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San Juan ISLANDS WASHINGTON



As your ferry glides through the San Juan Islands, feel yourself unwind. Watch for bald eagles and listen for the spouts of orca or humpback whales. You won't find fast food, stoplights, or jet skis, you will find "orcaholics" and enclaves of creative vitality.

Along with the relaxed vibe, there's an undercurrent of excitement. Try kayaking past a sea lion haulout or hiking up Mt. Constitution for a panoramic view of distant snow-capped peaks and scattered islands below.

From nature-to-nurture, shuck a briny oyster at a shellfish farm or sample the evergreen essence of the Islands at a local distillery or winery. Finish the day with a visit to a pampering spa or open-air hot tub and discover the true meaning of la dolce vita.

Less than an hour plane ride from Seattle, the San Juan Islands are *Inspiration for the Senses*.

ABOUT THE ISLANDS—

The Islands are nestled between three great visitor destinations—Seattle, Vancouver B.C. and Victoria B.C.—surrounded by the Salish Sea. Of the 172 named islands in the San Juans, three main islands—Lopez, Orcas and San Juan—have lodgings, attractions, parks and amenities for visitors.

One of the most biologically diverse areas on the planet, San Juan County is the first place to voluntarily embrace the

7 principles of *Leave No Trace* to encourage visitors to tread lightly on this fragile landscape.

At sea, orca, minke, and humpback whales ply glacier-scoured channels alongside porpoises, seals, and sea lions. On land, watch for red fox and black-tailed deer.

Find twice as much sunshine as the Seattle area year-round. See why the Islands are a magnet for artists and chefs. Experience bustling farmers' markets, outdoor theater, sunset sails, waterfront parks and wildlife cruises. Be seduced by "Island Time" in a place without bridges or malls.

GETTING HERE IS HALF THE FUN —

There are many options for traveling to the islands:

- **Ferries:** A leisurely ride on a Washington State Ferry from Anacortes is now even easier when you make a vehicle reservation at www.takeaferry.com.
- **Passenger Ferries:** Hop on the seasonal San Juan Clipper from Seattle's waterfront, the Puget Sound Express from Port Townsend, or San Juan Cruises from Bellingham, for a day or overnight trip.
- **Flights:** Take a scenic flight from Seattle, Portland or Victoria, Canada

Find interesting facts about Washington's San Juan Islands here: www.visitsanjuans.com/media

Photo Credits: Bill Evans, Ferry; Jim Maya, Orcas; SJVB, Alpacas; Mike Bertrand, Sunset; Monica Bennett, Pelindaba Lavender Farm





LOPEZ ISLAND

Square Miles: 29.5

Population: Approximately 2,500

Unique Features:

Pastoral farmland on the most level island—a bicyclist's or hiker's dream. The quickest, yet most rural getaway destination from the mainland. Lopez motorists wave to each other.

Visitor Center:

At the Chamber of Commerce in Lopez Village

Lopez Island, the first ferry stop on the route from Anacortes, possesses an authentic rural charm and a spirit of community that confirms that you've left the mainland behind. The landscape blends woods with bucolic farmlands, meadows and shimmering vistas. Lopez is home to an eclectic mix of artisans, musicians, farmers and nature lovers.

Walk along the beaches and trails of Spencer Spit State Park or Odlin County Park. Follow the trail to the shoreline through the dense forest of cedar trees and mossy rocks of Shark Reef Sanctuary, and enjoy a chance to sit quietly with binoculars and observe the wildlife.

Lopez Village is the activity center of the Island. The Farmers' Market each Saturday, May through September, is a culinary and cultural treat. Be sure to sample the local bounty of organic produce and meats. Indulge yourself with freshly baked goods.

Browse village shops for local arts and crafts to take home to preserve your memories. Learn about the Island's maritime and homesteading past at the Historical Museum. Check out the performing arts schedule at the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts.

Biking along country roads is a long-favored tradition. The *Tour de Lopez*, a non-competitive bicycle rally through the scenic landscape of Lopez Island, is an annual event. It's an opportunity for families and friends to experience the beauty of the countryside in spring.

