

Whidbey and Camano Islands offer old-fashioned family vacations for all generations. There's so much to explore and familiar amenities are plentiful that families come back year after year. Educational opportunities are plentiful, such as the Maxwelton Salmon Adventure and the interpretive center at Cornet Bay. Visit Rosie, the full skeleton of a whale, on display at the Coupeville wharf. See the first car ever owned on Whidbey Island at the Island County Historical Museum. The amphitheater at Camano Island State Park also holds lectures and demonstrations throughout the year. Family fun opportunities abound, such as a drive in theater with go-carts, miniature golf, a public swimming pool, walk-in theaters and even a bowling alley. Go to the "things to do" area on the tourism website www.WhidbeyCamanoIslands.com for more information.

Couples of all kinds will enjoy a romantic vacation or honeymoon on Whidbey and Camano Islands. With the most intimate accommodations per area in Washington State, there is a place to stay for all tastes. From quaint and quiet, beach cottages to bed & breakfasts, country inns and traditional suites, a location to fit any occasion (and budget) is readily available on the islands. It's the perfect place for couples to connect with each other on a getaway from their everyday world. It's even a great place to "pop the question." Wedding venues such as Greenbank Farm, Admiralty Head Lighthouse at Ft. Casey, historic Col. Crocket Farm and more offer distinctive settings for lasting memories. Old churches, community halls and beautiful country clubs are also available to offer a vacation wedding experience close to home.

Honeymooners and families will experience unspoiled beauty less than an hour northwest of Seattle and just south of the San Juans on Camano & Whidbey Islands! Perfect destination for fly/drive or drive only itineraries that honeymooners would be interested in: Northwest culture, heritage sites, cuisine, glass arts & crafts, sculpture, textiles, pottery, jewelry, weavers woodworkers, quilters, boat building, eco-tourism, Penn Cove Mussel harvesting, healing arts, poetry, writers, festivals, golf, sea kayaking, whale & wildlife watching, hiking, biking, romantic and full service lodging, beachcombing, & breathtaking scenery! Call 888-747-7777 or visit www.WhidbeyCamanoIslands.com. There is something for every type of honeymooner:

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Seeking Adventure:

Scuba Diving: Places where you can dive where there are whales, salmon, starfish and giant octopi, etc. Scuba Dive and see the Puget Sound's giant octopi off the coast of Whidbey & Camano Islands: Whidbey Island Dive Center email: divewide@whidbey.net

Skim Boarding and Kiteboarding on Double Bluff Beach, Whidbey Island: Double Bluff is located on the West side of Useless Bay on South Whidbey Island. It is known well as a high wind, big swell location by the windsurfing community and is an ideal kiting location with its frequent side onshore winds. http://www.seattlekitesurfing.org/index.php?title=Double_Bluff

Scenic flights by air: Take a scenic flight on Kenmore Express, from Seattle, San Juans, to Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island. Call 866.435.9524 or email: Charters@KenmoreAir.com

Whale watching: Whale season is late February through late May, when the large gray whales come into Saratoga Passage,. <http://www.mysticseacharters.com/> To learn where to look for Orcas and gray whales around the islands, or to report sightings of whales while you are here, call Orca Network at (866) ORCA-NET.

Go karts and train ride for kids: North Whidbey Island offers a little something different for those looking for old-time fun. Go-carts and track are located at the drive-in movie theatre where nearby you'll also find a great bowling alley complete with cosmic bowling, miniature golf, and a skating rink located in an historic barn.

Blue Fox Drive In and Bratland Go-Karts <http://www.bluefoxdrivein.com/>
1403 Monroe Landing Road
Oak Harbor
(360) 675-5667

Seeking Athletic experiences:

Biking: Rent or borrow a bike and take off through some of the most gorgeous countryside, forest and shoreline! <http://www.whidbey.com/4d/traxmaps/fekp.htm>

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve,

Island Cyclery

1097 W. Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor

(360) 679-4896

Services and sells parts for all brands.

Half Link Bicycle Shop

5603 Bayview Road (at Hwy 525)

Suite One

Langley, WA 98260

(360) 331-7980

halflink@whidbey.com

Camano Island:

Twisted Sprocket Mountain Bike Adventures, Inc.

(866) 629-5181

Velo Sport

(360) 629-6415

Boating: Rent a boat and explore the awesome natural beauty of the Whidbey and Camano Islands and surrounding Puget Sound: Oak Harbor Marina <http://www.whidbey.com/ohmarina/>

Or sail on an authentic Cutty Sark! <http://www.captainwhidbey.com/cuttysark.html>

Take a one hour boat ride under Deception Pass <http://www.DeceptionPassTours.com/> or call (360) 914-0096.

