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MILITARY RELOCATION

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Home of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island



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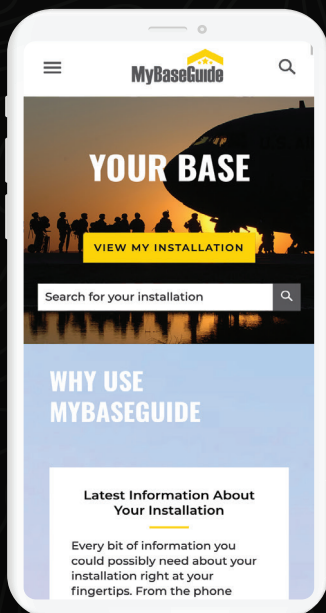
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U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY MARLON CLARKE

Our Military

In Island County

SET IN WASHINGTON STATE'S Puget Sound, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island is sole naval aviation support installation in the Pacific Northwest. NASWI land holdings include Ault Field, the Seaplane Base, OLF Coupeville and Lake Hancock, as well as Coos Head and Boardman Target Ranges in Oregon.

Ault Field hosts cutting-edge aircraft and supports more than 75 tenant commands. Its primary aircraft include the Department of Defense's premier electronic attack aircraft, the EA-18G Growler and the new P-8 Poseidon which has joined the P-3 Orion and EP-3 Aries in carrying out the Navy's shore-based maritime, patrol and reconnaissance mission.

Additionally, NASWI supports an active search and rescue unit. The Seaplane Base accommodates fuel receipt operations, ordnance storage and explosive ordnance disposal units. The remainder of the 2,820-acre site function as a personnel support and housing area.

OLF Coupeville is a 664-acre site used primarily by EA-18G aircraft for field carrier landing practice.

Economic Impact

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island is the largest employer in Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom counties, according to an economic impact study by the Island County Economic Development Council.

In 2017, the air station contributed \$488 million in industry output, \$548 million in direct military and civilian payroll expenditures, 12,925 jobs and \$35 million in state and local tax revenues to the regional economy according to the NASWI Economic Impact Assessment released in November 2018.

HISTORY

On Jan. 17, 1941, almost 11 months before the U.S. entered World War II, the office of the chief of naval operations asked the commandant of the 13th Naval District to find a location for the re-arming and refueling of Navy patrol planes operating in defense of Puget Sound, should such defense be necessary. The commanding officer of Naval Air Station Seattle

recommended the site of Saratoga Passage on the shores of Crescent Harbor and Forbes Point as a base suitable for seaplane takeoffs and landings under instrument conditions. A narrow strip of land tied Oak Harbor to what is now Maylor's Capehart Housing. Dredging, filling and running water and power lines to the city were underway when word came to find a land plane site.

On Dec. 8, workers started a topographic survey of what would become Ault Field, about 4 miles to the north. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, bewildered citizens, caught up in the war effort, signed up for jobs to build the station. Farmers turned over the titles to their family lands to the government for runways and hangars, and moved to other farms in Skagit County. Actual construction of Ault Field started March 1, 1942.

On Sept. 21, 1942, Commanding Officer Capt. Cyril Thomas Simard read the orders and the watch was set. U.S. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island was duly commissioned.

Continued on Page 6

QUICK REFERENCE NUMBERS

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

All base phone numbers are subject to change. For more information, call the base operator at 360-257-2211.

American Red Cross	877-272-7337	Navy Exchange	360-257-0600
Auto Skills Center	360-257-2295	Outdoor Recreation	360-257-2432
Chapel	360-257-2414	Paintball, General Quarters	360-257-2432
Child Care		Pools (Partnership with local pool facilities)	
Child Development Homes	360-257-1877	Fidalgo Pool at Anacortes	360-293-0673
Clover Child Development Center	360-257-3302	John Vanderzicht Memorial	
Regatta Child Development Center	360-257-6572	Pool in Oak Harbor	360-675-7665
Commissary	360-257-3318	Public Affairs	360-257-2286
Community Recreation Tickets	360-257-2432	Recreation Areas	
Dining Facilities		Costen-Turner Park	360-257-2432
Adm. Nimitz Hall Galley	360-257-2711	Rocky Point.....	360-257-2432
Bakerview Restaurant	360-257-2505	Recreation Center, Convergence Zone	360-257-2432
Chiefs' Club	360-257-2891	School Liaison Officer	360-257-6863
Kegler's Bar & Grill.....	360-257-1567	Suicide Prevention Hotline	800-273-8255
M.T. McCormick's Officers' Club.....	360-257-2521	Theater, Skywarrior	360-257-6684
Exceptional Family Member Program	360-257-6289	Veterinary Clinic	360-257-2001
Fitness Center	360-257-2420	Youth Center	360-257-3150
Fleet & Family Support Center	866-854-0638		
Golf Course, Gallery	360-257-2178		
Hospital Information	360-257-9501		
Housing			
Housing Service Center	800-876-7022		
Navy Region Northwest Military Housing	360-679-4241		
Unaccompanied Housing.....	360-257-2038		
Legal Office	360-257-2126/2127		
Liberty Northwest Center	360-257-3309		
Lodging			
Navy Gateway Inns & Suites.....	877-628-9233		
Navy Lodge.....	360-675-0633		