Lopezians ask visitors to help create a model for sustainable tourism by treading lightly and adhering to *Leave No Trace* principles, e.g. leave your car behind and rent a bike.

A Lopez state of mind is a quintessential Island phenomenon. Hard to describe, it leaves a lasting impression and an invitation to return and enjoy the rural nature of the Island.

TELLING ISLAND STORIES –

There are many fascinating stories in the San Juan Islands. Here are a few story ideas, find more at:

www.visitsanjuans.com/storyideas

- **Bountiful Lopez:** A few days on Lopez is a dreamy escape; with farm stands, historic barns and quiet rolling pastures. "Lopez Bounty," a community created website and book honors the Island's cherished farmers and food purveyors.
- **Keep It Wild:** The San Juan Islands are a mecca for bird watchers and wildlife lovers; with visits from over 200 species of birds, and many mammals—mostly of the marine persuasion. Create your own version of the Big Five with bald eagles, western bluebirds, orcas, Steller sea lions and red foxes, among other notable species. Some of the best shore-based whale watching in the world is here. The Islands are also a center of eco-conscious practices and stewardship of marine wildlife.

Photo Credits: Bill Evans, Barn; George Willis, Fisherman Bay; Robert Harrison, Bicyclists & Hikers; Barbara Marrett, Pepper Baskets; Lopez Island Vineyards, Wine





ORCAS ISLAND

Square Miles: 56.9

Population: Approximately 5,000

Unique Features:

Panoramic view atop easily accessible Mt. Constitution. Hamlets beside sheltered harbors and coves.

Visitor Center:

At the Chamber of Commerce in Eastsound Village

Art, creative activities and agriculture flourish on Orcas Island, the largest and most geographically diverse of the San Juans. It is home to a mix of nestled hamlets and villages, verdant forests, farm valleys and placid lakes. For well over a hundred years, artists and artisans have been creating in the golden light of its forests, meadows and shorelines.

The main village of Eastsound, and hamlets of Deer Harbor, Olga, Doe Bay, West Sound and Orcas, showcase an array of art galleries, potteries, shops, farm-to-table restaurants and nationally acclaimed chefs. Learn about Coast Salish history at the Historical Museum. See a play or performance at Orcas Center. Meet a working artist at the Orcas Island Artworks, a co-op gallery in a former strawberry packing plant.

Explore Turtleback Mountain Preserve, its 1,718 acres offer a growing network of multi-use trails. Traverse grasslands and Garry oak habitat into deep conifer forest. After a steep walk, be rewarded by stunning pastoral or marine views, and a carpet of wildflowers in the spring.

Tour the historic Moran Mansion, an Island treasure at Rosario Resort & Spa on beautiful Cascade Bay. When Seattle ship-building tycoon Robert Moran was told in 1904 he had only a few years left to live, he quickly purchased acreage on Orcas

Island and built his dream retirement home. Free from the pressures of his business, Moran recovered and lived until 1943. Now the Moran Mansion is the centerpiece of Rosario Resort, and houses a restaurant, spa and museum.

The sweeping view from atop 2,409-foot Mt. Constitution is a must-see. Hike, bike, horseback ride or drive to the summit. As the highest peak in the Islands, you'll find unparalleled views of Mt. Baker, the surrounding San Juan Islands, and glistening water as far as the eye can see. Moran State Park also offers camping, glamping, lakes and tranquil trails leading to waterfalls in lush cedar forests.

TELLING ISLAND STORIES –

- **The Gourmet Archipelago:** With fresh fish at their finger tips and Island farms producing everything from kiwi fruit and goat cheese to lamb, Kobe beef and Mangalitsa pork, it's no wonder award-winning chefs find their niche here. The Islands have three shellfish farms, three vineyards, three breweries, one cidery, two distilleries, and many ways to taste local and Northwest wines, beers and locally distilled spirits. Enjoy farm feasts and festivals in a thriving culinary arts scene during fall's Savor the San Juans, www.visitsanjuans.com/savor.
- **All-Natural Nurturing:** Journey to wellness with yoga, serene walks, gentle paddling, massage, and natural medicine. Healers and healing communities have been gathering on Orcas Island for several generations. Robert Moran, creator of Rosario, called Orcas Island "a delightful place in which to regain physical, mental and spiritual health."

