



Day Trips from Seattle

Bainbridge Island p177

Worth visiting for the ferry journey alone, Bainbridge is like a detached Seattle suburb where life moves at a distinctly slower pace.

Whidbey Island p177

Gentle green island escape packed with pioneer history, winding lanes and an aura of peace that seems a million miles from downtown Seattle.

Snoqualmie Valley p179

A pastoral agricultural heaven east of Seattle that's renowned for its supersonic waterfall and misty mountainous *Twin Peaks* nostalgia.

Olympia p181

The state capital is smaller and slower paced than Seattle, but has a salubrious collegiate feel and an envelope-pushing music scene.

La Conner p182

Tiny Northwest town that has reinvented itself as an arts community with a strong culinary tradition and a nationally renowned tulip festival.

Mt Rainier p184

The USA's fifth-tallest mountain outside Alaska is an omnipresent Seattle sentinel when the weather's clear and, since 1899, has been encased in an enviably managed national park.

Bainbridge Island

Explore

Bainbridge Island is a popular destination for visitors but also home to over 23,000 Bainbridgers, many of whom commute daily to Seattle. The best way to get there is to do as they do and take the commuter ferry from downtown Seattle, a journey that is often held up as being a secret city highlight allowing you to gaze wistfully upon the Seattle skyline framed by mountains, water and broccoli green islands. With its lanes, lawns and white picket fences, Bainbridge contrasts pleasantly with the clamor of the city. Prepare to stroll around lazily, tour some waterfront cafes, taste unique wines at the Bainbridge Vineyards, 4 miles north of the urban hub of Winslow, and maybe rent a bike and cycle around the invitingly flat countryside.

The Best...

- ➔ **Activity** Bainbridge Vineyards
- ➔ **Place to Eat** Café Nola
- ➔ **Place to Drink** Harbour Public House

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Washington State Ferries** (Map p232) run several times a day from Pier 52 on Seattle's Waterfront (adult \$8.20, car and driver \$18.20, bicycle surcharge \$1).

Need to Know

- ➔ **Area Code** 206
- ➔ **Location** Bainbridge Island is 9 miles west of Seattle, or 35 minutes on the ferry.
- ➔ **Tourist Office** Get all your island info at the **Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce** (206-842-3700; www.visitbainbridge.com; 395 Winslow Way E; 9am-5pm Mon-Fri).



EATING & DRINKING

There are tons of places to eat including up-scale restaurants, cafes and delis, and some very special ice-cream shops.

MORA ICED CREAMERY

ICE CREAM \$

(206-855-1112; www.moraicedcreamery.com; 139 Madrone Lane; single scoop \$4.50; 11:30am-9pm Mon-Thu, to 9:30pm Fri & Sat) Luscious ice creams and sorbets made locally on Bainbridge Island come in cones, cups or pints – and, as a bonus, it's all low-fat.

CAFÉ NOLA

CAFE \$\$

(206-842-3822; 101 Winslow Way; mains \$14-34; 11:30am-3pm & 5-9:30pm Mon-Fri, 9:30am-3pm & 5:30-9:30pm Sat & Sun) One highlight of a visit to Bainbridge is a meal at this popular bistro, serving a classy blend of Mediterranean and Northwest cooking.

HARBOUR PUBLIC HOUSE

PUB FOOD \$\$

(206-842-0969; 231 Parfitt Way; mains \$12-19; 11am-11pm Sun-Thu, to midnight Fri & Sat) After your bike ride, sit back and quaff microbrews at this lively public house. Seafood dishes, including the steamed mussels in beer (\$15) and a calamari appetizer (\$12), are recommended.



ACTIVITIES

BAINBRIDGE VINEYARDS

WINE

(206-842-9463; www.bainbridgevineyards.com; 8989 NE Day Rd; tastings noon-5pm Sat-Sun, weekdays by appointment) **FREE** Bainbridge Vineyards near Winslow is a good destination for cyclists or wine-lovers who don't mind a walk – the winery has moved to a place at the edge of its vineyards, about 4 miles north of town on Hwy 305. On Sundays at 2pm there's a tour around the vineyards.

Whidbey Island

Explore

Whidbey Island is an idyllic emerald escape beloved of stressed-out Seattleites. While not as detached or nonconformist as the larger San Juan archipelago further north (there's a bridge connecting it to adjacent Fidalgo Island), life is certainly slower, quieter and more pastoral here. Having six