

LaConner Excursions



LaConner Chamber of Commerce
606 Morris Street, La Conner, WA 98257
360-466-4778, 888-642-9284
<http://www.laconnerchamber.com/>
info@laconnerchamber.com



The Channel Lodge

Waterfront boutique hotel with 24 rooms featuring private balconies, gas

fireplaces, Jacuzzi bathtubs, spa services, continental breakfast, business center, conference room, and evening music and wine bar in the lobby. Transient boat dock adjoins the waterfront landing for hotel guests and visitors.

PO Box 573, LaConner, WA 98257

888-466-4113, 360-466-3101

www.laconnerlodging.com

cc@laconnerldoging.com



LaConner Country Inn

Downtown boutique hotel with 28 rooms providing gas fireplaces, Jacuzzi bathtubs, continental

breakfast, spa services, business center, conference and 40-70 person meeting room facilities including breakout rooms, and adjoining bar and restaurant (Nell Thorne).

PO Box 573, LaConner, WA 98257

888-466-4113, 360-466-3101

www.laconnerlodging.com

cc@laconnerldoging.com



Hotel Planter

Historic downtown hotel listed on the National Register with 12 custom furnished guest rooms, private courtyard, gazebo, and covered hot tub.

715 South First Street, LaConner, WA 98257

360-466-4710, 800-488-5409

www.hotelplanter.com

hotelplanter@aol.com



The Wild Iris Inn

Luxury 18 room bed and breakfast inn with jetted spa tubs,

fireplaces, and private decks or balconies, continental breakfast, located blocks from the historic downtown. Ranked #1 Bed and Breakfast in LaConner by TripAdvisor Members. 121 Maple Avenue, LaConner, WA 98257 800-477-1400, 360-466-1400

www.wildiris.com

desk@wildiris.com



The Heron Inn & Day Spa

Elegant French Country style dog-friendly, bed and breakfast inn with Craftsman

style furnishings, fireplaces, Jacuzzi, full service day spa staffed with massage therapists and estheticians, continental breakfast, located blocks from the historic downtown.

117 Maple Avenue, LaConner, WA 98257

360-399-1074

www.theheroninn.com

innkeeper@theheroninn.com



Katy's Inn

Historic building converted into cozy 4 room bed and breakfast with private baths, wrap-around porch with views, patio, hot tub, continental

breakfast, and cookies and milk at bedtime, located a block from the historic downtown.

503 South Third Street, LaConner, WA 98257

360-466-9909, 866-katysinn

www.katysinn.com

reservations@katysinn.com



Queen of the Valley Inn

Century old farmhouse converted into 4 room bed and breakfast decorated in

Africa, West Indies, and Hong Kong styles with private bathrooms, Jacuzzi or soaking tubs, outdoor hot tub, and continental breakfast served on glassed in porch located in farmland minutes from downtown LaConner.

12757 Chilberg Road, LaConner, WA 98257

888-999-1404, 360-466-4578

www.queenofthevalleyinn.com

innkeeper@queenofthevalleyinn.com

LaConner has a variety of attractions to keep you occupied in the historic downtown, within the surrounding town, on both sides of the Swinomish Channel, and adjacent countryside involving historic landmarks, history, art, and craft museums, art galleries, unique retail shops, coffee, breweries, wine bars, and restaurants.

If you plan on staying for a few days, we also have a variety of excursions to wildlife refuges and nature interpretive centers, farms and farmers markets, hiking trails, biking tours, kayaking tours, whitewater rafting and eagle watching, boat tours and whale watching, historic train rides, airplane rides and flight-seeing, golf courses, museums, art studios and art galleries, live entertainment, and performing theaters for all age groups.

All of these events are within a 10-15 minute drive except for the whitewater raft/eagle watching which is east on SR-20 along the Upper Skagit River up to a 60 minute drive from downtown LaConner and the lodge, inn, hotel, or B&B accommodation you can stay in. In some instances, tour operators will come directly to LaConner to pick you up by van, boat, or plane to transport you to the excursion.

Look over the following excursions possibilities and contact them directly per the phone or e-mail connections listed - and/or check out the websites listed to get more details and current price particulars.

Enjoy your stay in LaConner - for the day or the duration as we have something of unique and quality interest for everyone all of the time.

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Wildlife refuge/interpretive centers



Breazeale-Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) & Interpretive Center

The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is an area of 8,004 acres of estuary. The Breazeale Interpretive Center sits on 64 upland acres and overlooks the Padilla Bay in Bayview. The center provides a place for people of all ages to learn more about estuaries, watersheds, and coastal areas.

The center provides interactive exhibits, saltwater aquaria, hands-on room, curriculum and reference library, meeting rooms, a theater, and trails. Other facilities include a field lab and overnight quarters for visiting researchers. The Breazeale House provides offices for staff and a small meeting room.

The site includes a series of shore and upland trails with interpretive signage explaining the natural history and ecology of the Padilla Bay estuary, as well as the upland meadows and forest habitat. An observation deck at the end of a walkway from the Interpretive Center extends toward the beach and under the roadway with an overlook of the bay. A wheelchair access ramp and spiral stairs lead to the beach.

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
10441 Bayview-Edison Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-9668
360-428-1558
www.padillabay.gov
alex@padillabay.gov

Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve (SHIP)

The Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve, known as "SHIP," is an Anacortes Parks Foundation (APF) interpretive project located next to the Washington State Anacortes Ferry. The site conserves 25 acres of freshwater wetlands, also five acres of upland habitat, and 2,000 feet of sandy beach and subtidal eelgrass beds.

The site is important to the general environment, providing habitat and protecting the quality of the water in the wetland and in adjacent marine areas.

SHIP interpretive projects include public access by means of a defined trail system that protects sensitive areas and provides environmental education about the role and significance of the

beach and wetlands. It will also provide better public access to the wetlands and beach areas.

SHIP participants include the Anacortes Park Foundation, City of Anacortes, Western Washington University's Shannon Point Marine Center, the Anacortes School District, Evergreen Islands, the Port of Anacortes, Washington State Ferry Service, and a group of local citizens.

<http://www.anacortesparksfoundation.org/blog.cfm?BlogByCatUpdate=22&BlogListByUpdate=List>



Skagit Wildlife Area

The Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife manages a number of large and diverse wildlife units in the west half of Skagit County. Most are scattered throughout the west half of Skagit County, with some in Island, Snohomish and San Juan counties. Most are adjacent to Skagit Bay, between the mouths of the north and south forks of the glacier-fed Skagit River, the second largest in the state, adjacent Samish Island, or upstream on the Upper Skagit River.

The various units comprising the Skagit Wildlife Area contain a wide range of estuary- and riparian-dependent aquatic and terrestrial species, as well as federally threatened bald eagles, marbled murrelets, and anadromous Chinook salmon populations.



Samish Unit - 409 acres of agricultural land along the Samish Island Road, west of Highway 237 for improving water management capabilities to better control wetlands in highly altered (diked and drained) systems and to mimic the habitat types that would have occurred naturally across a larger landscape.

Re-establishment of wetland plant communities will support a wider variety of birds that might use these areas during migration or winter. This unit's 23 ponds will provide the foundation for future wetland management options.

Cereal grains are planted on about one half of the acreage for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife. Recreational activities include waterfowl hunting, a weekend youth-only pheasant hunt, and observation of waterfowl, shorebirds, and birds of prey.



Current improvement projects will provide ADA access, a parking area for about 30 vehicles, and a short trail to the first pond.

Telegraph Slough Unit - the construction of State Highway 20 crossing the Swinomish Channel to Fidalgo Island was built through a portion of



Telegraph Slough. This created a shorter inter-tidal slough on the north side of the highway, and a freshwater wetland on the south side.

WDFW manages the unit for waterfowl hunting and wildlife observation. A parking area on the south side of Highway 20 provides access.

Cottonwood Island Unit - is a forested island at the head of the Skagit River delta where it splits into north and south forks on its way to Skagit Bay. The 169-acre parcel is representative of a historic habitat type of the Skagit Valley (prior to logging and development) that supports a variety of forest birds and raptors, primarily butes and eagles. *This unit is closed to the public at this time to protect sensitive wildlife, particularly bald eagle nesting and roosting habitat.*

Fir Island Reserve Unit - is managed agricultural land (225 acres on the south side of Fir Island Road) to create a snow goose reserve. This non-hunted reserve provides a winter-feeding and resting area for snow geese adjacent to the Skagit Bay estuary.

Prior to dike development and conversion to agricultural uses after human settlement, this area was tidally influenced, and the North Fork of the Skagit River flowed through Dry Slough during high flows. This unit is a popular wildlife watching site, and has a gravel road and parking area with access for the disabled.

Headquarters (Skagit) Unit - a 190-acre tidal marsh (estuary) on Fir Island, west of and adjacent to Freshwater Slough, is predominantly vegetated by cattail and sedge and used extensively by waterfowl. To enhance the site for both hunting and viewing opportunities, 100 acres are planted annually with cereal grains (corn, pasture grass and/or barley) by local farmers under sharecrop leases or by wildlife area staff.

This unit includes a visitor information shelter with seating for about 50 people, a parking lot, 2 toilet facilities, 17 footbridges, and holding pens for pheasants released on site for hunting.

The area is heavily used for walk-in waterfowl and pheasant hunting, fishing, bird dog training and bird watching. A 2-mile loop dike-top walking trail attracts dog walkers and joggers.

The management plan for this unit will eventually restore 175 acres to intertidal estuary for salmon and other aquatic species allowing tidal and river flows to recreate channels and provide additional natural estuary habitat.



