

Friday Harbor

SAN JUAN ISLAND, WASHINGTON STATE



DISCOVER A SLOWER PACE... A FRIENDLY PLACE

SAN JUAN ISLAND'S FRIDAY HARBOR exudes authentic waterfront character—from classic wooden schooners to intriguing historic structures. In the heart of the Salish Sea, Friday Harbor is a year-round destination, known for its friendly informality. Nestled between the three great cities of Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria, Friday Harbor's cultural experience takes you far from the stresses of city life, yet remains a conveniently close escape. An easily walkable one square mile, you are never far from the sea and breathtaking views. Although there are no stoplights in Friday Harbor—*The New York Times* is delivered daily and the town has become a culinary destination.

A sheltered bay with a good anchorage set the stage for Friday Harbor's emergence as a hub for waterfront commerce and later, as a world-class pleasure boating destination. In 2008, Friday Harbor was recognized by The National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of its Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Many of the original wood-frame buildings now house charming inns, restaurants and shops.

ENJOY RELAXED SOPHISTICATION... DINING & LODGING

The big decision every day is where to eat. Bucolic farms throughout the islands support a vibrant viticulture and organic farm-to-table movement. Culinary wizards prepare fresh, locally-sourced seafood, meats and produce at an exceptional variety of eateries—from alfresco dining and gourmet delis to elegantly-appointed restaurants. Brickworks Plaza, in the heart of town, houses a lively farmers' market every Saturday morning. Shop for crafts, island-grown fruits, flowers and vegetables.

Savor a slice of pizza from a wood-fired oven and enjoy the camaraderie of authentic island characters.

Settle down for the night in a comfortable inn, hotel, B&B or luxury suite. Most are within easy walking distance of restaurants, antique shops, boutiques, wine-tasting rooms, bookshops, live theatre and first-run movies. Take the historic walking tour and visit the Historical Museum. Stroll the port's waterfront park where Coast Salish artist Susan Point's carved cedar houseposts serve as portals of welcome to Friday Harbor.

ARTS & ADVENTURE AWAIT

The San Juan Community Theatre showcases performing arts while the Islands Art Museum (IMA) and fine arts galleries feature the work of island, regional and northern Native American sculptors and visual artists.

Friday Harbor offers both a passport to pleasure and a gateway to bold adventures. With half the rainfall of the Seattle area, it's easy to enjoy the outdoors. Book a sea kayaking trip, set sail on a schooner, go zip lining or bike riding. Slow down with a quiet walk on the beach. Step aboard a whale and wildlife cruise; guided tours leave from Friday Harbor all year—several whale species, porpoises, sea lions, seals and otters are commonly spotted. Bald eagles, trumpeter swans, and 250 other birds make the San Juans a year-round draw for bird watchers. About 85 "resident" orca whales spend much of the year here. The official marine mammal of Washington State, the orca is on the endangered species list. The Whale Museum is often a new visitor's first stop to learn more.



Gateway to Adventure...



YOU'RE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

Whether you take a scenic 30-minute flight from Seattle or a relaxing ferry ride, cares seem to melt as you ease into the state of "island time."

The drive from Seattle is just 90 minutes, plus an hour to an hour-and-a-half ride aboard a Washington State Ferry. Car ferries run year-round from Anacortes to Friday Harbor. Passenger-only boats provide round-trip service from Seattle, Bellingham and Port Townsend in the summer.

The port, ferry dock and airport are in the heart of Friday Harbor, making it easy to leave your car on the mainland. Use summer shuttles, a rental car, moped, bicycle or taxi to explore beyond the town.

SCENIC BYWAY

Friday Harbor is the gateway to the San Juan Island portion of the San Juan Islands Scenic Byway—Washington's newest byway. It is the first route in the lower 48 states to include a marine highway—a historic canoe route originally traveled by the Coast Salish people. The beauty of Friday Harbor is that cars and walk-on passengers land right in the heart of town where the San Juan Island segment begins. Look for signage identifying travelers' amenities and significant places to visit.

EXPLORE SAN JUAN, ORCAS AND LOPEZ ISLANDS FROM YOUR HOME BASE OF FRIDAY HARBOR

San Juan Island's other great attractions include: historic Roche Harbor village, a 19-acre sculpture park, Lime Kiln Point State Park (also known as Whale Watch Park) and the San Juan Island National Historical Park.

On Orcas Island, take the Scenic Byway and visit Moran State Park, majestic Mount Constitution and Eastsound Village. Also, explore Lopez Village, Spencer Spit State Park and Shark Reef Sanctuary on Lopez Island.

All islands offer annual artist studio tours, multi-purpose performing arts centers, historical museums, farmers' markets and visitor centers at Chamber of Commerce offices.

Leave your cares and your car behind, bring an open mind and adventurous spirit... let Friday Harbor inspire you.



INSPIRATION FOR THE SENSES

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