians in the area, but they are comparative newcomers, being part of the Athabaskan group, which migrated from Canada around the 1400s AD. They roamed the area to find their food as hunter-gatherers.

The Indians on the Olympic Peninsula, such as the Makah, Quilault and Quileute, lived well from gathering and hunting on land. They also built intricately carved cedar dugout canoes, and hunted in the ocean for whales, seals, fish and crustacea. They inhabited well-constructed cedar longhouses, and developed an advanced social structure.

The Indians living further inland, such as the Yakama, Wenatchee and Nez Percé, seasonally migrated to the best areas for food, living in portable homes in the summer, and in pithouses during the winter. The pithouses were partially underground, often built in protected valleys. They stayed roughly within the vast plateau area between the Cascade Range (to the west) and the Rocky Mountains (to the east).

It is thought European explorers may have sailed up the coast in the 1540s. However, it was in 1592 that the Greek explorer, Juan de Fuca, discovered much more of the area, whilst being paid by the Spanish. In 1774, Juan Perez viewed the coast, and then many nations explored the land - particularly Captain James Cook of Britain, in 1778. In 1792, George Vancouver (an Englishman) primarily charted the coast, and Robert Gray (an American) explored the Columbia River.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition started in May 1804 from St Louis, Missouri and took 28 months. The members of the expedition covered over 8,000 miles on foot, in boats, and on horses, and were under instructions from President Thomas Jefferson to discover a Northwest passage - a connection by water between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In 1805, the explorers travelled down the Columbia River to the Pacific, and although they had not discovered a Northwest passage, the expedition had set a standard for exploration.

continued.....

White men had arrived in the late-1700s and early-1800s. Known as mountain men, they trapped for fur, making friends with the Native Indians. John Jacob Astor was inspired by news from Lewis and Clark, and founded the Pacific Fur Company. He built forts and a trading post at Astoria, Oregon, which encouraged settlement. The War of 1812 lasted until 1815, and was the start of the fur trade decline. The war had been between America and Britain, with America wanting freedom from Britain. (The fur trade had made John Jacob Astor very rich. In 1763, he had immigrated, penniless, from Germany and opened a fur shop in New York. He used surplus money from his fur trade to buy land in New York, particularly Manhattan. When he died in 1848, he was America's richest man, being worth \$20 million - about \$80 billion, at today's values.)

The first permanent settlers arrived in 1845, south of Seattle. They were from Missouri, and were evading the laws of black settlement. They were Afro-Americans, and set up trading posts and timber mills. From 1854 to 1855, the first governor of the territory negotiated treaties with the Native Indians, but because of language problems, the treaties were not understood well, and the Native Indians felt deceived. There were several battles between the Native Indians and settlers, particularly when gold prospectors arrived in 1858. By 1859, all the Indians were suppressed and removed to reservations.

In 1875, the railroad came to Walla Walla, in the east of Washington. The transcontinental railroad was completed to Puget Sound in 1883, and to Seattle in 1893. This encouraged settlers in their thousands, particularly working in timber and agriculture.

In 1889, Washington became America's 42<sup>nd</sup> state. In the same year, a fire destroyed most of the timber buildings in Seattle. It was re-built with brick, and established itself with quality buildings. In November 1896, gold was discovered in Alaska's Klondike, and Seattle seized the opportunity to be the supplier of provisions and equipment for prospectors - a turning point for the city's future.

By the end of the 1800s, shipping around the Puget Sound area and along the Columbia River had become important, so that resources and products could be transported to markets.

In the mid-1900s, the advancement of prosperity came with the construction of massive river dams, which provided cheap hydroelectric power and irrigation for the dry, but fertile farmlands.

## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

### **What to see and do**

- It is not expected that everything in this itinerary will be undertaken.
  - You would need far more than 16 days to achieve everything!
  - There are 1,000s of years of ancient history, and a large area of land to cover.
- *itforit* recommends that you select the day's activities from the choices described, and allocate time accordingly.
- Essential places to visit are **in bold and underlined**.
- Interesting places, such as towns and villages, walks, etc. are **just underlined**. As many of these places as possible should be included in the itinerary, in order to achieve maximum enjoyment, together with understanding of the history and culture of the area.
- *Suggested walks are in italics. Distances are always stated for the total return or loop.*
  - *Walks suggested are some of the easier ones, with good views or particular interest.*
  - *It is recommended to do as many walks as possible, to get the most out of this itinerary.*

continued.....

**What to see and do** (continued)

- It cannot be stressed too much how important it is to visit the Visitor Centers, where they are available.
  - They always give a very good overview of the area, together with its history, culture, geology, etc.
  - *itforit* does not presume to be a better authority than Visitor Centers.
  - *itforit* itineraries prepare you for a place of interest, and suggest the essential items to see and do.
- All places have rules about damage to the environment, litter, camping, and so on. Please ensure that you abide by these regulations.
- There are many good museums along this itinerary.
  - Several weeks could be spent going into every museum - many towns seem to have one.
  - Particular museums have been chosen, which provide variety, and also a flavour of the area.
- Pleasure parks and most man-made enjoyments (such as trains, zoos, golf courses and other sporting activities, etc.) have generally been omitted. If these are found to be enjoyable, then time can easily be found by avoiding the many other aspects of this itinerary, or by extending your visit.

**Admission charges**

- Nearly every place makes an admission charge.
  - Exceptions to this are government establishments.
- It is worth looking for coupons giving discounts on admission prices. You will find these at Visitor Centres, hotels, etc. If none is on display, it is still worth asking.
- An 'America The Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass' allows 'free' entry into all National Parks, National Monuments and other Federal sites, for all passengers in a car for twelve months. It is more commonly called an 'Interagency Pass'. In the case of this itinerary alone, it is not a good 'investment'. However, if other National Parks, etc. are to be visited at another time, then it may be worth considering. Retired USA citizens, and those with lifetime disabilities, may obtain benefits at reduced rates.
- The 'Northwest Forest Pass' is a charge for parking a vehicle at many small parking areas, for trails, picnic areas, other similar places, and also at some Visitor Centers within forests.
  - Signs stating the requirement of a Pass are clearly sited.
  - The Pass is available, in advance, at all Forest Service offices, and many private outlets. It is issued daily or annually.
  - There are various places on this itinerary where a Pass is required - even within National Parks.
  - The Pass also provides 'free' access to the east side of Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument and Ape Cave.
  - *itforit* suggests that it is probably best to purchase a daily pass, when necessary. However, this must be judged depending on how many parking areas, or similar places, you are likely to use.
- The 'Washington State Parks Vehicle Permit' is a charge for parking within the State Parks.
  - The Pass is available at all State Parks offices, and online in advance. It is issued daily or annually.
  - There are a few places on this itinerary where a Permit is required.
  - *itforit* suggests that it is probably best to purchase a daily pass, if required. However, this must be judged depending on how many parking areas, or similar places, you are likely to use.
- Many museums and other places of interest have been included in the itinerary. Some of these charge an admission fee, some do not - this may change.

continued.....

**Admission charges** (continued)

- The Automobile Association of America (AAA) has reciprocal arrangements with overseas associations, providing some membership benefits.
  - For example, members of the British AA, Australian AAA and New Zealand NZAA can all benefit from various discounts for some admission charges, and particularly accommodation.
  - Ask if a 'Triple A' rate is available.

**Driving information**

- If you are hiring a vehicle, then you should read the hire agreement carefully, in order that you do not contravene any of the conditions of hire.
  - If driving on un-paved roads is not permitted, then a few of the suggestions in this itinerary should be avoided.
  - Many parking areas are not paved, and it is suggested that driving on this type of surface may well be acceptable to the hire company.
  - It has been our experience that driving on good quality dirt roads, which are marked on State maps, is acceptable to hire companies.
  - However, *itforit* cannot be held responsible for varying conditions of hire companies.
- The total distance you will travel on this itinerary will be about 1,900 miles.
  - Conventional 'Fly-Drive' itineraries often state just the minimum distances, which do not allow for the normal extra bits of driving - like going out for a meal, going shopping, missing the exit off the road, etc.
  - *itforit* believes the total will be a reasonable judgement of your actual mileage, based on:
    - Our own experiences.
    - The assumption that you go to some of the less-major excursions, but not all of them.
    - Where there are alternative routes, you take the longer ones.
- Numbers and names of interstates, freeways, parkways, routes, turnpikes, highways and roads can be confusing to non-Americans. For simplicity:
  - Each Interstate Highway is referred to as 'Interstate', with its number.
  - Every other road, route, highway, etc. is referred to as 'Route', with its number.
- There is a general misconception in Europe, that the maximum road speed allowed in the USA is 55mph.
  - This is not true.
  - The Interstate Highways, and other 'fast' roads, often have speed limits of 65mph, 75mph and even up to 80mph.
  - The limits for urban areas are generally a little lower than those in Europe.
  - There is no necessity to exceed the speed limits, in order to cover the itinerary.
- The provision of signposts, is generally very good. However, a car compass has been found to be a useful aid, on occasions.
- Fuel (gasoline/petrol/diesel) is not always readily available, particularly within the National Parks. It is suggested that you ensure your tank is kept full.

**Washington State information**

Population	> 5.8 million
Land area	> 66,500 sq. miles
Capital	Olympia
Nickname	Evergreen State
Abbreviation	WA
State Bird	Willow Goldfinch
State Flower	Coast Rhododendron
State Tree	Western Hemlock
Time Zone	Pacific

# WASHINGTON STATE

## 16 day itinerary

### Some trees of Washington State

51% of the land area of Washington State is classified as forest land. The trees - particularly on the western side - grow very fast, and can grow to record sizes. Forestry is the second largest industry in the Washington State. State law requires all forested land to be re-planted within three years of harvesting the timber.

Timber is not only used for building, but also pulped for paper, and the cellulose fibre is used to make rayon. Additionally, many oils, syrups and chemicals are extracted - including artificial vanilla.

'Old growth' is a term frequently used. There are many factors, which determine if an area of trees is defined as 'old growth'.

- The type of forest and its climatic area.
- The numbers of trees and their diameters.
- The numbers of standing and fallen dead trees.
- The age of trees - age definitions vary between 150 and 250 years.

Some of the common trees are described here, but the list is not exhaustive, nor intended to be that of an expert. It is purely for interest.

#### **Sitka Spruce** (*Picea sitchensis*)

- An evergreen softwood.
- **Leaves** Bright green, sharp needles, which are almost at 90° to the twigs. They are individual needles - not in pairs or groups.
- **Fruit** Cones are about 2 to 4 inches long and hang down.
- **Trunk** Bark is dark reddish- brown, and has scales, which crackle. On older trees, the bark often becomes a grey-purple colour.
  - It grows to be the tallest of all spruce varieties - up to 140 feet high.
- **Habitat** It is the tree most closely associated with the temperate rain forest, as it likes rain, and is very tolerant of shade. It will grow up to 3,000 feet elevation.
- **Uses** It has the best weight to strength ratio of all trees, and was used during World War I in the construction of aeroplanes.
  - It is used in building construction, for pulp and also for wooden ladders.

continued.....

**Western Hemlock** (*Tsuga heterophylla*)

- An evergreen softwood.
- **Leaves** Short, flat, rounded needles, on each side of the twigs. The twigs are often twisted.
- **Fruit** Cones are about 1/2 to 1 inch long and hang down.
- **Trunk** Bark is dark reddish-brown.
  - The tip of the tree arches over - particularly on younger trees.
  - It frequently grows over 170 feet high.
- **Habitat** It is tolerant of shade, and usually retains its lower branches.
  - It grows well with moisture in the air, particularly west of the Cascade Range.
- **Uses** It is used for building construction and pulp.
- It was named by pioneers, as they thought the foliage looked like the poisonous plant that killed Socrates.

**Douglas Fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

- An evergreen softwood.
- **Leaves** Flat, blunt needles, which may be over 1 inch long, on each side of the twigs.
- **Fruit** Cones are 3 to 4 inches long and hang down.
- **Trunk** Bark is reddish-brown, with deep furrows on older trees.
  - It is one of the fastest growing trees, and often reach up to 300 feet high.
- **Habitat** It does not like shade, and so the lower branches tend to die.
  - It grows in most areas, and particularly well in damp, rich soil.
- **Uses** It is used for building construction, for plywood and as a Christmas tree.

**Western Red Cedar** (*Thuja plicata*)

- An evergreen softwood.
- **Leaves** Glossy leaves, which hang like fern fronds. They appear like needles, but are minute scale-like leaves along 1/4 inch stems.
- **Fruit** Cones are only about 1/2 inch long and stand upright.
- **Trunk** Bark is a bright reddish-brown, which develops ridges and becomes stringy in older trees.
  - It can grow to over 200 feet high.
- **Habitat** It is tolerant of shade, and will grow in a variety of sites, even up to 4,000 feet elevation. It grows particularly well in damp, flat areas.
- **Uses** It is used extensively to make shingles and shakes (wooden tiles), as it has a natural defence against decay. It is also used for general building construction and fencing.
  - It was once used by Native Indians for dugout canoes.

**Vine Maple** (*Acer circinatum*)

- A deciduous hardwood.
- **Leaves** They have 7 to 9 lobes and are 2 to 6 inches long. They are medium green, and in pairs along the twig, turning orange to bright red before falling.
- **Fruit** Seeds grow in winged pairs.
- **Trunk** Bark is reddish-brown.
  - It only grows to about 25 feet tall.
- **Habitat** It is tolerant of shade, and grows best in rich, moist soil, particularly along river banks. It grows in clumps, more like bushes.
- **Uses** It is not used commercially, although it is valuable for browsing animals.
  - Thin shoots were once used by Native Indians to make baskets.

**Black Cottonwood** (*Populus trichocarpa*)

- A deciduous hardwood.
- **Leaves** Heart-shaped leaves, which are 3 to 4 inches long, and alternate along the twig. They are dark green above and silver-brown below.
  - Twigs are brownish-yellow, and the colour may extend along the branches.
- **Fruit** Seed pods are very small, with three valves.
- **Trunk** Bark is a greyish-brown. It usually forms a neat, narrow column of foliage, with a rounded top.
  - It grows very well in Washington State, and can reach heights of over 120 feet.
- **Habitat** It does not like shade, and lives in moist places, particularly along river banks.
- **Uses** It is used as a veneer on plywood, and for pulp.

**Big Leaf Maple** (*Acer macrophyllum*)

- A deciduous hardwood.
- **Leaves** They have 5 lobes, and are 8 to 12 inches long - sometimes even larger. They are medium green, and in pairs along the twig.
- **Fruit** Seeds grow in winged pairs.
- **Trunk** Young trees have smooth, brown bark - older trees have deep furrows.
  - It grows to about 80 feet high.
- **Habitat** It is tolerant of shade, and grows best in rich, moist soil, particularly on the west of the Olympic peninsula.
  - It often has club moss hanging from its branches, together with other mosses, lichen and ferns.
- **Uses** It is used to make furniture, particularly piano frames, and for pulp. Its sap can be used to make maple syrup.

**Red Alder** (*Alnus rubra*)

- A deciduous hardwood.
- **Leaves** Oval-shaped leaves, which are 3 to 5 inches long, and alternate along the twig. They are dark green with serrated edges. The twigs are reddish-brown or red.
- **Fruit** Cones are 1/2 to 1 inch long and hang down.
- **Trunk** The bark often has a white-coloured lichen, which makes it appear like the white bark of a Birch tree. It is smooth, and often has small wax-like growths.
  - It grows very well in Washington State, and can reach heights of over 130 feet.
- **Habitat** It does not like shade, and lives in moist places, particularly where land has been cleared by logging.
  - It often forms clumps of shorter trees.
- **Uses** It is used to make furniture, and for pulp.
  - The bark was once used by Native Indians as a dye.