Island Unit - a 273-acre island on the Skagit River's South Fork is located between Steamboat and Freshwater sloughs. Deepwater Slough meanders through the island's center. The upper half of Deepwater Slough—the principal outgoing channel of the Skagit River's South Fork—was cut off from the river when local settlers built 2 dams, one at each end of the isolated reach, creating one island instead of two.

An estuary restoration project (Deepwater Slough) removed the 2 dams on that slough and reconfigured 14,000 feet of dikes to reconnect flows from Freshwater Slough to 6 tributary channels of the Skagit River. This returned intertidal connectivity to 230 acres of estuary habitat on the island. The project is estimated to provide rearing habitat for up to 2,000 additional Chinook salmon, as well as migratory waterfowl and shorebird habitat.

Waterfowl hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and hiking are allowed; access is by boat to 3 landing sites.

Skagit Bay Estuary Unit - WDFW owns about 13,000 acres of estuary in Skagit, Snohomish and Island counties. The Skagit estuary contains critical habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, fish and other aquatic species. It is estimated that 75% of the historic estuary habitat has been lost due to dike building, water diversion, and drainage before the turn of the century, and changes in the frequency and magnitude of flood events on the Skagit and Stillaguamish rivers. Upper Skagit River hydroelectric dams have also contributed to the loss of estuary habitat.

WDFW is working with the Skagit River System Cooperative to restore natural hydrologic processes in the estuary to benefit salmon, waterfowl, shorebirds, and other aquatic species.

There are 6 access sites (Headquarters, Milltown, Big Ditch, Jensen, North Fork, and Davis Slough) and one boat ramp (Headquarters Unit) for waterfowl hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking, boating and kayaking.

Debay and Johnson Slough Unit - a 331-acre reserve is located on the north side of Francis Road, southwest of Sedro Woolley and northeast of Mount Vernon to provide a non-hunted upland reserve for trumpeter and tundra swans where they can feed and rest during the winter. It contains forest, a backwater slough of the Skagit River, and managed agricultural fields.

Public access is restricted to 2 parking/viewing areas with access for the disabled. Waterfowl



hunting is allowed on the eastern portion of the property adjacent to the reserve.

Bald Eagle Natural Unit - the Bald Eagle Natural Area encompasses 2,450 acres along the upper Skagit River at the confluence with the Sauk River, east of Concrete. The property was acquired to protect bald eagle wintering habitat. The unit consists of mature, undisturbed forested habitat.

Contact information - 21916 Wylie Road, Mt Vernon, WA 98273
360-445-4441

http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/wildthing@dfw.wa.gov



North Cascades Institute (NCI)

Since 1986 the North Cascades Institute has connected people, nature and community through science, art, literature and the hands-on study of natural and cultural history.



The Learning Center is located in the heart of North Cascades National Park just off of Highway 20, approximately 75 miles east of Burlington and Interstate 5. North Cascades Institute operates the Learning Center, which opened in 2005, in partnership with the City of Seattle and the National Park Service. Modeling earth-friendly design and operations, the tree-sheltered campus features 16 buildings clustered beneath Sourdough Mountain on the north shore of Diablo Lake.



Facilities include overnight lodging for up to 92 participants; multimedia classrooms, a library and meeting spaces; a lakeside dining hall with a recycling/composting center; an amphitheater, outdoor learning shelters, trails leading into the surrounding wild lands and a dock on Diablo Lake for paddling adventures.

North Cascades Institute is responsible for all of the programming at the Learning Center including a wide variety of activities and gatherings for people of all ages in support of the Institute's mission to "conserve and restore Northwest environments through education."



Youth programs include Mountain School, North Cascades Wild and the Cascade Climate Challenge, while family opportunities include Base Camp, Family Getaways and Day Trips. Adults visit the Learning Center to participate in Diablo Downtimes, the Sourdough Speaker Series and a wide variety of classes and retreats focused on the natural and cultural history of the North Cascades.

The Learning Center is also used as a base camp for a variety of backcountry excursions like Ross



Lake by Boat and Boot, Family Backpacking Adventures and hikes in the surrounding mountains.

Finally, as the educational calendar allows, the Learning Center is available to meet the needs of groups who want to experience the North Cascades through educational retreats and conferences through their Group Rentals program.

Mail: 810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley WA 98284
360-854-2599

http://www.ncascades.org/learning_center/faq/
nci@ncascades.org

Farmers' markets and tours



WSU Agricultural Experiment Station

The Washington State University (WSU)-Mount Vernon Research Center serves the agricultural, horticultural, and natural resource science interests of the state through research and extension activities that are enhanced by the unique conditions of northwestern Washington: a mild marine climate, diverse small and mid-sized farming enterprises and rural-urban interface.

The Agricultural Research & Technology Building completed in 2006, includes offices, modern laboratories, greenhouse bays, a public auditorium and demonstration kitchen, distance learning and video teleconferencing capabilities. The Sakuma Auditorium and kitchen can be reserved for approved events.



WSU Mount Vernon hosts a Volunteer Display Garden which occupies 10 acres of land to provide educational opportunities for the public through hands-on viewing, exhibits and gardening experiences. In addition, an apiary is maintained on the farm.

The Olson Heritage Farm House provides housing for WSU graduate students and visiting scientists. Originally built in 1913 by Anders Olof (Andrew) and Maria Olson, the house and surrounding 8 acres were purchased by the *Skagit Farm Bureau* in 1999 as part of the "Land Security" project to ensure the future of research at the Center.

16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-848-6120

<http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/about.html>
AMS.MountVernon@wsu.edu



Skagit Valley Farm Map

The Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC) supports farmers and agriculture-related businesses by improving the economic vitality of the agriculture industry in Skagit, San Juan, Island, and Whatcom Counties.

NABC also supports the annual publication of the Skagit Valley Farm Map - a listing of 40 farms, farmers' markets, wineries, restaurants, and more farm related attractions, schedule of events, and accommodations.

The farms and attractions are open to the public all-year along and can be viewed in detail on the interactive map on the Farm Map website.

<http://www.skagitfarmmap.com>



Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival is one of the destination events for the Pacific Northwest, held each year the past 29 years from **April 1-30**. Every spring hundreds of thousands of people come to enjoy the celebration of spring as millions of tulips burst into bloom. The tulips bloom according to their own schedule sometime during the festival.

The festival is designed as a driving tour for the visitor as there is no one "site" to visit. The farmers in the valley raise tulips as an agricultural crop and the 100s of acres of blooming flowers are scattered throughout the Skagit Valley. Festival visitors can also visit the many events and activities that happen only during April - which are also scattered throughout the Skagit Valley.

Some of the annual attractions and special events include:

- 26th Annual Tulip Run - 2-5 mile gravel course around the Skagit Regional Airport
- Annual Historic Home Tour - of Skagit County's vintage homes
- 30th Annual Tulip Pedal - 20-60 mile routes in and around the tulip fields
- Anacortes Quilt Walk - exhibited in retail storefronts in the historic downtown district
- Anacortes Wine Festival - featuring 30 regional vintners and 6 restaurants
- Art in a Pickle Barn - awards and displays by regional artists
- 26th Annual Downtown Mount Vernon Street Fair - with live music on 2 stages, children's activities, and over 100 juried exhibitions
- Friends of the Fish Art Show - local artists and art with fish and water landscape themes sponsored by the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Garden Art Fair - display gardens, garden art, sculptures, and plants
- Master Gardeners Annual Plant Fair - vegetables, annuals, and perennials at the Skagit County Fairgrounds
- Paccar Open House - at the 242-acre truck test site next to the Skagit Regional Airport
- Peoples Bank Gala Celebration - live jazz music, buffet dinner, and auction
- Skagit Band Festival - area high school bands and community musical ensembles competition
- Tulip Frolic - entertainment in downtown LaConner's Gilkey Square
- 26th Annual US Bank Not So Impromptu Tulip Parade - farm animals, mascots, and favorite pets through downtown **LaConner**



PO Box 1784/311 Kincaid St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-428-5959
<http://www.tulipfestival.org/>
info@tulipfestival.org

Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms

Family farms in the Skagit Valley have sponsored an annual tour for the past 13 years during the **first weekend in October**. During the weekend they provide a hands-on-experience learning what it takes to run a farm, from growing crops to feeding animals. It is an opportunity to talk to the farmers and follow your food from the fields to the table.



The participating farms offer fun-filled festival activities including:

- educational exhibits
- farm tours, harvest markets
- free samples
- kids activities
- corn and hay mazes
- animal exhibits
- pumpkin patches
- scenic tours and more



The farms can be viewed by car, bus, or bicycle touring.

Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms
PO Box 325, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-421-4729

<http://www.festivaloffamilyfarms.com>

Mt Vernon Farmers' Market

The Mount Vernon Farmers Market operates from the **end of May through mid-October** every Saturday morning by the Skagit River in downtown Mount Vernon, and every Wednesday from **June through mid-September** on Kincaid Street at the Skagit Valley Hospital.

The Market sells the best of Skagit Valley's farm vegetable, flower, and fruit produce in a relaxing small town environment. It also hosts the Bite of Skagit the **last Saturday of July** providing a sampling of foods from local chefs and donations to the Community Action Agency. Live music is also provided at the Saturday market from Big Band to Bluegrass.



PO Box 2053, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360 540-4066
www.mountvernonfarmersmarket.org
mvfarmer1@hotmail.com



Skagit County Fair

The annual award-winning Skagit County Fair in Mount Vernon is conducted the **second week of August**.