Kayaking: The Whidbey Island Kayaking Company is a kayaking tour company based on beautiful Whidbey Island, Washington. Sea kayaking is the quintessential Northwest adventure.

<http://www.whidbeyislandkayaking.com> Phone: 800.233.4319 E-Mail: kayaking@whidbey.com

Triathlete training camp: designed for those who are new to the sport: WildeBerry Sports 2007 Contact: Coach John, (360) 914-6241 or Ripen@WildeBerrySports.com. www.WildeBerry.com

Fishing: From Lakes: From the Shore On the Water Department of Fish and Wildlife (360) 902-2200
Marine/Freshwater licenses: (360) 902-2464 Puget Sound Anglers, Oak Harbor: (360) 675-4721 Shell fishing - PSP/Red Tide: (800) 562-5632

Horsebackriding and rentals: Madrona Ridge Ranch, Coupeville (360) 678-4124
Whidbey Equestrian Center (360) 678-8852, Coupeville

Golfing: Public Courses Lam's Links - nine holes Oak Harbor (360) 675-3412; Island Greens - Clinton (360) 579-6042; Gallery Golf Course - Oak Harbor (360) 257-2178; Holmes Harbor Golf Club - Freeland (360) 331-2363; Camaloch Golf Course, Camano Island (360) 387-3084

Bowling: Oak Bowl, Oak Harbor (360) 679-2533; Ebey Bowl & Louie G's Pizza Coupeville (360) 678-3131; (360) 678-3828 ; Freeland Lanes (360) 331-5070

Swimming: Besides swimming in the ocean or at the Oak Harbor Salt Water Lagoon, there are two great swimming pool locations for you and your family to enjoy while on vacation. Oak Harbor offers a public

swimming pool for swimmers of all ages. Convenient open swim times are available daily. Located at 85 SE Jerome Street, (360) 675-7665.

Island Athletic Club offers day passes to visitors and has an excellent facility including swimming pool and spa. The Island Athletic Club is located at Hwy 525 and Freeland Ave. For more information visit their web site at www.islandathleticclub.com or call (360) 331-2582.

There are private pools available for public access for a small fee seasonally at Camp Casey (adjacent to Fort Casey State Park) (360) 678-5050 and also in Admiral's Cove (south of Coupeville) (360) 678-5001.

There are several fresh water lakes too: Cranberry Lake near Deception Pass; Deer Lake in Clinton,

Seeking local art and culture:

The islands are both rich in art. The natural beauty and serenity make the perfect haven for painters, sculptors, glass blowers, fiber arts, weavers, quilters, wood artists, writers, and performing artists. Dozens of open studios and tours are available year-round where visitors can enjoy the works of internationally known artists. Visit Gail Harker Creative Studies in Oak Harbor. Classes are on-going and open to visitors. In February, the annual Writers Conference brings hundreds of writers and publishers together, where writing classes and inspiration abound.

At the Whidbey Island Center for Arts and Whidbey Playhouse, frequent workshops and classes include acting, make up and stage management.

Coupeville Arts Center holds classes and workshops on textiles and painting, drawing from the natural surroundings. For a listing of galleries and studios visit www.WhidbeyCamanoIslands.com and click on Things to Do, Art.

Seeking mental stimulation: Educational and historical trips.

Explore: Coupeville Art Center workshops, Gail Harker's Creative Arts Center textile course, and the Whidbey Writers course that offers a MS in creative literature. Check the calendars of our superb libraries and book stores that have storytelling programs for children and author book signings.

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve: Within the fast growing Puget Sound region, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve provides a vivid historical record where Pacific Northwest history is still clearly visible in the landscape. <http://www.nps.gov/ebla/>

Admiralty Head Lighthouse and Fort Casey's big guns stood watch over the entrance to Puget Sound for decades. <http://www.admiraltyhead.wsu.edu/history/>

Island County Historical Society Museum "Bow to Plow" exhibit features local family and farm tools from the 1800s onward. <http://www.islandhistory.org/> Coupeville (360) 678-3310
<http://www.coupevillehistoricwaterfront.com/>

South Whidbey Historical Society Museum In the historic Anthes Bunk House on Second Street in Langley this small museum showcases the artifacts of daily life on the islands from the 1870s to the 1950s. A "bunk house kitchen" complete with food packaging is part of the permanent display. Other displays rotate each year. <http://www.islandweb.org/swhs/> (360) 579-3519

The Center for Wooden Boats at Cama Beach State Park This hands-on-maritime history museum preserves our Maritime heritage experienced through workshops, sailing instruction, and small boat rental. Camano Island 206-382-2628/ 206-382-2699 cwb@cwb.org

Seeking environmental programs:

Visit Island County's Protected shoreline and beaches, protected forests, prairies, farms and historical sites

Island County Beach Watchers We are on a mission to understand, value and protect Island County's priceless marine environment. Visit our Upcoming Events Page <http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/>

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve provides a vivid historical record where Pacific Northwest history is still clearly visible in the landscape. www.nps.gov/ebla/

Fort Casey State Park is a 467-acre marine camping park with a lighthouse and sweeping views of Admiralty Inlet and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The park features 10,810 feet of saltwater shoreline on Puget Sound (Admiralty Inlet), and includes Keystone Spit, a two-mile-plus stretch of land separating Admiralty Inlet and Crocket Lake.

