

Mountain Loop Itinerary

*Snohomish County, Washington
Minutes North of Seattle*

Wild and scenic rivers, waterfalls, alpine lakes, scenic vistas and old growth forests provide activities for nearly everyone on the 55-mile Mountain Loop scenic byway in Snohomish County.

Day 1

Start in **Everett** and proceed northeast to [Granite Falls](#).

(30 minutes) Visit the [Granite Falls Fish Ladder](#) – built in 1954 to assist Salmon and Steelhead ascend the river.

(30 minutes) [Verlot Public Service Center](#) open daily May through September provides National Forest, maps, books and friendly service. Pick up the 'self-guided tour' brochure for interpreting sites along your walk through historic compound.

(One to two hours – depending on hiking interest and capability of group) [Big Four Ice Caves National Recreation Trail](#). This 1-mile hike accommodates walkers of all ages and abilities. The trail begins on a boardwalk along beaver ponds and winds through the forest to an elevated bridge over the river. The trail becomes more narrow as it climbs gently to the ice caves. The caves are actually a snow filled avalanche from **Big Four Mountain**, where the 'caves' form late in the summer as warm air flows down slope and under the snowpack. DO NOT ENTER THE CAVES, but view from the mouth of the caves and enjoy the scenic mountain cliffs.

(One to three hours depending on festival participation) [Darrington](#) is nestled at the base of the 6825 ft **Whitehorse Mountain** and is one of the main gateways to North Cascade Mountains. Stop for lunch at a local or bakery. Summer Darrington events include the [Darrington Blue Grass Festival](#), a rodeo, [Darrington Summer Meltdown Music Festival](#) and **National Archery Tournament**.

(One and one-half hours) Visit [The Outback Kangaroo Farm](#). Wander through a wildlife park in a guided 40-minute tour. Hand feed kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos. Learn about llamas and alpacas, pygmy goats and ostrich. Gift shop. Open daily March 1 through October 30.

(One and one-half hours) Final stop on your tour is dinner in [Arlington](#). Arlington began as a lumber town with shingle mills, sawmills, and logging camps and today there are still many historical buildings that add to Arlington's small town charm. Dine in a local cafe or steak house. Overnight at [Wyndham Garden](#) in Arlington or head over to the [Angel of the Winds Casino Resort](#) in Arlington.

Additional information:

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