



WU Photographers West Coast Gathering 2016 Orcas Island, WA

Most of Orcas Island's 57 square miles are rural and hilly, a pleasure for drivers and a challenge for cyclists, with curving roads that wind through forests and past artists' studios, fields with old apple barns, and the occasional turn-of-the-century prune drying barn.

Visit one of the nation's most beautiful parks to hike, bike, swim, or go horseback riding through the forest—the 5,252-acre Moran State Park, with several lakes and more than 38 miles of hiking trails. There, you can drive, bike, or hike up Mount Constitution, the islands' highest point, for a spectacular view of island-dotted sea and snow-capped Mount Baker.

Thursday 7:30pm: @ Rosario Resort Restaurant, a limited lounge menu with up to two courses - soup or salad and pizza or burger or ribs and price for both courses will be \$28/person

Friday 8.30-9.00am: Group Photo at the Observation Tower, Moran State Park (a volunteer photographer wanted)

Saturday 7:30pm: Dinner Banquet @ Madrona Bar & Grill, Eastsound

Some Ideas and Links

Nothing is really far away on Orcas, from the ferry terminal to our hotel is 13.8 miles, a 25-30 min drive (without photo stops).

Sunsets:

#1. North Beach ...best in summer but included because of it's views north. take North Beach Road traveling north to the end of the road (about 1/2 mile past of the airport). There, you'll find enough parking for approximately eight vehicles, so you'll want to get there early to stake your spot.

#2. West Beach ...from Eastsound, follow Enchanted Forest Road westbound until the very end of the road. Stay straight as Enchanted Forest turns left into West Beach

Road, and follow the paved road to the very end. One parking spot on the left near the beach and about 3-5 spots on the right side street parking. Fall through Spring best time of the year due to sun setting further south on the horizon.

#3. Mount Constitution & the Observation Tower ...travel into Moran State Park past Cascade Lake. Turn onto Mount Constitution Road and follow it all the way to the top.

This spot works anytime, sunrise or sunset - you're sure to be amazed! Just make sure there aren't too many clouds that could obstruct your views down.

(Note: Discover Pass or Day Use Pass is required for visitors to all Washington State Parks).

#4. Crescent Beach ...this spot works all year long, but fall through spring will offer a little more color as the sun will set further to the south at this time of year. Crescent Beach is easy to access. It's just east of Eastsound, park in one of 3 parking areas across the street from the beach.

#5. On a Washington State Ferry sailing ... If you're lucky enough to catch a sailing during a sunset (or even sunrise), then you're in for a treat. Some of the best views can be either sunset or sunrise ferry sailings. The amount of change in the sky in just 30-45 minutes can be truly breathtaking.

Hiking Trails:

Both Moran State Park and Turtleneck Mountain Preserve offers trails of various degrees. Here are some examples of easy hikes:

Cascade Falls Trail:

Easy, .25 mile, 130 feet elevation loss. Drive up Mount Constitution Road about .25 mile to the Cascade Falls trailhead parking lot on the right side of the road. Follow the trail down to 75-foot-high Cascade Falls, about a 10-minute walk. The falls are most spectacular in spring and early summer.

Cascade Lake Loop:

Easy, 2.7 miles, slight elevation gain and loss. Hiking counterclockwise, start at the Cascade Lake picnic area by the kitchen shelter. Following the signs to the South End Campground, the trail passes by a picturesque Douglas-fir hanging over the water. Soon the trail crosses a bridge that spans Rosario Lagoon, where fishing is sometimes good. After another .75 mile, you will arrive at the South End Campground. From here, follow the road and pick up the trail again near campsite #1. Follow the lake until you emerge on the park road. Continue across the road following the signs until the trail meets the main county road. Cross the road and follow the signs back to the Cascade Lake picnic area.

South Trail (Turtleback Mountain):

The south entrance accesses Garry oak and prairies on the south slopes of the park, and leads hikers to spectacular island vistas. This hike is moderate, about three miles round trip and offers nonstop views of pastoral farmlands and the surrounding San

Juan Islands. From the parking lot, head 0.4 miles along the trail and fork left onto the Lost Oak Trail. Turn right where the trail branches after 0.5 miles and continue the loop that takes you past West Overlook and back to the feeder South Trail, where you turn left to return to the parking lot.

Turtleback Mountain Hike

Boats:

There is a marina at our hotel and Deer Harbor is a famous destination for sailors.