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND ONLINE

Official site: www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/installations/nas_whidbey_island.html

Fleet & Family Readiness: <http://whidbey.navylifepnw.com>

Facebook: www.fb.com/NASWhidbeyIsland

MyBaseGuide: www.mybaseguide.com/navy/13/nas_whidbey_island



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS MARC CUENCA/RELEASED



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS MARC CIENKA

Continued from Page 4

On Sept. 25, 1943, an area 2.5 miles southeast of Coupeville (OLF Coupeville) was approved as an auxiliary field to serve Naval Station Seattle. Crews surveyed the Rocky Point area in the summer of 1943. It became the transmitter and machine gun range. Air gunners going to the fleet were trained there.

Throughout the war, the station hosted a variety of aircraft for training, including PBY Catalinas, F4F Wildcats, F6F Hellcats, PV-1 Venturas and SBD Dauntless dive bombers. However, the station's operations slowed at war's end. It was almost certain the base would be earmarked for decommissioning. Many bases were closing because they couldn't meet the requirements of the new Air Navy: 6,000-foot runways were the new minimum standard, and approach paths had to be suitable for radar-controlled approaches in any weather.

In December 1949, the Navy decided that while Naval Station Seattle, the major prewar naval installation in the Northwest, was suitable to train reserve forces and support a moderate number of aircraft, it could not be expanded as a major fleet support station. Thus, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island was chosen as the only station north of San Francisco and west of Chicago for this all-type, all-weather Navy field to support fleet and Alaska activities.

Taken out of reduced operating status, Whidbey had a new lease on life. Expansion and construction accelerated with the Korean conflict. Patrol squadrons dominated the base until the end of the 1960s, though heavy attack squadrons outnumbered patrol for a time.

The A-6 Intruder was brought into service during the Vietnam War. It served the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps as their primary all-weather attack aircraft for more than 30 years. Whidbey was the West Coast training and operations center for these all-weather, medium-attack bomber squadrons. In 1966, Attack Squadron 196 was Whidbey's first squadron slated to receive the A-6A. In 1997, VA-196 was Whidbey's last A-6 squadron to retire. The Intruder saw service in Vietnam, Libya and Desert Storm. At one time, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island had as many as 125 A-6 aircraft.

In the 1970s, the EA-6B Prowler also came into prominence at the air station. The EA-6B assumed the primary mission of strike aircraft and ground troop support. The aircraft's highly specialized electronic intelligence receivers and jamming equipment degraded or destroyed enemy radar and command and control capability, enabling safe passage of friendly strike aircraft. The aircraft was also capable of carrying the AGM-88 high-speed anti-radiation missile. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island was home to the majority of the Navy's Prowler squadrons, and is now the only base for the new EA-18G Growler squadrons. The first Growler arrived on station in 2008. The airborne electronic attack aircraft combines the state-of-the-art two-seat, twin-engine F/A-18F Block 2 Super Hornet with the EA-6B Improved Capability III system to provide next-generation electronic attack capability.

Today, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island is more than just the home of all Navy tactical electronic attack squadrons that fly the Growler. The air station hosts P-3 Orion maritime patrol

squadrons, EP-3E Aries fleet reconnaissance squadrons, and a search and rescue unit, which flies the MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter. The air station is also the center of activity for naval air reserves in the region.

ORGANIZATIONS AVIATION COMMANDS

Operational Wing Commands located at NAS Whidbey Island include the VAQ-129 Vikings, VAQ-130 Zappers, VAQ-131 Lancers, VAQ-132 Scorpions, VAQ-133 Wizards, VAQ-134 Garudas, VAQ-135 Black Ravens, VAQ-136 Gauntlets, VAQ-137 Rooks, VAQ-138 Yellow Jackets, VAQ-139 Cougars, VAQ-140 Patriots, VAQ-141 Shadowhawks and VAQ-142 Gray Wolves.