Find more story ideas at www.visitsanjuans.com/storyideas

Photo Credits: Robert Harrison, Mt. Constitution, Eastsound & Labyrinth; SJVB, Doe Bay Salad; Rolf Erickson, Moran State Park Tower; SJVB, Orcas Island Artworks



SAN JUAN ISLAND



Square Miles: 55.3

Population: Approximately 7,500

Unique Features:

The west side for whale watching and Lime Kiln Lighthouse, and the San Juan Island National Historical Park. Foot passenger-accessible Friday Harbor.

Visitor Center:

At the Chamber of Commerce in Friday Harbor

The most populous of the San Juan Archipelago, San Juan Island offers both nature and nurture. Rolling hills sprinkled with farms brush up against driftwood-strewn beaches and bluffs perfect for orca spotting. Whale watching excursions and guided kayak adventures depart from Friday Harbor, Roche Harbor and Snug Harbor. Legend and lore is everywhere, and is captured in Island names, such as Smugglers Cove or Deadman Bay. Strike up a conversation with a local and you'll find stalwart orca researchers, entrepreneurs, famous artists, composers, and outdoor guides: all with stories to tell.

Friday Harbor, the county seat, is a small easily walkable town lined with hanging flower baskets, sculptures, boutiques, galleries and restaurants. Museums of note include: the San Juan Islands Museum of Art (SJIMA), The Whale Museum and the San Juan Historical Museum.

The historic village of Roche Harbor, on the north side of the island, is home to Roche Harbor Resort & Spa. A premiere destination wedding and retreat location, the resort is known for its 1886 Hotel de Haro, romantic Victorian gardens, marina, and unusual open-air mausoleum. Find five different lodging types from historic to luxury. Lose track of time in the nearby 20-acre San Juan Islands Sculpture Park. See more than 125 sculptures by Island and Northwest artists in a stunning location.

Stroll fragrant purple fields at Pelindaba Lavender Farm. Buy a loaf of bread and bottle of wine to accompany fresh shellfish at Westcott Bay Shellfish Company. Sample estate-grown wine at San Juan Vineyards. Sip crisp cider made from island apples or try gin, brandy and liqueur flavored with island-inspired essences at Westcott Bay Cider and San Juan Island Distillery.

Journey to where lush cedar forests lead to beautiful seas and stars twinkle brighter in the night sky.

TELLING ISLAND STORIES –

- **Pigs, Potlatches and Pickaxes:** Delve into the past at the San Juan Island National Historical Park where exhibits, historic buildings and re-enactors bring to life "The Pig War." "The War," 1859-1872, was a peaceful standoff between British and American troops over ownership of the San Juan Islands. Historical museums on all three islands offer a fascinating step back in time to the days of farming, mining, logging, fishing and island life. Coast Salish tribal history is also on display through art, museum exhibits, and cultural events like the Canoe Journey, honoring the First Nations.
- **Canvas for the Imagination:** The Islands are considered an "arts hot spot" by the Washington State Arts Commission for the number of galleries and individuals earning a living from the arts. Find some of the Islands' most acclaimed art outdoors—a sophisticated mix of sculptures, murals, and woodcarvings in parks and on buildings. Galleries bring art from all over the region and the world to the Islands. Musicians, visual and performing artists, draw inspiration from the Islands' beauty.

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Photo Credits: Mark Gardner, Kayaker; SJIVB, Roche Harbor; Toccara Best, Bald Eagle; Michael Bertrand, San Juan Islands Museum of the Arts; Bill Evans, Lime Kiln Lighthouse; SJIVB, English Camp