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Fort%20Casey&pageno=1>

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 three 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. http://www.whidbeycamanoislands.com/main/things_to_do/park_info.html

Greenbank Farm: The mission of the Greenbank Farm Management Group is caring for the 522-acre Greenbank Farm, its rural character, natural habitat, and historical roots.

<http://www.greenbankfarm.com/history.cfm>

Bavview Cash Store Sustainability Project: preservation and protection of its historic buildings and natural environment, the sponsoring of Cash Store renovation, that meant cedar siding, framing lumber, skip sheathing, doors, windows and roofing material from the dismantled building were salvaged and reused. Parking surface is water permeable and the public restrooms have state of the art composting toilets. Decentralized, energy and water efficient systems were installed. <http://www.goosefoot.org/>

Restoring Salmon: Restore Salmon runs to the Maxwellton Watershed on Whidbey Island, and encouraged Watershed Stewardship through habitat restoration and individual actions.

<http://www.whidbeywatersheds.com> at the Outdoor Classroom site is open to the public year-round.

Bird watching is an activity that can be pursued year round, seeing something different in every season. Camano Island holds its annual Snow Goose Festival each February. Protected bird habitats are found at the **Four Springs Preserve** on Camano Island and the Earth Sanctuary on Whidbey Island. There are over 60 pair of eagles nesting on Whidbey Island and Camano Islands. The 12 parks on Camano Island offer many locations from which to watch a very wide variety of birds, local and migrating. Camano's Iverson Waterfront Preserve is particularly popular. Click on the link below for the Washington State Checklist (ABA 461 species)

<http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org> <http://www.whidbeyaclub.org/whid-birdlist.htm>
<http://www.whidbeyaclub.org/whid-15spots.html>

Island Transit provides **Free public bus service** six days a week in our county! Enjoy getting from place to place on Whidbey's fare free transit system. Convenient daytime schedules, let you see the full length of the island.

Whidbey Island Scenic Byway, Washington State

Visit Whidbey's Island Route, the only designated Washington State Scenic Byway on an island. It's called the "Whidbey Island Scenic Isle Way." It's easy to get to Whidbey Island, but difficult to leave.

<http://www.byways.org/explore/byways/54779/>

Orca Network: Connecting whales and people in the Pacific Northwest" Orca Network is dedicated to raising awareness about the whales of the Pacific Northwest, and the importance of providing them healthy and safe habitats. To learn where to look for Orcas and gray whales around the islands, or to report sightings of whales while you are here, call Orca Network at (866) ORCA-NET.

Respectful **Whale Watching** Excursions <http://www.mysticseacharters.com/>

Seeking Vacation Volunteer opportunities

HOPE Therapeutic Riding Program provides horsemanship lessons to children, adults, and families who are experiencing challenging circumstances. Langley, Whidbey Island **360.221.7656**

Whidbey Island Animal's Improvement Foundation (WAIF) Volunteer Opportunities

Important mental stimulation for our dogs, great exercise for volunteers. Experienced dog walkers are also needed for parades and offsite adoptions! /Volunteer at WAIF's Thrift Stores

<http://www.waifanimals.org/volunteer.asp>

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Restoring Salmon: We began in 1994 as the Chums of Maxwelton Salmon Adventure - a group of teachers joined with others to restore Salmon runs to the Maxwelton. Watershed Stewardship through habitat restoration and individual actions. <http://www.whidbeywatersheds.com>

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Island County Beach Watchers: We are on a mission to understand, value and protect Island County's priceless marine environment. Join us collecting data, evaluating water quality, talking with the public, conducting tours and classes, and doing hands-on work such as removing invasive weeds from fragile estuaries. We are headquartered at Admiralty Head Lighthouse, Fort Casey State Park, on Whidbey Island. <http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/>

