

## **Snohomish County Waterways and Wildlife**

*Snohomish County, Washington*

*Minutes North of Seattle*

Snohomish County: Nestled between the sparkling blue waters of Puget Sound and the rugged, snow-capped peaks of the Cascade Mountains. Spectacular forest and mountain wildlife sanctuaries and unlimited opportunities for outdoor adventure.

### ***Day One***

(One to six hours depending on interest) [River rafting](#) in the Northwest is a spectacular experience and wildlife viewing by water is the best way to explore hidden places. The **Skykomish River** surrounds you with thundering waterfalls, awesome granite gorges, amazing mountain landscapes and old-growth forests brimming with foliage and wildlife. Fall, winter, spring and summer trips...white water to scenic float trips. (*Rafting location varies with the desired experience. White water will be found further east in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains (up to 1 hour away) or just 30 minutes east for a calmer river float trip.*)

(Two hours) "Get Sauced Safely" Cooking Italian with Washington Wines. Learn the secrets of preparing 5 versatile sauces, which are the foundation of Italian cuisine. Master a fresh and simple Marinara, the perfect Pesto, a delicate Carbonnara, an awesome Alfredo, and a magically simple Marsala. Each sauce will be demonstrated and served with a pasta or meat dish, and paired with a matching wine from Washington State. You'll discover why Washington wines work so well with Italian food, and after the class we'll provide you with recipes so that you can share your delicious new skills with family and friends. [Lombardi's Neighborhood Italian](#) at the Everett marina. .

### ***Day Two***

(Four hours) With our natural scenic beauty, nature-based tours are our specialty! [Grey whale or Orca whale watching](#) near the San Juan Islands give visitors a glimpse of local wildlife and habitat. Customized for small groups or scheduled tours from March through October.

(Two hours) Lunch nearby in Mukilteo at [Ivar's Mukilteo Landing](#). Feast on their famous seafood and delectable northwest cuisine while watching the Mukilteo-Whidbey Island Ferry come and go from the adjacent dock.

(One hour) End your day's itinerary at the [Tulalip Fish Hatchery](#) on the Tulalip Indian Reservation.

(Two to three hours depending on interest) For afternoon and evening entertainment, try your luck at the [Tulalip Resort Casino & Spa](#)! Indulge in fun and entertainment! Casino games, slot machines, live entertainment stage and gift shop will keep you busy after you dine at one of the restaurants on site. [Blackfish Bar & Grill](#) offers a seafood centric menu paying tribute to regional Northwest ingredients and Tulalip tradition. Think local oysters shucked to order, fresh caught fish and shellfish boards, to grilled steaks and chicken. Long a staple of the Tulalip Tribe dining, salmon is prepared using traditional tribal techniques over an open fire pit. Or for a more casual experience, The [Eagles Buffet](#) offers international dishes of the finest cuisine, hand-picked from a myriad of exotic places as well as fresh seafood and traditional American delights. An in-house action bakery & exquisite desserts complete your dining experience. From sumptuous culinary artistry to traditional open fire pit cooking, Tulalip Resort Casino showcases some of the best Seattle area restaurants.

### ***Day Three***

(Two hours) Start your day off with a tour of the [Snohomish River Estuary](#), popularly known as the "Everett Everglades." Over 350 species of migratory birds pass through the largest wetland near an urban center on the west coast. Eagles, falcon, heron, and seabirds make their home in the 1400 acre estuary wetlands. Your experience begins at the [Northwest Stream Center](#). This environmental education and interpretive facility located at [McCollum Park](#) in Everett is a restored wetland. This wetland and salmon stream was heavily impacted by urban development. The **Adopt-A-Stream Foundation** located the Northwest Stream Center on these grounds as a project to restore the wetland once buried by a parking lot! New spawning beds and fish habitat structures, and diverse habitats including wetland, mixed forest and salmon spawning stream are located within the 20-acre site.

(Two hours) After your educational experience, (*15 minutes north of the Northwest Stream Center*) explore the wetlands by kayak. Kayaking is a great way to view wildlife, and the [Ebey Island estuary wetlands reserve](#) has sloughs and rivers to get you close.

Or build an appetite with a hike along [Lund's Gulch Trail in Meadowdale Beach Park](#). Visitors can stroll through the park's corridor on the trail and experience the sounds of Lund's Gulch Creek as it weaves its way through the giant trees of the old forest to Puget Sound. The stream, which is home to various aquatic life, including freshwater fish and migrating salmon, forms a small marine estuary as it empties into Puget Sound. One can view various bird species in their natural habitat, comb the beaches and enjoy breathtaking views of the Olympic Mountains. The trail ends on the shore of the Puget Sound, a perfect spot for an afternoon picnic.

(One to two hours) Lunch nearby. Retreat to any one of the beautiful waterfront restaurants in [Everett](#) or [Mukilteo](#) where you can watch the sun set over the Olympic Mountains while sipping a wonderful Washington wine or warming cup of world-renown coffee.

(One hour) For a less active approach to wildlife viewing, the [Edmonds Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary](#) trail interpretive signs border the marshland and bird watchers are rewarded during spring and fall migration. **Deer Creek Fish Hatchery** is another suggested stop in this waterfront community. The hatchery releases over 100,000 salmon annually.

(One to two hours) Dinner. Head to the **Edmonds** waterfront to enjoy the view of the marina and the Olympic Peninsula while dining at [Arnies Restaurant](#) or [Anthony's Home Port & Beach Cafe](#) restaurants for a delightful meal.

#### Additional information:

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