# WASHINGTON STATE

## 16 day itinerary

### Overnight summary, with alternatives

<b><u>Day 1</u></b>	<b>Seattle</b>
<b><u>Day 2</u></b>	<b>Seattle</b>
<b><u>Day 3</u></b>	<b>Port Angeles</b> Alternative: Squim
<b><u>Day 4</u></b>	<b>Forks</b>
<b><u>Day 5</u></b>	<b>Kalaloch</b> Alternative: Forks or Quinault
<b><u>Day 6</u></b>	<b>Quinault</b> Alternative: Amanda Park
<b><u>Day 7</u></b>	<b>Kelso</b> Alternatives: Longview or Woodland
<b><u>Day 8</u></b>	<b>Mount Rainier - Paradise or Longmire</b> Alternative: Ashford
<b><u>Day 9</u></b>	<b>Mount Rainier - Paradise or Longmire</b> Alternative: Ashford
<b><u>Day 10</u></b>	<b>Yakima</b>
<b><u>Day 11</u></b>	<b>Chelan</b>
<b><u>Day 12</u></b>	<b>Concrete</b>
<b><u>Day 13</u></b>	<b>Concrete</b>
<b><u>Day 14</u></b>	<b>Mukilteo</b> Alternatives: towns on Whidbey Island, or at Everett
<b><u>Day 15</u></b>	<b>Seattle</b>
<b><u>Day 16</u></b>	<b>Your onward journey</b>

Date.....

Approximate miles = 20

**Travelling day**

- This page may be used to make notes about your travelling arrangements, in order to arrive at Seattle - ready to start on your itinerary on Day 2.
- If you have arrived early at Seattle, and wish to see some of the sights, please refer to Day 2 and Day 15.

**Overnight at Seattle** ("see-ad-ul")

Date.....

The first day of your *itforit* itinerary! Enjoy the interesting history of Seattle and its culture.

Approximate miles = 20

**Day in and around Seattle**

- This is nicknamed 'The Emerald city'.
- It is a waterfront city - not directly onto the Pacific Ocean, but onto Elliott Bay, which is part of the attractive Puget Sound ("pyoo-jit"), with its many islands.



- Puget Sound was named after Lieutenant Peter Puget, a member of the 1792 British expedition, led by George Vancouver.
- Famous connections
  - Boeing has now moved its headquarters to Chicago. Its major assembly plant is at Everett (see Day 15).
  - The Microsoft Corporation headquarters is at Redmond - about 15 miles northeast of the centre of Seattle.
  - Starbucks coffee still has its headquarters here.
  - *Frasier*, the TV series is set here, although the view from *Frasier's* window is computer-created.
  - *Sleepless in Seattle* (1993), starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, was filmed on location at a house-boat in a small 'floating village' on the west bank of Lake Union.



- The 'floating village' may be seen from Westlake Avenue North, close to the city centre.
- It is a city of culture, with many museums and art galleries. Some of the best, and most convenient have been suggested.
- **Note:** Bear in mind that you may be able to allocate time at the end of the itinerary to see more of Seattle, depending on your onward travel plans.
- History
  - It was first settled in November 1851, at Alki Point - just south of the Duwamish River. At that time, it was called 'New York - Alki' ("al-kee").
    - In February 1852, it was decided that Alki Point was not satisfactory, so the settlers moved to the present location of Pioneer Square - naming it Duwamps.
    - In the summer of 1852, it was renamed Seattle in honour of Chief Sealth (see Day 3).
  - It became a prosperous logging town, with many timber buildings. By 1889, the population was over 40,000.
  - In June 1889, an unattended glue pot caught fire while on a stove in the Pioneer Square area. The resulting fire spread, and destroyed most of the timber buildings in the downtown area.

continued.....

**Seattle** (continued)

- **History** (continued)
  - The city was re-built with brick, and was also raised to a higher level.
    - The original level of the city was much too low - only just above high tide level, and the tide backed up the sewers.
  - In 1897, it became the supplier of provisions and equipment for prospectors going to Alaska's Klondike gold rush - as Canada required each prospector to take a year's supplies. This was a turning point for the city's future wealth.
  - By the 1930s, the downtown area had moved northwards, and the Pioneer Square area had become out of favour.
    - In the 1960s, moves were made to create the Pioneer Square Historic District.
  - In 1962, it hosted the World Trade Fair.

- **Getting about**
  - Obtain a street map - this is easily available from your accommodation, information centres, etc.
  - Traffic congestion is serious - it is better to avoid using a car.
  - Central (downtown) Seattle is easy to get around on foot, and by monorail.
  - A shuttle bus may be used, which has a 'Ride Free Zone' in the downtown area.
  - The Waterfront Streetcar provides cheap travel along Alaskan Way - the road along the waterfront.
  - The suggested places to visit have been placed in the order of roughly south to north, starting at the waterfront. This helps to understand the city's layout, and the State Ferry Terminal at Pier 52 is also towards the south - it will be required on Day 3.

- **Russian Submarine**

- This is at Pier 48, which is about 300 yards south of the State Ferry Terminal at Pier 52.
- It is a Russian 'Foxtrot' class submarine, code-named 'Cobra'.
- It was commissioned in 1974, and de-commissioned in 1994.
- It was powered by 3 diesel engines, which powered electric motors, and carried 22 torpedoes for use in the 10 torpedo tubes.
- It was used for patrolling the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and Arctic Ocean during the 'Cold War'.
- A self-guided visit travels through various sections, including a torpedo room, control room, living quarters and engine rooms. There are recorded messages as you tour through each section.
- Conditions are cramped, and the tour involves some climbing.



continued.....

**Seattle** (continued)

- **Yesler Way** ("yehz-luh")
  - This is in-between the Russian Submarine and the State Ferry Terminal at Pier 52, heading east - away from the waterfront.
    - It is then necessary to walk about 200 yards up towards the Historic District.



- It was originally called Skid Road, as it was used to skid the logs down the hill to Yesler's sawmill. The commercial area was moved, and the street became an area for the homeless. By then, it was known as 'Skid Row' - hence the expression of 'being on Skid Row'.
- It was renamed Mill Street, but then changed to Yesler Way after Henry Yesler (1810-1892), who had arrived in Seattle in 1852 and built his sawmill - becoming wealthy and influential.
- **'Sinking Ship'**
  - This multi-storey parking area is at the junction of Yesler Way and James Street.
  - It is considered to be an eyesore by some, and loved by others, but it is preserved with nearby buildings.
- **Smith Tower**
  - With its white pyramid tower, this is behind the 'Sinking Ship' - looking uphill.
  - At 522 feet high, it was opened in 1914 as 'The Tallest Building West of the Mississippi', and the fourth tallest in the world.
  - It was built on instructions from Lyman Cornelius Smith, who had made a fortune from Smith-Corona typewriters, and the Smith 'Long' rifle.
  - L C Smith died in 1910, but his son was at the opening ceremony.
- **Pioneer Square Historic District**
  - This is at the junction of Yesler Way and First Avenue.
  - It is the site of the first permanent settlement in Seattle.
  - The area extends around many nearby streets and blocks, having many restored buildings, which were built between 1890 and 1905 - after the Great Fire of 1889.
- **Pergola**
  - This ornate structure was erected in 1909 to provide shelter for cable-car passengers.
  - It also served as an entrance to vast underground toilet facilities, although these are now sealed off.
  - In January 2001, it was demolished by a vehicle, but was restored and re-opened in August 2002.

**Seattle** (continued)

- **Pioneer Square Historic District** (continued)

- **Totem Pole**

- The original Totem Pole was stolen from the Tlingit ("klin-kit") Indians in 1890.
    - In 1938, it was burned by arsonists. The city then paid for the stolen original, and for its replacement.



- **Bill Speidel's Underground Tour**

- This starts from the 1890s 'Doc Maynards Public House', which is at 608 First Avenue.
    - It gives tours of 1.5 hours of the pre-1889 city, which is now below the present city level.
    - Buildings such as shops, a hotel, a theatre and a bank can be seen, together with unusual sanitary methods - necessary when the buildings were so much lower.
    - Old streets are seen, which are now underground.
    - Tours generally start on the hour, and it is best to arrive at least 30 minutes early. There is no advance booking.
    - Although *itforit* does not normally recommend 'attractions', this is of particular historical interest.

- **Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park**

- This is about 300 yards (two blocks) south from Pioneer Square, along First Avenue, and east (left) into South Main Street.
    - It is part of the 'Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park', which is in the Yukon, Alaska.
    - It is a museum, which tells the story of gold, its discovery in the Klondike, Yukon, and Seattle's importance in supplying the prospectors with equipment in the 1890s.

- **Seattle Art Museum (SAM)**

- This is on the corner of First Avenue and University Street.
    - It has over 20,000 objects, ranging from ancient Egyptian works to modern American works.
    - It includes sections of works from Northwest Native Indians, Asia and the Far East, Europe and Africa.
    - It is normally closed on Mondays.

- **Pike Place Market**

- This is about 0.5 mile north of Pioneer Square to the left (west) of First Avenue. It is best approached from Pike Street.
    - It is a very large area between First Avenue, Western Avenue, Union Street and Virginia Street.
    - It is a colourful and vibrant place of fresh produce, arts and crafts.



continued.....

**Seattle** (continued)

- **Pike Place Market** (continued)
  - The fish market is particularly famous - especially the Pike Place Fish Company, where the customer's fish is thrown through the air to the cashier.
  - It is the USA's oldest continually operating farmers' market, having been established in 1907.
  - Starbucks' first coffee bar opened in the market.
    - It was started in 1971 by three teachers, but did not become famous until after 1987.
    - It was named after Mr Starbuck, the First Mate on the whaling ship 'Pequod', in Herman Melville's novel *Moby-Dick*. Mr Starbuck loved coffee.
    - The original site is two buildings away from its present location, which opened in 1973.
- **Pike Place Hillclimb**
  - This is a set of (uninteresting) steps on the west side of Pike Place Market providing easy access to the waterfront.
- **Pier 59 Waterfront Park**
  - This is almost opposite Pike Place Hillclimb, on Alaskan Way.
  - **Seattle Aquarium**
    - This concentrates on sea and shore life in the Washington State area, with tidal pools and tanks of fish.
    - It also has a fish ladder and salmon hatchery, where the complete life cycle of the Pacific salmon may be observed.
    - There are over 15,000 creatures, covering over 350 species.
  - **IMAX Dome**
    - This has a film every 30 minutes on science topics, including Mount St Helens and marine life.
- **Westlake Center**
  - This is about 700 yards east (inland) from the waterfront, along Pine Street.
    - Return up Pike Street Hillclimb, and through Pike Place Market, leaving on Pine Street.
  - It is a large glass-covered retail centre with over 80 shops and restaurants on four floors.
  - **Monorail**
    - The terminal for this is on the top floor.
    - It is 1 mile long to the Seattle Center, and the journey takes only 1.5 minutes.
    - It runs frequently during the normal tourist months - at least once every 10 minutes.
- **Seattle Center**
  - This is about 1 mile northwest of Westlake Center. It is easiest to travel here on the Monorail.
  - An area of 74 acres, it was the site of the 1962 World Fair. The monorail was also part of the 1962 construction.
  - It now has various science-based 'attractions', restaurants, shops, together with many venues for the performing arts.

continued.....

**Seattle** (continued)

- **Seattle Center** (continued)

- **Space Needle**

- This tower was built for the 1962 World Fair.
- It is 605 feet high, and has excellent 360° views from the Observation Deck, at 520 feet.
  - The Observation Deck has an outdoor area, and an indoor area houses many explanatory exhibits.



- It has the world's first revolving restaurant and bar - just below the Observation Deck. It revolves through 360° every 47 minutes.

- **Experience Music Project**

- This has advanced technology exhibits about the diverse nature of music.



- It is set on three floors, with many interactive displays covering most forms of popular western music - excluding classical music.
- It is a haven for modern music enthusiasts.
- There are 'laboratories' and videos, which demonstrate and explore different facets.
- There are exhibits of musical items, including over 50 rare and unique guitars.

- **Pacific Science Center**

- This is a complex of six buildings, which house different aspects of science, including a planetarium, laserium, two IMAX theatres, a tropical butterfly house, and exhibits about the creatures of our planet.
- There are many hands-on exhibits.
- Although it has an educational theme, which is aimed at children, it is also suitable for adults.

- **International Fountain**

- The 1962 World Fair fountain was replaced in 1995 with a silver dome having many nozzles.
- It has water shows with music and light, and is a popular place to cool down in the summer.



continued.....

**Seattle** (continued)

- **Olympic Sculpture Park**
  - This is at the waterfront, on the corner of Western Avenue and Broad Street - easily accessed from Seattle Center.
  - It is a 9-acre area of green space with outdoor sculptures, and a good view across the Puget Sound.
  - It provides an attractive area for the display of art in various environments - all of which are found in the Pacific Northwest.
  - It is free to enter.

- **Kerry Park**

- This is on the south side of West Highland Avenue, west off Queen Anne Avenue North - in the suburb of Queen Anne.
  - It is about 1 mile northwest of the Space Needle, and it is suggested to use your own transport.



- This very small park is along the side the road, and is more like a very wide grass verge.
- It provides a famous and popular view of the city, including the Space Needle, and to Mount Rainier - about 60 miles away.
- The views are particularly good in the evening.

- **Capitol Hill area**

- This is 3 miles northeast of the downtown area.
- In 1901, a developer named the hill in the false hope that Seattle would become the State capital.
- It is the centre for Seattle's nightlife, and the gay and lesbian community.

- **Frye Art Museum**

- This is in Terry Avenue.
- It has art and sculptures from the 1800s to the present day.
- It is free, but not open on Mondays.

- **Volunteer Park**

- The land for this was acquired in 1878, and named City Park. In 1901, it was changed to Volunteer Park to honour the volunteers of the Spanish-American War.

- The Spanish-American War lasted for about four months in 1898. It ended Spain's colonial power, principally in Cuba and the Philippines.

- **Water Tower**

- This brick-built tower was completed in 1907, and is 75 feet high.
- It is free to climb the 108 steps to a viewing gallery.
- It provides a 360° panorama across the city, but netting hinders easy photography.

**Seattle** (continued)

- **Capitol Hill area** (continued)
  - **Volunteer Park** (continued)
    - **Conservatory**
      - This was originally built in 1912, and has been considerably renovated since 1980.
      - It contains plants from around the world in five distinct houses - for palms, ferns, bromeliads, cacti and for seasonal displays.
    - **Seattle Asian Art Museum (SAAM)**
      - This has a collection of over 7,000 items of Asian art in many forms.
      - It is generally closed on Mondays. Tuesday opening is only during peak summer times.
  - **Washington Park Arboretum**
    - This is off Lake Washington Boulevard East, about 5 miles northeast of the downtown area.
      - It is easiest to travel about 4 miles north on Interstate 5, leaving at Exit 168B, onto Route 520.
      - Then travel east for about 1 mile, leaving at the exit for Montlake Boulevard.
    - The main park was designated in 1904, and has a variety of mature plants and trees.
    - The 230 acres have about 40,000 shrubs, trees and vines, with about 4,600 species from around the world.
    - **Japanese Garden**
      - Construction of this 3.5 acre garden started in 1960.



- It has many typical Japanese symbolic features, including a tea garden, an Emperor's gate, a moon-viewing stand, a lake with Koi carp, and a miniature 11-tiered stone pagoda.
- It is a beautiful garden, representing the condensed way of life in Japan, with a village, river, waterfall, lake, bridges, forest and mountains.

**Overnight at Seattle**

Date.....

A day to use the ferry to escape from the city, and sample the attractive coastal areas - in preparation for the first National Park.

Approximate miles = 130

**Start the day in Seattle**

- Bear in mind that you may be able to allocate time at the end of the itinerary to see more of Seattle, depending on your onward travel plans.
- You may also consider visiting two items on Day 15, which are close to Seattle: the Hiram M Chittenden Locks, and the Museum of Flight.

**Leave Seattle by vehicle ferry to Bainbridge Island**

- This ferry goes from the State Ferry Terminal (Pier 52), which is close to Pioneer Square. It goes to Winslow, which is on Bainbridge Island.
- The ferry sails about once an hour during the day, and takes 35 minutes.



- It is recommended to arrive at least 20 minutes early, if sailing before 3:00pm.
  - If sailing after 3:00pm, up to 1 hour is recommended, and longer on Friday afternoons.
- It is not possible to make an advance reservation.

From the ferry, follow the signs to Poulsbo, north on Route 305. After 7 miles travel over Agate Passage Bridge from Bainbridge Island to the Kitsap Peninsula.

**Grave of Chief Sealth** ("see-elth")

- Access to this is immediately after Agate Passage Bridge.
  - About 300 yards after Agate Passage Bridge, turn right (north) into Suquamish Way. Travel for about 1 mile, and it is signposted to the left.



