From sandy beaches along Puget Sound to the snowy slopes of 10,541-foot Glacier Peak, Washington’s 4th highest summit, Snohomish County offers some of the finest hiking terrain within the entire Pacific Northwest. And despite being Washington’s third most populated county, a majority of Snohomish County is covered by vast tracts of National Forest lands that include protected wilderness areas. There’s an abundant supply of state and county parks scattered across the county, too. And even within Snohomish County’s urban areas, you’ll find a wide array of inviting parks. All of this adds up to one huge network of public lands offering hundreds of miles of excellent trails.

Best of all, these trails are literally right in Seattle’s backyard. Where else can you be so close to a major metropolitan area with so many protected natural places to go for a hike? Snohomish County—that’s where! You can be deep in the wilderness after just a two hour drive from Sea-Tac International Airport. You can sneak away from your downtown Seattle hotel and within 30 minutes be stretching out your legs on a country walk. And if you live here, all of these wonderful hiking destinations are in your backyard. Come see for yourself why Snohomish County makes for a great hiking destination.

**Hiking in Snohomish County** is an introduction to the wide array of trails and lands available for hiking within Snohomish County. It is not meant to be comprehensive. It was designed to show you; the first time visitor, veteran traveler, or county resident, just what Snohomish County has to offer to the hiker. The 30 hikes chosen for this brochure capture the full scope of destinations available for hiking within Snohomish County. They include suburban walks and wilderness adventures. You’ll find trails to beaches, scenic rivers, old-growth forests, alpine lakes, wildflower meadows, mountain tops, wildlife preserves, historic sites, and impressive waterfalls. Hopefully, these trails will also inspire you enough to seek out other county trails. There are hundreds of miles worth.

Most of the hikes in this brochure are easy to get to. Many can be hiked year round. All of them represent the very best of hiking in Snohomish County. So, what are you waiting for? Grab your pack, don your boots, and get hiking!

**A Note on the Third Edition of Hiking in Snohomish County**

In this third edition of this booklet you’ll notice that some of the hikes from previous editions have been replaced. In some cases the status of those trails may have changed making them less desirable for continual inclusion. However, in most cases these trails were simply replaced to make room for other trails to be spotlighted. In any case, we’ve added a few extra hikes as well!
References and Resources for Hiking in Snohomish County

Land Agencies
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/
Verlot Visitor Center
(Mountain Loop Highway) summer only. 360-691-7791
Darrington Ranger Station 360-436-1155
Skykomish Ranger Station 360-677-2414
Washington State Parks www.parks.wa.gov/
Wallace Falls State Park 360-793-0420
Washington Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.wa.gov/
Northwest Region Office 3 360-856-3500
Snohomish County Parks
www.co.snohomish.wa.us/departments/parks
Main Office 425-388-6601
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
http://wdfw.wa.gov/
Spencer Island 425-388-6600

Hiking and Trail Advocacy Groups
Washington Trails Association wta.org
Everett Mountaineers everettmountaineers.org
Friends of Lord Hill friendsoflordhill.org
Stillaguamish Citizen’s Alliance (Lime Kiln) robecanyon.org/

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About the Author

Craig Romano is an award winning author of nine guidebooks on hiking in Washington State. He has hiked trails all over the world; from Alaska to Argentina, Sicily to South Korea, and concludes that some of the best hiking in the world is right here in Snohomish County. Content provider for Hikeoftheweek.com and Trails Editor for Outdoors NW, Craig also regularly contributes to Northwest Runner, Seattle Met, Adventures NW, and Northwest Travel. Visit him at www.CraigRomano.com. And for scores of other hikes in Snohomish County and its surroundings check out his books; Day Hiking Central Cascades, Day Hiking North Cascades, and Backpacking Washington (Mountaineers Books).
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Hiking in Snohomish County can be enjoyable, invigorating, and quite rewarding; but it’s important to be well-prepared before setting out. Granted, some of the hikes in this brochure involve terrain and distances that aren’t very difficult. But wearing proper **footwear** should be a priority on all Snohomish County hikes. For most groomed trails, walking or running shoes should be sufficient. But for wilderness trails and those that involve uneven terrain and backcountry travel, good hiking boots are a must. Be sure they fit properly and provide good support.

Be sure you stay properly **hydrated**, too. Even on short trails, it’s easy to dehydrate, especially on warm summer afternoons. Always carry water. There are plenty of different water bottles and hydration packs available to suit your taste and preference. Consider all sources of water in the backcountry to be contaminated. Treat it with purification tablets or a filtering pump before drinking it.

Always carry **extra food**. Granola bars, energy bars and gels, and fruit make for convenient trail snacks.

When setting out on wilderness and backcountry hikes, it’s essential that you carry the **10 Essentials** (see sidebar right). Carry **rain gear** and **extra clothing**. Weather can change rapidly within Snohomish County. It’s not uncommon for a 70 degree warm morning to rapidly transform into a cool, windy and rainy afternoon. Be prepared for all conditions when hiking Snohomish County’s trails.

All of your hiking supplies should be transported in a **pack**. Depending on the distance and degree of difficulty of your hike, this can be as simple as a hip-hugging fanny-pack or a large multi-compartment backpack. Personal preference and hiking options should dictate what you use.

Before setting out it’s also important to consider your **fitness level**. Be sure that you’re capable of completing the hike before heading out. A mile up a steep mountain is not the same as a mile on a flat paved trail. Although the latter may take you only 20 minutes to walk, the former may take you over an hour. Give yourself sufficient time to complete and enjoy your hike.

**Hiking Snohomish County** is a wonderful resource and great introduction to the trails of Snohomish County, but it’s not a comprehensive guide. Consider buying one of the many fine trail guides available to supplement this brochure. **Day Hiking North Cascades,** **Day Hiking Central Cascades,** and **Backpacking Washington** (Mountaineers Books), by this author are excellent up-to-date guides teeming with hiking options, many of them right here in Snohomish County. Also, when heading out on wilderness trails, take along a good **map**. **Green Trails** makes excellent detailed maps of all the national forest hikes in this brochure. They can be purchased at National Forest ranger stations, and many outdoor specialty shops, convenient stores, and sporting good stores throughout the county.

Some of the hikes on National Forest lands within this brochure require a **Northwest Forest Parking Pass** at the trailhead; which you display on your rearview mirror. These sell for $5 per day or $30 for an annual pass good throughout Washington and Oregon. Be sure to purchase before you hit the trail. You can purchase one at any national forest ranger station within the county, from several outdoor retailers and area businesses or on line (www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits). This pass can also be purchased.
at the Snohomish County Visitor Information Center located at Heritage Park in Lynnwood; 19921 Poplar Way (I-5 exit 181).

Hikes in this brochure on state park lands require a Discover Pass, which you also display on your rearview mirror. These sell for $10 per day or $30 for an annual pass and are good at all state parks, DNR lands, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife properties. You can purchase one from several outdoor retailers and area businesses or online (www.discoverpass.wa.gov).

What about dogs? Dogs make great hiking partners if they are well-behaved. Most of the hikes in this brochure are open to them. But, leashes may be required. Please obey these regulations, or you may forfeit the privilege of bringing along your furry friend. Please clean up after your buddy, too.

Be sure to respect the land that you are traveling across. Stay on the trail. Don’t cut switchbacks for this increases erosion and causes unsightly scars. Don’t litter. Pack it out with you. Use restrooms when available and if you need to heed the call of nature while out on the trail, heed at least 200 feet from any water source. Be sure to bury your waste. Leave wildflowers for others to enjoy and keep a safe distance when viewing wildlife. Take only pictures; leave only footprints.

And one final note. Trails and roads can and do change. They can wash-out, be buried in snow, or destroyed by wildfire. Occasionally they’re closed for wildlife management or other reasons. Always check with the appropriate governing land agency, before setting out on your hike. Contact information for these agencies is included in each hike’s introduction.

And finally; have fun! Enjoy Snohomish County’s hiking trails. They are among some of the finest and most scenic in America.