The fair hosts local entertainment, a carnival, farm animals, displays, kid zone events, and more at the fairgrounds on Virginia Street in downtown Mount Vernon and is generally attended by over 30,000 people.

Skagit County Fairgrounds
1410 Virginia Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-336-9414
<http://www.skagitcounty.net/Common/Asp/Default.asp?d=Fair&c=General&p=main.htm>
fairgrounds@co.skagit.wa.us

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmlands (SPF)

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmlands (SPF) sponsor an annual summer **farm tour in August** from a touring bus as well as a **Harvest Dinner & Auction in September**. The Harvest Dinner & Auction brings together more than 250 supporters of SPF to celebrate the fall harvest with delicious local foods prepared by distinguished chefs and exciting live and silent auctions.

Examples of great auction items include one-of-a-kind experiences, themed gift baskets, getaway packages, food and wine experiences, garden parties, recreational items, children's parties, entertainment, baked goods for a year, themed dinner parties, yard and garden makeovers, jewelry, etc.

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
414A Snoqualmie Street, PO Box 2405, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360.336.3974
<http://www.skagitonians.org/this-just-in.cfm?id=77>
info@skagitonians.org



Hiking trails

Padilla Bay Trail

Padilla Bay Shore Trail - is a 2.3 mile bicycle and pedestrian gravel path that travels along a dike that borders the bay through a major estuary of the Skagit River and Padilla Bay. The path provides views of the tidal slough and mud flats and presents excellent opportunities to view wildlife. Views stretch on from the Olympics to Mount Baker with Anacortes oil refineries across the bay. The trail is used by a lot of walkers and culminates at Bayview State Park.



Upland Trail - is a 0.8 mile loop that leaves the Breazeale-Padilla Bay Interpretive Center and wanders through open meadows and forests.

The estuary is the most diverse and productive of all estuaries on Puget Sound and it supports one of the largest populations of peregrine falcons in North America, in addition to thousands of other migrating marsh and shore birds.

Tommy Thompson Parkway Trail

The trail is a multipurpose 3.3 mile hike and bike conversion of the railroad trestle and railroad corridor from March Point across Fidalgo Bay and along the industrial, marine, and marina waterfront into historic downtown Anacortes.



This former Burlington Northern railway is named after the late Tommy Thompson, a narrow gauge railway creator who dreamed of running his train along the Fidalgo Island shoreline. Parts of his narrow gauge track can still be seen in parts of the trail.

The highlight of the trail is the 0.75 mile long former railway trestle spanning the bay. There are benches scattered along the route, one area for kids to play at the beach, one bathroom and one pit toilet



Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department
PO Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-1918
http://www.cityofanacortes.org/parks/tommy_thompson.htm

Washington Park

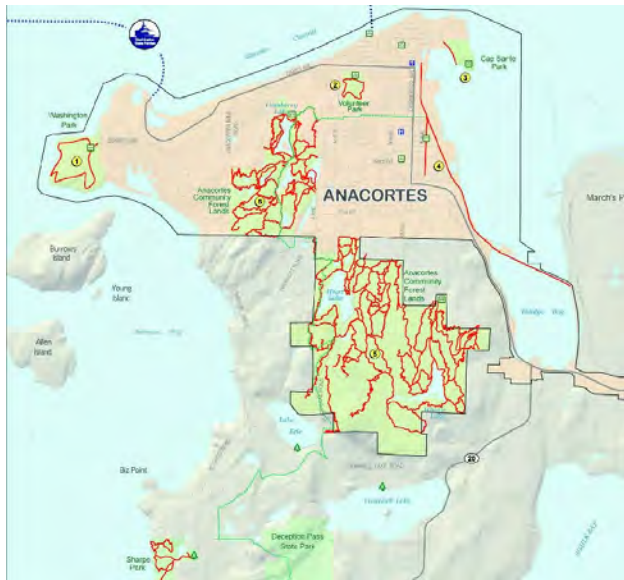
Washington Park is located on a peninsula at the west end of Fidalgo Island in Anacortes past the Washington State Ferry Terminal. The 220-acre city park provides camping, a boat launch, and day use picnic sites.



A scenic 2.2-mile one-way loop road winds around and through the park's forested hills and meadows with views of the San Juan Islands and Olympic Mountains. The road is used by walkers and bicyclists as well as an adjacent looped hiking trail that parallels the road through the site.

Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department
PO Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-1918

http://www.cityofanacortes.org/Parks/WaPark/wa_park.htm



Anacortes Community Forest Lands

The Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) comprise 2,800 acres of forests, meadows, lakes, and wetlands in the heart of Fidalgo Island, entirely within the city limits of Anacortes including the former Heart Lake State Park.

The community forest lands house over 50 miles of trails used by hikers, joggers, bicyclists, equestrians, motorcyclists, bird watchers, dog walkers, fishers, swimmers, paddlers, photographers, scout troops, and school classes. The principal hiking areas are clustered around:

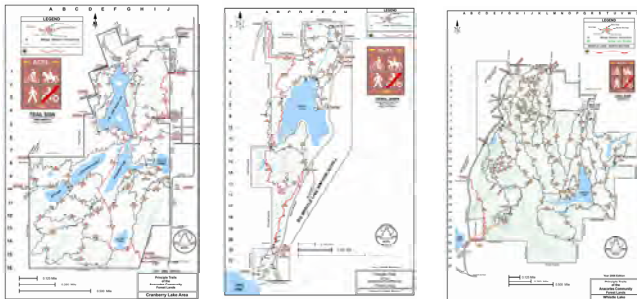
Cranberry Lake –including hiking, biking, and horse trails around Cranberry, Little and Big Beaver Ponds, Mitten Lake, the Swamp, and a series of wetlands with overlooking bluffs and hills,

Heart Lake – including hike, bike, and horse trails around the shoreline of Heart Lake and south to Erie Lake,

Whistle Lake – including hike, bike, and horse trails around Whistle Lake and a series of ponds and wetlands to Erie Lake, and to the top of 1,200-foot Mount Erie that provides spectacular views of the San Juan Islands, Deception Pass, and the Olympic Mountains.

The trail systems are interconnected and accessed on all sides from a series of side roads, parking lots, and access trails.

Detailed trail maps for different ACFL segments:
<http://www.cityofanacortes.org/Parks/TopStories.asp?ID=66>



Interurban Trail

The last electric train clacked along the Interurban Railway in 1928, but the route connecting urban greenways in Bellingham's historic Fairhaven with Larrabee State Park has been reborn as a favorite 5.9 mile multipurpose trail with walkers, runners, bicyclists, and equestrians. The trail affords vistas to the San Juan Islands and spur trails to the

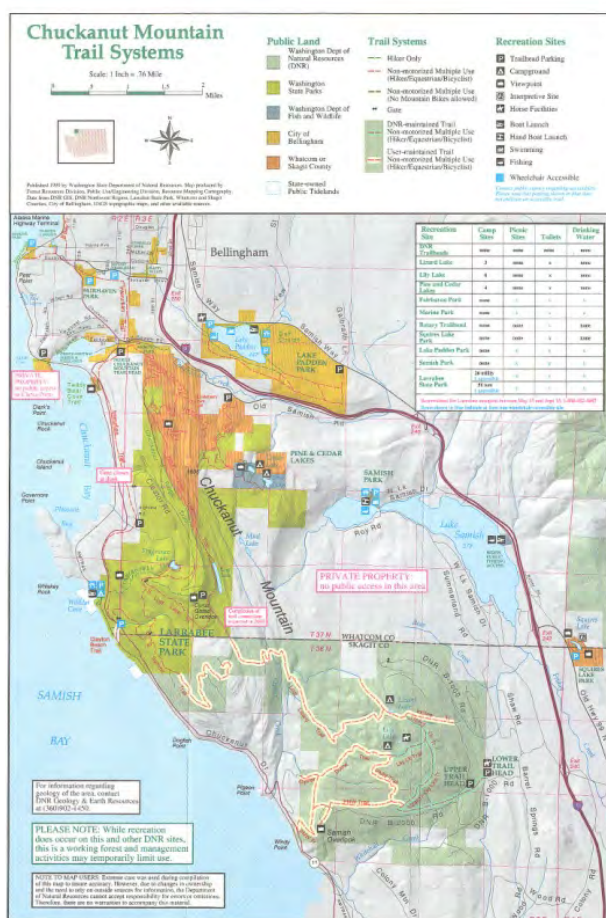


adjacent Chuckanut Mountain views, lakes, and beaches.

From North Chuckanut Mountain Trailhead, hike 0.2 miles up Hemlock Trail to the Interurban Trail. Once on the trail, hike north 0.4 miles to Arroyo Park and 2.0 miles to Old Fairhaven Parkway in Bellingham.

Or hike south 0.4 miles to Teddy Bear Cove Park, 2.4 miles to Highline Road Trailhead, 3.7 miles to Fragrance Lake Trail, and 4.0 miles to Clayton Beach Trailhead in Larrabee State Park.

<http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/parks/trails/interurban.jsp>



Chuckanut Mountains

Whatcom County's 999.8-acre portion of the Chuckanut Mountain Recreational area is located between Chuckanut Drive and Old Samish Highway. The total 8,000 acre landholding includes the Departments of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission (P&RC), and City of Bellingham properties.

The mountain conservancy has been developed with a series of multipurpose, hiking, biking, and equestrian trails extending across the landholding and connecting with the Interurban Trail, Teddy Bear Cove, Pine and Cedar Lakes, and Blanchard Mountain.

