

Top Reasons to Film in the San Juan Islands

The San Juan Islands are an inspiring location for filming TV programs, feature length films, commercials, documentaries and catalog shoots.



EASY TO NAVIGATE

Orcas, San Juan and Lopez Islands, the largest islands in the archipelago, are less than 57 squares miles each and can be circumnavigated by car or fast boat in a few hours.

CLOSE AND CONVENIENT

The Islands, located about 80 miles northwest of Seattle, are easily accessible by car ferries and by air with frequent connections to SeaTac Airport or downtown Seattle. In the heart of the Salish Sea, the Islands are also close to Vancouver and Victoria, Canada. The Islands receive about half the rainfall of the Seattle area and twice the amount of sunshine; you'll find outdoor filming here less challenging than other locations in the Pacific Northwest.

FIND THE INSIDE TRACK, FAST

The San Juan Islands Visitor Bureau is San Juan County's official film liaison, designated by Washington Film Works to work with visiting film productions. We're here to help pre-scout and navigate film permitting needs without charge to you. We know the cast of characters—from whom to call for an old farmhouse location versus a cliff-perched, Architectural Digest home, to the perfect person to

interview. We can recommend experienced caterers and hotels that are accustomed to working with film crews.

MOODY LANDSCAPES

From the unbridled wildness of sweeping sky and shoreline vistas, to verdant fern forests, or golden prairies—any mood or hue in the filmmaker's vision can be found in the Islands. Silvery metallic grays, deep marine or foggy blues, lingering sunset oranges and pinks—make for a palette of surprising emotion and variety. In the feature film, "Your Sister's Sister," moody Orcas Island has been described as one of the characters in the film.

ARCHITECTURAL ALLURE

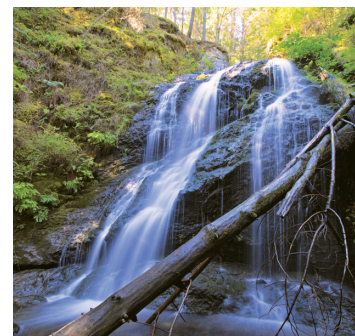
Colorful artists' enclave or frontier town with vernacular century-old storefronts, stoic lighthouses, historic resorts; log cabins and ultra-modern waterfront homes make an eclectic menu for visiting filmmakers.

WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT

The islands' historic harbors—lined with wooden schooners, sleek plastic yachts, kayaks, canoes and all manner of watercraft—may add nautical ambience to any production or help transport film crews.

Top Photo: Sunset by SJI Visitors Bureau

Photos from bottom left: Ferry by SJI Visitors Bureau / Friday Harbor by Toccara Best / Poppies by Kathleen Ballard / Waterfall by Toccara Best





MORE THAN A LOCATION; IT'S A STATE OF MIND

We understand the pressure filmmakers are under to quickly capture shots, scenes and fleeting golden light. While filmmaking can involve long hours and stress, by the time most crews have left the islands they are relaxed—having been able to focus and accomplish their creative goals easily within “island time.”

CONNECTIVITY

The Town of Friday Harbor is the largest commercial area in the county with over 300 guest rooms. Designated a “Distinctive Destination” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Friday Harbor exudes waterfront charm with many well-preserved territorial-era buildings. Just over a mile square it's easy to find everything you need within walking distance. Despite its small stature, the town offers modern services and connectivity. Orcas Island's Eastsound and Lopez Island's Lopez Village are also able to accommodate a variety of lodging and service needs in resorts or small village centers.

*Photos from top left: Martin Clunes, Friday Harbor by SJIVB,
CNN's Tomeka Jones & Brent Snow, Roche Harbor Resort by SJIVB
Bottom Photo: Orca Whales by MayasImages.com*

A FEW PAST PRODUCTIONS FILMED IN THE SAN JUANS

BBC – Great American Railroad Journeys
ITV – Islands of America with Martin Clunes
HGTV – Island Life
HGTV – Beachfront Bargain Hunt
The Treehouse Guys
CNN – Airport Network
The Food Network: Rachael Ray
Smart Travels with Rudy Maxa
Rough Guides: Ultimate Escapes
Animal Planet's Jeff Corwin
Booze Traveler
National Geographic Channel
The Travel Channel
The Discovery Channel
The Weather Channel

Films & Videos

Your Sister's Sister, Practical Magic, Free Willy 2,
The Dark Horse, Subaru Primal Quest

Commercials:

Jeep, Cadillac, Lipitor, Lincoln Navigator, Land Rover, FIAT

Catalog Shoots:

Eddie Bauer, REI, Cutter + Buck, Boot Barn, Columbia Sportswear



INSPIRATION FOR THE SENSES

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