The Ten Essentials
1. Map and compass
2. Sun protection
3. Extra clothing such as a wind jacket
4. Head lamp or flashlight
5. First aid supplies
6. Matches or fire starter
7. Pocket knife
8. Extra food
9. Extra water
10. Emergency shelter such as a space blanket
Hike through a deep green ravine sliced by a salmon-spawning stream to a quiet Puget Sound Beach with sweeping views of Whidbey Island and the Olympic Mountains. Protected within the 105-acre Meadowdale County Park, Lund’s Gulch forms a green swath in a heavily suburbanized area.

Follow a wide and well-built trail into a mature forest of Douglas-fir dropping 400 feet into the gulch. Big cedar and hemlock stumps; testaments to the giants that once grew along Lund Creek line the way. Logged over a century ago, these moss-covered relics with their immense girth are impressive in their own right. Not all of the big trees were harvested though; a few giant firs and cottonwoods still stand tall within the emerald gulch. The small waterway flowing beneath them bubbles and babbles, making its way to Puget Sound. Come fall, a handful of salmon make their way from the sound to spawn up the creek.

In one mile the trail comes to a junction. The path left leads to the ranger’s residence, handicapped access and to picnic tables scattered about on a manicured lawn. The path right continues along the creek reaching a railroad underpass delivering you to the beach. Rest on a driftwood log. Comb the shore. Enjoy the view.

Roundtrip: 2.5 miles  
Elevation Gain: 425 feet  
Hiking Season: Year round  
Notes: Kid-friendly; dogs permitted on leash; beachcombing  
Driving Directions: From Everett, head 10 miles south on I-5 to exit 183. Follow 164th Street SW west for 1.5 miles. Bear left onto 44th Ave W. Turn right onto 168th Street SW and continue west passing SR 99. After a half mile turn right onto 52nd Ave W. In another half mile turn left on 160th Street SW (signed for Meadowdale County Park). In .25 mile turn right on 56th Ave W. In another .25 mile turn left onto 156th Street SW; follow to park entrance.

Contact Info: Snohomish County Parks, (425) 388-6600, www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks

www.snohomish.org | 9
Who would imagine that lying right in the center of Lynnwood’s slew of shopping centers and commercial developments is a wildlife rich pond and peat bog? Wedged and hidden between bustling boulevards is little Scriber Lake, a surprisingly delightful natural area graced with good trails, a floating dock, interpretive signage and wildlife-themed wrought iron park benches. Perfect for late afternoon strolls and early morning jaunts, Scriber Lake is also an ideal destination for inquisitive children.

Paths circle the lake where young naturalists can scan the shoreline and its swampy surrounding thickets for a myriad of wading and nesting birds, scurrying small mammals and insect-craving amphibians. Both paved and soft surface trails traverse the park. And while the hike around the lake is short, paved trails diverge to nearby Wilcox and Scriber Creek Parks offering extended hiking. The Scriber Creek Trail intersects with the paved Interurban Trail which extends for over 15 miles from Everett to Mountlake Terrace.

No matter the distance you choose to hike however, you’ll want to linger long on the floating boardwalk protruding into Scriber Lake. Watch whimsical waterfowl and admire a small corner of Lynnwood that has virtually remained the same since the time Paul Schreiber homesteaded it in 1890.
Once logged for its cedars and firs and slated for a massive refinery, Big Gulch today is a greenbelt graced with trails offering some fairly wild roaming just minutes from busy Paine Field. Locate the signed trailhead at the southeast corner of the 92nd Street Park. Walk a short distance to a junction. The trail left heads to SR 525. The trail right utilizing sturdy steps drops deep into the gulch. The ambience here is wild despite the fact that houses occupy the bluffs above. Although you’ll probably be unaware of that!

Cross Big Gulch Creek on a nice bridge and come to a junction with an old road. The way left leads to the Staybridge Suites. Head right and before reaching a wide bridge come to another junction. Walk right a half mile or so along Big Gulch Creek. The walking is quite enjoyable, but after a boardwalk, the trail becomes primitive. It will eventually be upgraded through the rest of the gulch. But for now, return to the previous junction and head right following a cascading tributary up and out of the gulch to the Mukilteo Library on Harbour Pointe Road. Retrace your steps back to the trailhead or walk Harbour Pointe Road a short distance turning left onto SR 525 returning on a lovely section of sidewalk offering glimpses down into the emerald gulch.

**Big Gulch**
* A gully good hike in Mukilteo

**Roundtrip:** 2.5 miles  
**Elevation Gain:** 225 feet  
**Hiking Season:** All year  
**Notes:** Kid-friendly; dogs permitted on leash  
**Driving Directions:** From Everett follow SR 526 to SR 525. Turn left (south) on SR 525 and drive .5 mile to 92nd Street. Turn right and then immediately turn left into the 92nd Street Park.  
**Contact Info:** Mukilteo Recreation Department, (425) 263-8180, www.ci.mukilteo.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=15
Hard to imagine, but one of the finest beaches in all of Snohomish County is just minutes from the urban center and county seat in Everett! And this two mile long sandy expanse was created by man, not nature. Beginning in the 1890s, the Army Corp of Engineers built a jetty just north of Port Gardner—then commenced to dredge a channel. The spoils along with silt and sedimentation from the Snohomish River eventually created an island. Sand accumulated from tidal influences, birds arrived and nested, and plants soon colonized the island.

In the 1980s the Everett Parks and Recreation Department began providing passenger ferry service to the island. Over 30,000 folks visit this sandy gem each year. Visitor numbers are limited, so plan on arriving early—and be flexible on your return trip as the ferry can only take 80 people at a time.

Once on the island, walk past a restroom, picnic area, and two huts used for interpretive programs to a small nature trail, or to a well-worn path to the beach. Hike on the beach south to the jetty and north all the way to the mouth of the Snohomish River Delta. A fairly large lagoon has developed on the island where you can watch for sandpipers, osprey, kingfishers, herons, finches, ducks, and more.

You won’t be able to walk around the island as the channel side contains no beach. But the beach on Possession Sound is wide and smooth and you can easily walk 4 to 5 miles going from tip to tip. Soak up views of the Olympic Mountains; Whidbey, Camano, and Gedney Islands; and downtown Everett against a backdrop of Cascades Mountains.
Spencer Island
Enjoy a slough of wildlife

Roundtrip: 2.6 miles
Elevation Gain: None
Hiking Season: Year round
Notes: Kid-friendly; dogs prohibited
Driving Directions: From Everett follow SR 529 north crossing the Snohomish River onto Smith Island. Turn right onto 35th Ave NE (signed for Langus Riverfront Park) proceeding for .5 mile turning left onto Smith Island Road. After 1.0 mile, bear right at a Y-intersection. In another mile pass beneath I-5 where the road takes a sharp left becoming 4th Street NE. Continue for .3 mile passing a water treatment plant to a parking lot on your right. Park here; hike begins on road.

Contact Info: Snohomish County Parks and Recreation, (425) 388-6600, www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks

Just minutes from downtown Everett, Spencer Island sits in the heart of the Snohomish River Estuary, a wildlife rich ecosystem where salt and fresh waters mix. Surrounded by snaking sloughs, this 400-acre island offers a slew of scenic delights from glistening mud flats to glimpses of snow-capped peaks. Much of the island was once farmland, but has since been reclaimed as wildlife habitat.

Start by walking .4 mile down gravel 4th Street to the old Jackknife Bridge. A paved trail leads right 2.2 miles to the city of Everett’s Langus Riverfront Park, a nice addition to your hike. Continue straight on the historic bridge setting foot onto the island and coming to a junction. The trail left follows a levee north to open-to-hunting (check seasons) WA Fish and Wildlife land. It terminates in one mile at a breach. Directly ahead is a short trail leading to a boardwalk providing excellent wildlife viewing.

For a nice loop, head south on the Levee Trail returning via the Cross Island Levee Trail.

En route scan the reeds, cattails, and sedges for a myriad of waterfowl and songbirds. Watch for hawks, herons, harriers, widgeons, ruddy and wood ducks. Look too for bald eagles, river otters, coyotes and deer. And enjoy the view east across the saturated flats to Mount Pilchuck and Three Fingers.
Surrounded by neighborhoods and commercial centers, North Creek Park is more than just a place for nearby city folks to get a taste of nature. This park protects ecologically important wildlife habitat and helps provide flood control. Nearly its entire area consists of bog. An extensive boardwalk (rebuilt in 2012) allows you comfortable access across this semi-submerged preserve.

