Experience Paradise in the Pacific Northwest.

It's no wonder the spectacular and pristine San Juan Islands are Washington State’s newest Scenic Byway, and are a year-round destination for visitors from around the world. Getting to San Juan, Orcas and Lopez Islands is half the fun – they are only about 30 minutes by airplane or seaplane from Seattle, or a one-and-a-half hour drive northwest of Seattle to the Washington State Ferries Terminal in Anacortes, plus an additional 40-minute to two-hour awe-inspiring ferry ride to the Island of your choice.

Surrounded by three great cities – Seattle, Vancouver B.C. and Victoria B.C. – the Islands offer a temperate climate and about half the rainfall of the Seattle area, due to the “rain shadow” effect of the Olympic Mountains to the south and those of Vancouver Islands to the north.

The Islands’ diversity of authentic experiences parallel their natural wonders. Visitors come for recreation, relaxation and rejuvenation, as well as Island history, arts and culture. From orca whale watching and sea kayaking, to hiking and biking, the Islands are paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. Island artists express themselves through paintings, pottery, photography, glass, bronze and more in indoor and outdoor galleries and studios, as well as the 19-acre Sculpture Park at Westcott Bay. History museums, a National Historical Park and historic resorts preserve the Islands’ past, and The Whale Museum is one of a kind. Restaurants draw on the abundance of Island farms and fishermen for fresh ingredients and wines. Local performing arts theaters bring community and professional talent to the stage for residents and visitors alike. Lodging varies from hotels and resorts, to B&Bs and cottages, to camping and vacation rentals.

Friday Harbor, on San Juan Island, the only incorporated town in the Islands, was chosen as one of the 2008 Dozen Distinctive Destinations by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and celebrated its Centennial in 2009. In addition, the San Juan Island National Historical Park (American & English Camps) commemorated the 150th anniversary of the “Pig War” crisis in 2009, the period in the mid-1800s when the U.S. and Great Britain settled ownership of the islands through peaceful arbitration.
San Juan Island is the most diverse island in the county. Explore quiet valley roads, find a beach for yourself, visit one of the popular resorts, or enjoy Friday Harbor's art galleries, boutiques, museums and water-view restaurants. Gasoline is available only in Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor.

**Friday Harbor** - Ferry dock, county seat, port of entry to the U.S., restaurants, lodging, galleries, The Whale Museum, San Juan Historical Museum, San Juan Community Theatre, boat & kayak rentals, charters, whale/wildlife tours, moped, bicycle & car rentals, seasonal shuttle bus, taxis and fuel.

**Jacksons Beach** - Day Use. One mile from Friday Harbor.

**American Camp, San Juan Island National Historical Park** - 1,200 acres of prairie and forest, five miles of beach. Visitor center, historic buildings, tours, hiking, day use, nature and wildlife viewing.

**South Beach** - Day use. Olympic Mountain views. Longest beach in the San Juan Islands.

**Fourth of July Beach** - Day use. Beach walks and wildlife.

**Jakle's Lagoon** - Day use. Hike Mt. Finlayson for spectacular views and wildlife.

**Cattle Point** - Hike to lighthouse. Day use.

**Pelindaba Lavender Farm & Gatehouse Store** - Tour lavender fields in bloom July-September.

**Lime Kiln Point State Park a.k.a. Whale Watch Park** - Perhaps the best place in the world to possibly see orca whales from shore. Seasonal visitor center.

**San Juan County Park** - Day use and camping. Whale watching from shore, scuba diving, hiking, boat/kayak launching.

**Krystal Acres Alpaca Farm** - See colorful alpacas and shop in Country Store.

**English Camp, San Juan Island National Historical Park** - Seasonal exhibits, historic buildings, day use, hiking (Bell Point bayside trail and Mt. Young, across West Valley Road, to views of northern San Juans and Canada).

**Sculpture Park at Westcott Bay** - Outdoor sculpture park on 19 acres, featuring over 100 sculptures.

**Roche Harbor** - Historic resort & village, lodging, shops, restaurants, spa, marina, whale/wildlife tours, hiking, kayak tours and rentals, charters, fuel.

**San Juan Vineyards** - Tasting room and gifts in a historic schoolhouse. Seasonal harvest festivals/barrel tastings.
The horseshoe shape of Orcas Island means you are never far from a beautiful vista of the sea. As the biggest island in the county, the drives on Orcas are a little longer, and the pace a little slower. Gasoline is available near Eastsound at the corner of Crescent Beach and Olga Roads.

1. **Orcas Village** - Ferry dock, shops, lodging, restaurants/snack bars and groceries. Whale/wildlife boat tours, kayak tours, moped and auto rentals, seasonal shuttle bus.


3. **Crow Valley Pottery** - Pottery studio in historic 1866 log cabin. Features over 70 artists and many art shows. (2nd location in Eastsound).


7. **Moran State Park** - This 5,252-acre natural jewel extends from sea level to 2,409-foot Mount Constitution, the highest point in San Juan County. Thirty miles of trails, camping, nature viewing, mountain biking, lakes and waterfalls.

8. **Cascade Lake** - Swimming, fishing, boating and lakeside camping.


10. **Mount Constitution** - Park your car and it's a short walk to the most spectacular views in the San Juan Islands. Seasonal gift shop.


12. **Obstruction Pass State Park** - 80-acre forest park with .5 mile trail to beach and campsites.

LOPEZ ISLAND

While Lopez Island is not officially part of the new Scenic Byway, it is definitely worth a visit.

Lopez is a friendly, pastoral island ideal for bicycling, kayaking and relaxation. Most Lopezians wave to passing drivers, friends and strangers alike. Gasoline is available in Lopez Village and at Islandale.

1. **Upright Head ferry dock.**
2. **Odlin County Park** - Day use, camping.
3. **Lopez Island Vineyards** - Tasting room.
5. **Otis Perkins Day Use Park** - Hike the shoreline or birdwatch over Fishermans Bay’s estuary.
6. **Shark Reef Park** - Hike among old-growth fir and cedar to rocky shore, facing the narrow pass to San Juan Island.
7. **Historic Richardson** - Historic fishing port, scenic vistas.
8. **Islandale** - Gas station, convenience store, bike rest area.
9. **Agate Beach County Park** - The occasional agate can be gleaned.
10. **Hummel Lake Preserve.** Day use, public dock, fishing and birding.
11. **Spencer Spit State Park.** Beach and forest hiking. Day use, camping.