- After about 100 yards, turn right and the cemetery is down the hill, behind St Peter's Catholic Mission, Suquamish.
- The grave is under two large cedar dugout war canoes.
- Chief Sealth was born about 1786, and died in 1866.
- He was the Chief of the Suquamps and Allied Tribes, and was a good friend of the white settlers.
- Seattle was named after Chief Sealth.
  - The Indian pronunciation of 'Sealth' does not have an equivalent in English. It has a 'guttural stop' at the end - which explains how the name 'Seattle' was derived from the sound.

continued.....

### Suquamish Museum

- This is on the left (south) side of Route 305, about 0.5 mile west of the turning for the Grave of Chief Sealth.
- It is a small museum, which has been acclaimed by the Smithsonian Institute as being the best museum of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.
- It has two main sections.
  - 'Eyes of Chief Seattle' is a particularly important section about the Suquamish Indians, who lived on the Kitsap Peninsula.
  - 'Old Man House' is a section with archaeological exhibits about the Suquamish way of life.
- There are also screen presentations about the Suquamish way of life.

### Poulsbo ("porls-bow")

- This is about 6 miles northwest of Agate Passage Bridge, off Route 305.
- It was founded by Norwegian settlers between 1882 and 1892, and still has Norwegian architecture and street names, together with colourful murals.
- It is an attractive tourist town, with quality shopping and bars.
- It was named after Paulsbo in Norway, meaning 'Paul's place'. However, a misunderstanding of the handwriting on the Post Office application form changed the spelling.



Return to Route 305 north and turn left - continuing north.

### Hood Canal Bridge

- This is about 9 miles north of Poulsbo along Route 305, and then along Route 3 north.
- It joins Route 3 on the Kitsap Peninsula to Route 104 on the Olympic Peninsula.
- It is the world's largest floating bridge across tidal salt water.
  - The entire bridge length is nearly 1.5 miles, and the floating section is nearly 1.25 miles.
- It was built in 1961, but during a storm in 1979, the west section of the bridge sank. It was repaired, and then re-opened in 1982.
  - Further replacement sections will be fitted in 2006.

### Dungeness Valley and Sequim ("skwim")

- This is 35 miles northwest of the Hood Canal Bridge, on Route 101.
- It is in the dry rain-shadow of the Olympic Mountains, and attracts many retired people.
- Because of its dry climate, the valley is famous for lavender-growing, and has a lavender festival each year in mid-July.
  - In 1895, irrigation commenced to take water from the Dungeness River to the dry prairie areas. It is now an area of lush farmland.

continued.....

### **Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge**

- This is about 6 miles northwest of Sequim. It is best accessed from Route 101.
  - Continue about 4 miles west of Sequim on Route 101. Turn right (north) into Kitchen-Dick Road, and follow the signs for Dungeness Recreation Area.
- The Refuge is on Dungeness Spit. Vehicles are not permitted on the spit, and may be parked at Dungeness Recreation Area.
- Dungeness Spit is the USA's longest sand spit, being about 5.5 miles long - stretching into the Strait of Juan de Fuca (see below).
  - The length varies each year, as sand is moved around, but it is normally very stable. On average, it grows about 15 feet each year.
  - It is between 10 and 20 feet high, above the high tide level.
  - Graveyard Spit is an arm from Dungeness Spit reaching south towards the mainland.
  - Cline Spit is a smaller spit from the mainland reaching towards Graveyard Spit, but the two spits do not meet.
  - The longest sand spit in the world is Farewell Spit (at the north of South Island, New Zealand), being 15 miles long.
- It is good for bird-watching, especially in winter. Over 250 species of birds have been seen here, together with over 40 species of land mammals.
- The New Dungeness Lighthouse was built in 1857 on the northern tip of the spit. It was originally 100 feet high, but in 1927 it was shortened to 63 feet.
- *It is a good place to walk, to see the wildlife. Although the complete return length of the walk is about 11 miles, any amount is worthwhile.*

### **Strait of Juan de Fuca** ("wahn-de-foo-kah")

- This separates the USA from Vancouver Island and Canada, and meets the Pacific Ocean at Cape Flattery (see Day 4).
- It is about 15 to 20 miles wide and 100 miles long.
- It was named after the Greek explorer, who was paid by Spain to explore the Pacific Ocean in the 1590s.
  - Although it is thought he was around this area in 1592, it is not known if he actually saw the Strait.

### **Port Angeles**

- This is about 17 miles west of Sequim, on Route 101.
- The area around the deep water natural harbour was founded by the Spanish in 1791.
  - It was then named 'Puerto de Nuestra Senora de Los Angeles' ("Port of Our Lady of the Angels").
- In 1862, it was changed to its present name.
- During the American Civil War of 1861-1865, it was considered as a new site for the USA capitol, if the Confederates had won.
- It is a logging town, with two large mills and excellent port.
  - Most of the timber here is used for pulp, and exported to Japan.
- A good view of the stores of floating timber can be found by travelling along the harbour sand spit - named Ediz Hook.
  - The road along Ediz Hook is the continuation of Front Street. Travel along Front Street as far as possible, and it eventually goes through a pulp mill, and onto Ediz Hook.



### **Overnight at Port Angeles**

Date.....

Wonderful mountain views today, with many opportunities to walk. Perhaps go to see a waterfall, or to hot springs.

Approximate miles = 110

**Leave Port Angeles** west on Route 101.

**Olympic National Park**

- This is an area of over 1,440 square miles.
  - Most is contained within the centre of the Olympic peninsula.
  - There is also a narrow 57 miles strip along the coast of the Pacific Ocean.
- In 1976, UNESCO recognised it as an International Biosphere Reserve. In 1981, it became a World Heritage Site.
- *There are over 600 miles of trails.*
- Over the next three days, the itinerary will be going in and out of Olympic National Park, with its three distinct geographical facets - forests, mountains and coast.

• **Forests**

- There are four different types of forest here: Lowland Forest, Temperate Rain Forest, Montane Forest, and Subalpine Forest.
  - This section of the itinerary is mostly concerned with the Temperate Rain Forest and Lowland Forest.
- The Temperate Rain Forest is a particularly unusual feature, and is the world's only coniferous rain forest. There are other Temperate Rain Forests in Chile and New Zealand.
  - It is generally within the mountain valleys facing the Pacific Ocean.
  - It has an annual rainfall of over 140 inches. This compares with Sequim (see Day 3) averaging 17 inches, and England having about 30 inches.
  - Because of high rainfall, and a relatively mild climate, plant and tree life is very successful and luxuriant - and hence beneficial for insects, animals and birds.
  - There are many record-size trees here, judged by height, spread, and trunk circumference.
    - Western Hemlocks can grow to over 200 feet high, and Douglas Firs to over 300 feet.
- **Draperies**
  - These are mosses - often club-moss - which drape down from the branches of trees.



continued.....

**Olympic National Park** (continued)

- **Forests** (continued)
  - **Nurse log**
    - This is formed when one tree (often a Sitka Spruce) dies and falls over. New trees then start to grow on the rotting trunk - now called the 'nurse log'.
    - The roots of the new trees often reach down, around the sides of the nurse log.
    - Eventually, the original trunk rots away, and a colonnade of trees - in a straight line - is left with their roots like stilts, high above the ground.
  - **Snag**
    - This is a dead, but still standing, tree stump.
    - New trees colonise the snag, growing in the fertile, rotting compost, which also provides a habitat for many other organisms.

- **Olympic Mountains**
  - The drama of these mountains is that they rise from sea level to nearly 8,000 feet within about 30 miles.



- Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in the range. It was named by John Meares, an English explorer, in 1788, after the home of the Greek Gods.
  - It has three major peaks, the highest of which is 7,980 feet, and six glaciers.
  - There are over 60 glaciers within the Park.
- The precipitation on Mount Olympus averages about 200 inches each year, mostly falling as snow.
- These central areas of the Olympic Peninsula were not properly explored by Europeans until 1885.

- **Pacific Ocean coast**

- This is a wild, rugged area with long beaches, rock pools, sea stacks, arches, and massive logs.
- Sea stacks are the remnants of eroded cliffs - sometimes close to the beach, sometimes miles into the ocean.
- Logs are abundant on many beaches along this area of the Pacific Ocean. They have come from eroded coastal cliffs and banks of rivers, and then been swept into the ocean.
  - Haphazardly thrown up onto the beaches by high tides and gales, they are very attractive, being bleached by the salt and sun.
  - Most have had their branches and roots stripped off by the pounding waves.
- It is also part of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.



continued.....

**Olympic National Park** (continued)

• **Fauna**

- Because of the differing landscape and climatic conditions, there is a great diversity of wildlife.
- In coastal areas, there is an abundance of marine and bird life, including sea lions, seals and whales (during the spring) and migratory waterfowl.
- In the lower temperate areas, the luxuriant plant growth encourages a multitude of insects.
  - Birds and animals here include jay, junco, owl, dipper, bat, squirrel, bobcat, racoon, elk and deer.
- In higher and remote elevations, there are mountain lion, puma, cougar, bear, goat, elk and deer.



**Hurricane Ridge**

- This is south of Port Angeles, in Olympic National Park.
  - From Route 101, turn south along Race Street. After about 1 mile, Race Street becomes Mt Angeles Road, at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center.
- From the Olympic National Park Visitor Center, it is 17 miles (34 miles return) to the ridge, along Mt Angeles Road.
- It is best to visit earlier in the day, as it can be crowded.
- There are often deer along the road, and on Hurricane Ridge.
- **Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center**
  - This is at 5,230 feet, near the end of the paved road.
  - There is a magnificent panorama of the Olympic Mountains and glaciers. A clear tree line can be seen.
  - Looking north from the road, there is a good view of the Dungeness Spit, stretching out into the Strait of Juan de Fuca (see Day 3).
  - *From here, there are many good walks around Hurricane Ridge.*
  - **Cirque Rim Loop Trail** ("serk")
    - *This is almost level, and an easy 0.5 mile loop trail.*
    - *It gives good views over the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Port Angeles.*
    - *A cirque is an amphitheatre at the top of a glaciated valley. It has not been scoured as much as further down the valley because of less glacial movement and debris. A cirque often has a lake, called a tarn.*
  - **Big Meadow Loop Trail**
    - *This is almost level, and an easy 0.25 mile loop trail.*
    - *It provides good views over the Olympic Mountains.*



continued.....

- Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center (continued)
  - High Ridge Loop Trail
    - This is 0.5 mile loop trail, and ascends 220 feet to Alpine Hill, at 5,471 feet.
    - It also provides good views over the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Port Angeles.
  - Obstruction Peak
    - This is a strenuous 8 miles walk (16 miles return) along a dirt road.
    - Although it is possible to take a vehicle, it is not recommended.
    - It provides the best view of Mount Olympus.
- Hurricane Hill Trail
  - This is a 3.2 miles return walk, starting from the picnic area, about 1 mile past Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. It ascends about 660 feet.
  - It provides good views over the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Vancouver Island.

### Olympic Hot Springs

- This is a 5 mile return walk from the end of the Elwha River Road.
  - The Elwha River Road goes from Route 101, south for about 5 miles to Elwha. It then continues for about 6 miles past Elwha, west of Lake Mills, to the end of the road.
- There are over 20 places where the water seeps out from around the banks of Boulder Creek.
- There are seven springs, which have been made into pools by man, with about 12 inches depth of water.
- They range in size, and the temperatures vary up to about 138°F (54°C), giving off very mild sulphurous fumes.
- The springs are free to visit, and are not commercialised.
- Bathing in the water cannot be recommended, as it often fails quality standards.

### Lake Crescent

- This is about 15 miles west of Port Angeles, on Route 101.
- It is over 8 miles long, and up to 624 feet deep.
- It was formed by a glacier, and the greenish-blue water is beautifully clear.
- Trout
  - A series of landslides cut off Lake Crescent from the Elwha River system, and two unique forms of trout have developed.
  - Beardslee trout is the most famous, and is part of the Rainbow trout family.
  - Crescenti trout is part of the Cutthroat trout family.



continued.....

**Lake Crescent** (continued)

- **Marymere Falls Trail**

- *This is a 1.8 miles return trail through old growth forest, starting from the Storm King Ranger Station, at Barnes Point - about half way along Lake Crescent on Route 101.*
- *It is reasonably level for most of the distance, going over two wooden bridges.*
- *After the bridges, it ascends about 400 feet to view the elegant 90-foot-high waterfall.*



- *A sign near the end indicates 'Easier Trail'. It takes a loop to the left to see the foot of the waterfall first. The trail can then be continued up to see the waterfall from a higher level, and then continue in the loop back to the sign.*

**Sol Duc Hot Springs** ("sohl-duk")

- This is west of Lake Crescent, and then 12 miles south from Route 101.
- It is a commercial resort, which was originally built in 1912, but suffered considerable fire damage in 1916. There is an entry fee for a day visit to use the pools.
- Up to 90 gallons per minute of hot mineral springs rise from the ground, and are channelled into three pools. The pool temperatures are between 98° and 106°F.
- 'Sol Duc' is the Native Indian expression for 'sparkling water'.
- **Sol Duc Falls walk**

- *This is a 1.6 miles return walk, ascending 200 feet through old growth forest.*
  - *It starts from the parking area at the end of the road, which is 1.5 miles south of the resort.*
- *It is a beautiful waterfall, which is regarded as the most attractive in Olympic National Park.*
- *The Sol Duc River falls about 40 feet in three separate places, but close together - into a narrow gorge.*



continued.....

**Olympic National Park** (continued)

**Forks**

- This is about 30 miles southwest of Lake Crescent, along Route 101.
- It was so-named as it lies in the fork between the Bogachiel River ("bow-ga-sheel") and Calawah River.
- It is a small logging community, and calls itself the 'Hub of the Olympic Peninsula'.
- **Forks Timber Museum**
  - This is on Route 101, about 1 mile south of the town centre, next to the Visitor Center.
  - It is interesting and free, with exhibits mainly about methods of logging, and the way of life for loggers.
  - It also has sections about Native Indian history, agriculture and pioneers.
  - There is a large dugout canoe upstairs, and access to the platform around an old fire lookout tower, which has the accommodation necessities for the watchman.
  - The excellent museum building was built in 1990 by the carpentry class of Forks High School.
  - There is a memorial outside to Forks' loggers, featuring a chainsaw-carved figure of a logger, 10 feet high.



**Overnight at Forks**

Date.....

Relax on beautiful beaches today, with massive logs strewn like matchsticks. Also, journey into the real rain forest.

Approximate miles = 120 (or up to 280)

There are two options today, or they may be combined, depending on your interests.

**Option A** (Up to an extra 160 miles)

- Visit the Makah Cultural and Research Center, Cape Flattery and possibly walk from Ozette Lake to the Pacific Ocean.

**Option B**

- Visit the Pacific Ocean beaches and the Hoh Rain Forest.

**If Option A is chosen:-**

**Leave Forks** north on Route 101 for 13 miles to Sappho. Then continue north on Route 113 for 10 miles, and turn left (west) onto Route 112.

- Route 112 is the 'Strait of Juan de Fuca National Scenic Byway', which stretches 61 miles west, starting near to Port Angeles. It was designated for its remoteness along the wild shoreline.

**Neah Bay area**

- This is at the end of Route 112 - a total of about 50 miles north of Forks.
- **Makah Cultural and Research Center** ("mah-cor")
  - This is at the eastern approach to Neah Bay, on the left (south) side of Route 112.
  - It houses artefacts from a Native Indian village, which had been buried under a mudslide for 500 years.
  - The village, 15 miles south of Neah Bay, has been named Ozette, and was discovered in 1970, when tidal erosion exposed the site.
  - The mud had preserved the contents of Ozette in excellent condition.
  - An archaeological dig at Ozette was continuous for 11 years.
  - The museum has many thousands of Makah Indian artefacts.
  - It also has a full-size replica long-house, together with original cedar dugout canoes, which were used for hunting whales, seals and fish.
  - **Note:** Prior to going on the Cape Flattery Trail (see next page), it is necessary to obtain a Makah Tribe Recreational Use Permit. It is available here, and also at the Marina, and the Makah Tribal Center, which are further into the town.

continued.....