Much of the 85-acre park was once part of the John Bailey Farm. The trail immediately leaves terra firma for a floating boardwalk snaking across expansive wetland meadows. Interpretive signs along the way provide insight into this special environment. Birdlife is prolific. Red-winged blackbirds, wrens, sparrows, warblers and vireos fill the air with their melodious calls. Hawks hover over the grasses searching for prey. Herons are especially fond of the North Creek meadows. A rookery exists in the park.

In .3 mile a spur trail heads left 500-feet through cattails and spirea to a peat bog. The main trail continues north where another spur trail takes off left; this one leading 500 feet towards the main creek channel. Beavers and muskrats can frequently be observed here. From here the main trail reaches dry ground in .2 mile, then terminates a couple of hundred feet farther.
Officially opened to the public on Earth Day 2009, Paradise Valley is one of Snohomish’s newer county parks and destined to become one of its more popular ones. Protecting nearly 800 forested acres from development on the edge of suburbia, Paradise Valley is not only a hiking heaven with its 13 miles of trails, but also a haven for wildlife. Originally homesteaded in the 1880s, Paradise Valley now provides refuge for bear, cougar, deer, and a myriad of other critters both furry and feathered. And the park protects the headwaters of Bear Creek too, an important salmon rearing stream.

Before setting out, pick up a map of the park’s extensive trail system at the kiosk at the main trailhead. Now, have fun exploring! The hiker-only Whispering Firs Trail makes a nice half mile escape perfect for young hikers and older ones short on time. Follow the Mainline Trail through the core of the park to access other trails deeper within the Paradise Valley. The Bigleaf and Ephemeral Trails lead past wetlands that burst with birds and blossom with wildflowers in the springtime. The Wetland Plateau Trail offers a fair degree of solitude while the Southern Traverse Trail undulates over small ridges through mature forests. Combine the Southern Traverse with the Wetland Plateau, Bigleaf, Red Alder and Cascara Trails for a 5.0-plus mile grand walkabout around the park’s periphery.

Contact Info: Snohomish County Parks (425) 388-6600, www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks

Roundtrip: .5 mile to 13 miles
Elevation Gain: none to several hundred feet
Hiking Season: Year round
Notes: Kid friendly; dogs permitted on leash
Driving Directions: From SR 522 in Maltby (5.0 miles east of Woodinville; 8.0 miles west of Monroe) head east on Paradise Lake Road for 1.7 miles to trailhead.

Paradise Valley
Old homestead houses hundreds of acres of hiking terrain
Lord Hill
A hiking Eden on the Snohomish River

Roundtrip: 2.2 miles Beaver Lake Loop / 3.7 miles Temple Lake Loop
Elevation Gain: 200/150 feet
Hiking Season: Year round
Map: Green Trails, Index - No. 142
Notes: Kid-friendly; dogs permitted on leash

Driving Directions: From the city of Snohomish, exit SR 9 onto 2nd Street. Proceed east for one mile. Turn right onto Lincoln Ave which becomes the Old Snohomish-Monroe Highway. After 2.7 miles turn right onto 127th Ave SE and proceed for 1.6 miles to park entrance and trailhead.

Contact Info: Snohomish County Parks and Recreation, (425) 388-6600, www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks

The largest county park in Snohomish County, Lord Hill Regional Park protects over 1,400 acres of forested slopes, lush ravines, basaltic outcroppings, scores of wetland ponds, and a wild undeveloped stretch of the Snohomish River. There are over eleven miles of trail and several miles of old woods roads traversing this park named for Mitchell Lord who homesteaded here in the 1880s. Lots of loop options exist from short leg stretchers to all-day explorations. Here are two good suggestions to get you exploring.

Beaver Lake Loop: Head down the main trail through a cool forest of big trees coming to a junction in .4 mile. Turn left on the Beaver Lake Trail and follow it through a tunnel of alders to marshy Beaver Lake. Take a right on the Pipeline Trail, a right on the Pipeline Cut-off Trail—then another right on the Main Trail and return to the parking lot.

Temple Pond: From the Beaver Lake Trail junction head right continuing on the Main Trail for another .6 mile coming to a four-way junction. Continue straight on the Main Trail Cut-off coming to another four-way junction in .2 mile. Continue straight once again, this time on the Temple Pond Loop trail. Follow this delightful near level path 1.6 miles to Temple Pond, largest body of water within the park and then back to the Pipeline Trail. Continue straight on the Pipeline Cut-off Trail returning to the Main Trail. Turn right retracing familiar territory back to the trailhead.
A sleepy city of 2,700 in 1973, Monroe is now a bustling residential and commercial center of nearly 20,000. Once surrounded by extensive dairy farms; the growing city has displaced many of the cows. But at Lake Tye on the western edge of Monroe, you can still experience the region's agricultural heritage.

Sitting on the sprawling Snohomish County floodplain, the park buffers new development. The 60-acre park was established as mitigation for recent development. In exchange for allowing high density housing to be built within the city limits, Monroe residents gained a wonderful park complete with playfields, swim area and trails. For hikers and walkers, the latter amenity is the most important!

A 1.6 mile paved trail circumnavigates the 42-acre Lake Tye. The trail is lined with Norway maples and European sycamores that add brilliant colors to the landscape come autumn. The park is also a good place for bird-watching. Moorhens, cormorants, and herons are year round residents, while geese, grebes, swans, and other waterfowl make seasonal visits. If you desire longer walking, paved paths extend throughout the adjacent neighborhoods connecting to several community parks.

Roundtrip: 1.6 miles
Elevation Gain: none
Hiking Season: Year round
Notes: Kid friendly; dogs permitted on leash
Driving Directions: From Everett follow US 2 east towards Monroe. As you enter Monroe, turn right at first traffic light onto Fryelands Boulevard. Continue for .7 mile to junction with Wales Street. Turn right into large parking area at Lake Tye Park.
Contact Info: City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Department, (360) 863-4557, www.ci.monroe.wa.us
Wallace Falls & Wallace Lake
Where a river roars through you

Roundtrip: Wallace Falls 5.5 miles / Wallace Lake 8.2 miles
Elevation Gain: 1,200/1,500 feet
Hiking Season: Year round
Map: Green Trails, Index - No. 142
Notes: Discover Pass required; kid friendly; dogs permitted on leash

Driving Directions: From Everett follow US 2 for 28 miles east to the hamlet of Gold Bar. Turn left onto 1st Street proceeding for .4 mile to a four way stop. Turn right onto May Creek Road and continue for 1.5 miles to Wallace Falls State Park and trailhead.

Contact Info: Wallace Falls State Park (360) 793-0420, www.parks.wa.gov

Hike to a series of falls, nine in all, two that are stunning and one—the tallest at 265 feet, that’s absolutely spectacular. Or hike to a pretty lake—not quite backcountry, not quite alpine, but a wonderful hiking destination never-the-less! It’s your choice at this popular state park off of busy US 2. The falls, among the most loved cataracts in the Evergreen State attract plenty of hikers. But the lake, once reached by a long and unappealing logging road, is now enjoyably attained by the Greg Ball Trail; a path built by and honoring one of the greatest trail advocates this state has ever seen.

Wallace Falls: Head up the main trail and soon come to a junction. Left heads to the falls utilizing an old logging railroad grade. It makes for a nice loop option adding about a mile.

Wallace Lake: Take the Railroad Grade or Woody Trail to the Greg Ball Trail. Ascend wooded slopes along the North Fork of the Wallace River reaching a gravel road. Head right on road 0.1 mile to an old road taking off left. Follow this near level forested way for .5 mile to Wallace Lake.
**Bridal Veil Falls and Lake Serene**

*Frantic falls and a placid lake beneath the spires of Mt. Index*

**Roundtrip:** Bridal Veil Falls 4.4 miles / Lake Serene 7.2 miles  
**Elevation Gain:** 850/1900 feet  
**Hiking Season:** May to November  
**Map:** Green Trails, Index WA- No. 142  
**Notes:** NW Forest Pass required; kid friendly; dogs permitted on leash  
**Driving Directions:** From Everett follow US 2 east for 35 miles. Just before highway crosses Skykomish River turn right onto the Mount Index Road. Proceed on this dirt road .4 mile turning right onto FR 110. Follow short distance to trailhead.  
**Contact Info:** Skykomish Ranger District: Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 677-2414, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs

Towering and formidable, Mount Index is perhaps the most awesome sight and site along the Stevens Pass Highway. And Bridal Veil Falls emanating from beneath the mountain’s austere crags is not a scene you’ll forget. But to really appreciate this impressive landmark, you’ll need to leave your vehicle and hit the trail. And if the falls aren’t enough to whet your wanderlust, Lake Serene feeding them from above should more than satisfy.