Day use beachcombing, picnicking, and overnight camping is provided at Larrabee State Park located on Chuckanut Drive, along with some primitive campsites at Pine and Cedar Lakes.

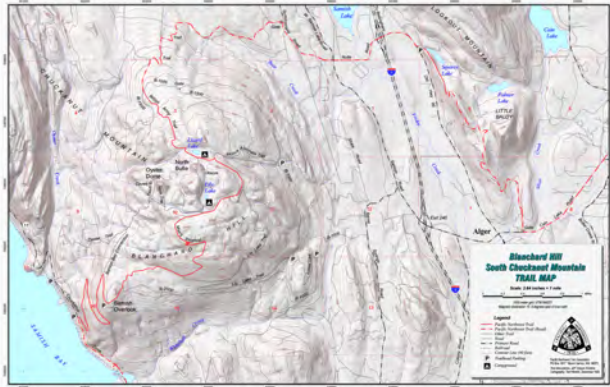
Chuckanut Mountain Hemlock Trail Segment - is a 3.5 mile multipurpose dirt trail across the Chuckanut Mountain Trail system from Chuckanut Drive southeast and around Pine/Cedar Lakes to the Old Samish Road trailhead.

Chuckanut Mountain North Lost Lake Trail Segment - is a 4.6 mile Multipurpose dirt trail through the heart of the Chuckanut Mountain trail system from Chuckanut Drive/Hemlock Trail south to Lost Lake and Chuckanut Drive at Clayton Beach trailhead.



Chuckanut Mountain has another 25 miles of hiking, biking, or equestrian only trails across and around the rugged mountains including connections with the Pacific Northwest Trail.

<http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/parks/trails/chuckanut.jsp>



Blanchard Mountain

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages 4,827 acres of state forestlands located on the top of Blanchard Mountain on the north border of Skagit County. Blanchard Mountain is an integral part of a forested corridor that extends from Puget Sound to the Cascade Mountains and from Skagit farmlands north through the Chuckanut Mountains to Bellingham.

Blanchard Mountain hike, bike, mountain bike, horseback trails extend north to connect with the Interurban Trail, Larrabee State Park, and Chuckanut Mountain systems, and south down and off the mountain to connect with Samish Bay.

The south end of the mountain is also a popular jump-off site for hang gliders during favorable summer winds.

http://www.blanchardmountain.org/where_is_bm.html
<http://www.pnt.org/maps/map-blanchard.gif>



Deception Pass State Park

Deception Pass State Park is a 4,134-acre marine and camping park with 77,000 feet of saltwater shoreline, and 33,900 feet of freshwater shoreline on 3 lakes. Rugged cliffs drop to meet the turbulent waters of Deception Pass. The park is outstanding for breath-taking views, old-growth forests, and abundant wildlife.

A historical interpretive center is located in the park at Bowman Bay. The interpretive center building was originally constructed as a bathhouse, and was renovated by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) alumni volunteers to commemorate the legacy of the CCC in Washington State Parks.

An observation deck overlooks the Cranberry Lake wetlands on the west-beach sand-dunes interpretive trail. Signage explains local vegetation and ecosystems.



The Maiden of Deception Pass story pole is located on Rosario Beach in the north section of the park depicting a story of the Samish Indian Nation.

The park contains one monument, located at the south bridge parking lot. It describes the discovery and naming of Deception Pass and Whidbey Island.

Lectures and slide shows occur frequently on weekend evenings in the park's outdoor amphitheater. A schedule of planned events is posted at the ranger contact station.





The park provides 4 kitchen shelters with electricity and 6 without, all of which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. 50 sheltered and 261 unsheltered picnic tables are also provided. Picnic tables are first come, first served, but kitchen shelters can be reserved.

The park provides 5 saltwater and 3 freshwater boat ramps, plus 710 feet of saltwater dock and 450 feet of freshwater dock. All motors are prohibited on Pass Lake, and only electric motors are allowed on Cranberry Lake.



The park has 167 tent sites, 143 utility spaces, five hiker/biker sites, two dump stations, 20 restrooms (four ADA) and ten showers (four ADA).

Camping is at 3 locations in the park; 18 tent sites and 2 utility sites are at Bowman Bay, 2 tent sites and 58 utility sites at Sunrise Resort, and 147 tent sites and 83 utility sites are at Cranberry Lake. Maximum site length is 60 feet (may have limited availability).

There are 3 group camps, all primitive in nature including:

Group camp 1 - accommodates up to 50 people. It has fire circle, picnic shelter, vault toilet and 5 tent pads. It provides 2 adirondack (3-sided) sleeping shelters that combined sleep 16 people.

Group camp 2 - accommodates 25 people. It has fire circle, picnic shelter, 5 picnic tables, and vault toilet. It provides 1 adirondack shelter that sleeps 8.

Group camp 3 - has the same facilities and capacities as group camp 2 with the exception of the picnic shelter.

888-CAMPOUT or 888-226-7688.

[http://www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Deception Pass&subject=all](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Deception%20Pass&subject=all)



Bike maps and tours

LaConner Bike Maps

The LaConner Chamber of Commerce assembled base maps indicating the major on-road bicycle touring routes in town, west Skagit County, and with connections to the major regional and national biking touring routes referenced by some of the tour operators.

These Skagit Valley on-road bike tours are intended to provide LaConner visitors extended day rides through some of the varied and diverse landscapes including marine shorelines, woodlands and wetlands, parks, wildlife reserves and nature interpretive centers, farmlands, historic sites and museums on Guemes, Fidalgo, Samish, and Fir Islands.

All routes are in-lane on lightly trafficked rural roadways with the exception of bike shoulders on the more moderately trafficked LaConner-Whitney, Best, McLean, and Fir Island Roads and the off-road multipurpose Tommy Thompson Trail on Fidalgo Bay.

All routes have access to a variety of coffee shops, pubs, restaurants, mini-markets, gas stations for air and water, and other services as noted on the maps.

LaConner Chamber of Commerce

606 Morris Street, La Conner, WA 98257

360-466-4778, 888-642-9284

<http://www.laconnerchamber.com/uploads/LaConner%20Bike%20Maps.pdf>

info@laconnerchamber.com

Tulip Country Bike Tours (and rentals)

This Mount Vernon based bike tour company provides year-round, summer, and tulip festival tours of from 8-15 riders through the San Juan Islands, Skagit Valley, to Edison, Padilla Bay, LaConner, Fir Island, Family Farms, and custom rides. Most rides include stops at local coffee and bakery shops, interpretive centers, historical sites and landmarks, and other attractions.

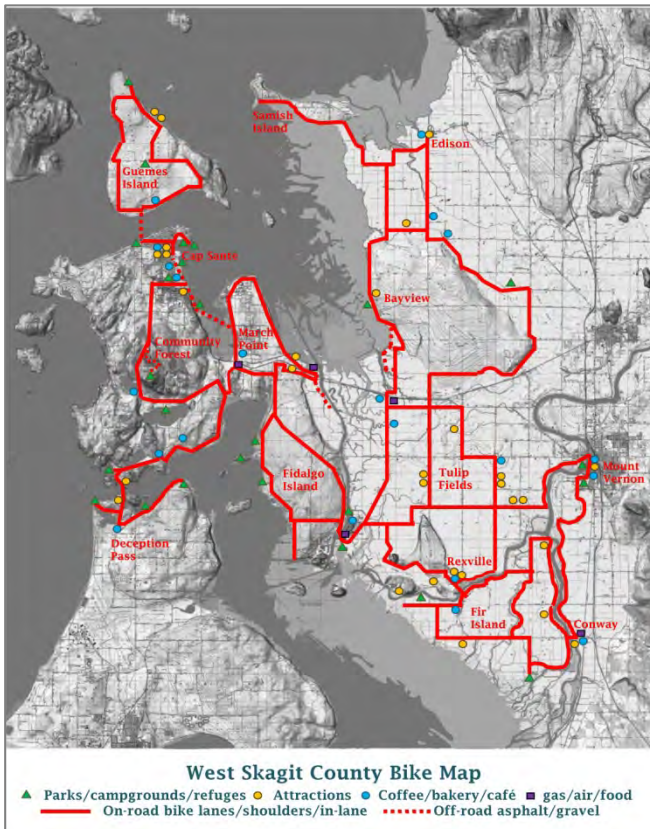
They can also create custom tours to fit specific interests and needs including a ride plan for a day trip or a multi-day tour including lodging all year long.

13391 Avon Allen Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Phone: 360-424-7461, Fax: 360-424-7461

www.countrycycling.com

info@countrycycling.com





Backroads

Backroads is an active travel company offering more than 1,100 scheduled departures in 2011, including biking, walking and multisport trips. 75% of Backroads guests have traveled with Backroads before or were referred by a friend.

Backroads vacations are fully supported with a van that serves as a mobile refreshment and bike repair center, and offers a lift to guests who'd like a rest. A trailer carries all luggage and gear, leaving travelers free to explore under their own power, light in load and spirit. Backroads offers exclusive departures for families and private groups year-round.

Locally, Backroads conducts an Island to Island tour that begins at Country Inn in LaConner and extends into the San Juan Islands and back.

800-462-2848 or 510-527-1555

<http://www.backroads.com/trips/BPSI/washington-san-juan-islands-biking-tour#>

Timberline Adventures

Timberline stages a variety of extended hiking and biking tours throughout the US and foreign countries. This outfit's Pacific NW tours include the Olympic Peninsula to Newport, Oregon; and LaConner to Troutdale, Oregon.