Neah Bay area (continued)

- Cape Flattery Trail

- *This is a 1.5 miles return walk to the dramatic cape, with excellent views.*
  - ***Note:** It is necessary to obtain a Makah Tribe Recreational Use Permit (see previous page).*



- *From the Makah Cultural and Research Center, travel along the main road. Then follow signs for 'Cape Flattery'.*
- *The start of the trail is 9 miles from the Makah Cultural and Research Center, of which the last 4.5 miles are gravel road.*
- *It is a well-constructed boardwalk trail through the forest to various observation decks.*
- *Cape Flattery is the USA's most northwestern point, excluding Alaska.*
- *There are good views of sea stacks, Tatoosh Island, and across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada.*
- *It is thought the name was derived from Captain James Cook, the English explorer. In 1778, he was hoping to find a harbour, or the strait, about which Juan de Fuca had written. This cape 'flattered' him into think he was in the right place, but he decided he was wrong.*

Ozette Lake Trails ("ho-zet")

- *These are accessed by travelling southwest from Route 112 at Sekiu ("see-kew"), along Hoko-Ozette Road for about 21 miles to a large parking area.*
  - *Hoko-Ozette Road goes southwest from Route 112 about 20 miles east of Neah Bay - signposted as Ozette Recreation Area.*
- *It is a beautiful area, with a well-maintained trail system of about 9.3 miles in a triangle.*
  - *The triangle goes west on the Cape Alava plank-walk, then south along the beach (via Wedding Rocks - see next page), and returns east on the Sand Point plank-walk.*
  - *To ensure safety, it is vital to know the tide details.*
- Cape Alava plank-walk
  - *This 3.3 miles (6.6 miles return) plank-walk goes mostly through forest to the rocky headland of Cape Alava, starting at the Ranger Station.*
  - *It is a pleasant, easy walk through the forest.*
  - *About half-way, the trail passes across the boggy Ahlstrom's Prairie, which was where Lars Ahlstrom, from Sweden, homesteaded from 1902 to 1958.*
  - *Cape Alava is the USA's most western point, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.*
  - *Just to the north of the headland, is the site of the Indian village, now named Ozette, which was buried in a mudslide (see details on the previous page, at the Makah Cultural and Reserch Center).*
  - *At the beach, it is possible to walk about 1.5 miles further south to Wedding Rocks (see next page).*

continued.....

Ozette Lake Trails (continued)

- Sand Point plank-walk
  - *This 3 miles (6 miles return) plank-walk goes mostly through forest to the beach at Sand Point, starting at the Ranger Station.*
  - *It is an attractive walk through old growth forest, with many species of fern.*
- Wedding Rocks
  - *These are at the beach, about 1.5 miles south of Cape Alava, and 1.5 miles north of Sand Point.*
  - *They have petroglyphs dating from 300 years ago, including whales and fertility symbols.*
  - *The petroglyphs were created by the Ozette and Makah Indians.*
    - *A petroglyph is incised rock art, formed by scratching or chiselling.*
    - *A pictograph is painted rock art.*

**If Option B is chosen:-**

**Note:** Many beaches are described today. It is recommended to visit at least two. *itforit* recommends Rialto Beach and Ruby Beach, as being easily accessible and especially beautiful.

**Leave Forks** west on Route 110, towards the Pacific Ocean.

**Rialto Beach** ("ree-ahl-toh")

- This is on the coast, about 15 miles west of Forks.
  - Ensure that the more northern road is taken (Mora Road), north of the Quillayute River ("kee-ah-yoot"), following the signposts for Mora.
- *It is an excellent beach to walk along, with wonderful sea stacks and massive logs.*
  - *Hole-in-the-Wall is a large arch in the headland, about 1.5 miles (3 miles return) north from the parking area.*



**La Push area beaches**

- This is along Route 110, to the south of Rialto Beach and the Quillayute River - about 6 miles from Rialto Beach to La Push.
- All the beaches are sandy, and have good views of sea stacks.
- First Beach
  - This is on the left (south) side of La Push, with a good view of James Island, which is a large sea stack. It has easy access.
    - La Push is an 800-year-old fishing village, within the Quileute Indian Reservation.
  - Whale-watching is particularly good between early March and late May, when the whales are migrating north from the Mexico area to Alaska.
    - The autumn southbound migration is usually further away from the shore.
    - It is estimated that over 20,000 whales follow this route.

continued.....

**La Push area beaches** (continued)

- **Second Beach Trail**
  - *This is southeast of First Beach.*
    - *A parking area is about 1 mile east of First Beach along Route 110.*
  - *The trail from the parking area is 0.7 mile (1.4 miles return) through the forest.*
  - *It is a 2 miles long beach with good rock-pools at low tide.*
- **Third Beach Trail**
  - *This is southeast of Second Beach.*
    - *A parking area is about 1.5 miles east of Second Beach along Route 110.*
  - *The trail from the parking area is 1.4 miles (2.8 miles return).*
  - *The forest here has mostly re-grown since January 1921, when winds up to 170 mph felled most trees in the area.*
  - *It is a 1 mile long beach. Taylor Point is at the south end, which has a waterfall dropping onto the rocks.*

Return to Forks, and travel south on Route 101.

**Hoh Rain Forest** ("howh")

- *This is 13 miles south of Forks along Route 101, and then 19 miles (38 miles return) east along a forest road.*
- *This is the area of Olympic National Park with the highest rainfall.*
- *The area abounds with lichens, mosses and ferns in the undergrowth.*



- **Mini Rain Forest Trail**
  - *This is a 0.25 mile loop trail, starting at the Visitor Center.*
  - *It gives a very quick overview of the area.*
- **Hall of Mosses Trail**
  - *This is an easy 0.75 mile loop trail, starting from along the Mini Rain Forest Trail.*
  - *It goes through a glade of trees - mostly Maple - laden with draperies.*
- **Spruce Nature Trail**
  - *This is a 1.25 miles loop trail, also starting from along the Mini Rain Forest Trail.*
  - *It goes through a young area of forest, mainly with Red Alder and Cottonwood.*
  - *It shows how the area has been altered by the Hoh River.*
    - *The Hoh River is fed by glaciers, and contains minute rock particles, which make the water an attractive light blue colour.*
- **Hoh River Trail**
  - *This is a 34 miles return trail, also starting from along the Mini Rain Forest Trail.*
  - *The first 13 miles are reasonably level, but then the trail becomes more steep. Overall, the trail ascends 3,700 feet.*
  - *It is a pleasant trail, to follow as far as you wish.*
  - *It travels along the Hoh River to the base of Mount Olympus, ending at Glacier Meadows, with good views of Blue Glacier and Mount Olympus.*

continued.....

Return to Route 101, and continue south.

**Beaches in the Kalaloch area** ("klay-lahk")

- These are accessible from Route 101, starting about 32 miles southwest of the Hoh Rain Forest.
- There are good coastal walks, with magnificent views of sea stacks in the ocean, tidal pools with wildlife, and stranded logs on the beaches.
- Many of the beaches may seem similar. Beach 2 and Beach 1 are south of Kalaloch, and may be left until Day 6.
- There are often sightings of whales, seals and eagles.
  - See details about whale-watching at First Beach, in the La Push area beaches (page 34).

• **Ruby Beach**

- This is considered to be the most beautiful beach, with many sea stacks and massive logs.
- It is so-named for its sand, which has some minute garnet crystals.



- In the early-1900s, there was a gold-mining operation here.
- *It is a popular beach to walk along, being accessed by a short path from a parking area.*

• **Beach 6**

- This is about 2 miles south of Ruby Beach, but has no signpost.
- It has a parking area with a viewing point.
- It is good for seeing puffins, sea lions and whales.
- Destruction Island is opposite, and can also be seen from neighbouring beaches.
  - It is a large island, about 4 miles from the shore.
  - It was named in 1787, after Native Indians killed some English sailors nearby.

• **Beach 5 / Big Cedar Tree**

- Beach 5 does not exist!
- However, a very large Cedar tree is about 500 yards along a gravel road.
  - About 0.5 mile south of Beach 6 (2.5 miles south of Ruby Beach) the gravel road is on the left (east) about half-way down an incline.



- Travelling from the north, the turning has no signpost - but it does from the south.
- The cedar is thought to be about 1,000 years old. It is 178 feet tall, and the contorted base of the trunk is up to 19.4 feet in diameter.

**Beaches in the Kalaloch area** (continued)

- **Beach 4**

- This is about 4 miles south of Ruby Beach, and has a clear signpost.
- There is a parking area, from where there is a short, steep path.
- It has good tidal pools, amongst the large eroded rocks.



- **Beach 3**

- This is about 1 mile south of Beach 4, but is not well signposted.
- Parking is by the side of the road, from where a short, steep path leads down the cliffs.
- This secluded, small, sandy beach is popular with anglers, being accessed by a short, steep path.

- **Beach 2**

- This is about 1 mile south of Kalaloch, but has no parking area.
- It is a wide, sandy beach, with massive logs.

- **Beach 1**

- This is about 1 mile south of Beach 2.
  - There is a small parking area next to the road.
- It is a wide, sandy beach with many logs.

**Kalaloch**

- This is on Route 101, about 2 miles south of Beach 3.
- It is on the edge of the Pacific Ocean, where Kalaloch Creek reaches the ocean.



**Overnight at Kalaloch**

Date.....

More rain forests, and the beautiful Lake Quinault. Plenty of opportunities to walk today.

Approximate miles = 80

**Start the day around Kalaloch**, if required - relaxing and enjoying the beaches.

**Leave Kalaloch** south on Route 101.

**Queets** ("kweets")

- This rain forest area is 14 miles (28 miles return) along a gravel road, which goes north and east about 8 miles after the town of Queets.



- **Note:** The town of Queets is about 6 miles south of Kalaloch, on Route 101. It is necessary to travel past the town of Queets, and take Queets Valley Road (the gravel road), which starts 12.6 miles southeast of Kalaloch.
- This is deep into the rain forest, and is a good place to escape from other visitors, as few venture this far.
- **Sams River Loop Trail**
  - *This is a 3 miles, relatively easy loop trail, starting from the end of the road.*
    - *The parking area at the end of the road has restricted space, and an alternative starting point is from the Ranger Station, which is about 1 mile from the end of the road.*
  - *It travels along the banks of the Sams River, passing through meadows, which once belonged to homesteads. It then goes past the Ranger Station and along the banks of the Queets River.*
  - *It is good for wildlife, as the area is quiet from other visitors.*

**Quinault** ("kwee-nahlt")

- This is about 20 miles east of the gravel road turning for Queets.
  - It is about 28 miles east of the town of Queets.
- It is a rain forest area, with a deep, blue lake.



- The area covers the communities of Amanda Park and Quinault, together with Quinault Lake, the surrounding roads, tracks and trails into the rain forest.

continued.....

**Quinault** (continued)

• **Quinault Lake loop road**

- This 30 miles loop road goes round the lake, and also up both forks of the Quinault River.
  - The loop is made up of North Shore Road, which joins South Shore Road at a bridge over the Quinault River. The loop is completed by about 3 miles of Route 101.
  - About 12 miles of the road are gravel, at the east end.
  - The roads, which follow the two forks of the river, are both gravel - a total of about 10 miles.
- It provides a few views of the beautiful, dark blue Quinault Lake, and opportunities for walking.
  - The best views of Quinault Lake are from South Shore Road.
- *The walk descriptions below are given in clockwise order - starting from Route 101, and travelling first along North Shore Road.*
- *There are many excellent walks in this area - just the shorter ones are noted.*
- **Maple Glade Rain Forest Trail**

- *This is a 0.5 mile loop trail, starting at the Ranger Station, about 4 miles along North Shore Road.*
- *It provides an easy walk through rain forest vegetation, with an abandoned beaver pond.*

• **Kestner Homestead Trail**

- *This is an easy 1.3 miles loop trail, also starting at the Ranger Station, about 4 miles along North Shore Road.*



- *The goes through the rainforest, passing the old Kestner homestead, with its various barns and other outbuildings. It was owned and lived in by the Kestner and Higley families from 1892 to 1987.*

• **Irely Lake Trail ("i-ree-lee")**

- *This is a 2.2 miles return trail, starting at a parking area near the end of the North Fork gravel road.*
- *It is a beautiful trail, with many boardwalks and bridges.*
- *It ascends about 500 feet, with a few steep sections - but is not a difficult trail.*
- *The lake has been formed in a flooded valley, and dead trees (snags) indicate the area was not flooded at one time. The lake is much smaller in the summer.*



continued.....

**Quinault** (continued)

- **Quinault Lake loop road** (continued)

- **World's Largest Sitka Spruce**

- *The 0.2 mile return trail to this starts almost opposite Quinault Post Office, on South Shore Road.*
- *It is 191 feet tall and 18.7 feet in diameter.*



- **Quinault Loop Trail**

- *This is a 4 miles loop trail, starting at the Ranger Station at Quinault.*
- *A 1.6 miles loop version of the same trail can be taken, but it is steep in places. It is easiest to start this shorter version opposite Lake Quinault Lodge.*



- *It goes well into the rain forest, along the shore of Quinault Lake, and crosses Willaby Creek, Falls Creek and Cascade Creek, with its waterfall.*
- *It also visits a swamp area of Cedar trees, and nurse logs.*

- **Rain Forest Nature Trail**

- *This is an easy 0.5 mile loop trail, starting about 1 mile west of the Ranger Station at Quinault.*
- *It goes through a narrow canyon, and sees typical rain forest features, including a nurse log.*

**Overnight at Quinault**

Date.....

Lots to do today - it's worth starting early. See the story and devastation of the explosive Mount St Helens.

Approximate miles = 250

**Leave Quinault** south on Route 101.

At Aberdeen, travel along Route 12 east. At Elma, ensure you continue southeast on Route 12 east. Then join Interstate 5 and continue south.

**Centralia** ("sen-tray-lee-ah")

- This is about 35 miles southeast of Elma, off Interstate 5 at Exit 82.
- It is a major shopping centre, with over 50 factory outlets stores on both sides of Interstate 5.
- The town centre is 1-5 miles east of Interstate 5. It is quaint, with cobble-stones, early-1900s architecture, and about 350 antique shops in 11 malls.

Continue south on Interstate 5, and leave at Exit 63. Travel east on Route 505 south through Toledo, and then on Route 504.

**Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center**

- This is about 27 miles east of Interstate 5, on Route 504.
- It is at 1,400 feet, and is not really a visitor centre in the normal sense, as it provides a restaurant, gift shop and helicopter rides.
- There is a good view of the route of the volcanic river of mud, ash and debris from the 1980 eruption of Mount St Helens.

**Forest Learning Center**

- This is about 6 miles east of Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center, on Route 504.
- It is at 2,650 feet, and has exhibits about the volcanic eruption of Mount St Helens, the effects on the surroundings, and nature's regeneration of the area.



- There is an 'eruption chamber' to feel the effect of a volcano, and a virtual helicopter tour.
- There are many exhibits about conservation and forestry resources, with an emphasis on the timber industry.
- Although much is educational for children, it is also very informative for adults.
- It is a popular place to view elk in the Toutle Valley from an elevated viewing platform.
- It has free admission.

continued.....

## **Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument - West**

- This is about 12 miles east of Forest Learning Center, at the east end of Route 504.
- Mount St Helens had been a dormant volcano, 9,678 feet high, having last erupted in 1857.
- Small eruptions had been taking place over a few weeks in early-1980, and a 130 foot bulge had appeared on its north side.