Start by following an old road lined with mossy maples and alders gradually ascending 1.7 miles to a junction. For Bridal Veil Falls, head right a half mile climbing steeply via a series of short switchbacks and stairways.

For Lake Serene continue on the main trail dropping a little into a damp ravine. Cross Bridal Veil Creek and then begin climbing. The trail makes a long sweep east and then a long sweep west working its way under, over and around cliffs. Take in fine views of the Skykomish Valley below as well as out to Ragged Ridge and other peaks of Wild Sky Wilderness. Lake Serene greets you in a tight basin beneath the ramparts and parapets of Mount Index. Stare straight up those 3,000 vertical foot stark walls. Hardly serene; it’s awe-inspiring! But when the basin is calm, those imposing rock faces delicately reflect upon the lake’s surface.
Forming a 1,200-foot backdrop of sheer cliffs above the town of Index, the Index Town Wall is imposing and awe inspiring. Renown among climbers for its 50-plus routes, a not-so-well known hiking trail also leads to its top. Part of the Forks of the Sky State Park, this fairly new park consists of over 1,400 acres at the confluence of the Skykomish River and its North Fork.

From the parking area, walk up a service road and immediately cross a set of railroad tracks. Continue right on the service road (staying off the tracks) reaching a picnic table in front of a big steel door in the cliff face at .25 mile. Behind this door is a 200 foot bore created to test a machine used for tunneling under the English Channel. Locate the trail to the right at forest edge and begin a steep grunt, ascending nearly 1,300 feet in just over one mile. Marching up steep slopes and ducking under, around and over ledges, the entire way is forested and not exposed. Climbing paths diverge from the main path; just keep following well placed arrowed signs leading the way.

After 1.2 miles, reach an old rocky skid road doubling as a creek bed. Stay to the right of a cable fence and follow this rocky route .1 mile to the top of the wall exercising extreme caution and staying well away from the edge with its precipitous drop. Then clutch your heart and catch your breath taking in an amazing view of Index perched along the North Fork of the Skykomish River against a dramatic cloud piercing backdrop of Wild Sky Wilderness Peaks. Stay for awhile fully mesmerized—you earned this view!
Barclay and Eagle Lakes
Into the eye of the Wild Sky

Roundtrip: 4.4 miles / 8.6 miles
Elevation Gain: 225 feet / 1600 feet
Hiking Season: May to November / July to October
Map: Green Trails, Alpine Lakes Stevens Pass Map 176S
Notes: NW Forest Pass required; Barclay Lake Kid friendly and dog friendly (on leash)

Two lakes within the shadows of imposing Baring Mountain; one is a gentle and easy hike; the other a challenging steep climb. Assess your mood and energy level and decide whether it’s just a trip to Barclay you’re after, or whether it’s to Eagle you dare.

Barclay Lake: Follow a well-maintained trail that gains just over 200 feet of elevation in a little more than two miles to this well-loved lake sitting snugly between awesome Merchant Peak and Baring Mountain. Up a sliver of a valley, travel through a dark tunnel of greenery interspersed with some old-growth giants. Soon after crossing Barclay Creek, reach the lake. Stroll alongside it looking for a nice spot to sit. You won’t be alone. Barclay has its legion of admirers. They all come to be awed by the striking north face of Baring Mountain rising above the lake.

Eagle Lake: From the second privy at Barclay Lake (just before reaching a creek), locate an unmarked trail taking off left. Never formally built, this way trail immediately starts climbing up steep timbered slopes entering the 106,000-acre Wild Sky Wilderness. While the path is fairly discernible, pay close attention as it sometimes fades. After gaining about 600 feet, cross a talus slope. Watch for cairns on this steep and potentially treacherous section. Continue into a forested basin fed by a bubbling spring—then climb steeply once more to a gap draped in old-growth forest. After gaining about 1,500 feet in 1.2 miles, reprieve is offered at pretty little Stone Lake.

Make one last climb, cresting a small divide. Then descend slightly bearing left, dancing around mud holes and traversing beautiful Paradise Meadow awash in flowers. After hopping across Eagle Creek a couple of times reach Eagle Lake. Explore an old trapper’s hut and stare up at the open slopes of Mount Townsend or the sheer intimidating rock face of Merchant Peak.

Driving Directions: From Everett, head 41 miles east on US 2 to the settlement of Baring. Near Milepost 41, turn left (north) onto 635th Place NE and cross railroad tracks. After .3 mile turn left onto FR 6024 and proceed for 4.0 miles to trailhead.
Evergreen Mountain Lookout

Short and steep to views that are sweet

Roundtrip: 3 miles
Elevation Gain: 1,400 feet
Hiking Season: July to October
Map: Green Trails, Monte Cristo, WA-No. 143
Notes: NW Forest Pass Required; kid and dog friendly
Driving Directions: From Everett head east on US 2 for 50 miles (just past Skykomish) turning left onto Beckler River Road (FR 65). Continue 12.6 miles to a five-way junction at Jack Pass. Take the road to your immediate right (FR 6550) for .9 mile to a junction. Bear left onto FR 6554 following for 8.7 miles to trailhead.

Starting at a high elevation and beginning in an old burn surrounded by old cuts the way steeply climbs. Between switchbacks, take in sweeping views south of the broad U-shaped Beckler River Valley. At .6 mile enter the Wild Sky Wilderness leaving young regenerating forest for groves of old-growth mountain hemlock. Now on a gentler grade, traverse ridge reaching a small gap. Then continue along ridge crest leaving forest for meadows that burst with wildflowers. Swing around the north side of the mountain and after one final push reach the 5,587-foot summit with its restored fire lookout.

Look south to Mounts Stuart and Daniel, the Snoqualmie Pass peaks and big beautiful Mount Rainier hovering above them all. Look north to the Monte Cristo Peaks and east to the high alpine meadow country of the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness. Of course take time to appreciate the 1935 lookout, too. It can be rented out for overnight stays (reservation required: http://www.reserveamerica.com). Restored by the Everett Mountaineers and the Seattle Explorer Search and Rescue in the 1990s, it stands now as a sentinel in Washington’s newest wilderness area, the Wild Sky.
One of the finest meadow-traversing, ridge-walking, view-granting trails in the Skykomish Valley, Johnson Ridge is also surprisingly one of the quieter trails in the region.

The way begins steeply through an old clear-cut rapidly growing back in. After .75 mile the grade eases, the trail now traveling through mature forest and soon entering the Wild Sky Wilderness. Established in 2008, the Wild Sky is Washington's newest federally protected wilderness area. At 2.0 miles round the heather graced 5,050-foot summit of Sunrise Mountain where outstanding views can be had of surrounding summits and snowy sentinel Glacier Peak. Sunrise makes a perfectly fine destination for those seeking a shorter hike.

But if it’s Johnson’s Scorpion Mountain you wish to strike out for continue, steeply dropping over 300 feet to a narrow saddle. Commence climbing once reaching sprawling meadows replete with resplendent wildflowers. At about 4.4 miles at the edge of a meadow reach an unmarked junction. Head left if Scorpion Mountain’s 5,540-ft summit is your objective. From this outpost enjoy a stunning 360-degree view of the Central Cascades. To the east, directly below, twinkling Joan Lake may catch your attention. To reach it, retreat to the unmarked junction and follow a brushy steep trail. Reach the serene and isolated lake after a half mile and 500 feet of elevation loss. Fish are fairly abundant at the lake—so are the mosquitoes.