From LaConner, the route extends across the North Cascades on SR-20 to the Columbia River and Chelan, then south across Blewett Pass to Ellensburg, then south across Chinook Pass to Mt Rainer, then south to St Helens and eventually to Troutdale, Oregon and the Portland airport.

7975 East Harvard Suite #J, Denver, CO 80231
800-417-2453 or 303-368-4418

<http://www.adventuresports.com/bike/timber/welcome.htm>
timber@earthnet.net

Adventure Cycling Association

Adventure Cycling Association's nonprofit mission is to inspire people of all ages to travel by bicycle for fitness, fun, and self-discovery. Established in 1973 as Bikecentennial, Adventure Cycling is the premier bicycle travel organization in North America with 44,700 members nationwide.

They research and produce cycling maps for their Adventure Cycling Route Network, one of the largest route networks in the world at 40,699 miles (and growing). They publish Adventure Cyclist magazine for their membership, lead bike tours, work on bicycle advocacy projects such as the US Bicycle Route System, sell bike travel gear,



and provide trip planning resources for bicycle travelers.

They provide self-guided and supported tours including a 41-day Pacific Coast tour from Bellingham to the Canadian border, then south through Anacortes to Port Townsend and around the Olympics to continue south through Oregon and California to San Diego.

They also provide a 486 mile tour from Sumas south to Sedro-Woolley and thorough Mt Rainier National Park and across 20 mountain passes into Eastern Washington and Oregon to Tecate, California.

And, a Northern Tier 4,286 mile route from Anacortes east on SR-20 through the northern states to Bar Harbor, Maine.

150 East Pine St, PO Box 8308, Missoula, MT 59807
(800) 755-2453 Toll-Free, (800) 721-8719 Orders,
(406) 721-1776 in Montana

<http://www.adventurecycling.org/ac/contact.cfm>

Contact: Winona Bateman

800-755-2453 ext. 219

wbateman@adventurecycling.org

Kevin McManigal, GIS/Cartographer

kmcmmanigal@adventurecycling.org

Bicycle Adventures

Operating since 1984, conducts cycling trips on San Juan Islands in Puget Sound; the volcanoes - Mt Rainier, Mount St Helens, and Mt Adams in Washington and Mt Hood in Oregon; and the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon. Some trips include hiking and kayaking.

Most tours have a maximum of 13 guests with 2 tour leaders and provide dining and overnight stays in some exclusive locations. Occasionally, they will run groups up to 18 or 24 people. When they double up they double the support by adding a second van and 2 more tour guides, essentially running 2 trips simultaneously.

They specialize in multisport and bicycling vacations in the western United States and Canada, Hawaii, and New Zealand. They have kept their expertise focused on select regions. They live here and know these areas well.

Local tours include:

- **San Juan Islands Classic Rides** - 3 tours from 4 to 8-day rides from Anacortes through the Islands to Victoria,
- **Family Rides** - 2 tours through the San Juan Islands for families staying in lodges or camping,

- **Danskin Ridge** - a 4-day ride around Guemes Island then into the San Juan Islands for Women's Triathlon Training,
- **Washington Cascades Epic** - a 8-day ride from Cle Elum north to Winthrop and across the North Cascades to LaConner, then south to Seattle;
- **Islands Epic** - a 7-day ride from Seattle to Gig Harbor to Port Townsend to LaConner to Seattle.

29700 SE High Point Way, Issaquah, WA 98027
800.443.6060 or 425.250.5540

<http://www.bicycleadventures.com/destinations/washington-bike-tours>
office@bicycleadventures.com

Cascade Bicycle Club

The largest bicycle club in the Pacific NW offers 4 fully supported long-weekend bicycle tours with overnights at motels. Every season, dedicated Cascade members organize fully supported tours that started off just taking place over long weekends.

Two years ago they added 3 week-long tours. Now they are up to 2 long weekend tours and 6 week-long tours of up to 35 riders each. These tours travel the beautiful scenery of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Each tour has a cargo van to transport belongings from one day's accommodations to the next. A smaller van is also there to provide snacks and on-road support on most tours.

PO Box 15165, Seattle, WA 98115
206-522-3222

<http://shop.cascade.org/content/tours/local-tours>
info@cascadebicycleclub.org

Cycle America

Cyclists can drop in and out of this tour company's cross country or Pacific Coast rides through Washington, Idaho, and Montana. There is also a Pacific Coast Combo that runs from Washington through Oregon into California.

The Pacific Coast combo starts in Anacortes, then rides down SR-20 to Coupeville and across to Port Townsend, then around the Olympics to Astoria in 7 days with an option of continuing on for 2-3 more weeks to San Francisco.

PO Box 485, Cannon Falls, MN 55009
800-245-3263 612-234-4699

<http://www.cycleamerica.com/np4-olympic.htm>
info@CycleAmerican.com

IBike

IBike conducts bicycle tours in the US and foreign countries including British Columbia. Ibike offers 2 bike tour programs out of Seattle including the





Rolling the Islands of the Salish Sea – a 2-week tour across 6 islands from Seattle to Victoria.

4887 Columbia Drive South, Seattle, WA 98108-1919

Tel/Fax: 206-767-0848

<http://www.ibike.org/ibike/salish/index.htm>
ibike@ibike.org

TerraTrek

TerraTrek provides tours on the San Juan Islands including multi-sport (bicycle, kayak, and hiking) with spectacular views of the sea, snowcapped mountain ranges, and quiet 2 lane country roads for cycling. Their tours include a variety of activities such as sea kayaking, whale watching, hiking, wine tasting, and plenty of bicycling.

Small groups of 10 or less and a low participant to guide ratio, normally 5 to 1 or less, give their trips a personal touch.

For individuals who would like a private or custom trip, TerraTrek can accommodate various tours for different skilled adventurers and different interests or focuses.

PO Box 3135, Friday Harbor WA, 98250

888-441-2433, 360-378-4223

<http://www.goterratrek.com/terratrek-vacations.html>
johannes@crystalseas.com

Kayak tours



Anacortes Kayak Tours

Anacortes Kayak Tours offers several choices of sea kayaking adventures to choose from. With both families, and seasoned travelers in mind, they have created a variety of sea kayak tours to match needs, budget, and available time. Whether looking for a kayaking day trip, family kayak tour, or a longer multi-day sea kayaking expedition.

Anacortes Kayak Tours launches from Burrows or Bowman Bay on the west side of Fidalgo Island scouting the local islands searching for Porpoise, Seals, Eagles, Orca Whales, and more.

1801 Commercial Ave, Anacortes, WA 98221

(800) 992-1801

<http://www.anacorteskayaktours.com/index.php>
info@anacorteskayaktours.com



Sea Kayak Shop

The Sea Kayak Shop selection of paddling adventures offers a little more freedom to choose where you paddle. They will provide all the technical gear/equipment and professionally qualified staff to explore the coastline for a 3 hour paddle, paddle through Deception Pass, or low tide explorations. Routes are chosen based on wind and weather predictions. They will make arrangements for a group of 4 or more who want a customized itinerary.



Although tours touch base on some aspects of instruction they are guided. Classes will be a better choice if you want to learn how to perform rescues and make your boat control efficient.

2515 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221

360-299-2300, mobile 360-840-8942

[http://seakayakshop.com/anacortes_kayak_tours_i
nstruction_rentals/index.php?option=com_content
&view=article&id=88:tours-in-single-
kayaks&catid=67:casual-daily-tours&Itemid=54](http://seakayakshop.com/anacortes_kayak_tours_instruction_rentals/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=88:tours-in-single-kayaks&catid=67:casual-daily-tours&Itemid=54)
gopaddle@seakayakshop.com

Whitewater raft/eagle watching



Blue Sky Outfitters

Blue Sky conducts float trip wildlife tours throughout east and west Washington including a lower Skagit River wintertime bald eagle float trip tailored to beginners and families with children from the age of 3 with charters for groups.

The 2-hour tour is available from **November to March** on the calm lower segment of the Skagit River leaving from Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport. During this time the Skagit River is host to over 500 migrating eagles from Canada and Alaska that stop to feast on abundant salmon runs.

Skagit River, Howard Miller Steelhead Park
5110 Railroad Avenue, Rockport WA 98283
(800) 228-RAFT

<http://www.adventurecentral.com/user/web/wfDetails.aspx?AID=10047&CLUID=50c7a7f1-ee35-4a03-9709-14413f635dc3>
rafting@blueskyoutfitters.com

Alpine Adventures

Alpine conducts whitewater floats on the upper Skagit River for a 3-4 hour, 10-mile class II-III rapids from just outside the North Cascades National Park from **May through August**. The Upper Skagit River Float begins in the Ross Lake National Recreation area of North Cascades National Park. The family-oriented whitewater float starts at Goodell Creek just past the North Cascades Visitor Center in Marblemount. The Skagit is the 2nd longest river in the state and is rated as class II-III river good for ages 6 and over.

The Salmon & Bald Eagle Float from **December to February** includes the 4-hour 10-mile Lower Skagit River class I segment from Marblemount to Rockport managed by a coalition of agencies, including the US Forest Service, Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, Skagit County and the Nature Conservancy as a Bald Eagle Sanctuary.