- At 8:32am on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1980, there was an earthquake beneath the mountain, measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale. At the same time, the volcano erupted.
- Rather than erupting vertically, it exploded sideways in a large arc, leaving a vast crater in the side of the mountain.
- The initial blast was at several hundred miles per hour, and was up to 1,500°F (800°C) for a few seconds.
- The top 1,312 feet of the mountain was blown away, together with its north side.
- The blast killed 57 people, including scientists, sightseers and Harry Truman, who was the Lodge Manager at Spirit Lake. He had refused to move. The majority of the dead were killed by ash inhalation.
- The blast killed almost everything in its way for 20 miles. All trees were felled within 13 miles - 230 square miles of forest were felled within the first 5 minutes.
- In addition to the blast, a massive lahar cascaded down into the surrounding river valleys, particularly the Toutle River.
  - A lahar is a mudflow of rock, ash, mud, snow and ice.
  - The area on the west side of the mountain is the part that suffered mostly from the lahar.
- The eruption was not heard close by, because the sound waves 'bounced' up to the middle stratosphere and returned to Earth further away from the mountain. The loudest sounds were heard 150 to 250 miles away.
- The entire eruption was not of the 'normal' type, with molten lava. It was one of gas, steam, water and ash, which combined with rock and mud to form the lahar.
- For nine hours after the initial eruption, gas and ash were vented into the atmosphere, rising 12 miles.
- The entire area was covered in volcanic ash, and it was thought that all life had died. However, seeds have since germinated, and wildlife has started to return.
  - As the eruption was in May, some creatures were underground, or hibernating, and escaped the blast.
- The eruption left a crater plateau in the north-centre of the mountain. It is about 1 mile wide, about 2 miles from front to back, and is about 2,000 feet from the new summit rim.
  - The volume of the crater is easily sufficient to hold the entire world's human population.
- Since the eruption, a lava dome began to build up on the plateau, and its growth since then has been intermittent.
- A glacier has formed around the rear and sides of the lava dome, and is moving about 7 feet each year.

continued.....

**Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument - West** (continued)

- **Coldwater Ridge**

- This is about 10 miles east of the Forest Learning Center, and is at 3,250 feet.
- Regrettably, the Visitor Center closed at the end of 2007, because of the costs of maintenance, both of the building and the technology equipment.



- However, there are good views from this position over the debris in the valley, Coldwater Lake, and the volcano, which is about 7 miles away.
- Coldwater Lake did not exist before the 1980 eruption. It was created by a mud-flow blocking off the end of the valley of Coldwater Creek. It is now a recreation area.
- Castle Lake can also be seen in the distance, which was formed by debris damming Castle Creek.

- **Johnston Ridge Observatory**

- This is at the end of Route 504 - about 9 miles east of Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center.
- It is at 4,314 feet, and provides a good view of the north of the volcano, which is about 5 miles away.
  - It is possible to see the crater and the lava dome within the crater.
  - There are two new waterfalls from the crater.



- Below the crater, the landslide can be seen, together with the pumice plain - an area of volcanic rock.
- Exhibits here concentrate on the scientific measurement of volcanic activity.
- There is a dramatic video presentation, using computer generated graphics, portraying the events of the 1980 eruption.
- It was named after David Johnston, who was one of the 57 people who were killed by the eruption. He was a vulcanologist on duty at Coldwater Observation Post.

Return along Route 504, but keeping south, still on Route 504, rather than on Route 505.

**Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument Visitor Center**

- This is about 47 miles west along Route 504 from Johnson Ridge Observatory, at Silver Lake.
- **Note:** This visitor centre closes at 6.00pm.
- It has excellent exhibits - particularly a photographic chronology - about events leading to the 1980 eruption, and about the actual eruption.
- There is also a film presentation.
- **Silver Lake Wetlands Trail**
  - *This is a self-guided 1 mile trail, which explains about the formation of Silver Lake during a previous eruption of Mount St Helens.*

**Kelso**

- This is about 17 miles southwest of Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument Visitor Center at Silver Lake, off Interstate 5, at Exit 39.
- It is a logging community, which was founded in the 1840s by Peter Crawford, a surveyor from Kelso in Scotland.
  - The town celebrates its Scottish heritage each September with a Highlander Festival.
- **Kelso Volcano Information Center**
  - This is at 105 Minor Road.
  - It has exhibits about Mount St Helens.
- The neighbouring town of Longview was built where Lewis and Clark had camped in 1805, whilst on their expedition to discover a Northwest Passage.

**Overnight at Kelso**

Date.....

More intrigue about Mount St Helens, and then on to spectacular Mount Rainier.

Approximate miles = 250

**Leave Kelso** south on Interstate 5, and leave at Exit 21 onto Route 503 eastwards.

**Cougar** ("koo-gahr")

- This is about 50 miles east of Kelso, on Route 503.
- The area to the north of this town is part of Mount St Helens, and it is the closest community to the volcano.
  - In 1980, the complete town was evacuated, as the volcanic eruption damage was indeterminable.
- There are views towards Mount Adams, at 12,276 feet.



- **Bigfoot or Sasquatch**

- The Mount St Helens area is one of the legendary homes of this tall creature, which reputedly stands on two feet, and leaves 12" to 18" hairy footprints.
- More sightings of the evidence have been around Cougar than anywhere else, and have continued since the volcano erupted.
- Around the world, similar creatures are known by many other names, including Yeti and Abominable Snowman.

Continue through Cougar on Route 503, and the road eventually becomes Route 90.

**Trail of Two Forests**

- *This is an easy 0.25 mile boardwalk, starting from a clearly signposted parking area.*
  - *The turning is about 6 miles east of Cougar along Route 503 and Route 90. Then travel about 2 miles north on Route 83.*
- *The trail starts immediately on the left of the entrance to the parking area.*
- *It shows how the forest was engulfed by lava 1,900 years ago, and another has grown since.*



- *Trees were surrounded by lava, and were burnt or later decayed. Tree tubes were then left in place of the trees.*
  - *Most of the tree tubes are vertical, indicating that the tree was engulfed with lava whilst still standing.*
  - *One large tree tube is 45 feet long, and can be crawled through, as it is horizontal.*

continued.....

Ape Cave

- This is about 0.75 mile north of the parking area for the Trail of Two Forests, continuing along Route 83. It is clearly signposted.
- The name has nothing to do with apes, but was named after an outdoor group of people called 'Mount St Helens Apes'.
- It is a 1,900-year-old lava tube, which is 12,810 feet long (nearly 2.5 miles), and the longest in continental USA.
  - A lava tube is formed when a lava flow forms a crust on the upper surface, where it contacts the cooler air. The lava continues to flow underneath - now insulated from the air. When the lava stops, it flows out of the end of the insulation, leaving the tube empty.
- The floor of the lava tube has some rubble, which has broken off the walls and roof, and there is sand, which has washed in with rain water.
  - There is no evidence that the lava tube has ever had a significant flow of water, such as a permanent stream.
- There is no evidence of any human habitation within the lava tube.
- The entrance to the single lava tube is through a large collapsed portion of the roof - down some steps. There are then two choices of direction.
- Downslope (also called Lower Cave)
  - *This is about 0.75 mile (1.5 miles return) slightly downhill, ending where sand has blocked the lava tube.*
  - *It is the usual section to explore - having a mostly sandy base, which is reasonably easy to walk, with a few step-like areas.*
  - *About 0.5 mile from the entrance (1.0 mile return), there is a ball of solidified lava suspended in a narrow portion of the roof.*
- Upslope (also called Upper Cave)
  - *This is about 1.3 miles slightly uphill, and the return journey is recommended above ground - making a total of 2.6 miles.*
  - *It has considerable rubble, and some narrow gaps through which to crawl.*
  - *It is recommended only for experienced people, with the necessary equipment.*
- Guided and self-guided tours are available into the lava tube. There is no installed artificial light, but lanterns may be rented if visitors do not have their own light source.
- The average temperature inside the lava tube is 42°F - even in summer. There is also a appreciable movement of air - up to 7 mph - caused by differences between inside and outside temperatures.
- Some terms used in vulcanology (the study of volcanoes) come from Hawaii - where some of the study of the science started.
  - A'a ("ah-ah") is lava, which has broken into large lumps.
  - Pahoehoe ("pa-hoy-hoy") is a twisted, rope-like lava flow, which is still unbroken.



continued.....

**Lava Canyon Trail**

- This outstanding trail starts at the Lava Canyon Trailhead, which is at the end of Route 83 - about 10 miles east of the minor junction, which leads to Ape Cave.
  - This road is 18 miles return, and ends at Lahar Viewpoint.



- There is good evidence of basalt columns, which were formed 1,900 years ago, when Mount St Helens had a previous large eruption.
- There are good views along the Muddy River, which was swamped by a lahar from Mount St Helens in 1980.
  - It provides a good insight to the destructive power of the lahar, which was up to 50 feet deep. Tree branches were stripped off, and bark was removed on the upstream side.

- **Easiest Trail (Section 1)**

- *This is an easy 0-8 mile return walk on a well-constructed trail to overlooks.*

- **More Difficult Trail (Section 2)**

- *This is a 0-7 mile loop trail, which is an extension to Section 1.*
  - *It goes to beautiful waterfalls, and includes two bridges across the canyon.*
  - *It is more difficult, along an un-constructed trail, and is steep in places, descending about 200 feet.*



- **Most Difficult Trail (Section 3)**

- *This is a 2-6 miles loop trail, which is an extension to Section 2.*
  - *It is more difficult, along an un-constructed trail, and includes a 30 feet ladder up the canyon wall.*
  - *It descends about 1,000 feet into the canyon, to see more waterfalls and an island of lava.*

Return south to Route 90, and continue east.  
After about 12 miles, continue onto Route 25 north - close to the end of Swift Reservoir.  
After about 25 miles, turn left (west) onto Route 99.

continued.....

## **Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument - East**

### **Windy Ridge Viewpoint and Amphitheater**

- This is about 17 miles from Route 25, west along Route 99.
  - **Note:** The road is only open from about the end of May to the end of October.



- This is the area that suffered from the direct blast, and consequently there are many trees down - in the blast direction.
- It is at 4,170 feet, and provides an excellent view of the crater, 4 miles away, to Spirit Lake and the pumice plain.
  - In late summer, rock falls in the crater throw up clouds of ash and may be seen from this good vantage point.
- *The best view is from the viewpoint above the parking area. It ascends about 400 feet up 361 steps. The return distance is 0.5 mile.*
- There is no visitor centre here, but Rangers give talks in the open-air Amphitheater.

### **Spirit Lake**

- This was previously an important family outdoor recreation area.



- A vast mudflow swept into the lake, and the lake now has a new bed, which is 200 feet higher than before. The surface area of the water is considerably larger.
- The water level has been stabilised by the provision of a tunnel to take away excess water. If this had not been done, another flood would have been likely into the valley below.
- After the eruption, over one million felled trees formed a vast 'log mat' floating on the surface.

Return about 17 miles to Route 25. Turn left (north) and after about 20 miles, Route 25 becomes Route 131, just before Randle.

At Randle, turn right (east) onto Route 12, and after about 23 miles turn left (north) onto Route 123.

After about 5 miles (past the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center), turn left (west) onto Route 706, passing through Stevens Canyon Entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.

## **'Flying Saucers'**

- In 1947, the part-time deputy sheriff and businessman, Kenneth Arnold, was flying over southern Washington State, when he saw a bright flash.
- He saw nine objects, which travelled from the Mount Baker area in the north towards Mount Rainier and Mount Adams further south.
- They flew in tight formation and closely followed the contours of the land. He estimated their speed to be about 1,700 mph. Other bright flashes were the reflection of sunlight, he concluded.
- The objects disappeared from view in less than three minutes.
- After his report on the incident, the name 'flying saucer' was coined.

continued.....

**Mount Rainier National Park** ("reh-nee-er")

- Mount Rainier is 14,410 feet high, and has over 25 named large glaciers, together with about 50 smaller ones.



- Some glaciers are named in groups, and are counted singly - hence, there are different totals.
- The glaciers radiate from the summit.
- It is the highest point in Washington State and in the Cascade Range. It can be seen from much of the State - up to 200 miles away.
- Seattle people simply call it 'The Mountain'.
- It is a dormant volcano - part of a chain of dormant volcanoes, which stretches from Canada to California. It is also part of the 'Ring of Fire', which has volcanoes around the Pacific Ocean.
  - At one time, it was 16,000 feet high, but a massive eruption occurred about 5,800 years ago.
  - It erupted again about 2,500 years ago, and since then has built a lava dome up to its present height.
  - It is thought to be in an eruption cycle of about 3,000 years, although minor eruptions occur in between. The last minor eruption was in the mid-1800s.
- In 1792, the English explorer, George Vancouver, named it after his friend, Rear Admiral Peter Rainier ("ray-nee-er").
- The weather at Mount Rainier can be very variable, changing within short spaces of time.
  - The summit is frequently shrouded in cloud, and the cloud can often extend to lower elevations.
  - When visiting Mount Rainier, be prepared for sudden changes of weather.
  - If the cloud is low, it is advisable to move to a lower elevation, where local visibility may be clearer.
- The normal altitudes for the casual visitor, are between about 2,000 and 6,500 feet (at Sunrise - see Day 10).
- Temperatures vary with the altitude.
  - Normal summer highs at Longmire, at 2,761 feet, are from the high-40s to mid-70s°F.
  - Normal summer highs at Paradise, at 5,400 feet, are from the low-40s to mid-60s°F.
  - Overnight temperatures can reach freezing point at the higher altitudes, even in summer.

continued.....

**Mount Rainier National Park** (continued)

- There are many plants and much wildlife in this harsh environment.



- Trees are mainly Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock and Western Red Cedar.
- Many wild flowers bloom late in the year, because of the altitude - often in July and August.
- Wild animals include mountain lion, bobcat, marmot, beaver, bear, elk, deer, mountain lion, racoon, squirrel, rabbit and a variety of birds.
- *There are over 300 miles of trails.*
  - *The Wonderland Trail is 93 miles, encircling Mount Rainier. Sections of the trail can be walked in the areas to be visited.*
- This itinerary visits two specific areas.
  - The area along Route 706 in the south, which encompasses Paradise and Longmire. This road length is about 40 miles.
  - The road to Sunrise in the east, which is 16 miles from Route 410.



- **Note**
  - Accommodation for tonight and Day 9 has been suggested at Paradise, Longmire, or on the west side of Mount Rainier National Park.
  - By travelling from east to west along Route 706, from Ohanapecosh to the Nisqually Entrance, there is an opportunity to acquire an overview of the National Park.
  - The descriptions of features along Route 706 have been made in the first direction of travel, from east to west - see Day 9.

**Overnight at Ashford**

Date.....

Beautiful waterfalls and wonderful views - Mount Rainier is an inspiring place to spend time.

Approximate miles = 70

**Complete day in Mount Rainier National Park - Route 706 area**

- The following descriptions are of features on a small section of Route 123, but the majority are along Route 706.
  - They are in the first direction of travel - from east to west.



- Ohanapecosh ("oh-han-ah-puh-kohsh")
  - This is about 28 miles north of Randle, on Route 123.
  - It is within Mount Rainier National Park, but is before the official entrance.
  - The Visitor Center is within the campground.
  - Life Systems: The Forest and Hot Springs of Ohanapecosh
    - *This is an easy 0-6 mile loop walk, starting behind the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center - which is just over 1 mile from the Mount Rainier National Park sign.*
    - *It explains about ecology, referring to the massive old growth and the mineral waters of the hot springs, which rise at over 100°F.*
    - *There is a cliff of travertine, with water falling over.*
      - *Travertine is formed when carbon dioxide, deep underground, dissolves into boiling water to form a weak carbonic acid. This then dissolves limestone and brings it to the surface. The carbon dioxide evaporates off, and the limestone is re-deposited as calcium carbonate - or travertine.*
    - *There was once a resort here, with 30 cabins, an inn and a bath-house.*
      - *A large depression in the ground is where a swimming pool was excavated, but never completed.*
- Stevens Canyon Entrance
  - This is about 1.8 miles north of Ohanapecosh, close to the junction of Route 123 and Route 706.

continued.....

**Mount Rainier National Park** (continued)

- **Grove of the Patriarchs**

- *This is an easy 1.5 miles loop walk, starting from a parking area, which is just past the Stevens Canyon entrance station.*



- *It goes over a suspension bridge, onto an island in the Ohanapecoh River, and through massive old growths of Western Hemlock, Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar - many are over 1,000 years old. The loop within the walk is on the island.*

- **Box Canyon of the Cowlitz**

- This is about 10 miles west of the Stevens Canyon Entrance.
- On the left (south) side of Route 706, there is a Wayside Exhibit, about 100 yards from the parking area. It explains about striations in the adjacent horizontal rock-face.
  - The striations were caused by boulders within a glacier being dragged across the rock - scratching the grooves (striations).
- *On the right (north) side of the road, there is an easy 400 yard return walk to a good view from a bridge.*
  - *The view is 115 feet down into the box canyon of the Cowlitz River.*
  - *Along the walk, there are many more striations in the rock-face to the side of the trail.*

- **Paradise**

- This is about 10 miles west of Box Canyon of the Cowlitz. It is situated at 5,400 feet.
  - **Note:** There is a 2 mile, one-way system around Paradise.
- When Martha Longmire first saw the view here, she thought it looked like Paradise, and the name has stayed ever since.
  - Martha was the wife of Elcaine Longmire, who was the son of James Longmire, the area's first developer.
- It is a most beautiful area, with forests and meadows, with a backdrop of Mount Rainier and its glaciers.
- **Henry M Jackson Memorial Visitor Center**
  - This is the main visitor centre, with exhibits and films about most aspects of the National Park. There is also a restaurant.