Roundtrip: 9 miles
Elevation Gain: 2,650 feet
Hiking Season: July through October
Maps: Green Trails; Monte Cristo, WA-No. 143, Benchmark MT- No. 144
Notes: Dog friendly
Driving Directions: From Everett head east on US 2 for 50 miles to Skykomish turning left onto the Beckler River Road (FR 65). Continue north for 6.9 miles to pavement’s end at a three way junction. Make a sharp right turn onto FR 6520 and in 2.7 miles bear left at unmarked junction continuing on FR 6520 for another 4.2 miles to road’s end and trailhead.
**Roundtrip:** 8 miles  
**Elevation Gain:** 2,300 feet  
**Hiking Season:** July through October  
**Map:** Green Trails; Monte Cristo, WA-No. 143  
**Notes:** Northwest Trail Pass required; dog friendly  

**Driving Directions:** From Everett head east on US 2 for 50 miles to Skykomish turning left onto the Beckler River Road (FR 65). Continue north for 15 miles to a junction just after crossing the North Fork Skykomish River. Turn right onto FR 63 and proceed for 4.3 miles to road’s end and trailhead.

When it comes to alpine meadows, you’ll be hard pressed finding prettier ones than the flower fields that sprawl across West Cady Ridge. One of the most spectacular ridgeline hikes in the Central Cascades, the only thing superseding West Cady’s flowers is its views. Start by heading into luxurious ancient forest. After crossing the North Fork Skykomish River on a bridge above a small gorge, the way begins to climb. The trail winds through some of the biggest and oldest trees in the Skykomish Ranger District, all protected within the Wild Sky Wilderness.

At approximately 2.0 miles reach a densely forested gap between West Cady Ridge and Excelsior Mountain. The way now becomes much steeper marching up the spine of West Cady. As the forest canopy begins to thin, views out to surrounding peaks begin to grow. Traversing berry fields and heather meadows reach a 4,750-foot knoll just shy of 4.0 miles. This is a good spot to call it quits if you’ve had enough climbing for the day. Sit back and enjoy breathtaking views north across the North Fork Skykomish Valley to Columbia and Monte Cristo Peaks and west across Jack Pass to snow-faced Spire Mountain.

If you have more energy however, the views and meadows only get bigger and better if you continue hiking up the trail. A good objective is Bench Mark Mountain, a 7.2 mile one way trip from the trailhead. From this 5,816-foot mountain’s elongated summit savor dazzling displays of wildflowers and jaw-slacking views of peaks that span the horizons.

**Contact Info:** Skykomish Ranger District: Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 677-2414, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs
Portage Creek
Wetland wandering on the Stillaguamish Floodplain

Roundtrip: 1.2 miles
Elevation Gain: none
Hiking Season: Year round
Notes: Kid friendly; dogs prohibited; trail prone to flooding during periods of heavy rainfall
Driving Directions: From Everett, follow I-5 north to Exit 208. Head east on SR 530 for 2.3 miles turning right onto 59th Ave NE. Continue for .2 mile and turn right into Portage Creek Wildlife Area. Follow gravel road for .1 mile to parking area and trailhead.
Contact Info: Snohomish County Parks and Recreation, (360) 435-3441, www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks

Located just outside bustling Smokey Point, the Portage Creek Wildlife Area is a wonderful family-friendly destination. Occupying 157 acres on the Stillaguamish River floodplain, this former peat and dairy farm became a wildlife area in 1995.

The area has gone through some big changes in the past few years. The old barn has been removed. The loop trails no longer exist either (trail maps on site and on the county’s website have yet to reflect this). Now a single trail traverses the property from the new trailhead to the old trailhead. Why the changes? A consortium of organizations has restored the property to a more natural state. The old farm roads (used for trails) disrupted creek flow. The result has been a more diverse and healthy ecosystem.

Follow the wide trail east across open fields with good views to the Cascades foothills. Soon turn left and head south across wetlands lined with alder, dogwood, and other replanted native species. Be sure to stop at the interpretive signs along the way—and stop too at the benches to sit and observe the surrounding brush for bird, amphibians and small mammals. After crossing two bridges the trail bends west to travel along a row of big cottonwoods. At .6 mile reach the old trailhead and barn site. Before retracing your steps, check out the nearby wetland pool which in spring is filled with the racket of nesting birds and amorous frogs.
Hike deep into a canyon and deep into history. The Lime Kiln Trail travels through the heart of Snohomish County’s 970-acre Robe Canyon Historic Park. The Park protects over seven miles of frontage along the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River, as well as preserves an old town site and a century old lime kiln. The kiln, located about 2.6 miles up the trail, is a 20-foot tall stone structure once used to cook limestone. The powdered lime was then transported by rail to smelters and mills in Everett.

The hike begins on a rolling course through second growth timber. In .5 mile the trail enters the park and swings by Hubbard Pond. It then descends into a cool, lush, emerald ravine, emerging on a bench high above the roaring waters of the “Stilly.” Now utilizing the former rail bed of the old Everett and Monte Cristo Railway, the trail travels upriver through a narrow canyon. Built in 1892 and abandoned in 1934, this rail line was used for transporting ore and tourists.

Under a canopy of towering moss-draped maples, the trail continues on its way to the old lime kiln. Pass scores of historic relics littering the forest floor. Old saw blades, bricks, bottles, stove parts, and bed frames testify that this remote locale once supported a thriving community, Cut-off Junction (please leave all artifacts in place for others to enjoy). The lime kiln lies just ahead, and remains remarkably intact.

Beyond the old kiln, continue for another .8 mile to where a bridge once spanned the river. A short loop path takes off left to a gravel bar on the river. It’s a perfect spot to sit and reflect on the area’s history and natural beauty.
Rising one vertical mile above the surrounding countryside and perched on the western edge of the Cascades, Mount Pilchuck packs some of the best panoramic viewing around. From its historic and restored fire lookout scan the horizons from Rainier to Baker; Glacier Peak to the Olympics; and Seattle to the San Juan Islands. One of the most popular hikes in Washington, expect plenty of company along the way.

Snow often lingers late on Pilchuck making a normally moderate hike in August potentially dangerous in June. Exercise caution and turn around if trail is icy or snow covered.

Starting on what was once a service road; skirt the base of an old ski area soon entering mature forest. At .7 mile pass through a scree slope offering a small scenic taste of what lies ahead. The trail then rounds the mountain’s northwest shoulder breaking out into heather and granite gardens.

Climbing more steeply now, the trail angles for a saddle between the summit and Little Pilchuck; then wraps around the mountain’s south side to the summit block. Enjoy a short boulder scramble for the final hundred feet to the attractive lookout. You can easily while away the time within the lookout—a virtual museum with its many historic exhibits. But the real attraction lies outside—one of the finest and most extensive views in the Cascades!
Cradled in a rugged cirque at the base of Mount Pilchuck’s sheer northern face, Lake Twentytwo is a stunning sight. But, this hike offers plenty of delights in addition to the sparkling alpine lake. The well-built trail traverses one of the most impressive stands of primeval forest in the region. And ambling beside Twentytwo Creek for a short ways, there are cascades and waterfalls to be mesmerized by as well.

The trail immediately enters a Research Natural Area of nearly 800 acres set aside in 1947. The purpose was to allow for the study of the effects on water, wildlife, and timber in an area left in its virgin state compared to a similar area that has been intensively managed. Western hemlock and silver fir are the predominant species in this tract, but it’s the western red cedars that will gain most of your attention. Some of these trees are gargantuan, measuring almost 12 feet in diameter.

The trail starts up a side hill paralleling the road and the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River. In .5 mile, cross Twentytwo Creek on a little bridge by a pretty series of cascades. Then begin to climb. It’s a steady ascent, but not too steep. After about 2.0 miles cross a talus slope punctuated with maples that’s pretty in fall. Reenter an impressive stand of ancient conifers and climb once more meeting back up with Twentytwo Creek. Soon afterward enter the impressive and rocky cirque housing Lake Twentytwo. Beneath Pilchuck’s impressive vertical walls of rock, the lake’s setting is stunning. Snow lingers in the basin well into summer. Waterfalls crash down the sheer cliffs. In early season, so do avalanches, so stay well away. By mid-summer however, it’s safe to circumnavigate the lake on a delightful 1.2 mile trail.
Cutthroat Lakes
Scenic tarns tucked in heather and huckleberry patches

Roundtrip: 9 miles
Elevation Gain: 1,900 feet
Hiking Season: July to November
Maps: Silverton WA- No. 110; Index, WA- No. 142
Notes: NW Forest Pass required; dog friendly

Driving Directions: From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 18 miles turning right onto FR 4030 (turnoff is just before Red Bridge). Continue for 1.3 miles turning right onto FR 4032. Proceed for 5.7 miles to trailhead at road end (limited parking-more space available .25 mile back on road).