Mailing Address: Alpine Adventures PO Box 373
Gold Bar, WA, 98251
360-863-6505, 800-723-8386 (1-800-RAFT-FUN)
<http://www.alpineadventures.com/skagit.html#whitewater>
info@alpineadventures.com

Seattle Tours

The Bald Eagle Adventure 4-hour tour is offered between **December and the first week in March** from Concrete when the largest concentration of wintering Bald Eagles found anywhere within the lower 48 states visit the Skagit River. They have



offered this 8-mile 3-hour trip since 1974 and it remains a popular yearly event for all ages as there is no whitewater for this stretch of the Lower Skagit.

800-305-9617

<http://www.seattletours.us/?event=offer.detail&offerId=731>

Skagit River Resort/Dickson Outdoors Adventures

This company combines rafting and ecological tours beginning at the Skagit River Resort on the Upper Skagit. They offer upriver whitewater as well as lower river eagle watching during the winter, and fly fishing in the summer and fall months.

Dickson Outdoor Adventures
PO Box 295, Arlington, WA 98223
425-238-3537

<http://www.northcascades.com/Rivertrips.htm>

Whitewater River Tours

This company provides whitewater river tours of the major rivers in Washington State. They provide 2 tours of the Skagit - a whitewater route that starts from Newhalem in the North Cascades National Park **March to November** for 3.5-4 hours in class II-III rapids suitable for 6-year olds beginning from North Cascades Highway 20 East to Goodell Creek Campground (1/2 mile West of Newhalem).

They also offer an Eagle Watch tour from **December to February** in class I-II rapids also suitable for 6-year olds beginning at Meet at Howard Miller Steelhead Park (address: 5110 Railroad Ave, Rockport, WA 98283).

Wildwater River Tours, Inc.
PO Box 3623, Federal Way, WA 98063-3623
253-939-2151, 800-522-WILD (9453)
<http://www.wildwater-river.com/rivers/skagit-whitewater/>
info@wildwater-river.com



Boat tours/whale watching



Deception Pass Tours

This 1 hour tour is conducted on a jet drive catamaran with open deck seating for up to 36 people. The boat is docked in Cornet Bay in Deception Pass State Park located off Cornet Bay Road east of the Pass. The tour covers the Pass, Similk Bay, Bowman Bay, and the Fidalgo Island shoreline.

Tickets are purchased at the booth located on the south end of Deception Pass Bridge at the parking lot next to the bridge (this is the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce WOW Wagon).

888-909-8687(TOUR)

Deception Pass Bridge, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

<http://www.deceptionpasstours.com/tour-info-and-rates/>

CaptainBrett@DeceptionPassTours.com.



Mystic Sea Charters

The charter conducts whale watching tours from their 100-foot 60 passenger boat located on the Anacortes waterfront. In 2011, they had 118 consecutive days of Orca Whale sightings only missing them twice. Orca whales may move up to 100 miles per day so a tour may take 20 minutes to reach J, K, or L pod or 3 hours near Victoria, BC or Point Roberts.

Group packages and tours range from 2 hours to all day excursions. A 3 hour tour is offered of Deception Pass or Cone Islands during the day or evening, as well as a separate cruise past Burrows Island lighthouse.

Docking - 710 Seafarer's Way, Anacortes, WA 98221

Offices

819 Commercial Avenue, Suite E, Anacortes, WA 98221

800-308-9387, 360-588-8000

http://mysticseacharters.com/index.php?page=group_packages_tours

info@mysticseacharters.com



Island Adventures

Island Adventures Whale Watching is based out of Anacortes and Everett conducting tours for gray whales during March-May, Orca whales from May to October, Humpback, Orca, and Minke whales from October to November with private charters from March to December. The Everett departures are 2.5-3 hours, the Anacortes 5-6 hours with all tours 97% guaranteed to see whales.



Whale tours are conducted from the Island Explorer 3 a 101-foot 2 deck sightseeing boat. The Halycon a 41-foot yacht may also be chartered for 3-hour to 3 day excursions for whale or wildlife watching or island tours.

1801 Commercial Ave, Anacortes WA 98221
800-465-4604

<http://www.island-adventures.com/whale-watching-tours/index.php>
whales@islandadventurecruises.com



Paraclete Charter Service

Paraclete Charter Service provides transportation throughout the San Juan Archipelago 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Services include private charters, packaged tours, water taxi, island excursions, special events, itinerary and logistical assistance. Excursions include circumnavigating Fidalgo Island including through the Swinomish Channel and past LaConner, Deception Pass, and throughout the San Juan Islands.

Their fleet includes the Koinonia a 53-foot 48 passenger boat, Paraclete a 45-foot 34 passenger boat, and Slyvan Spirit a 58-foot 64 passenger boat that depart from Skyline Marina in west Anacortes.



3609 West 3rd Street, Anacortes, WA 98221-1212
360-293-5920, 360-293-5920, 800-808-2999

<http://www.paracletecharters.com/index.cfm>
skip@paracletecharters.com

Historic train tours



Lake Whatcom Railway

Lake Whatcom Railway is a dedicated living preservation of the Pacific Northwest's railway heritage - though for environmental and political reasons the railway currently uses a diesel locomotive.

The authentic 1.5 hour full size old Northern Pacific train ride starts in Wickersham then goes a short distance along Highway 9, then through a small tunnel, along Mirror Lake, and out into the woods. There is a stop at a meadow in the woods where people can get off and explore the area including looking at the engine or hiking a short distance to a waterfall.



The passenger coaches date from 1910 to 1925 and were used on American railroads prior to the days of Amtrak. They have been on passenger trains from coast to coast but since 1940 they were used on the Northern Pacific passenger trains to the East and South of Seattle. They are almost the same as they were when used on the trains out of Seattle 50 years ago.

The coaches have a total capacity of 200 people and include two 86-seat coaches, one 32-seat coach, and one 20-seat parlor observation car.



Enthusiasts may also tour the 100-year old steam engine, ride the 100-year old hand car, ride the little railroad work speeder along the shore of Lake Whatcom, and stroll into the train's coffee shop car for an on-board snack. Some ancient wooden freight cars from the Great Northern Railway are also on the premises.

Special event rides include:
Valentines Train (February)
Easter Train (March or April)
Mother's Day Train (May)
Father's Day Train (June)
Autumn Train (October)
Christmas Train (December)



Mailing Address: PO Box 91, Acme, WA
98220
360-595-2218

<http://www.lakewhatcomrailway.com/index.htm>

Airplane charters and flight-seeing



Kenmore Air

Kenmore Air has been providing charter service throughout the Pacific Northwest since 1946 and is committed to providing the highest quality customer service to charter clients. They offer a wide range of aircraft types on both wheels and floats suitable for a variety of missions, and because of the size of their fleet, are able to accommodate groups bigger than the capacity of any single aircraft.

The variety of charter destinations is unlimited and includes a variety of landing locations in LaConner and throughout the San Juan Islands. Virtually any place with a modest airport or a stretch of water is available as a charter destination, and the charter doesn't have to begin or end in Seattle. About the only charter flying they cannot do is point-to-point within Canada; all Canadian charters must, by law, originate or terminate in the United States.

Kenmore Air is also an Alaska Airlines ticketing partner meaning that customers can book single-ticket itineraries between any of more than 90 Alaska Airlines or Horizon Air cities throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico and Kenmore Air destinations in Washington and British Columbia.

Interline booking is available now through AlaskaAir.com, by phone at 800-ALASKAAIR (800-252-7522), or through a local travel agent.

Kenmore Air Reservation Line: 866-435-9524
Charter & Group Reservations: 425-486-1257
http://www.kenmoreair.com/sub_content.php?content_type=38
charters@KenmoreAir.com

San Juan Airlines

San Juan Airlines provides charter service to a long list of destinations throughout Western Washington and British Columbia. Whether the group is large or small, their fleet of Cessna Stationairs offers a versatile platform to fit charter needs.

Their aircraft can seat up to 5 passengers and gear and or baggage or up to 15 seats to accommodate groups, large or small.

The local flight terminal is at Anacortes Airport at 4000 Airport Road Suite A. Their other terminals are located at Eastsound Airport on Orcas Island,



Friday Harbor Airport, Bellingham Airport, Renton Airport, and Boeing Field.

San Juan Airlines also conducts flight-seeing tours of 30 minutes, 1 hour, or longer if desired of the San Juan Islands, Victoria, Vancouver Island, Mount Baker, or Orca whale hunting. Scenic tours of the San Juan Islands are available on a charter basis. Customized flights are also available.

For charter or flight-seeing information, scheduling, or reservations 800-874-4434

<http://www.sanjuanairlines.com/charter-flights.cfm>

Golf courses

Similk Beach Golf Course

The public 18-hole Similk Beach Golf Course facility in Anacortes features 6,177 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72. The course rating is 68.4 and it has a slope rating of 110.

The course has a putting green, driving range, pull-carts, carts, rental clubs, open fairways, elevated tee boxes, excellent greens, pro shop, and lounge.

The course is located in a rural community and has a quiet and relaxing atmosphere. The course is fairly tight, so golfers need to be aware of golfers on adjacent fairways. There are 3 ponds in play on 2 holes.

12518 Christianson Rd, Anacortes, WA 98221-8682
360-293-3444



Historic districts



Downtown LaConner National Historic District

Native peoples have lived in Skagit County and its environs for nearly 10,000 years. Sometime around 1300, a new group migrated down from the interior, possibly using the Skagit River. They came to be known as the Coast Salish.

These tribal groups were largely extended families living in villages in cedar plank houses. They had active, viable communities that socialized and traded far beyond their villages and region. They fished for salmon, collected clams and mussels, and use fire to encourage bracken fern and camas to grow on natural prairies.