- **Alta Vista Trail** ("ahl-tuh-vee-stuh")

- *This is a 1.75 miles trail with a loop at the end, starting from the Visitor Center.*
- *It is a well-constructed trail, rapidly ascending about 600 feet.*



- *From a high point, it provides good views of Mount Rainier, the Tatoosh Range and Mount Adams.*

continued.....

**Mount Rainier National Park** (continued)

- **Nisqually Vista Trail** ("nees-kwah-lee")

- *This is a 1.2 miles loop trail, starting from the parking area near the Visitor Center.*
- *It is an easy well-constructed trail, descending about 200 feet.*



- *It provides excellent views of the Nisqually Glacier and Mount Rainier.*
- *Nisqually Glacier is the largest glacier on the south side, and moves up to 3 feet each day.*

- **Paradise Inn**

- This is about 300 yards northeast of the Henry M Jackson Memorial Visitor Center, with another parking area.
- The original part of this was completed in 1917 - built from local cedar.
- The hall is like a vast baronial mansion. The massive timber was also used to make the furniture. There is a 14 feet tall grandfather clock.

- **Skyline Trail to Myrtle Falls**

- *This is a 1 mile return trail, starting from Paradise Inn.*
- *It is a reasonably easy trail, ascending about 100 feet.*
- *There are good views of Mount Rainier, and a bridge at Myrtle Falls, where Edith Creek tumbles 75 feet down the rocks.*



- **Narada Falls** ("nah-rah-duh")

- These are about 2.5 miles southwest of Paradise.
- They are 168 feet high on the Paradise River, and are best viewed from below the bridge.
  - *The view from below is along a well-constructed trail, which steeply descends about 200 feet.*



continued.....

**Mount Rainier National Park** (continued)

- **Ricksecker Point** ("reek-seek-uh")

- Access to this is along a road signposted as Viewpoint, about 2.2 miles west of Narada Falls.
- The one-way road is 1 mile long, returning to Route 706 further east.



- The viewpoint is at the parking area about 200 yards from Route 706.
- It provides excellent views of Mount Rainier, and particularly the Nisqually Valley. To the southeast are the jagged peaks of the Tatoosh Range.
- It is named after Eugene Ricksecker. He was the engineer who designed the road to Paradise.

- **Christine Falls**

- These are about 2 miles north of the turning for Ricksecker Point.
- A parking area with access to the viewpoint is on the east side of the bridge, as the road bends round Van Trump Creek.
- The popular viewpoint is from below the bridge, with the bridge as an arc above.



- **Cougar Rock**

- This is about 2 miles southwest of Christine Falls.

- **Carter Falls**

- *This is a 2.2 miles return walk, starting just downhill from the campground entrance. It ascends about 500 feet.*



- *The trail crosses the Nisqually River, and then continues beside the Paradise River through a forest of old growth.*
  - *It is usually possible to hear the deep rumble of boulders crashing together in the fast-flowing glacial water of the Nisqually River.*
- *A large, old wooden pipe can be seen in places. It once delivered water to a hydro-electric scheme for Longmire.*
- *Carter Falls are first, then Madcap Falls are about 50 yards further upstream.*
- *Carter Falls are the last on the Paradise River, before it joins the Nisqually River.*

continued.....

**Mount Rainier National Park** (continued)

- **Longmire** ("lahng-mih-uh")
  - This is about 2 miles southwest of Cougar Rock.
  - It was the first part of the area to be developed. James Longmire opened his first resort here in 1884.
- **Longmire Museum**
  - This has exhibits about the human and natural history in the Park.
  - It is housed in the original administrative building of the National Park, when it was opened in 1899.
- **Trail of the Shadows**
  - *This is an easy 0-7 mile loop trail, starting across Route 706 from the National Park Inn.*



- *It explains about the area's human and natural history.*
- *It goes past a beaver pond and an old homestead, which is the oldest building in Mount Rainier National Park.*

**Overnight at Ashford**

Date.....

More views of Mount Rainier - then off to fruit-growing country, and the different terrain around the Yakima River.

Approximate miles = 160

**Start the day in Mount Rainier National Park - Route 706 area**

- Spend part of the day in this area, as you require.

**Leave** Mount Rainier National Park - Route 706 area.

Travel east along Route 706 to the Stevens Canyon Entrance, and turn left (north) onto Route 123.

After about 11 miles, at Cayuse Pass (4,675 feet), continue north onto Route 410 west.

After about 3-5 miles, turn left (west) towards Sunrise.

**Mount Rainier National Park - Sunrise area**

- This is about 16 miles (32 miles return) west from Route 410.
- It is at 6,400 feet, with stunning views - particularly of Emmons Glacier on Mount Rainier.
  - At 4-5 miles long, Emmons Glacier is the largest glacier in the USA, outside Alaska.
- It is the highest place on Mount Rainier, which can be reached by road.
- The scenery here is typically Alpine, with short trees scattered across sloping meadows.
- There are wonderful views of some of the rest of the Cascade Range.
- Because this area is in the dry rain shadow of Mount Rainier, it often provides some of the best weather for walking.
- **Sourdough Ridge Nature Trail**
  - *This is a 1-5 miles loop trail, starting at the north side of the parking area.*
    - *It is possible to continue walking along the ridge for as far as you wish.*
  - *There is a short climb onto the ridge, but the remainder is easy.*
  - *The elevated ridge provides good views of other volcanic summits, whilst walking through meadows of wild flowers.*
- **Emmons Vista Trail**
  - *This is an easy 0-4 mile return trail, starting at the south side of the parking area.*
  - *It provides an excellent, open view of Emmons Glacier in its wide, deep valley.*



continued.....

Return to Route 410, and turn right (south).

At Cayuse Pass - about 3-5 miles south - ensure that you continue on Route 410 towards Yakima (not going further south on Route 123).

- About 3-5 miles from the junction of Route 123 with Route 410, there is an excellent view on the left of Mount Rainier, with Tipsoo Lake in the foreground.



- Chinook Pass, at 5,432 feet, is immediately after Tipsoo Lake.
- From Chinook Pass, there is a dramatic change in vegetation, as the road descends to Yakima on Route 410 and then Route 12.

### Yakima ("yah-kee-mah")

- This is about 90 miles east of Sunrise (in Mount Rainier National Park).
- It was first settled in 1861.
  - At first, it grew slowly. In 1880, the population was 3,000.
  - In 1884, the railroad arrived. However, the station was built about 5 miles north of the town. So the entire town moved north - even taking buildings. The population grew rapidly to be 15,000 in 1900.
    - The new town was named North Yakima.
    - In 1918, North Yakima was re-named Yakima. The old town of Yakima was re-named Union Gap after the gap in the hills, where the Union Pacific Railroad came through - following the course of the Yakima River.
- It has a relatively dry climate, and its growth was centred around the mineral-rich, fertile volcanic soil in the valley of the Yakima River.
  - Much produce is grown, including salad and vegetable crops and especially fruit.
  - It is a particularly good area for grapes. There are many vineyards in the area, particularly southwest of Yakima, and over 30 wineries.
  - The agricultural areas are extensively irrigated.
  - Yakima is a hub for agricultural processing and distribution.
- North Front Street is the 'Birthplace of Yakima', and has various restaurants and shops.

continued.....

**Yakima** (continued)

- **Yakima Valley Museum**

- This is in Tieton Drive, just southwest of the town centre.
- Leave Route 12 at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and travel south for about 2 miles. Then turn right into Tieton Drive.



- Its emphasis is on how life has evolved in the area, depicting the effect of the various cultures, which have migrated here.
- It has the largest collection of stagecoaches, carriages, wooden wagons and motor vehicles west of the Mississippi.
  - The collection includes a Conestoga Wagon, an 1898 fire engine and a hearse.
- It has many Indian artefacts and art, especially relating to the Yakama and other local tribes.
- There are many exhibits about pioneers, the growth of fruit farming in the area and the equipment used.
- Other collections include garments, geology, natural history and art.
- It is closed on Mondays.

**Toppenish** ("toh-pen-ee-sh") (An extra 40 miles)

- **Note:** This may also be considered as an option on Day 11, before travelling north.
- This is about 20 miles southeast of Yakima, at the junction of Route 22 and Route 97.
- It is within the Yakama Indian Reservation, and calls itself the 'City where the West still lives', and also the 'City of Murals'.
- **Yakama Nation Cultural Center**
  - This is about 2 miles west of the centre of Toppenish, in Buster Road, which is about 1 mile west of Route 97, just off Fort Road.
  - It has many exhibits and dioramas about the Yakama Indians, with music and sound effects.
  - It tells the story of their survival, and the changes they have made to cope with the modern world.

- **Murals**

- These are mostly in the downtown area - 2 miles east of the Yakama Nation Cultural Center.



- The massive wall murals depict many aspects of life - particularly the history of the area since 1850 - and have made this small town famous.
- There are over 60 murals, most of which have been painted by professional artists, and contain great detail.
- A mural society was formed in 1989 to improve the area, and now encourages and maintains the murals.
- New murals are created every summer. This will continue as long as there are good walls to use. The society pays for the murals, once the building owner has prepared the wall.

**Overnight at Yakima**

Date.....

Travelling north today, with attractive scenery - taking in Bavaria and the Columbia Valley, before arriving at popular Lake Chelan.

Approximate miles = 170

**Leave** Yakima north on Interstate 82.

After about 30 miles, join Interstate 90 west, near to Ellensburg.

After about 4 miles, at Exit 106, go north on Route 97.

**Leavenworth** ("leh-ven-wurth")

- This about 90 miles north of Yakima, on Route 2.
  - About 52 miles after having left Interstate 90, join Route 2 west and travel for about 4 miles.



- The area was settled in the 1860s by farmers, and fur trappers. It was then was properly laid out in 1893.
  - The railroad had arrived, and it became a logging town for about 30 years.
  - In the 1920s, the railroad was re-routed, and the economy collapsed.
  - During the 1920s and 1930s, the town struggled to survive, and only just did so until the 1960s.
  - In 1965, the townspeople embraced a new idea to revitalise the economy. Bavarian-style architecture was adopted, and it is now a thriving tourist attraction.
- The Bavarian experience is centred around Front Street, which is parallel to and between Route 2 and the Wenatchee River.
  - There are restaurants serving German cuisine, and shops selling German bakeries and confectionery.
  - Many establishments have German-sounding names.
  - Although the street names have not been changed, the architecture and scenery is comparable with Bavaria.
- **Leavenworth Summer Theater**
  - This is in Ski Hill Road, northwest of the town centre, across Route 2.
  - It gives July, August and September performances of *The Sound of Music* and other productions in an outdoor theatre.

Retrace your steps southeast for about 4 miles along Route 2, and continue southeast on Route 97 / 2.

continued.....

**Cashmere** ("cahsh-mee-uh")

- This is about 12 miles southeast of Leavenworth, just off Route 97 / 2.
- In 1873, it was called Mission, as it had a log Catholic Mission Church. However, another town in the state was also named Mission, so in 1904 the name was changed to Cashmere, as the valley was similar to that in Kashmir in India.

- **Aplets & Cotlets Candy Factory**

- This is in Mission Avenue, off Aplets Way - just north of the railroad. The town has informative, green 'Historic Cashmere' signposts.



- Liberty Orchards was started by two Armenian immigrants, who purchased an apple orchard in the area.
  - In 1920, they utilised an old Armenian recipe to make confectionery from surplus apples. Apricots were added at a later date.
  - The confectionery was successful, and the business grew - using a wide variety of different fruits, nuts and flavours.
- It is a family business, generally making the confectionery by hand.
- There are free 10-15 minute tours every 20 minutes, with free samples.
- Although *itforit* does not normally recommend 'attractions', this is an interesting factory to visit.

- **Museum and Pioneer Village**

- This joint site is in Cotlets Way, which is northeast of Mission Avenue, and the continuation of Cottage Avenue. It is next to the Wenatchee River bridge.



- Cottage Avenue is parallel to, and one block north of, Mission Avenue.
- **Museum**
  - This has been credited with being the fifth best museum in Washington State.
  - It has Native Indian and pioneer artefacts, together with natural history exhibits.
  - Some exhibits date back 9,000 years.
- **Pioneer Village**
  - It has about 20 restored buildings, a water wheel, and a section of the Great Northern Railroad, with a Ticket Office, Dining Car and Caboose (a cooking and resting carriage for rail workers).
  - The buildings are equipped with period furniture and artefacts, which provide an excellent image of life in the late-1800s.
  - The buildings include a post office, store, school, saddle shop, doctor's office, saloon, mission, sheriff's office, hotel, assay office and cabins.

continued.....

Wenatchee ("wuh-nah-chee")

- This is about 10 miles southeast of Cashmere, off Route 97.
- The area was first settled in the 1870s by farmers, ranchers and traders, but its greatest importance was for apple-growing.
  - The railroad was completed in 1892, and the city became the obvious centre for trading.
  - Irrigation commenced in 1904, and the area became even more important for agriculture.
- It calls itself 'The Apple Capital of the World', as the surrounding area grows half the USA's Red Delicious apples, and other varieties, such as Gala, Fuji, Braeburn and Jonagold.
- The valleys of the Wenatchee River and the mighty Columbia River are also famous for other soft fruit, such as pears, plums, apricots, peaches and nectarines.

From Wenatchee, travel north on Route 97 Alt (alternative), along the west bank of the Columbia River. It is an attractive route along an agricultural valley, particularly growing fruit, and has more interesting features than Route 97 / 2.

Ohme Gardens ("oh-may")

- These are about 3 miles north of Wenatchee town centre, and a short way along Route 97 Alt - on the west side of the Columbia River.
  - They are in Ohme Road, which is off Ohme Gardens Road.
  - It is well signposted from Route 97 Alt.



- There are nine acres of landscaped alpine gardens cut into the rocks, with pools, woods and paths.
  - Most of the trees and plants were transplanted here from the local area, and are not rare - the beauty is in the clever landscaping.
- There are also good views across the Columbia River Valley.
- The gardens were started in 1929 by Herman and Ruth Ohme.
  - They were inspired to create the gardens from a barren area.
  - It was purely for their own pleasure, with their own hard work.
  - The landscape design slowly developed over the years, with no drawn plans.

Columbia River

- This is 1,245 miles long, with its source in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, and enters the Pacific Ocean at Astoria, Oregon. Washington's border with Oregon is defined by its last 310 miles.
- It has 11 dams along its main flow, and about 400 dams along its tributaries.
  - Many of the dams are for irrigation and flood control.
  - The largest dam is the Grand Coulee Dam.
  - It is the world's most developed hydroelectric river system.
- Today's journey, from Wenatchee to Chelan, will be beside this river.

### Rocky Reach Dam

- This is about 6 miles north of Wenatchee, off Route 97 Alt.



- It was completed in 1961, and created Lake Entiat, which is also referred to as Rocky Reach Reservoir.
  - Lake Entiat widened the river for 42 miles to Wells Dam, which is north of Chelan.
- A 0.9 mile bypass system, takes fish from upstream to downstream through a large pipe, which varies in diameter between 5 and 9 feet. The journey for the fish takes about 6 minutes.
- There are very attractive, award-winning grounds, covering 18 acres.
- Visitor Center
  - This describes the dam and hydroelectric plant.
  - It is possible to view the powerhouse, and there are good views of the river, spillway and fish ladder.
    - The powerhouse is over 360 yards long and 70 yards wide, and has 11 massive generators.
  - There is a good description of salmon and trout migration in the viewing room, where there are windows into the fish ladder.
  - A museum has excellent exhibits about geology, ancient peoples and life on the Columbia plateau.
  - There is free admission.