ELECTRONIC ATTACK WEAPONS SCHOOL

The Electronic Attack Weapons School provides comprehensive, formal training to EA-6B and EA-18G aircrew and extensive weapons-related training to EA-6B and EA-18G ordnance and maintenance personnel.

The school acts as the central repository for all EA-6B and EA-18G tactical matters.

PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE WING 10

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing includes the VP-1 Screaming Eagles, VP-4 Skinny Dragons, VP-9 Golden Eagles, VP-40 Fighting Marlins, VP-46 Grey Knights and VP-69 Totems. The VQ-1 World Watchers are the fleet air reconnaissance squadron at Whidbey Island.

FLEET LOGISTICS SUPPORT SQUADRON 61

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 61 is one of four Navy Reserve C-9B squadrons. The Islander team is composed of full-time support and selected reserve personnel who maintain and operate four C-9B aircraft. The squadron provides worldwide, around-the-clock transport of passengers and cargo in support of all branches of the armed forces.

VR-61 ISLANDERS

The mission of VR-61 is to support DOD logistics requirements, providing continuous short-notice worldwide logistics service.

TENANT COMMANDS

NAS Whidbey Island's tenant commands include Aviation Survival Training Center, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Det. NW, Fleet Readiness Center NW, Center for Naval Aviation

Technical Training Unit, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Naval Health Clinic Oak Harbor, Navy Information Operations, Naval Ocean Processing Facility, Navy Operational Support Center and 390th Electronic Combat Squadron.

ARRIVAL

See the Getting To & Around Island County chapter on Page 16 for information about local airports, train service and public transportation. The closest commercial flights land at Bellingham International Airport in Seattle, about 60 miles from the air station or SeaTac Airport, about 110 miles from the air station. The Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle provides service from SeaTac Airport to the air station. For more information on route schedules and fares, visit www.seatacshuttle.com.

SPONSORSHIP

Contact your sponsor and advise them of your estimated arrival time and flight information if applicable prior to your arrival at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

Sponsorship is vital to the relocation process. Don't PCS without talking to your sponsor before departing for Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Your sponsor will answer any questions you have about the base and the local area, make lodging/dorm arrangements and meet you upon arrival. Your sponsor will be there to help you and your family until you are settled into your new community.

If you have not been in touch with a sponsor and your departure is nearing, contact your future command or call the Fleet and Family Readiness Center at 866-854-0638.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Cellphone use by the driver of a moving motor vehicle is prohibited on all Department of Defense installations, unless the cellphone is used with a hands-free device.

From Sea-Tac Airport

Exit Sea-Tac Airport and follow signs to Interstate 5 north. Take Interstate 5 north approximately 75.6 miles. Take Exit 230 to state Route 20 west, and then follow the instructions for "From Interstate 5."

From Bellingham International Airport

Exit Bellingham International Airport to Interstate 5 south. Follow Interstate 5 south for 27.6 miles. Take Exit 230 to state Route 20 west, and then follow the instructions for "From Interstate 5."

From Interstate 5

Take Exit 230 (Anacortes/Burlington). At the light, turn onto state Route 20 west toward Anacortes. Continue down this road until you see the signs directing you to turn left at the light for Oak Harbor and Whidbey Island. Turn left and continue on state Route 20 up the hill and across the Deception Pass Bridge. This is a long, winding and often dark road so drive carefully. Proceed to the light adjoining Ault Field Road just outside the city of Oak Harbor. To go to the main base (Ault Field), turn right. To enter Ault Field's Charles Porter Gate, proceed to the first stoplight, turn right onto Charles Porter Avenue and proceed through the gate.

If you are driving a rental moving truck or pulling a trailer or camper you can only use Charles Porter Gate. If you arrive and the gate is closed, call 360-257-3893 to have the gate opened for you.

To go to the Pass and Decal office or the main gate, proceed to the third stoplight, turn right onto Langley Boulevard and turn right into the parking lot just before Langley Gate, the main gate.

To go to the Seaplane Base (where the Navy Lodge is located), stay on state Route 20. Turn left at Torpedo Road, which is just past Ault Field Road. Torpedo Road forks; go to the left and proceed to the Torpedo Gate.