Follow the Walt Bailey Trail to a series of small alpine lakes scattered about the rugged slopes of Bald Mountain. Walt and his Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) buddies built this trail not in the 1930s, but in the 1990s, when they were in their 70s! Start your hike on the edge of an old cut on Mallardy Ridge. Enter mature forest and begin an up-and-down, but always delightful journey through stands of impressive timber, bountiful berry patches, and bird and bug boasting bogs. At about 1.0 mile enter WA DNR’s Mount Pilchuck Natural Resource Conservation Area, an area off limits to logging and road building. After reaching a 3,640-foot high point the trail drops 200 feet to parkland meadows.

Now skirt a cliff, cross a rocky avalanche slope, and drop another 200 feet. Then start climbing again—steeply. After 3.0 miles, arrive at the first of the Cutthroat Lakes; a series of small tarns surrounded by heather meadows tucked beneath the long ridge of Bald Mountain. Campsites dot the area, and social paths diverge in every direction. Treat these fragile meadows with care by avoiding traveling on the paths that cut across heather patches.

After admiring reflecting peaks in the placid waters, consider carrying on to higher ground. The trail continues another mile climbing 500 more feet to connect with the Bald Mountain Trail. Turn right and amble for a half mile through gorgeous meadows on the slopes of Bald Mountain. Enjoy breathtaking views out over Puget Sound, to Mount Rainier, and directly below to the Spada Reservoir. Bald Mountain’s 4,851-foot rocky summit requires some scrambling, but experienced hikers may not find it too difficult.

Contact Info: Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (360) 436-1155, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791
Big Four Ice Caves

Admire the snowy catacombs of the Mountain Loop Highway

Roundtrip: 2.2 miles  
Elevation Gain: 200 feet  
Hiking Season: May to November  
Maps: Green Trails, Silverton WA- No. 110  
Notes: NW Forest Pass required; kid friendly; dogs permitted on leash; Ice Caves are extremely dangerous to enter. Stay away and off of them.  
Driving Directions: From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 26 miles to trailhead. Alternative approach from Big Four Picnic Area located .5 mile west of trailhead.  
Contact Info: Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (360) 436-1155, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791

Formed by cascading water and warm winds hollowing out heaps of avalanche-deposited snow, Big Four Mountain’s impressive ice caves have been attracting admirers for decades. A grand hotel once stood at what is now the picnic area where thousands of train-arriving tourists came for an eloquent ice cave get-away. The caves usually appear by mid-summer, and fluctuate in size from year to year.

From the trailhead a paved path heads right a quarter-mile on a former rail bed to the picnic grounds. It’s worth the diversion for the views and to learn more about the hotel that stood there from 1921 to 1949. Then follow a trail from the hotel site .25 mile across wetlands to a junction. The trail left returns to your vehicle. Continue straight to a bridge crossing the South Fork Stillaguamish River and another soon afterwards spanning Ice Creek.

Now on wide tread, the trail gently winds through open forest. After crossing Ice Creek once more, reach the ice caves in a barren flat beneath the north face of Big Four Mountain. Cascades crash down sheer vertical walls helping to hollow out the caves. Feel free to walk across the rocky flats to get a closer peek at the caves. But, absolutely do not venture into the caves or onto them as they are prone to collapsing.
Pretty Perry Creek offers a much quieter and somewhat easier alternative to nearby Mount Dickerman. The grade is gentle at first, but the way can be rocky. Look up across the valley to Stillaguamish Peak's long meadow-capped ridge. Look down the valley to Big Four's imposing north face. And look straight up Mount Dickerman's frightening cliffs.

At about 3.4 miles the trail enters magnificent old-growth and meets up with Perry Creek cascading down a deep, narrow cleft. After admiring the falls (with care) cross the creek, usually just a rock hop by late summer. From here the way gets steeper.

At 5.1 miles, reach an unmarked junction. The way left is an abandoned but well-used trail traveling 1.5 miles through magnificent meadows to Stillaguamish Peak. Good tread stops on a high knoll granting spectacular viewing of remote and enchanting South Lake. Beyond, the route is strictly for experienced scramblers.

The main trail continues right, steeply climbing another 300 feet to a small bench of meadows and tarns. Soak up splendid views of nearby prominent peaks; Big Four, Glacier, Pugh, and Forgotten. And speaking of Forgotten, that 6,005-foot peak can be reached by continuing on a sketchy way trail. It’s best saved for hardcore peak-baggers. Enjoy the meadows.

**Roundtrip**: 11 miles  
**Elevation Gain**: 3,400 feet  
**Hiking Season**: mid-July through October  
**Maps**: Green Trails, Sloan Peak, WA- No. 111  
**Notes**: NW Forest Pass required; dog friendly  
**Driving Directions**: From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 27 miles to trailhead at Mount Dickerman Trail.  
**Contact Info**: Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (360) 436-1155, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791
Monte Cristo and Glacier Basin

A Ghost town and an eerie enchanting alpine basin

Roundtrip: 8 miles / 12.5 miles
Elevation Gain: 500 feet / 2,050 feet
Hiking Season: June to November / mid-July to mid-October
Maps: Green Trails, Sloan Peak, WA- No. 111, Monte Cristo, WA- No. 143
Notes: NW Forest Pass required; bridge currently out requiring ford (unsafe in high water); dog friendly
Driving Directions: From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 31 miles to Barlow Pass. Hike begins on gated Monte Cristo Road.

Deserted and fading into the annals of history, Monte Cristo is a bona fide Ghost Town. Surrounded by dark forest and lofty rugged peaks, Monte Cristo once thrived with hardscrabble fortune seekers. Ore was transported from mountains to the town via tramways and then sent to Everett by rail. Today, only a few structures remain of the once booming gold and silver mining town of 2,000. By the 1930s the town was abandoned. A county road built to the site in the 1940s and the conversion of some old hotels to mountain resorts failed to resurrect the town. In 1980 the road was abandoned by the county. The Monte Cristo Preservation Association has since restored (somewhat) the road, but only members and property owners are allowed to drive it, though it’s open to hikers and bicyclists.

From Barlow Pass follow the old road south along the South Fork of the Sauk River. Take a bypass around a huge washout before coming to a river crossing in one mile. Search for a log or ford (safe only in low water). Continue for another 3.0 miles enjoying excellent river and mountain viewing along the way. After passing a campground, cross the river on a good bridge entering the old town. Enjoy snooping around, but respect private property and leave all relics for others to enjoy.

For Glacier Basin: Locate the trailhead in the town site near 76 Creek. Hike up what was once Dumas Street, the commercial artery of Monte Cristo. Continue, heading up an increasingly tighter and wilder valley coming to a steep worn-to-bedrock gully. Using caution, work your way up this tough stretch of trail. Pause to enjoy a waterfall. The grade eventually eases while Glacier Creek flows beside you crashing through rock and snow.

If the water level is low continue on grassy bottomlands. If flooded, pick your way though talus on the original miner’s road located above. A small cascade marks the entrance to Glacier Basin, a wide expanse of boulder, moraine, snowfields, bubbling creeks, and wildflowers beneath a cluster of jagged ice-adorned peaks. Savor the beauty of this rugged and enchanting place.

Contact Info: Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (360) 436-1155, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791
Goat Lake
A great place for the kids

Roundtrip: 10 miles
Elevation Gain: 1,400 feet
Hiking Season: late-May to November
Maps: Green Trails, Sloan Peak, WA- No. 111
Notes: NW Forest Pass required; kid and dog friendly
Driving Directions: From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 34.5 miles turning right onto FR 4080. Follow for .8 mile to road end and trailhead.