The Swinomish maintained permanent villages composed of longhouses built of cedar planks during winter months. During other seasons, they roamed to outlying fishing and camping sites of various degrees of permanency. Their principal permanent encampment, Sneeoosh, was and still is located on the west side of the Swinomish Channel opposite of LaConner.



The first non-native or Euro-Americans venturing into the region were Spanish, British, and Russian explorers and fur traders. A few occupied Fidalgo Island in the 1860s. Swinomish (renamed later as LaConner) was one of the first settlements on the mainland north of Seattle, and had 28 people living here by the 1860s. The settlement was situated on a hill on the east side of the Swinomish Channel and was completely surrounded by marsh and wetlands - boats being the main mode of travel.

In 1869, John S Conner and his wife Louisa Ann purchased a trading post from Thomas Hayes and turned it into a General Merchandise Store. In 1870, Conner renamed the post office station, and thereby the town, from Swinomish after his wife Louisa Ann, by adding the initials of her first and middle names to the family name.

John Conner promoted the town as a steamboat hamlet, and as a result LaConner rapidly grew into a center for transportation, commerce, government, agriculture, and fishing. LaConner was the major port between Seattle and Bellingham, when steamboats played a vital role in connecting the communities on Puget Sound. Located adjacent to rich farmlands, LaConner became the key shipping and supply point for the nearby rural area.



The LaConner Historic District was adopted by Town Council in September 1972, the State and National Historic Districts in 1973..

In the National Historic District there are:

65 total sites
57 are registered on the National Registry
28 historic buildings are still standing
20 non-historic buildings

In the Town of LaConner there are:

270 total historic sites
161 historic buildings and sites
109 non-historic buildings

A majority of the historic buildings in LaConner remain unchanged, though a score have disappeared. Many of the structures on the waterfront extend on pilings over the Swinomish Channel, reflecting the town's early and important ties with water related industries.

The styles of the buildings are characteristic of the commercial architecture common of the turn-of-the-century. Few new structures have been built to replace the 20 or so historic buildings that are gone. As a consequence, there is considerable open space between structures at the north end of First Street. The south end of First Street, however, has few gaps and the buildings remain closely compacted as they were when they were originally developed.

Most of LaConner's buildings are wood false front design with 5 brick and masonry structures. The most common type of structure in the downtown district is the smaller false-front and square-faced wood frame buildings. The front facades usually have full length windows and a top portion capped by bracketed frieze bands and decorated cornices.

A detailed walking map and description of all of the town's 174 historic buildings is available from the LaConner Chamber of Commerce.

606 Morris Street, La Conner, WA 98257
360-466-4778, 888-642-9284
<http://www.laconnerchamber.com/uploads/LaConner%20Walking%20Tour%20of%20Historical%20Sites.pdf>
info@laconnerchamber.com

Historic Anacortes

The first nonnative settlers, Richard and Shadrack Wooten, arrived in present-day Anacortes in 1865 and established claims along the western shoreline of Fidalgo Bay. The Cap Sante area, then called The Portage, was home to a few homestead families around 1870. Others lived along Guemes Channel, now known as Ship Harbor.



In 1877 residents of Ship Harbor, Amos and Anna Bowman, established a post office and named it Anacortes, derived from Anna Curtis, Anna's maiden name. Anacortes was established with a name and a post office in 1879 in the vain hope that it would be selected as the western terminus of the transcontinental railroad. The town was officially incorporated in 1891 shortly after the railroad bust, and became a lumber and fishing center.

Fishing and logging industries began to dominate the town during its incorporation in 1891. In the next several years salmon canning and codfish curing industries became established. By the early 1900s hundreds of Anacortes residents were employed in about a dozen fish processing plants in the town.



The historic downtown district and historic Old Town residential district are located on Commercial Street north of State Route 20's west turn to proceed to the Washington State Ferry Terminal. The 6-block commercial district retains most of the brick and stone 1-4 story buildings that were erected in the late 1890s-1900s.

The Old Town residential district retains most of the old, large 2-story wood single family houses characterized with wide wrap around porches facing Guemes Channel.



Historic Downtown Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon was settled in 1870 on reclaimed land from the marshy riverbanks and sloughs of the Skagit River. Few settlers ventured upstream of the huge logjams near present-day Mount Vernon. The logjams were natural, some more than a mile in length and undisturbed for so long that tangles of uprooted trees hosted brush and colonies of small animals and birds.

In 1876, volunteers began removing the logjams in spite of the territorial government's refusal of help. Five men worked for 2 years - 2 drowning in the effort, before clearing a 250-foot channel through the lower jam which allowed the first steamer to chug upstream to the tiny settlement of Mount Vernon.



In 1879, men also succeeded in cutting an opening through an upper logjam that enhanced Mount Vernon's development, but wrought havoc downstream as loosened logs destroyed farms between the north and south forks of the river around Fir Island.

Harrison Clothier opened a store in Mount Vernon in 1877 and was joined by other merchants who



marketed the miners en route to the gold excitement at Ruby Creek at the headwaters of the Skagit River - now Ross Lake.

The historic downtown district contains 26 significant structures including some, like the Lincoln Theater that are listed on the National List of Historic Places.

Mount Vernon Main Street Program
720 Main Street #204, PO Box 1801, Mount Vernon,
WA 98273
360-336-3801

<http://www.mountvernondowntown.org/>
edmvd@gmail.com

Edison Historic District

William "Blanket Bill" Jarman landed on the bay in 1848 as the first permanent European settler and named the bay for his wife, Alice, a Klallam Indian.

Edison's beginnings date from 1869, when several settlers began reclaiming land from the tide-swept flats. Ben Samson took the claim upon which the town site of Edison was later platted. Gradually others gathered until the settlement required a post office. The post office led to a trading post, then a store in 1880, eventually a hotel and lodging house in 1882, and a saloon in 1884.

Edison derives its name from that of the "Wizard of Menlo Park" - the nickname for Thomas Alva Edison, whose inventions at the turn of the century changed American life from top to bottom.

Settlement progressed slowly as the reclamation of the flats and the densely timbered bench land was expensive. All traveling was done in canoes, row-boats and flat-boats as the flats were so badly cut up by sloughs and the ground was so slimy and spongy that land traveling was impossible.

A dike was completed across the flats to Samish Island providing the interior easy connection with the Seattle-Whatcom steamers on Puget Sound and ferry boats between the island and the mainland.

<http://www.skagitriverjournal.com/>



History and craft museum tours



Skagit County History Museum

The Skagit County History Museum documents, preserves, and interprets over 200,000 county-related artifacts. Extensive collections of dolls, household items, quilts, clothing, Native American pieces, tools, and farm equipment are exhibited on a rotating basis to provide a variety of views into Skagit County's past.

Reference questions regarding collections are answered by appointment. The Museum also offers assistance to patrons who want to know how to store and care for their personal heirlooms and photographs. The Museum's goal is to "Preserve Skagit history for all people, for all time."

501 South 4th Street, LaConner, WA 98257

<http://www.skagitcounty.net/Common/asp/default.asp?d=HistoricalSociety&c=General&p=main.htm>
[Museum@co.skagit.wa.us](http://www.skagitcounty.net/Common/asp/default.asp?d=HistoricalSociety&c=General&p=main.htm)



LaConner Quilt & Textile Museum

The LaConner Quilt & Textile Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits local, national, and international quilts and textiles; provides an educational experience; and preserves the historic Gaches Mansion in downtown LaConner.

This unique museum features 3 stories of quilts and textiles that range from traditional to contemporary, with a focus on works from the Northwest. On the first floor, Victorian-era furnishings complement changing selections from the growing permanent collection.

With 2 new exhibits opening every 3 months and a changing display of quilts from the permanent collection, there is always something new to see at Washington State's only quilt museum.

The Museum also sponsors workshops, lectures, and an annual quilt walk from **September through mid-October** with exhibits in downtown retail stores.



La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum

703 South 2nd Street, La Conner, WA 98257-1270

360-466-4288

<http://www.laconnerquilts.com/>

Anacortes Museum - WT Preston Sternwheeler & Carnegie

The Anacortes Museum preserves and interprets the history of Fidalgo and Guemes Islands and



nurtures community awareness and appreciation of its heritage.

The Anacortes Museum - is housed in a Carnegie Library which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The first floor houses the Museum's offices, research library, and archives. The Carnegie Gallery on the second floor is handicapped-accessible and contains permanent exhibits on the history of Fidalgo and Guemes Islands as well as regular special exhibits, including quarterly exhibits focused on the special collections of local residents.

The WT Preston - was the last sternwheeler to work in Puget Sound and is one of only 2 snagboats remaining in the contiguous United States. Her crews removed navigational hazards from the bays and harbors of the Sound and from its tributary rivers.



The Skagit was the first of 3 steam-powered snagboats built to maintain the rivers, serving from 1885 to 1914, when she was replaced by the Swinomish. In turn, the Swinomish was succeeded in 1929 by the wooden-hulled WT Preston, named in honor of a distinguished civilian engineer who worked for the Seattle District Army Corps of Engineers.

The Preston operated as far north as Blaine and south to Olympia and Shelton. She worked 11 months out of the year, retrieving thousands of snags, piles, floats and other debris, including a damaged airplane, fish boats, derelict scows, and houseboats. In addition to her snagging chores, she was used as a pile driver and icebreaker, and dredged about 3,500 cubic yards of material in an average year.