From the Clinton/Mukilteo Ferry

The Clinton/Mukilteo Ferry is just outside of Everett off Interstate 5, Exit 182. From the Clinton ferry landing, follow state Route 525 north, which turns into state Route 20, for about 43 miles before arriving in Oak Harbor.

To go to the main base (Ault Field), turn left onto Swantown Road, which is the first stoplight before entering Oak Harbor. Turn right onto Heller Road, and continue until it turns into Ault Field Road.

To go to the Pass and Decal office or the main gate, turn left at the first light onto Langley Boulevard and turn right into the parking lot just before Langley Gate, the main gate.

To go to the Charles Porter Gate, proceed to the third light, turn left onto Charles Porter Avenue and proceed through the gate.

To go to the Seaplane Base (where the Navy Lodge is located), stay on state Route 20 as you come into town. State Route 20 turns left at the third stoplight, but do not turn left. Continue straight on this road. It will turn into Pioneer Way and leads straight into the Seaplane Base's Maui Gate.

From the Olympic Peninsula via the Port Townsend/Coupeville Ferry

From the Coupeville ferry landing, turn left on Engle Road. Stay left on Engle Road (about 4 miles) until you come to state Route 20 in Coupeville. Take a left at the light and continue north to Oak Harbor.

To go to the main base (Ault Field), turn left onto Swantown Road, which is the first stoplight before entering Oak Harbor. Turn right onto Heller Road, and continue until it turns into Ault Field Road.

To go to the Pass and Decal office or the main gate, turn left at the first light onto Langley Boulevard and turn right into the parking lot just before Langley Gate, the main gate.

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Traveling Tips

Ferry sailings can be canceled at any time due to inclement weather, low tides or mechanical issues. In addition, wait times can be long on holidays and weekends. Visit the ferry website to verify the schedule and check wait times before traveling. It is strongly recommended you make





U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS MARC OLIVIA

reservations in advance to guarantee a spot on the Port Townsend/Coupeville ferry. Reservations can be made via the website (www.wsdot.com/ferries) or by calling 206-464-6400 or 888-808-7977.

For late-night arrivals to Ault Field, you will need to utilize the Langley Gate, which is the only gate open 24/7. For late-night arrivals to the Seaplane Base, you will need to utilize the Torpedo Gate, which is the only gate open 24/7.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Newly arriving personnel must check in with the station officer of the deck at the base quarterdeck in Building 385. The quarterdeck is open 24/7. Personnel attached to air station commands will then be instructed to report to the admin office, topside in Building 385.

Indoctrination briefings are usually conducted the first full week of each month on Tuesday and Wednesday at the CPO Club and are open for family members to attend. Spouses may also get information about the Navy lifestyle and Whidbey Island programs at the Fleet and Family Support Center’s New Spouse Orientation workshop, which is held once a quarter.

Personnel checking in to a tenant command or squadron should report to their respective

duty office. If the command is deployed, check in with the officer of the deck at the base quarterdeck in Building 385 to be referred to the correct administrative wing for in-processing.

TEMPORARY LODGING

A maximum of 10 days of temporary lodging expense is authorized for each PCS to this area. It is in your best interest to make temporary lodging arrangements as soon as possible due to seasonal tourist events and limited availability.

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites
 1175 W. Midway St., Building 973
 877-628-9233
<http://ngis.dodlodging.net/property/Whidbey-Island-NAS->

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites, at Ault Field, provides safe, comfortable and clean accommodations for military members and their families who are being assigned to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Reservations may be made 30 days in advance.

Navy Lodge
 760 Coral Sea Drive..... 360-675-0633
www.navy-lodge.com/whidbey-island

The Navy Lodge, on the Seaplane Base, provides safe, comfortable and clean

accommodations for military members and their families who are being assigned to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Reservations can be made up to one year in advance with orders.

**GETTING SETTLED
 HEALTH CARE**

Naval Hospital Oak Harbor
 3475 N. Saratoga St.
 Appointments..... 800-404-4506
 Information Desk 360-257-9501
 Pharmacy..... 360-257-9707
 Refill Service..... 360-257-9701/9705
www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhoh

Naval Hospital Oak Harbor is on Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. The hospital is a TRI-CARE Prime facility that serves active-duty members, their family members, eligible retired military personnel and their families. Normal business hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, though hours vary for different services and clinics; visit the hospital’s website for more information.