### Earthquake Point

- About 14 miles north of Rocky Reach Dam (about 2 miles north of Entiat), there is a Historical Marker beside the road.
- In 1872, a massive section of Ribbon Cliff collapsed during an earthquake.
- The landslide dammed the Columbia river for several hours.
- The earthquake was felt as far as Montana (east), the Pacific coast (west), Oregon (south) and British Columbia, Canada (north).
- Other landslides occurred in the Cascades area.
- The epicentre is thought to have been near Lake Chelan.
- Many fissures opened in the ground, and a 30-foot-high geyser was active for several days near Chelan Falls.
  - Chelan Falls is a small community at the confluence of the Columbia River and the Chelan River, just south of Chelan.
  - There was once a dramatic waterfall here, but it ceased with the damming of the two rivers.

continued.....

**Chelan** ("sha-lan")

- This about 16 miles north of Earthquake Point, on Route 97 Alt / 97.
- It is a very popular recreation area at the south end of Lake Chelan, providing all the usual water sports.
- It has about 300 days of sunshine each year, being in the dry rain-shadow of the Cascade Range.
- The name is a corruption of the 'Tsill-ane' Native Indians.
- **Lake Chelan**
  - This is the third deepest lake in the USA, being about 1,500 feet deep. At its deepest, it is 400 feet below sea level.
  - It is 50.5 miles long, and a snake-like shape - being about 1 to 1.5 miles wide.
- **Stehekin**
  - This remote community is at the north of the lake. It is not accessible by road.
  - Day trips are available on cruise boats to this beautiful area. Time has not been allocated on this itinerary, but could be, if required.



**Overnight at Chelan**

Date.....

Even further north today, taking in the Wild West. Then into the North Cascades National Park.

Approximate miles = 180

**Leave Chelan** north on Route 97 Alt. After about 6 miles, continue north on Route 97, still following beside the Columbia River.

Immediately before Pateros, which is about 20 miles north of Chelan, turn west along Route 153, just before crossing the Methow River.

**Methow Valley** ("meet-hahw")

- This starts around Pateros, and continues north and west.
- Route 153 follows the valley, and then Route 20.
- It is an attractive, lush valley with many old farm buildings.
- It is relatively unspoilt, and depends mostly on farming and cattle ranching. During the winter, it is popular for skiing and other sports.

Continue north on Route 20, and about 32 miles north of Pateros, turn right (north) into Eastside Road, just on the outskirts of Twisp. This road will bypass Twisp, and continue to Winthrop.

**North Cascades Smokejumper Base**

- This is along Eastside Road, about 5 miles north of the turning from Route 20.
- It is the 'Birthplace of Smokejumping'.
  - In 1939, experimental smoke-jumping was carried out here for the 'US Department of Agriculture Forest Service'.



- There are now about 350 smokejumpers across the USA, whose job is to parachute close to wildfires and extinguish them.
- It is a highly skilled job, which demands a high level of fitness.
- The smokejumpers' job is to extinguish primary fires, as soon as they are reported. Generally, they are not involved with the larger fires.
- From June to October inclusive, there are free 45-minute tours to explain the history, and view equipment, training areas and the aircraft.
  - The tour may include seeing smokejumpers in training - depending on emergency conditions.

continued.....

**Winthrop** ("ween-thahp")

- This is about 4 miles north of the North Cascades Smokejumper Base, on Route 20 - having continued north along Eastside Road.



- In 1883, a small gold-rush brought the first settlers here, but it did not last. In 1893, there was a disastrous fire, and many of the buildings were lost.
  - The present Town Hall survived the fire, having previously been the Duck Brand Saloon.
- In the early-1970s, the fortunes of the town were declining. The Council decided to change the town's image into a wild west town. It is now a thriving tourist community.
- The main street has false-fronted buildings, raised and covered boardwalks, and an 'Old West' atmosphere.
- There are many shops selling Western memorabilia.
- It is famous for hot air ballooning, and has a Rhythm & Blues Festival each summer.
- Owen Wister (1860-1938), author of *The Virginian*, visited his Harvard room-mate, Guy Waring, here in 1892, and again in 1898 whilst on his honeymoon.
  - *The Virginian* novel was published in 1902, and is thought to have been based on characters and events in the area. It told a sentimental and heroic story of life in the West.

- **Shafer Museum**

- This overlooks the town, and has old mining equipment, settlers' cabins, a stagecoach, print shop and assay office.
- It is laid out as if it is a settlement.



- Guy Waring's home is a large cabin - named 'The Castle'.
  - Guy Waring was from New England. He had first settled here in 1891, and opened a general store.
  - He owned all the buildings in Winthrop, except the Town Hall.
  - His cabin is where Owen Wister stayed.
- It is normally closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**North Cascades Scenic Highway - Route 20**

- This commences about 17 miles from Winthrop, on Route 20.
- This was completed in 1972, and is considered to have some of the USA's most spectacular scenery.
- It provides access to the most visited parts of North Cascades National Park.
- It is a narrow corridor, following water courses. The east section follows Granite Creek and Ruby Creek. The west section follows the Skagit River ("ska-jit").
- It crosses through the North Cascades National Park for about 30 miles from east to west.

continued.....

### Washington Pass

- This is about 32 miles west of Winthrop, on Route 20, at 5,477 feet.
- Liberty Bell Mountain, seen to the south, is a popular place for rock climbers.
- At the summit, a 0.6 mile road (1.2 miles return) leads to a parking area with facilities and a trail.



- Overlook Trail

- *This is a 0.25 mile loop trail from the parking area.*
- *It provides a magnificent view of upper Early Winters Creek's Copper Basin, and the twin peaks of Early Winters Spires (7,807 feet, on the left) and Liberty Bell Mountain (7,720 feet, on the right).*

### Rainy Pass

- This is about 5 miles west of Washington Pass, on Route 20, at 4,855 feet.

- Rainy Lake Trail

- *This is an easy 2 miles return walk along an almost level, well-constructed path from the parking area.*



- *It goes entirely through the forest, and over two bridges to end at a beautiful lake, which is a tarn within a wonderful cirque.*
  - *A cirque is an amphitheatre at the top of a glaciated valley. It has not been scoured as much as further down the valley because of less glacial movement and debris.*

### North Cascades National Park

- The 'east entrance' is about 17 miles northwest of Rainy Pass, on Route 20. There is no fee for this National Park.
- It is a relatively new National Park, having been designated in 1968.
  - The National Park stretches from the Canadian border in the north, to the tip of Lake Chelan in the south.
- There is beautiful scenery, with deeply glaciated valleys and nearly 320 glaciers - the greatest concentration and almost half of all the glaciers in the USA, outside Alaska.
- It has hundreds of jagged peaks and mountain lakes.
- The Cascade Range of mountains runs from Canada in the north to the south of Oregon.
  - It is roughly parallel to the Rocky Mountains, which are further east.
  - Peaks in the Cascade Range rise to over 8,000 feet.
  - Peaks in the Rocky Mountains rise to over 14,000 feet, but they start from a plateau of around 6,000 feet.

continued.....

**North Cascades National Park** (continued)

- In the central area, there are three reservoirs with dams to create hydro-electric power.
- Between about 1880 and 1910, there was a small amount of mining for gold, platinum, zinc and lead. However, transport was difficult and the proceeds were not great enough to continue.



- *There are about 400 miles of trails, although most of the recognised trails are within the dense forest.*
  - *Walks suggested in this itinerary are some of the ones that have views, and are relatively easy.*
- **Ross Lake National Recreation area**
  - It encompasses an area around Ross Lake, Diablo Lake, Gorge Lake and both sides of Route 20 for about 30 miles.
  - Ross Dam, Diablo Dam and Gorge Dam are within this area, and generate about one-third of Seattle's electricity.
- **Note**
  - Accommodation for tonight and Day 13 has been suggested on the west side of North Cascades National Park.
  - By travelling from east to west along Route 20, there is an opportunity to acquire an overview of the National Park.
  - The descriptions of features along Route 20 have been made in the first direction of travel - from east to west.

**East Bank Trail**

- *This starts about 2.5 miles west of the National Park 'east entrance'.*
- *It can be divided into three sections:*
  - *A 0.5 mile return section of this trail can be taken, which descends through the forest to Ruby Creek, with interpretive plaques about gold mining.*
    - *From 1884, a Canadian prospector spent most of his life at Ruby Creek, in search of gold. Later, a Japanese company prospected here, but eventually gave up, having spent far more than it had gained.*
  - *A further 2.5 miles return section can be added, by continuing across the swing-bridge over Ruby Creek, and then walking along the reasonably level north side of 'Ruby Arm'.*
    - *This section continues through the forest, but ends at an excellent view of Ross Lake.*
    - *'Ruby Arm' is a widening of Ruby Creek, as it enters and become part of Ross Lake.*
  - *The remainder of East Bank Trail is all the way north for 24 miles (48 miles return), along the east of Ross Lake - although this is not specifically recommended.*

continued.....

**North Cascades National Park** (continued)

**Ross Lake Overlook** ("rahs")

- This is about 3.25 miles west of the East Bank Trailhead.
  - It provides excellent views north, along Ross Lake.
- Ross Lake is about 24 miles long, and mostly about 1 mile wide. It is only 2 miles across at its widest.



- The northern tip of Ross Lake is in Canada.
- The water is a beautiful dark blue.
- Ross Dam was completed in 1949 at 540 feet. It was originally named Ruby Dam, but was renamed after James Delmage Ross, a campaigner for the Skagit dam projects, who died in 1939.

**Diablo Lake Overlook** ("dee-ah-blow")

- This about 3.5 miles west of Ross Lake Overlook.
- It provides an excellent view of the brilliant turquoise blue lake, and many mountains around.



- The colour is created by minute rock particles in suspension. The surrounding glaciers grind the rocks of the mountains, and the glacial streams deliver the particles into the lake.
- Most of the colour is delivered along Thunder Creek, entering Ross Lake from the south.

**Diablo Dam**

- This is about 5 miles west of Diablo Lake Overlook.
- It was completed in 1930, and is 389 feet high.
- Diablo Dam Road is an access road across the dam for recreational use.
  - **Note:** The road is closed to inward traffic at 4:15pm each day, but vehicles may still exit after this time.
- A 1 hour round trip by boat goes between Diablo Dam and Ross Dam, along Diablo Lake.
- **Diablo Lake Trail**
  - *This starts at Sourdough Creek parking area, which is about 1 mile northeast of Diablo Dam along a gravel road.*
  - *It is 7.6 miles return trail to Ross Dam, but any amount is worthwhile. It ascends about 400 feet.*
    - *The boat (see above) may be used for the return journey - which would halve the walking distance.*
  - *There are good views of the Diablo Lake and the surrounding mountains. This side of the lake is mostly facing south, and wild flowers on the slopes are excellent.*
  - *Much of the trail is through forest, but there are views over Diablo Lake from about half-way along the trail.*
    - *One exceptional view is of Eldorado Peak, Klawatti Peak, the McAllister Glacier, and the Klawatti Glacier.*

**North Cascades National Park** (continued)

**Gorge Creek Falls**

- These are about 4 miles west of Diablo Dam, where Route 20 crosses over Gorge Creek.
- There is a parking area beside the road.
- A good bridge viewpoint provides a view of Gorge Lake and this waterfall cascading down 120 feet, in several tiers, into the gorge.
- Gorge Dam is just west of Gorge Creek Falls. It was completed in 1924, and work to raise it to 300 feet was completed in 1961.

**Newhalem**

- This is about 3 miles west of Gorge Creek Falls.
- It is mostly devoted to 'Seattle City Light', and the production of electricity.
- **Sterling Munro Trail**
  - *This walk starts at the rear of the North Cascades Visitor Center, which is to the southwest of the town.*
  - *It is a 200 yards return boardwalk, with excellent views north towards Goodell Valley and the Picket Range.*



**'West entrance' to North Cascades National Park**

- This is about 9 miles west of Newhalem.

**Marblemount**

- This is about 5.5 miles west of the 'west entrance'.
- It is situated in a wide flat valley, where the Cascade River joins the Skagit River.
- In the mid-1880s, there was an unproductive gold rush here.

**Cascade Pass walk**

- *This starts at the end of Cascade River Road, which leaves Route 20 at a sharp right bend at the east of Marblemount.*
  - *Travel for about 23 miles (46 miles return) along the road - which becomes a gravel road after about 7 miles - to a parking area.*
- *There are excellent views - just from the parking area - towards Johannesburg Mountain, at 8,200 feet, with its glaciers.*
- *The 7.4 miles return walk to Cascade Pass is considered to be one of the best walks in north USA, with spectacular views across the mountain peaks and glaciers.*
- *It steadily ascends 1,800 feet through the forest, to more open aspects, leading to Cascade Pass, at 5,384 feet.*
- *The road and the trail over Cascade Pass follow the old Indian route over the mountains to Stehekin, at the head of Lake Chelan. In the 1880s, the route was taken by gold and silver prospectors.*

continued.....

### Skagit River valley

- This valley extends from Diablo Dam, for about 50 miles west to Skagit Bay, where it enters the Pacific Ocean.
- Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Area
  - This is a designated 1,500 acre area between Marblemount and Rockport.
  - During the winter, bald eagles are common here, feeding from the river.
  - The bald eagle is the USA's national bird.

### Concrete ("cahn-creet")

- This is about 17 miles west of Marblemount, on Route 20.
- Settlers first arrived on the east bank of the Baker River in 1871, calling the town Minnehaha. In 1890, it was renamed as Baker.
  - In 1905, the Portland Cement Company built a factory to the east of the Baker River. This community was named Cement City.
  - In 1908, the Superior Portland Cement Company built a factory in Baker. This area is now called Silo Park.
  - In 1909, Baker and Cement City were merged, and renamed as Concrete.
  - In 1921, a fire ravaged the buildings in Main Street, and the replacements were built with concrete.
- There are still remnants of its history of cement production, which ceased in 1968.
  - Henry Thompson Bridge
    - This is over the Baker River, north of Route 20, and part of Main Street.
    - When it was completed in 1918, its single span of concrete was the longest in the world.
    - It was bypassed in 1972, when the new bridge for Route 20 was built.
  - 'Welcome to Concrete' silo
    - This is on the north side of Route 20, about 0.5 mile from the town centre.
- Since the cement production ceased, it has prospered from logging, but now the economy is based on hydroelectric production, farming and tourism. The population is around 800.
- Much of the 1993 film, *This Boy's Life*, with Robert de Niro and Leonardo Di Caprio was filmed on location here. The book, by Tobias Wolff, told his story of adolescent life in the town in the 1950s.
- Lower Baker Dam
  - This is about 1 mile upstream on the Baker River, from the Skagit River.
  - It was completed in 1925 and raised in 1927. At the time it was built, it was the highest hydroelectric dam in the world.
  - It created the reservoir, Lake Shannon.
  - Salmon, attempting to swim upstream, are diverted into tanks, and then transported by road further up Lake Shannon.

### Overnight at Concrete

Date.....

The Mount Baker Wilderness is a truly awe-inspiring area - with wonderful views and opportunities to walk.

Approximate miles = 200

**Note:** The recommended itinerary for today is to the Mount Baker Wilderness area. However, as the roads in this area are sometimes not fully open until mid-July, it would be wise to make enquiries about road conditions. If this area is not available, it is suggested that you continue to enjoy North Cascades National Park in the area along Route 20.

**Leave** Concrete west on Route 20.

**Hamilton**

- This is about 12 miles west of Concrete, on Route 20.
- In 1872, it was first settled by a farmer. In 1877, William Hamilton settled here, and the town was named after him.
- In 1874, coal was discovered in the area. In 1881, iron was discovered nearby. In the 1890s, the town flourished, with a population of 1,500.
- The Skagit River flooded in 1892, 1894 and 1896, and although the town was badly damaged, repairs were made and the town survived.
- Timber became a major business, and the town continued to grow.
- In 1925, most of the town was taken by fire, and has never recovered.
- It now has a population of about 300.