History:

The historic community of **Doe Bay** on Orcas Island was traditionally a sanctuary for Coast Salish tribes, who held potlatches here until it was settled by homesteaders in the mid-1800s. Doe Bay was a post office from 1900 to 1924, and a stop for commerce and passengers who rode Mosquito Fleet ferries between Bellingham and the San Juan Islands through the 1920s. The main building is now on the National Register of Historic Buildings, and has also housed a dance hall, a fishing resort, an artist colony, a New Age commune called The Polarity Institute, and finally, the Doe Bay Resort & Retreat, which now offers cabins, yurts and campsites as well as soaking tubs, a sauna, massage and a waterfront café.

Olga is a quaint community, has an old store with gas pumps in front.

There is an old schoolhouse on **Crow Valley Road** (only open during summer), a pioneer museum on **North Beach road** (open Fri and Sat 12-3pm).

There are also several old barns on Orcas island. Below is a list and then you just have to find them: [Historic Barns on Orcas Island](#)

Below is a link of interesting tidbits from history
[History Nook, Orcas Island](#)

October weather: high/low 58/44 2.85" of rain

Sunrise & Sunset:

	Twilight	Sunrise	Sunset	Twilight	Moon
Thursday	6:47am	7:18am	6:41pm	7:12pm	
Friday	6:48am	7:20am	6:39pm	7:10pm	
Saturday	6:50am	7:21am	6:37pm	7:08pm	First Qtr: 9:34pm
Sunday	6:51am	7:23am	6:35pm	7:06pm	
Monday	6:53am	7:24am	6:33pm	7:04pm	

Tide Table:

Day	High			Low				
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft
Thursday 10/6	11:30	5.8	9:14	6.16	4:16	1.3	4:41	4.8
Friday 10/7			1:22 10:36	6.0 6.2	5:10	1.2	6:02	5.2
Saturday 10/8			2:40 11:30	6.3 6.0	6:09	1.1	7:28	5.3
Sunday 10/9			3:26	6.6	7:08	0.9	8:31	5.2





Sunset Spot #1
(Dunwoody Beach)

New Beach
Sunset Spot #2

Sunset Spot #4

Sunset Spot #5
(@ the observation tower)

Sunset Spot #6
(@ the observation tower)

Tortoise Mountain Preserve

The Madonna Bar & Grill
133 Main St. #105

For those of you that plan on visiting **San Juan Island**, here are a few tips:

San Juan Island is well known for splendid vistas, saltwater shore, quiet woodlands, orca whales and one of the last remaining native prairies in the Puget Sound/Northern Straits region. But it was also here in 1859 that the United States and Great Britain nearly went to war over possession of the island, the crisis ignited by the death of a pig.

American Camp & Cattle Point : Hiking trails, light house

[San Juan National Historical Park](#)

[Cattle Point Trails](#)

Dead Man's Bay/Cove: Hike along a short trail from the Lime Kiln State Park to Dead Man's Bay or drive and park at the top of the bay. Dead Man's Bay is a beautiful quiet cove with a pebble stone beach and tide pools to explore. This beach is at the base of a forested hillside and so you want to have good traction when walking down the hill. It is not uncommon to see marine mammals such as orca whales passing by throughout the summer months.

Lime Kiln Point State Park: Hiking, whale watching?, light house & beautiful Pacific Madrone trees. It is a 36-acre Washington state park on the western shore of San Juan Island. The park is considered one of the best places in the world to view wild orcas from a land-based facility.

[Lime Kiln State Park](#)

English Camp: Hiking, historical buildings

[San Juan National Historical Park](#)

[English Camp - A Historic Guided Walk](#)

Roche Harbor: boats, historical buildings, mausoleum, lime kilns. Roche Harbor is located on the northwest corner of San Juan Island (approximately ten miles from Friday Harbor) and has long been a favorite and unique destination for many travelers seeking to explore the best of the San Juan Islands. The historical company town stands next to the picturesque harbor and offers some of the most spectacular sunsets in the Pacific Northwest. Listed on the National Register of Historical Sites, the old Hotel de Haro, built in 1886, has many rooms appointed with original antique pieces. A mausoleum can be found in the woods off Afterglow Drive.

Friday Harbor: boats, beautiful little seaside town

Scenic Tour on San Juan Island from one of the hotels on the island.

Barns on San Juan island

A few interesting facts about the San Juan Islands

Cattle Point & American Camp Trails

Legend

Trails	Parcels of Interest
easy	National Park
moderate	US Coast Guard and BLM
not maintained or private property	DNR
Parking	Land Bank
20' Contours	

www.sanjuanislandtrails.org



San Juan Island Trails Committee
 This map is a graphic representation derived from San Juan County's Geographic Information System. Trail locations were recorded using mapping-grade GPS by or under the direction of the trails committee. The information on this map is not guaranteed in survey accuracy and is based on the best information available as of the date shown. Sale of this map is prohibited without the written authorization of the San Juan Island Trails Committee.
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