Ambulatory services include deployment health, family medicine, flight medicine, labor and delivery, mental health, pediatrics, OB-GYN services, optometry, orthopedics, a pharmacy, physical therapy, preventive

medicine, radiology, and a substance abuse and rehabilitation program.

Dental care services are available to active-duty military only. Family members of active-duty personnel are encouraged to use the TRICARE Dental Program. Information about the TRICARE Dental Program can be obtained by calling 855-638-8371 or visiting www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Dental/TDP.aspx.

HOUSING

Housing Service Center
3675 W. Lexington St., Building 2556
..... 800-876-7022
<http://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/housing/housing-service-center>

Navy Region Northwest Housing Service Centers are ready to support you in the transition to your new home and community. Use the resources provided to become familiar with the housing options and support services available to you. When you arrive at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, visit the center to receive invaluable information, counseling and guidance prior to entering into a written lease or rental/sales contract for housing.

Unaccompanied Housing

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites
1175 W. Midway St., Building 973
..... 360-257-2038
<http://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/programs/a9231be1-2f2f-4b6a-8988-71f71b65d5ac>

Unaccompanied housing permanent party personnel check in at Navy Gateway Inns & Suites

front desk. Unaccompanied housing is provided for unaccompanied sailors in the pay grades of E-1 to E-3 and E-4 with less than four years of service. Single sea duty sailors in pay grades E-4 with more than four years of service and single E-1 to E-4 sailors on shore duty may request to live the community and be authorized BAH when unaccompanied housing has reached full utilization of 95 percent occupancy.

Navy Region Northwest Family Housing Whidbey Island Neighborhood

Management Office..... 360-679-4241
www.northwestmilitaryhousing.com

At Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, military family housing is privatized. In addition to your option to purchase and rent housing in the local community, you may choose to live in privatized housing by signing a tenant lease agreement with Hunt Military Communities, which owns the family housing and is responsible for maintaining, repairing, constructing and managing the community.

For comprehensive information about homes and amenities available in the Whidbey Island privatized housing community, visit the Navy Region Northwest Family Housing website.

PETS

Veterinary Services
260 W. Pioneer Way, Building 13
..... 360-257-2001

The Veterinary Treatment Facility offers services such as vaccines, wellness exams, micro-chipping and health certificates to pets of military

families. Due to limited resources, most veterinary emergency cases are best served through a full-service civilian veterinary hospital.

Personnel residing on Naval Air Station Whidbey Island must register pets with the Veterinary Treatment Facility upon arrival. Personnel living off the air station must have pets licensed by the respective city where they reside. Washington state and local areas have specific rules governing certain breeds of animals, such as pit bull terriers. Check the animal control department where you plan to reside for current rules and regulations.

RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Chapel
1155 W. Intruder St., Building 960
..... 360-257-2414

The chapel staff and religious ministry teams provide spiritual support for a variety of faiths. Open Christian worship, Roman Catholic Mass and Jewish Shabbat services are available. Pastoral services include counseling, marriage preparation and relationship enhancement programs. All counseling sessions are covered by privileged communication.

DOCUMENTS TO CARRY FOR IN-PROCESSING

- Several copies of your orders.
- Certified copies of birth certificates, adoption papers, naturalization papers, marriage license, divorce papers, etc.
- Copy of advanced pay or allowance paperwork.
- All moving paperwork including TMO information, self-move paperwork and all receipts associated with moving.
- Employment records or resume of civilian family members.
- Medical/dental records of your entire family from your previous duty station.
- Immunization records for all children, active-duty members and pets.
- School records/transcripts for children and adults.
- Copies of all insurance policies.
- Copies of occupational licenses as well as certifications.
- Purchase agreements for vehicles, showing state sales tax paid.
- Vehicle registration and title.
- Household goods inventory.
- Letters of credits from utility companies.
- Copies of federal income tax forms.
- Copies of recent leave and earnings statement.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST PAUL SEEBER





U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS WYATT L. ANTHONY/RELEASED

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

The Pass and ID office will no longer issue vehicle decals; however, you will still need to register your vehicle with them in order to drive it on base. To register your vehicle at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island you will need proof of insurance, vehicle registration, a valid military ID card and a driver's license. The Pass and ID office is located to the right of the Langley gate and operates under a first-come, first-serve basis. All privately owned vehicles on the air station must be insured, and a current license plate is required. Washington state traffic laws apply on base; see the Getting To & Around Island County chapter on Page XY for more information. All vehicles entering or leaving base are subject to search.