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M-Bar-C Ranch: Located in Freeland, Washington (on lovely Whidbey Island),The M-Bar-C Ranch conducts a free program for children who are physically, mentally, emotionally or financially disadvantaged to come and ride horses and participate in real ranch activities. Through their kind and gentle spirits, the program's specially trained and lovingly maintained horses connect with the children who freely hug them, talk to them, brush them, and, of course, ride them. Trained volunteers (nicknamed "wranglers") are encouraging liasions for the horses and the kids. <http://www.m-bar-c.org/>

Seeking solitude:

Many visitors to Whidbey and Camano Islands are looking for a solo break to renew their spirits. Here couples will find a safe refuge from hectic urban life. Rustic cabins and cozy cottages are available for maximum privacy and home-style amenities. Typically outfitted with kitchens and multiple rooms, these stand-alone cabins and cottages are a great way to spend an extended vacation, with or without friends and family. Kayaking, biking, hiking, spas, beaches and forests are plentiful for private and stress free excursions.

There are so many peaceful and romantic settings and places to stay on your honeymoon on Whidbey and Camano, it's easy to find a special atmosphere that will make for lasting memories. Old churches, community halls and beautiful country clubs are also available to offer a vacation wedding experience close to home. Rustic beaches, quaint towns, historic farms, beautiful gardens and picturesque prairies offer unique backdrops for honeymoon stays on either Whidbey or Camano Island.

http://www.whidbeycamanoislands.com/frame_places_to_stay.html or lindyevents@earthlink.net

The Earth Sanctuary and the Retreat House is available for individual and couples overnight and day spiritual retreats. Contact Celia Sullivan at 1-360-321-5465 for reservations and information. Earth Sanctuary combines exemplary ecology with art and spirit to create a sanctuary for birds and wildlife and a peaceful place for personal renewal and spiritual connection. As a meditation parkland, Earth Sanctuary features a number of megalithic monuments and sacred spaces designed for meditation and prayer. These sites bring together ancient art forms, a profound connection with nature, and diverse global spiritual traditions. Among the structures are two Stone Circles, a Dolmen (the first built in the U.S. during modern times), a Labyrinth, and a Native American Medicine Wheel. <http://www.earthsanctuary.org/>

Whidbey Institute and Chinook: Personal Retreat Cabins are located in the forest, close to the Farmhouse. Small and comfortably rustic, all have electricity and heat. "Bag End" includes a small wood stove and meditation loft. "Hermitage" and "Heron" each have a double bed and "Mushroom" has a single.

Showers, restrooms and an outdoor kitchen are provided in a separate building a short distance away.
www.whidbeyinstitute.org/accomodations.html#cabins

Seeking tastes of the place:

The islands have something for every craving from locally owned gourmet dining to simpler family fare and groceries. Whidbey and Camano Islands have it all. Dine in an elegant water view restaurant, a casual town cafe, or grab some take out and enjoy a picnic. From Mediterranean to Japanese, Northwest Seafood to Barbecue, you can enjoy a wide selection of ethnic cuisine prepared by world-class chefs. Catch your own dinner by fishing, clamming or crabbing. Tour wineries for that perfect complement to your fresh seafood dinner. Visit farmers markets for fresh baked pies, just picked fruit and vegetables, organically grown herbs, local honey, lavender laced jams and sauces, gelato made daily and many other culinary treats. http://www.whidbeycamanoislands.com/frame_dining.html

Penn Cove mussels, clams and oysters: We are the only shellfish farm which grows and distributes the world famous Penn Cove Mussels as well as Mediterranean Mussels, America's finest chef's choices for sweet and tasty farmed mussels! <http://www.penncoveshellfish.com/Recipes.htm>

Camano Blossom Inn: Cooking Classes offered by 'KCTS Favorites' chef Melissa Mei Hsu! The focus is on showing you the "true spirit of love in cooking" so that you can cook authentic tasting Chinese food without needing to follow a specific recipe. <http://www.camanoblossombandb.com/cooking.html>

Culinary Restaurant Sampler: http://www.whidbeycamanoislands.com/frame_dining.html

Fraser's (5 star restaurant) Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island
Zorba's Greek Restaurant, Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island
Christopher's Restaurant, Coupeville, Whidbey Island
Oyster Catcher, Coupeville, Whidbey Island
Mad Crab, Coupeville, Whidbey Island
Toby's, Coupeville, Whidbey Island
Beachfire Grill, Holmes Harbor, Whidbey Island
Gordon's on Blueberry Hill, Freeland
China City, Freeland
Edgecliff, Langley
Fish Bowl, Langley
Langley Café
Village Pizzeria
MacDonalds, Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island
Wendy's, Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island

Whidbey Island Winery:
Greenbank Cellars
Whidbey Pies
Whidbey Ice Cream
Loganberry Jam
Whidbey Cheese

Brindles Meat Market

848 N. Sunrise Blvd., Bldg C, Camano 360-722-7480

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