**Lyman**

- This is about 3 miles west of Hamilton, on Route 20.
- This was settled in the early-1870s for farming and timber.
- In 1880, it was named after Lorenzo P Lyman, the postmaster.
- In the 1930s, its two timber mills closed, and the town started to decline.
- It now has a population of about 300.

About 8 miles west of Lyman (on the outskirts of Sedro-Wooley), turn right onto Route 9 north. After about 22 miles, continue north and then east along Route 542 east.

- Route 542 is called the Mount Baker Highway, and the last 24 miles is also a National Forest Scenic Byway, as it has so many wonderful vistas.
- The final 10 miles provide exceptional views of the mountain peaks, as the road winds and climbs about 3,200 feet to end at Artist Point.

**Mount Baker Wilderness**

- This commences about 30 miles along Route 542.
- In 1917, there was a proposal to create the area as Mount Baker National Park. However, World War I prevented the proposal from continuing. It was eventually declared a Wilderness area in 1984.



continued.....

**Mount Baker Wilderness** (continued)

- **Mount Baker**
  - This is to the south of Route 542.
  - It is 10,781 feet high, and a dormant volcano.
  - It is the second most active volcano in the Cascade Range.
    - In 1820, Native Indians saw an eruption of fire.
    - In 1900, a steam cloud ascended 1,000 feet high.
    - In 1906, a large avalanche of ice and rock changed its shape - at the same time as an earthquake in San Francisco.
    - In 1971, 1975 and 1997, there were eruptions of steam.
  - It was named by the explorer, George Vancouver, in 1792, after his third lieutenant, Joseph Baker, who had observed it.
  - It was first successfully climbed by a European in 1868.
  - It has 20 square miles of glaciers.
  - In 1935, the area was used as a location for the film of Jack London's novel *Call of the Wild*, starring Clark Gable and Loretta Young.

**Glacier** ("glay-see-er")

- This is about 3 miles east, after entering the Mount Baker Wilderness.
- At 932 feet, it is the last community before the end of Route 542, which is 15 miles away.

**Mount Baker Vista**

- The road to this is Route 39 (Glacier Creek Road). It starts about 1 mile east of Glacier - turning right (south).
  - After 3 miles, it becomes an intermittent gravel road.



- The road is about 9.3 miles long (18.6 miles return), ending at a viewpoint.
- It provides an excellent close-up view of Mount Baker from the northwest, and particularly of two Glaciers.
  - The trees around the viewpoint have grown since the viewpoint was built. A much better viewpoint, with an uninterrupted view is from the side of the road, about 0.4 mile before the end of the road.
  - Roosevelt Glacier is more northern and to your left. Coleman Glacier is lower to your right.

continued.....

**Mount Baker Wilderness** (continued)

**Nooksack Falls**

- The road to this is Route 33 (Wells Creek Road), and is about 6.3 miles east of the turning for Mount Baker Vista - turning right (south).
  - The viewpoint is about 0.6 mile along the gravel road.



- Coming from the East Nooksack Glacier on Mount Shuksan, the wide North Fork Nooksack River cascades down 88 feet.
- Immediately after the waterfall, Wells Creek joins the North Fork Nooksack River.

**Heather Meadows Area**

- The entrance to this area is about 12.5 miles further along Route 542 - although the road is now heading south and west, towards Mount Baker.

**Picture Lake Path**

- *This is about 1.5 miles after Heather Meadows entrance.*
  - *The path starts from the side of the road at Vista Point.*
- **Note:** *Picture Lake is within a 0.75 mile one-way system, and may not be noticed on the return journey.*



- *It is an easy, level 0.5 mile loop walk around the lake, with one of the most popular mountain scenes in the USA - that of Mount Shuksan with Picture Lake in the foreground.*
  - *Picture Lake is at 4,100 feet, and Mount Shuksan is 9,131 feet high.*

**Bagley Lakes Trail**

- *This starts at a parking area, which is 0.5 mile from Picture Lake Path.*
- *It is an attractive and easy 1.5 miles loop walk along the east side of the Lower Bagley Lake.*
- *It continues along the east side of Bagley Creek, and then crosses a quaint two-arched bridge, which goes to a small island in the creek at the outlet of Upper Bagley Lake.*
- *It returns on the west side of Lower Bagley Lake.*



continued.....

**Mount Baker Wilderness** (continued)

**Fire and Ice Trail**

- *This starts at the Visitor Center, which is 0.5 mile from the Bagley Lakes Trail parking area, and at 4,400 feet.*
- *It is an easy 0.5 mile interpretive loop trail, which goes to a rocky outcrop, with a good view of Upper Bagley Lake and Table Mountain.*
- *It returns beside a stream, past a small lake.*



**Artist Point**

- *This is at the end of Route 542, and about 2 miles from the Visitor Center.*
- *It is at 5,140 feet, and the parking area is surrounded by mountains.*
  - *Mount Baker's summit, at 10,781 feet is about 7.5 miles to the southwest.*
  - *Mount Shuksan's summit, at 9,131 feet, is just under 5 miles to the southeast.*
  - *Table Mountain's summit, at 5,628 feet, is about 0.5 mile to the west.*
- *There are many good trails, and two have been selected as being a good representation.*
  - *All trails provide wonderful views of mountains, as far as Mount Rainier, which is about 140 miles to the south, and beyond.*
  - *Various of the trails provide views of Lake Baker.*
  - **Artist Ridge Trail**

- *This is a reasonably easy 1 mile return walk, with many small loop trails at the end of the ridge.*
- *It is very popular, as it provides many excellent views.*



- **Table Mountain Trail**

- *This is a 2 mile return trail, ascending nearly 500 feet to the summit of Table Mountain, at 5,628 feet.*



- *The trail is narrow in places, and ascends steeply up the mountain in a series of bends.*
- *There are spectacular views from the level summit, to all the surrounding mountains, including Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan.*

**Overnight at Concrete**

Date.....

An easy day - enjoy more of the Cascades, and then return to the coastal islands, finally catching another ferry.

Approximate miles = 160

**Start the day in the area around Concrete**

- See Day 12 for North Cascades National Park.

**Baker Lake recreation area**

- This is accessed by travelling north from the centre of Concrete on Burpee Hill Road and then right (north) onto Baker Lake Road.



- Baker Lake is a 9 miles long reservoir, which was created by the Upper Baker Dam on the Baker River.
- This area is popular for outdoor recreation activities, including camping.
- Trails are generally within the forest, until they rise above the tree-line, and consequently, views are limited.
- A really excellent view is near the dam. It provides an open aspect of Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan, with Baker Lake in the foreground.
  - About 15 miles from Concrete, turn right (east) onto Baker Lake Dam Road (Route 1106), which is a gravel road. After about 1.3 miles, turn left towards the boat launch area, and travel for 0.4 miles.

**Leave Concrete area** west on Route 20, along the Skagit River Valley.

See Day 13 for details about Hamilton and Lyman.

**Skagit River valley**

- Route 20 continues to follow this river west for another 30 miles.
- As the valley widens, it becomes very fertile, and is particularly noted for its production of peas, strawberries, and spring bulbs.
  - A Tulip Festival is held every April, attracting many visitors.

**Sedro-Woolley** ("see-droh")

- This is about 27 miles west of Concrete (and 12 miles west of Lyman), on Route 20.
- It has developed as a logging town.
- The name is a combination of two names for two towns.
  - In 1884, this town was settled, and was eventually named 'Cedro' as the Spanish for cedar - with a change of spelling.
  - Woolley was named by Philip A Woolley (after himself), who settled in 1890.

continued.....

**Fidalgo Island** ("fee-dahl-goh")

- This is about 25 miles west of Sedro-Woolley, and is accessed across a bridge, which is part of Route 20 west.
  - The bridge crosses Swinomish Channel.
- It was named after Lieutenant Salvador Fidalgo, a Spanish explorer and cartographer of the 1790s.

**Deception Pass**

- This is about 9 miles southwest of the bridge over Swinomish Channel.
- It is the channel of water between Fidalgo Island and the north of Whidbey Island.
- It has turbulent, churning waters, and was so named because the British explorer, George Vancouver (1758-1798), was deceived into thinking that he had found the 'Northwest Passage'.

• **Deception Pass Bridge**

- This is part of Route 20.
- Built in 1935, the road is 182 feet above the water.



- There is a parking area at the side of the road, just before the bridge. It provides a view, and opportunity to walk onto the bridge.

**Deception Pass State Park**

- This is on both sides of Deception Pass - on Fidalgo Island and Whidbey Island.
  - The main section is on Whidbey Island, accessed about 1 mile south of Deception Pass, just off Route 20, on the right (west) side.
- It has natural beauty of the old forest, various beaches, excellent views of Deception Pass and bridge, and much wildlife.
- Although it is a small area, it is Washington State's most popular State Park.

**Whidbey Island** ("weed-bee")

- This attractive and tranquil island was named after Master Joseph Whidbey, an officer of the explorer, George Vancouver. Joseph Whidbey had explored the island in 1792.

**Whidbey Island** (continued)

- **Fort Ebey State Park** ("ee-bee")
  - This is about 25 miles south of Deception Pass State Park.
    - About 7 miles south of Oak Harbour, turn right (west) into Libbey Road from Route 20. After about 1 mile, turn left into Hill Valley Drive, which leads to the Park, which is well-signposted.
  - It provides good views to the Olympic Mountains from the beach.
  - Construction of Fort Ebey commenced in 1942, and was completed at the end of 1942 to be used as a defence during World War II.



- It had two guns with bore diameters of 6 inches, but these were removed after the war. They were never used in anger.
- The gun emplacements are still here. Between the two guns is a 'hill', which has concrete rooms, used for quarters and storage of ammunition.

- **Coupeville**

- The turning for this is about 3.5 miles south of the turning for Fort Ebey. Turn left (north) off Route 20 into Main Street.



- It was originally the pioneer village of Ebey's Landing, and is a community of attractive Victorian mansions.
  - Ebey's Landing was named after the settler, Colonel Isaac Neff Ebey, who arrived in 1851 - the first white settler on Whidbey Island. He was killed by Native Indians in 1857.
  - The name was later changed to Coupeville, being named after Captain Thomas Coupe, who filed a claim on land here in 1852.
  - It is the second oldest town in Washington State. The oldest is Walla Walla, in the east.
- It is a quaint area, situated beside Penn Cove, which is a natural harbour facing east. It is reminiscent of a New England whaling port.
  - The old area is centred around Front Street, on the waterfront.
  - Coupeville Harbour Store is situated at the end of Coupeville Wharf - a pier. In the entrance hall, there is the skeleton of a Gray Whale, 32.4 feet long.
- It is famous for mussels and oysters.

continued.....

**Whidbey Island** (continued)

• **Coupeville** (continued)

• **Island County Historical Society Museum**

- This is on the corner of Front Street and Alexander Street.
- It is an interesting small museum with exhibits and a video presentation of how life has developed in the area.
- It has Native Indian exhibits, and those of the 1850s pioneer era.
- The carved cherry-wood front door depicts life in the area. It took 700 hours to create.

• **Alexander's Blockhouse**

- This is to the side of the museum, and free to enter.



- It was built in 1855 to defend the pioneers from the Native Indians, if it became necessary - although it was never used for such defence.
- Outside, are six Native Indian dugout canoes, now only used for festivals. One dates from the early-1850s.

• **Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve**

- This is an area of over 27 square miles surrounding and including Coupeville, covering the land and buildings.
- It is preserved as the area has remained almost unaltered for over 100 years.

• **Langley**

- This is north of Route 525, about 25 miles southeast of Coupeville.
  - About 5 miles south of Coupeville, Route 20 becomes Route 525. About 15 miles further, turn left (north) into Marshview Avenue.



- Then turn left into Bayview Road, continuing into Brooks Hill Road, which leads down to the centre.
- The town centre is around First Street, along the waterfront.
- There are attractive cobbled courtyards and many small alleys and streets joining to other interesting areas.
- It is a charming town of artists, galleries and antique shops with good quality shopping.
- There are many small gardens, flowerpots and containers, which are well-stocked with colourful flowers.

continued.....

**Whidbey Island** (continued)

**Ferry to Mukilteo** ("muh-kul-tee-oh")

- This is about 6 miles east from the turning to Langley, on Route 525.
- It sails from Clinton, which is on Whidbey Island, to Mukilteo, which is on the mainland.



- It sails about every 30 minutes during the day, and takes 20 minutes.
- It is recommended to arrive at least 20 minutes early, if sailing after 10:00am.
  - If sailing before 10:00am, up to 1 hour is recommended, and longer on Monday mornings.
- It is not possible to make an advance reservation.

**Overnight at Mukilteo**

Date.....

Some impressive man-made interests today - then return to Seattle.

Approximate miles = 50

**Leave Mukilteo** south on Route 525, and east on Route 526.

**Boeing Everett Tour Center**

- This is about 3 miles southeast of Mukilteo, at Paine Field, off Route 526. It is very clearly signposted.



- The Boeing 747, 767, 777 and 787 aeroplanes are assembled here, in the world's biggest building by volume.
  - It covers 98.3 acres. It is large enough to contain Disneyland, and have room to spare.
  - Up to 21 aeroplanes can be assembled here every month.
- Tours of 70 minutes start at 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm, Monday to Friday inclusive.
  - *The tours include a 12 minutes video presentation, a coach tour of the 'flight line', where aeroplanes are tested, and a 0.3 mile walk into the assembly building to view from a high position.*
- Officially, 500 tickets for tours are available at 8:30am every morning for the day's tours.
  - **Note: Early arrival is very highly recommended.**
  - Tickets are issued on a first come, first served basis.
  - Reservations may be made in advance, by telephoning the Information Desk on 1-800-464-1476 (open from 9:00am to 11:00am, and noon to 3:00pm Monday to Friday inclusive).
  - Credit cards are not accepted.

Travel east along Route 526 for about 3 miles, and then south on Interstate 5.

continued.....

**Hiram M Chittenden Locks** ("hahr-rum" "chee-dun-dun")

- These are at Ballard, which is about 25 miles south of Boeing Everett Tour Center.



- Leave Interstate 5 at Exit 169. Travel west about 4 miles along North 45<sup>th</sup> Street, continuing west on Market Street.
- The parking area is clearly signposted on NW 54<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Work commenced in 1911 to build the Lake Washington Ship Canal, which connects the two landlocked lakes of Lake Washington and Lake Union to Puget Sound. It was completed in 1917.
- The two locks - one large and one small - provide for many ships and boats of varying sizes. They form a dam across the canal, which maintains the upstream water level.
- About 80,000 vessels pass through each year.
- In 1976, a fish ladder with 21 steps was constructed, for salmon to navigate the locks upstream.
  - In 2000, four flumes were completed, to allow fish easier downstream navigation.
- **Carl S English Jr. Botanical Gardens**
  - These small, but beautiful gardens are around the entrance and pathways to the locks.
  - They were named after Carl S English, who created them over 43 years, starting in 1931. The area had been left as grass after the completion of the locks in 1917.
  - There are over 500 varieties of plants, which are well-presented with many flowers.

Return east to Interstate 5, and travel about 4 miles south to Seattle centre, where you may enjoy more of the recommended places from Day 2.

continued.....

### **Museum of Flight**

- This is at 9404 East Marginal Way South, off Interstate 5, at Exit 158, about 10 miles south of Seattle centre.



- It has over 50 full-size original aircraft in perfect condition, including an SR-71 Blackbird spy-plane, the first Presidential Air Force One jet, and many aeroplanes from World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnamese conflicts. It also has the only remaining M/D-21 Blackbird.
- There are also many other exhibits, from the beginnings of aviation to a section on space travel.
- There is a total of over 130 aircraft and spacecraft, together with many thousands of other artefacts, including instruments, models, engines, photographs, books, films, plans, armaments, radios, tools, and so on.
- **Red Barn**
  - This is the original headquarters and factory of the Boeing Airplane Company, which commenced here in 1916.
  - In 1916, William Boeing (from the timber industry) and Conrad Westervelt (an engineer from the US Navy) developed a single-engine seaplane, capable of 75 mph.
- It opens at 10:00am each day.

### **Overnight at Seattle**

Date.....

**Travelling day**

- This page may be used to make notes about your travelling arrangements for your onward journey.
- At *itforit*, we hope you have enjoyed your itinerary, and that you will try another.
- If you have any comments about the itinerary (good or bad), please let us know.