



Day Trips from Seattle

Puget Sound p169

These relaxing islands are Seattle's close, rural escape – perfect for wine tasting, fruit picking and exploring by ferry and bike.

San Juan Islands p172

Home to orcas, artist communities and a tangible history. Don't miss the fantasy-novel-worthy nature of one of Washington's most spectacular regions.

Snoqualmie Valley p175

Get nostalgic for the 1990s television show *Twin Peaks* and awed by the massive Snoqualmie Falls before exploring orchards, dairy farms and produce gardens.

Mt Rainier p176

Drive up Washington's iconic, glacial-capped mountain – the highest in the Cascade Range – for the views, rugged hiking and wildflowers in June.

Puget Sound

Explore

The islands of Puget Sound make a fantastic escape from the city. Aside from their scenic beauty – which is very different from the natural landscapes you'll find in and around Seattle, despite their proximity – two activities draw people here: rest and relaxation. These come in many forms, from berry picking or leisurely cycling to wine sampling or lolling on beaches. Reset your internal clock to 'slow' while you take in the gorgeous views of the city and mountains during the ferry ride there, and you'll make the most of a vacation from your vacation. Popular islands to visit very close to Seattle include Bainbridge Island, Vashon Island and Blake Island, or head a little further afield to big and bucolic Whidbey Island.

The Best...

- ➔ **Sight** Ferry to Bainbridge Island (p169)
- ➔ **Place to Eat** Cafe Nola (p172)
- ➔ **Place to Drink** Harbour Public House (p172)

Getting There & Away

All ferries except for Blake Island are run by Washington State Ferries; prices are round trip:

Bainbridge Island Ferry runs hourly from Pier 52 in summer, less frequently in winter. Adult/car and driver: \$7.70/16.40.

Vashon Island Frequent daily ferry departures from Fauntleroy in West Seattle. Adult/car and driver: \$5/21.

Blake Island Argosy Cruises departs from Pier 55 in Seattle daily late May to early September. Tours adult/child/senior: \$79.95/72.95/30; boat fare only adult/child: \$40/15.

Whidbey Island Frequent car ferries between Mukileto, 26 miles north of Seattle, and Clinton, Whidbey Island. Adult/car and driver: \$4.65/\$9.75.

Getting Around

Bike rentals are available on Vashon and Bainbridge Islands and in Langley on Whidbey Island. Expect to pay \$25 for two hours or \$35 for the day.

Need to Know

- ➔ **Area Code** Bainbridge, Blake and Vashon Islands 206; Whidbey Island 360
- ➔ **Location** Bainbridge Island is 9 miles (35 minutes) west of Seattle, Vashon Island is 8 miles (20 minutes) southwest of Seattle, Blake Island is 8 miles (four hours for the entire tour) southwest of Seattle and Whidbey Island is 26 miles (one hour including ferry) north of Seattle
- ➔ **Tourist Office Bainbridge Island** (www.visitkitsap.com); **Vashon Island** (www.vashonchamber.com); **Whidbey Island** (www.whidbeycamanoislands.com)

SIGHTS

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

ISLAND

(www.bainbridgeisland.com) Getting to Bainbridge Island really is half the fun. It's a popular destination, largely because it's the quickest and easiest way to get out on the water from Seattle. It's also one of the loveliest. The ferry ride alone provides enough stunning views of Seattle and the Sound to make the trip worthwhile.

Once you get to the island, prepare to stroll around lazily, tour waterfront cafes, taste unique wines, maybe cycle around the invitingly flat countryside, and generally relax.

VASHON ISLAND

ISLAND

(www.vashonchamber.com) Vashon Island has resisted suburbanization – a rare accomplishment in Puget Sound. Much of the island is covered with farms and gardens, and its little towns double as commercial hubs and artists enclaves. There are also unencumbered vistas from Mt Rainier in the south to Mt Baker in the north.

It's a good island to explore by bicycle or car and pick fruit at 'u-pick' gardens or orchards along the way. Plan a hike in one of the county parks.

BLAKE ISLAND

ISLAND

(www.parks.wa.gov) This state park can be approached only by boat. Most people go to the island to visit Tillicum Village, which features the Northwest Coast Indian Cultural Center & Restaurant. A popular tour package includes a traditional salmon bake, dancing and a film about Northwest Native