The WT Preston was placed on the National Register for Historic Places and acquired and preserved by Anacortes. The WT Preston Snagboat Heritage Center is located adjacent to the Anacortes Depot Art Center in the historic downtown district.

The center includes artifacts, models, graphic displays and historical text all related to the 3 snagboats that maintained the area's navigable rivers, as well as an ADA-access ramp to the WT Preston.

Carnegie Library: 1305-8th Street, Anacortes, WA 98221

360-293-1915

WT Preston: 713 R Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221

360-293-1916

<http://museum.cityofanacortes.org/Index.asp>
coa.museum@cityofanacortes.org

Art fairs and museums



Museum of Northwest Art (MoNA)

The Museum of Northwest Art collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets art by Northwest artists. Their growing collection includes over 2,500 contemporary art objects from the early 1900s to the present day. Noted artists include Mark Tobey, Guy Anderson, Morris Graves, Kenneth Callahan, Hilda Morris, George Tsutakawa, Richard Gilkey, Leo Kenney, Doris Chase, Paul Horiuchi, Ambrose Patterson, Viola Patterson, Neil Meitzler, Frank Okada, Clayton James, Philip McCracken, Dale Chihuly, Mary Randlett, Max Benjamin, Jay Steensma, William Slater, and Sonja Blomdahl.

They also collect the works of numerous younger or emerging artists, including Jeff Crandall, Jeremy Lepisto, Kevin Quinn, Joe Rossano, and Lisa Zerkowitz.



MoNA offers tours of its exhibitions with docents trained to work with young people to provide an engaging, age-appropriate learning experience. They serve all ages, grade 1 through college. They also conduct tours for adult groups with behind-the-scenes stories, NW art history, and informal discussions. All tours need to be scheduled as far in advance as possible.

PO Box 969, 121 South First Street, La Conner, WA 98257
360-466-4446
<http://www.museumofnwart.org/index.php?page=hours-location>
marketing@museumofnwart.org.



MoNA Annual Art Auction

The first week of June, MoNA conducts its annual silent and live art auction benefit to raise money for MoNA events and activities. The 3-day auction, the largest in the Northwest, draws seasoned and novice art collectors to bid on over 300 works by emerging through master artists of paintings, prints, glass, photographs, sculpture, ceramics, art jewelry, and textiles.

MoNA charges a sales premium, and most artists donate portions or all of their proceeds, to support MoNA activities.

PO Box 969, 121 South First Street, La Conner, WA 98257
360-466-4446
<http://www.museumofnwart.org/index.php?page=hours-location>
marketing@museumofnwart.org.



Arts Alive

Since 1985, the LaConner Chamber of Commerce has supported an annual arts festival and sale during the **first week of November**. The 3-day festival is a celebration of visual, literary, musical, and culinary arts open to established and emerging artists. The event also includes exhibits and demonstrations by artists and craftsmen in Maple Hall, the Civic Garden Center, and over 30 boutique exhibitions in the retail stores throughout the downtown.

Thousands of artists participate in the festival with several hundred that show their work each year including artists such as Charles Krafft, Philip McCracken, Robert Sund, and Max Benjamin..

LaConner Chamber of Commerce

360-466-4778, 888-642-9284

<http://www.laconnerchamber.com/artsalive.cfm>
info@laconnerchamber.com



Depot Arts Center

The Depot Arts Center in historic downtown Anacortes is a community funded exhibit-based organization housed in the historic former Great Northern Railway depot listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Depot hosts **continuous** indoor art exhibits and sales, and musical events for local and emerging Northwest artists and musicians.

In addition, the Depot hosts an annual indoor/outdoor garden art fair during the **last week of April** that includes gardens, plants, garden art, art exhibits, food, wine, and beer garden in a dog-friendly festive marketplace.

Depot Arts Center

611 R Avenue, PO Box 635, Anacortes, WA 98221

360-293-3663, 360-588-0403

<http://www.depotartscenter.org/>

Skagit Artists Together

Since 2003, artists in Skagit County have opened their studios to a touring event **during a weekend in July**.

The tours typically include 16 or more fine arts studios including photography, paintings, sculptures, and glass works located on Fidalgo and Samish Islands, LaConner, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley.

<http://www.skagitartists.together.com/2010-tour/2010-tour.html>
communications@skagitartists.together.com



Anacortes Arts Festival

The Annual Anacortes Arts Festival is conducted **the first weekend of August** in historic Downtown Anacortes. The Anacortes Arts Festival has grown over 50 years to include 250 juried street artisans spanning 10 blocks in historic downtown Anacortes Commercial Avenue. Performing arts are highlighted on 3 music stages with all-day, diverse entertainment.

The Anacortes Arts Festival is family friendly and includes a Youth Discovery Area which combines activities for kids and an Interactive Tent where children can interface with artists through music, dance, magic, drumming, juggling, and theatre.

The Festival also sponsors an Art Dash - a 5k, 10k, and half-marathon runs along the Anacortes waterfront.

Anacortes Arts Festival
 505 O Ave, Anacortes WA 98221
 360-293-6211
<http://www.AnacortesArtsFestival.com>
staff@anacortesartsfestival.com

Live entertainment

Anacortes Jazz Festival

The jazz festival is conducted over 3 days at the **end of August** at the end of Commercial Street in historic downtown Anacortes on the wharf overlooking the Guemes Channel.



The festival includes an eclectic mix of jazz formats and styles offering something for every taste. In addition to stellar music on 2 stages, participants can also dance to a free swing concert including swing dance lessons provided during the show. The popular Jazz Walk involves a single cover charge allowing participants to get into several venues each night.

The event includes an outstanding lineup of top performers while also providing fine wine and locally brewed beer, dining on dockside cuisine, and an unsurpassed view.

www.anacortes.org

Anacortes Oktoberfest - Bier on the Pier

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce hosts an annual beer festival the **first weekend of October** at the Port Warehouse in the historic downtown district overlooking the Guemes Channel. The event features over 30 brewers, live music, and a variety of food vendors with festival style seating.

The event is the largest brewer participated beer festival in Washington State, providing event-goers with an opportunity to meet-and-greet brewers from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

<http://www.anacortes.org/oktoberfest/index.cfm>



Performing arts theater



Lincoln Theater

The Lincoln Theatre, a restored 1926 historic vaudeville and silent movie house that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, presents a year-round schedule of concerts, current and classic films, and community events.

Lincoln Theatre is a multiuse facility, offering the community, in addition to films, the opportunity to present live performances. Over the years, the Lincoln has had on its stage everything from community and professional theatre productions, to touring rock performers, to opera, to world famous blues masters, to the annual talent show put on by the kids at the local elementary school.

The Metropolitan Opera's Emmy Award-winning series *The Met: Live in HD* continues in its second season at the historic Lincoln Theatre. Each live performance is viewed in real time live.

National Theater Live is the NT's groundbreaking initiative to broadcast live performances of plays to cinemas and performing arts venues around the world. The first season was seen by over 165,000 people on 320 screens in 22 countries.

Of the 98 Wurlitzer organs remaining in their original theaters in the US, the Lincoln Theatre's Wurlitzer is one of only two 2-manual, 7-rank D-2 Full Unit Orchestra models. It has a full set of organ pipes, as well as a set of 'toys,' the mechanical sound effects for silent movies, as well as marimbas, drums, glockenspiel, xylophone, cathedral chimes, celeste, etc., and an original Wurlitzer piano.

712 South First Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98
360-336-8955, For upcoming events: 360-336-2858
<http://www.lincoltheatre.org/welcome>
tickets@lincoltheatre.org



McIntyre Hall Community Performing Arts Center

McIntyre Hall Performing Arts Center is a 651 seat state-of-the-art performance hall offering a diverse season of music, theater, dance, special events, children's programs, community productions, and a series of internationally renowned artists.

McIntyre Hall is home to many local community organizations such as the Skagit Symphony, Northwest Ballet Theatre, Theater Arts Guild, Skagit Valley Academy of Dance, META Performing Arts, Skagit Valley Chorale, Fidalgo Youth Symphony, and others. Rounding out the calendar



are numerous Skagit Valley College programs, special events, guest artists, holiday events, and youth programs.

McIntyre Hall includes a 75-300 person lobby/conference center that provides intimacy, excellent acoustics, well controlled lighting and sound capabilities, and a complete array of services and equipment including a full service wet bar.

2501 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-416-7727 extension #2 Noon-3pm
<http://www.mcintyrehall.org/default.asp>

LaConner Institute of Performing Arts

The La Conner Institute of Performing Arts provides artistic programming and educational opportunities; and strives to enhance La Conner as a center for arts and culture by scheduling **monthly events** by local and national world-class performers in the town's Maple Hall.

Maple Hall provides a stage and preparation area with 150 floor level seats and 72 balcony seats along with a catering kitchen, wine bar, and exhibition/breakout rooms.

Purchase tickets at the door or at The Next Chapter Bookstore in La Conner - 360-466-2665
<http://www.laconnerarts.com/index.html>

Shakespeare Northwest Association

The Association is a nonprofit theatre company that presents annual **outdoor summer** Skagit River Shakespeare Festival outreach and education programs in LaConner's Pioneer Park, the Rexville Black Rock Amphitheater at 19299 Rexville Grange Road, and in Ferndale and Sedro-Woolley.

Their 2011 summer season included Richard III and As You Like It, in the beautiful Rexville-Blackrock Amphitheatre, and a touring production of Shakespeare's Fools, a fun mix-up of some of Shakespeare's greatest foolish characters.

360-941-5744
<http://www.shakesnw.org/>

