

For Immediate Release

April 13, 2021

Adventure is Near...
Discover Your Islands this Spring!

If COVID has created anything, it's the opportunity to be tourists in our own backyards, all while helping Islands' businesses stay afloat. What island adventure is on your bucket list? Because we live here, we take so much for granted and put off exploring our own stomping grounds for "someday." Make someday happen this spring!

Adventure in April

Why not get outside and do good? Pick up litter on a road or beach during the [Great Islands Cleanup](#) on April 24. If you like it so much and would like to make it a habit, sign up to adopt a beach with Plastic Free Salish Sea (www.plasticfreesalishsea.org/adopt-a-beach/).

Interested in learning more about local flora and fauna? Join The Whale Museum for its spring virtual [Marine Naturalist Training](#) and get an in-depth look at the Islands' natural history. Then see it from a sea-level perspective--contact an outfitter or launch your own kayak or paddleboard from a new spot on a neighboring island. Twelve of the sixteen [state parks](#) in San Juan County are marine and inaccessible by ferry - how many have you been to?

If you prefer your feet on dry ground, why not commit to visiting every State and County park on the four ferry-served islands, a total of 21 parks. You'll be amazed at the variety. We all love our parks, so let's be sure to [recreate responsibly](#) and keep them nice!

Culture is Calling

Have you walked all the trails at the San Juan Islands Sculpture Park to see the new works? Or, checked out the [Artists' Registry Show](#) at the San Juan Islands Museum of Art? Seen the new sculptural marine interpretive wall at the Orcas ferry landing, with its sensuous strands of kelp and climbing crab?

Pencil in the San Juan Island [Artist Studio Tour](#) for the first weekend in June if you'd like to explore private backroads and discover studios tucked into secret gardens or mossy forest settings--straight out of Hansel and Gretel.

History Lives Here

One of the lovely things about the Islands is how we honor history and tradition. May is National Historic Preservation Month, also known as "[History Lives Here](#)." Join Park rangers at English Camp on San Juan Island for a "Pioneer Homestead Walk" and discover the story of the Sandwith family, their orchard, and the life of pioneers on the islands in the 19th century.

Know the saying “if walls could talk?” Sometimes they do in the former Odd Fellows Hall, now The Whale Museum in Friday Harbor. Stories both historical and supernatural have originated in this iconic old building towering high on the bluff. [Hear them all](#) with San Juan Historical Society & Museum board member Robin Jacobson via Zoom on May 18.

Have you seen the 14,000-year-old *Bison Antiquus* skull at the Orcas Historical Museum, the Coast Salish canoe at the Lopez Historical Museum, or explored the Museum of History and Industry at the San Juan Historical Museum? These museums will delight you as they make history come alive.

Tuck into All that's Edible

In many circles, the islands are known as the “Gourmet Archipelago.” Find out why by taking a multi-island dining adventure trip to renowned [restaurants](#) and shellfish farms. Here you can dine alfresco without worry. Or make it a takeout order and watch the sunset from Mt. Constitution, Lime Kiln Lighthouse, or Iceberg Point. Farm-to-fork dining, freshly foraged food, and garden-to-glass libations are part of island living.

Surprise Lodging Without Leaving

Celebrate a special occasion or turn up the dial on date night and try out one of the islands' glamping tents, yurts, or even a luxury suite! Spring [lodging](#) rates abound. And, you don't have to spend a dime to be transported back in time while staying in one of our many historic hotels--some are even haunted!

Lastly, don't overlook the [artisans and makers](#) living next door to you or the small shops that make our town and villages special. They depend on your patronage now more than ever! Remember, a strong economy builds a strong community.

You don't need to board a ferry to the mainland or a plane to fly to some exotic location to experience a sense of travel or the wonder of difference. It already is waiting on your doorstep—if you look.