



Washington, Oregon & the Pacific Northwest



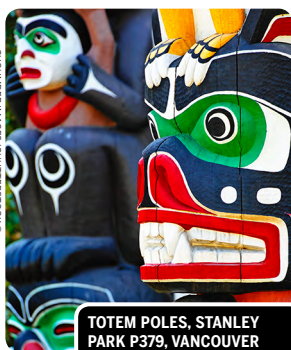
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Pacific Northwest Grand Tour

Just want to hit the highlights? This is an extraordinary route that will make you want to come back for more. **Vancouver** boasts wonderful parks, ethnic attractions and cool neighborhoods. Further south, on Vancouver Island, is charming and picture-perfect **Victoria**. If it's winter, hit the world-class slopes of **Whistler**.

Bustling **Seattle** offers myriad attractions, a unique skyline and great cuisine. Now head north to the beautiful San Juan Islands, such as woodsy **Orcas Island**, where you can bike around or just relax. Back on the mainland, **Olympic National Park** is the jewel of the Olympic Peninsula, with a unique rainforest ecosystem. For more of the state's gorgeous landscapes, **Mt Rainier National Park** is a must.

There's no escaping the attractions in **Portland** – from its landmark Powell's bookstore to its many microbreweries to tax-free (and hip) shopping. Just east are the grand vistas, hiking trails and waterfalls of the **Columbia River Gorge**. Nearby **Mt Hood** is unbeatable for camping, hiking and skiing. Much further south, **Crater Lake National Park** is a geologic wonder with supreme scenery. Finally, if you have time left over, there's the grandeur (and seafood cuisine) of the beautiful **Oregon coast**.



Island Hop

Washington's San Juans are an archipelago of hundreds of beautiful, verdant islands covering some 750 sq miles. Only about 60 are inhabited, and just four are accessible by public ferry. Three of these islands bring thousands of vacationers every year, but each has managed to keep a serene atmosphere and distinct character.

San Juan Island has the best tourist facilities, along with the archipelago's only sizable town, Friday Harbor. Its **Lime Kiln Point State Park** offers prime whale-watching; in June, keep a lookout for killer or minke whales feasting on salmon runs. To the north is **San Juan Island National Historical Park**, with old British military facilities and earthwork fortifications, and – on clear days – great mountain views.

The largest of the islands, **Orcas Island** is probably the most beautiful – and the poshest. It's dotted with fancy homes, and the lack of a central town gives it an exclusive neighborhood feel. Check out **Moran State Park**, which offers camping, fishing, hiking and mountain biking. **Mt Constitution**, the archipelago's highest point, is also here, featuring some of the finest views in Washington.

Lopez Island is the most peaceful island, with friendly locals and pastoral charm. Don't expect too many tourist services – agriculture and farming are the main focus. The mostly flat island is made for cycling, and there's little vehicular traffic.

A much larger island to explore is BC's **Vancouver Island**, linked to Friday Harbor by two daily ferries between April and January. Start in **Victoria**, a cosmopolitan city with a variety of ethnic cultures, along with a touch of old Britain. Can't-miss attractions include the world-famous Butchart Gardens and high tea at the grand Fairmont Empress Hotel. Wine-lovers and foodies should head to the **Cowichan Valley**, home to boutique wineries and organic farms. Further west is the coastal town of **Tofino**, where you can go kayaking and spot marine life. Nearby is **Pacific Rim National Park Reserve**, with rainforest, crashing surf, islands to explore and amazing hiking. Finally, head to land's end at **Cape Scott Provincial Park** to explore the pristine beaches; outdoor-lovers have miles of challenging trails and backcountry camping opportunities.

2
WEEKS

Seattle & Washington

The Pacific Northwest's largest city, **Seattle** has plenty going for it – a great location on the Puget Sound, myriad dynamic neighborhoods, interesting sights and attractions, lots of first-rate coffee and beer, and – looming over it all – the lofty peak of majestic Mt Rainier. Must-sees include Pioneer Square, Pike Place Market, the Seattle Aquarium and the Space Needle, but there's plenty more to keep you busy.

Get out of town by hopping on a ferry to Bainbridge Island, then heading north to **Port Townsend**. With its Victorian architecture and location on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, this picturesque little town is a magnet for artists and eclectic personalities. From here you can take a bicycle on a ferry to the San Juan Islands, though if you want to drive you'll have to access them via Anacortes (more on this later). Work your way east along the Olympic Peninsula, perhaps stopping in Port Angeles for a quick day trip to Vancouver Island's pretty capital, **Victoria**.

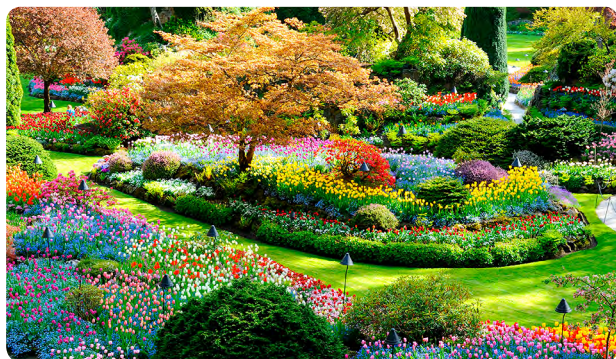
Olympic National Park can't be missed. Its coastal strip includes 57 miles of remote beaches with pounding waves and wild scenery; visit Rialto Beach for amazing views. Inland, the Hoh Rain Forest is a prime destination with its famous Hall of Moss Trail. Now head further south to **Lake Quinault**, a gorgeous glacier-fed lake boasting a grand historic lodge. This is the place to go fishing, boating or swimming. Next, pack it up and drive to **Olympia**, Washington's lively capital, which is full of music culture.

Volcanic **Mt St Helens** should be on your itinerary; she blew her top in 1980, losing 1314ft of elevation. Not to be outclassed, Mt Rainier is another can't-miss geologic landmark. Hope for good weather and go hiking among glaciers, alpine meadows and old-growth forests in **Mt Rainier National Park**.

Looping back to I-5, drive up to **Anacortes** and take a ferry to the beautiful **San Juan Islands**. There are three distinct main islands to explore. San Juan Island has undulating hills and a scenic west coast, where you can spot whales; upscale Orcas Island claims the area's highest peak; and Lopez Island is flat, laid-back and great for cycling.



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Top: Port Townsend
(p136), Washington

Bottom: Butchart
Gardens (p418),
Vancouver Island

Behind the Scenes

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THIS BOOK

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Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- BART station
- Border crossing
- Boston T station
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/Muni station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/SkyTrain station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
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- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book

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OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

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OVER MORE
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