An all day hike to a pleasant wilderness lake, but don't let the distance scare you. The going is fairly easy and the grade gentle enough. One of the larger and more popular lakes off of the Mountain Loop Highway, Goat has been attracting tourists for over a century. A grand hotel once graced its northern shore. And not far from Goat's outlet, at the base of a tumbling cascade, a busy little mining community once stood. A campsite has replaced the hotel and nothing remains except for a few decaying relics of the late 19th century settlement. The lake however, is once again in a wild state—and completely protected within the 103,591-acre Henry M. Jackson Wilderness.

Two trails lead to Goat and they can be combined to form a loop. Take the one left (the easier one) to begin. Following an abandoned logging road this trail meets up with the other one in about 3.5 miles. After another half mile enter the Jackson Wilderness. Traverse a lush grove of old-growth cedar before climbing to the lake basin. Pass magnificent McIntosh Falls en route.

Five miles from the trailhead, sparkling Goat Lake is reached. Continue along the lake's northern shore for delightful spots to picnic or swim. The old hotel once stood at this locale. Enjoy views of impressive Cadet Peak hovering above the lake. On your return follow the Elliot Creek Trail out alongside the tumbling waterway and through patches of old-growth forest.

Contact Info: Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (360) 436-1155, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791
Crystal Lake
Glacier Peak Wilderness Lake
once again welcomes hikers

Roundtrip: 9 miles
Elevation Gain: 2,150 feet
Hiking Season: July through October
Maps: Green Trails, Sloan Peak, WA- No. 111
Notes: Dog friendly
Driving Directions: Take Exit 208 off of I-5 following SR 530 east for 32 miles to Darrington. Then head south on the Mountain Loop Highway proceeding 9.0 miles turning left onto FR 23. Drive 5.8 miles turning left onto FR 2700. Continue for another 2.4 miles to trailhead.

A tranquil lake at the edge of the Glacier Peak Wilderness, chances are you’ll have this place to yourself. Access to this trail has just recently reopened, and the word hasn’t quite gotten out yet that Crystal Lake is once again welcoming hikers!

Much of this hike as well as the adjacent trail to Meadow Lake utilize old logging roads. Begin by following an old road bed. Climb a couple of hundred feet and then lose that gained elevation coming to a junction at 1.6 miles. Take the trail left. The grade is fairly easy for two miles on old road bed to an old cut. Then with Crystal Creek cascading alongside the trail, the way heads steeply up an old fire line.

Once above the old cut, the trail resumes a saner grade and enters beautiful old-growth forest and the Glacier Peak Wilderness. A quarter mile farther, Crystal Lake with its meadowy shores greets you. If you want views and are feeling energetic, from the lake’s outlet you can follow the Circle Peak Trail through forest and meadow to just below the 5,983-foot peak. From the old lookout site enjoy sweeping views of peaks near and far. Especially striking are Washington’s “three Matterhorns;” White Chuck, Pugh, and Sloan.
Old Sauk Trail

Stroll alongside salmon rearing waters

A major tributary to the federally-protected Wild and Scenic Skagit River, the Sauk also provides critical habitat for salmon. And like the Skagit, this mighty river also provides winter habitat for hundreds of bald eagles who come down from Alaska each winter to feast on spawning salmon. With an elevation below 1,000 feet, the Old Sauk River Trail rarely sees snow making it a choice destination for winter wandering.

The trail begins in a thick stand of mature forest. Selectively logged during the 1930s, many old-growth Douglas-fir trees still stand. After about .75 mile, you’ll finally reach the river. Behold its beauty and ever changing mood. In the wet months the river’s volume and currents increase; often leading it to jump its banks. Determined volunteers however, make sure to restore any tread that the river periodically claims.

Continue alongside the churning river through attractive woods. Walk this way in springtime and be treated to brilliant displays of wildflowers. Thousands of trillium, dwarf dogwood, wood violet, twin flower, and star flower carpet the forest floor. The trail briefly leaves the river to follow a quiet channel. Look here for beaver signs. At 2.75 miles the trail leaves the Sauk and its raucous bellowing behind. Briefly following Murphy Creek through a tunnel of moss-draped maples and under a canopy of towering cottonwoods the trail reaches its southern terminus on the Mountain Loop Highway. A new wheelchair accessible trail (located two miles south of trailhead on Mountain Loop Highway) connecting to the Old Sauk Trail should be opened by 2013.

**Roundtrip:** 6 miles  
**Elevation Gain:** 150 feet  
**Hiking Season:** Year round  
**Maps:** Green Trails, Silverton, WA- no. 110  
**Notes:** NW Forest Pass required; kid and dog friendly

**Driving Directions:** From Darrington follow Mountain Loop Highway south for 3.5 miles to trailhead.

**Contact Info:** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs
Squire Creek Pass

Big cedars, polished granite and an awesome view of Three Fingers

Roundtrip: 6 miles
Elevation Gain: 2,300 feet
Hiking Season: mid-July through October
Maps: Green Trails Silverton – No. 110
Notes: Access road requires high clearance vehicles; dog friendly
Driving Directions: From Darrington, follow the Mountain Loop Highway for 2.8 miles turning right onto FR 2060 (across from Clear Creek Campground). Follow this rough road for 5.5 miles bearing right onto FR 2065. Reach trailhead after .5 mile.

The popular way up Squire Creek Pass, the Squire Creek Trail is no longer recommended due to the threat of rock fall. The Forest Service is advising hikers to stay off of it. The good news however, is that the spectacular pass can still be reached by taking the less known Eightmile Creek Trail. It’s in decent shape, abounds with views and passes through an impressive stand of old-growth.

Starting on an old road through an old cut, the way enters the Boulder Creek Wilderness after about a half mile. Weave around and beneath some of the largest and oldest cedars in western Washington. Now climbing more steeply, the trail crosses an open avalanche chute granting good views to the cliffs of Helena Peak. There are some impressive cliffs above you too; and it’s quite possible a handful of climbers may be clambering up them.

The way then reenters primeval forest, skirts a slick rock creek bed, and resumes steadily climbing. Cross numerous slick rock creeks and traverse bountiful huckleberry patches. At 3.0 miles reach 4,075-foot Squire Creek Pass adorned with shiny granite slabs and blocks. Enjoy breathtaking views of Three Fingers, Whitehorse Mountain, and Jumbo Mountain. They form a large and forbidding wall around the pass. Scramble easy ledge south for even better views—and good berry picking opportunities, too!
Whitehorse Trail

Walk the line—an old rail line to Darrington

Roundtrip: 12 miles
Elevation Gain: 100 feet
Hiking Season: Year round
Maps: Green Trails Darrington, WA- No. 78
Notes: Kid friendly; dogs permitted on leash.

Driving Directions: From Exit 208 on I-5 (Arlington) travel east on SR 530 for 26.5 miles to Swede Heaven Road junction. Turn left and reach trailhead in .5 mile. Limited parking; consider parking at Swede Heaven Rd-SR 530 junction and walking road to trail. Alternatively, you can start from the east trailhead near Darrington Ranger Station. Walk Price Street west a short distance to reach trail near Railroad Avenue.

Contact Info: Snohomish County Parks, (425) 388-6600, www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks

Make tracks to the Whitehorse Trail; Snohomish County’s next great long distance rail trail. Like the Centennial Trail, the Whitehorse Trail promises to be popular with hikers, bicyclists, walkers and equestrians. But unlike the Centennial Trail which travels north-south along the suburban fringe of the county, the Whitehorse travels west-east into the wilder, rugged interior of the county. Traveling 27 miles from Arlington to Darrington, much of this delightful trail runs alongside the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River. However, currently only the western six miles near Arlington and the eastern six miles near Darrington are open and maintained.

From Swede Heaven Road, head east into thick forest soon coming to a bridged crossing of Moose Creek. About a mile farther come to Squire Creek, crossing it on an attractive trestle. Just beyond, finally catch some glimpses of the North Fork Stilly. The trail eventually brushes right up against the rippling waterway. Enjoy excellent views here of Mount Higgins, Round Mountain, and Segelsen Ridge.

Continue eastward across the grounds of the Stillaguamish Country Club. Then cross a power line swath and reenter forest traversing lush wetlands. Take in good views of surrounding peaks including the trail’s namesake, imposing glacier-clad 6,852-foot Whitehorse Mountain. Approaching town, the trail edges up against a logging yard before it terminates near an old Forest Service barn. Begin the six mile journey back to your vehicle or walk a few minutes down Price Street to visit the Darrington Ranger Station before making your return.
The Boulder River Trail makes for a good hike anytime of the year. Take to this trail to avoid summer heat, savor autumn color, spot spring wildflowers, or to be wooed by waterfalls swollen by winter rains. But the one thing on this trail that remains constant throughout the year is the trees. They’re ancient, grand and awe inspiring! The moss-draped giants of the Boulder River Valley make up one of the last remaining low-country old-growth forests remaining in Snohomish County. Protected within the 49,000 acre Boulder River Wilderness, this primeval forest is as impressive as the wild river they embrace.

The Boulder River Trail travels 4.3 miles into a deep canyon. Numerous waterfalls tumble down the narrow canyon walls into the rushing river. These cascades are especially impressive during the winter and spring rains. And because this trail remains at such a low elevation (950 to 1,550 feet), it is rarely covered in snow, allowing for year-round wilderness hiking.

At about one mile, pass the wilderness boundary and soon afterwards reach a spectacular unnamed twin waterfall crashing down into the river. This is a good turn around spot for young children and hikers who just need a quick wilderness fix. For those intent to carry on, the trail continues up the moisture-laden emerald valley ending at a campsite along the river. It once crossed the river and continued all the way to Tupso Pass and Three Fingers. Long abandoned, the forest has reclaimed it. Retrace your steps back to the trailhead to once again admire the ancient giants and cascading waters.

**Roundtrip:** 8.6 miles  
**Elevation Gain:** 750 feet  
**Hiking Season:** Year round  
**Maps:** Green Trails, Oso, WA- No. 77, Granite Falls, WA- No. 109  
**Notes:** Kid and dog friendly  
**Driving Directions:** From Arlington follow SR 530 for 20 miles. Just beyond Milepost 41 near a subdivision turn right onto FR 2010 and continue for 3.7 miles to trailhead.  
**Contact Info:** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs
### Hotels & Motels

#### Arlington
- Arlington Motor Inn, Arlington ........................................ 360-652-9595
- Medalion Hotel, Arlington ................................................. 888-317-0499
- Quality Inn, Arlington .................................................. 866-966-7829
- Snokey Point Motor Inn, Arlington .................................. 360-659-8561

#### Bothell
- Comfort Inn & Suites, Bothell ........................................... 800-424-6423
- Extended Stay America, Bothell ...................................... 800-EXT-STAY
- Extended Stay Deluxe, Bothell ........................................ 800-EXT-STAY
- Hilton Garden Inn, Bothell .................................................. 800-STAY-HGI
- Holiday Inn Express - Canyon Park, Bothell ..................... 800-465-4329
- SpringHill Suites by Marriott, Bothell .......................... 888-287-9400

#### Darrington
- Darrington Motor Inn, Darrington .................................. 360-436-1776

#### Edmonds
- Americas Best Value Inn, Edmonds ................................. 888-315-2378
- Andy’s Motel, Edmonds ................................................ 425-776-6080
- Best Western Plus Edmonds Harbor Inn, Edmonds .......... 800-441-8033
- Golden West Motel, Edmonds ......................................... 425-771-3447
- K & E Motor Inn, Edmonds ............................................. 800-787-2181
- St Francis Motel, Edmonds ........................................... 425-775-0496
- Travelodge Seattle North/Edmonds, Edmonds ............... 425-771-8008

#### Everett
- Best Inn, Everett ........................................................ 425-355-1570
- Best Western Cascadia Inn, Everett ............................... 800-822-5876
- Best Western Navigator Inn & Suites, Everett ............. 877-488-0510
- Days Inn, Everett ....................................................... 800-329-7466
- Everett Motel, Inc., Everett .......................................... 425-252-6062
- Extended Stay America, Everett .................................. 800-EXT-STAY
- Extended Stay Deluxe, Everett ...................................... 800-EXT-STAY
- Far West Motel, Everett ................................................ 425-355-3007
- Holiday Inn Downtown Everett, Everett ......................... 866-700-1188
- Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Everett .............. 800-465-4329
- Inn at Port Gardner, Everett ......................................... 888-252-6779
- La Quinta Inn, Everett .................................................. 425-347-9099
- Motel 6 Everett North, Everett ..................................... 800-466-8356
- Motel 6 Everett South, Everett ..................................... 800-466-8356
- Motel Express, Everett .................................................. 425-259-6131

#### Gold Bar
- Stevens Pass Motel, Gold Bar ....................................... 360-793-6633
- Wallace Falls Lodge, Gold Bar ..................................... 888-337-7492

#### Lynnwood
- Best Lynnwood Motor Inn, Lynnwood ............................. 425-778-2808
- Best Western Alderwood, Lynnwood ............................... 800-205-6935
- Courtyard by Marriott, Lynnwood ................................ 800-321-2211
- Days Inn, Lynnwood ................................................... 800-225-3297
- Embassy Suites Hotel, Lynnwood .................................. 800-628-0611
- Extended Stay America, Lynnwood ............................... 800-EXT-STAY
- Hampton Inn and Suites, Lynnwood .............................. 800-771-8555
- Holiday Inn Express, Lynnwood .................................... 800-261-9168
- Hotel International, Lynnwood ...................................... 800-626-5750
- La Quinta Inn, Lynnwood ............................................. 800-775-0805
- Residence Inn by Marriott, Lynnwood ......................... 800-331-3131
- Rodeo Inn, Lynnwood .................................................. 425-774-7700

#### Marysville
- Best Western Tulalip Inn, Marysville ............................... 800-481-4004
- City Center Motel, Marysville ........................................ 360-659-2424
- Comfort Inn Marysville, Marysville ................................ 800-4-CHOICE
- Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Marysville ........... 800-664-9491
- Village Inn & Suites, Marysville .................................. 877-628-9233

#### Monroe
- Best Western Sky Valley Inn, Monroe ............................. 800-528-1234
- Fairground Inn Motel, Monroe ........................................ 360-794-5401
- GuestHouse Intl. Inn & Suites, Monroe ......................... 800-21-GUEST
- Monroe Motel, Monroe .................................................. 360-794-6751

#### Mountlake Terrace
- Studio 6, Mountlake Terrace ......................................... 425-771-3139

#### Mukilteo
- Extended Stay America, Mukilteo ................................. 800-EXT-STAY
- Hilton Garden Inn, Mukilteo .......................................... 877-STAY-HGI
### Silver Cloud Inn, Mukilteo
- Address: ...........................
- Phone: 800-311-1461

### Staybridge Suites, Mukilteo
- Address: ...........................
- Phone: 800-261-9168

### TownePlace Suites by Marriott, Mukilteo
- Address: ...........................
- Phone: 800-257-3000

### Snohomish
- Snohomish Inn, Snohomish
  - Address: ...........................
  - Phone: 800-548-9993

### Sultan
- Dutch Cup Motel, Sultan
  - Address: ...........................
  - Phone: 800-844-0488

### Stanwood
- Stanwood Hotel, Stanwood
  - Address: ...........................
  - Phone: 360-629-2888

### Tulalip
- Tulalip Resort Casino & Spa, Tulalip
  - Address: ...........................
  - Phone: 866-716-7162

### Bed & Breakfasts

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### Cabins & Vacations Rentals

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### RV Parks & Campgrounds

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<td>Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe</td>
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<td>Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest</td>
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* Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Campgrounds . . . . 877-444-6777

www.snohomish.org
This guide made possible in part by assistance from the Snohomish County Hotel-Motel Tax Fund.

A Note About Safety

Your safety is important. The description of roads, trails, routes, and natural features in this book are not representations that a particular place or excursion will be safe for your party. You assume responsibility for your own safety. Producers of this guide cannot be held responsible for weather, road, and trail conditions. Keeping informed on current conditions such as attention to traffic, road, and trail conditions, weather, terrain, the capabilities of your party, and other factors as well as exercising common sense are the keys to a safe, enjoyable outing.