SERVING YOU DINING

For hours of operation, menus and special event information, visit <https://whidbey.navylifepnw.com> and click on selections under the "Food & Drink" tab.

Adm. Nimitz Hall Galley
1040 W. Intruder St., Building 382
..... 360-257-2711

Bakerview Restaurant
1080 W. Ault Field Road, Building 138
..... 360-257-2505

Chiefs' Club
1080 W. Ault Field Road, Building 138
..... 360-257-2891

Kegler's Bar & Grill
3535 N. Princeton St., Building 2510
..... 360-257-1567

M.T. McCormick's Officers' Club
1185 W. Midway St., Building 962
..... 360-257-2521

EDUCATION

Navy College Program
www.navycollege.navy.mil/on-base-schools/NASWI.htm

Visit the Navy College Program online to connect with NASWI services.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Child Development Centers
365 W. Clover St., Building 2679
..... 360-257-3302
220 NE Regatta Drive, Building 2938
..... 360-257-6572
<https://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/child-youth>

Child Development Centers offer weekly care for children 6 weeks to 5 years old, and hourly care is available on a space-available basis with reservations. The centers are based on the developmental program model, which focuses on play and its importance in a child's learning process. The centers strive to meet each child's social, emotional and intellectual needs to instill in each child a feeling of competence and positive self-concept.

Children of active-duty military personnel, DOD civilian personnel, reservists on active duty and DOD contractors are eligible. Fees are based on total family income. To register your child, visit www.militarychildcare.com.

Child Development Homes
260 W. Pioneer Way, Building 13
..... 360-257-1877
<https://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/child-youth>

Child Development Homes provide an alternative to child development center care for families

that prefer a more home-like child care option. Providers may also offer more flexibility in their services, with part-time, hourly, evening, weekend and deployment care. Homes are required to meet Navy child care guidelines and many of the homes are also licensed by the state of Washington. Providers offer developmental programs and receive training and home visits on a monthly basis.

For information on child registration or becoming a Child Development Home provider, visit the website.

Fleet & Family Support Center
3675 W. Lexington St., Building 2556
..... 866-854-0638
<https://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/programs>

As a gateway to the resources you need, the Fleet & Family Support Center provides information, support and services to help you balance the demands of military life. Programs and services include individual, marriage and family counseling; individual resume assistance; financial counseling; relocation assistance; deployment and mobilization support; and a variety of life skills classes, like stress and anger management, parenting, communication, conflict resolution and more.

Exceptional Family Member Program
3675 W. Lexington St., Building 2556
..... 360-257-6289
<https://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/support-program>

This program provides special-needs families with information and referral services.



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School Liaison

260 W. Pioneer Way, Building 13
 360-257-6863
<https://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/programs>

The School Liaison office is the connection between Naval Air Station Whidbey Island families and private and public schools. The office provides support to service members during all stages of transition and deployment to ensure children receive every opportunity for quality education. Call to make an appointment for a consultation.

Youth Center

54 Wake Ave., Building 2874 360-257-3150
<https://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/programs>

The youth center is open to eligible family members 12 to 18 years old in grades seven through 12th. Memberships for open recreation are free and registration is taken directly at the facility. Some fees will apply for field trips and special events. Kids can participate in activities such as foosball, video games, air hockey, pool, team sports or online computer access. The center hosts special events as well, like talent shows, lock-ins and dances.

Hours vary for different programs; see the website for more information.

LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Office

Building 243..... 360-257-2126/2127

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island's branch of the Region Naval Legal Service Office provides a variety of legal services. Services include assistance with powers of attorney, notary services, wills and estate planning, advance medical directives, military rights and benefits, divorce, adoptions, immigration and naturalization, landlord-tenant issues, taxes and more.

RECREATION

For information about the recreational programs at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, visit <https://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/recreation>.

Auto Skills Center

3455 N. Princeton St., Building 2549
 360-257-2295

Overhaul on your own time. The Auto Skills Center offers most equipment needed to maintain and repair your vehicle. Services include lift stalls for cars and motorbikes, tool issue, computer diagnostics, instructional booklets and more.

Convergence Zone Recreation Center

3535 N. Princeton St., Building 2510
 360-257-2432

The Convergence Zone offers 12 lanes of bowling, gear rental, an indoor playground, a

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS KEVIN A. FLINN/RELEASED



toddler play area, billiards, air hockey, foosball, pingpong, shuffleboard, free Wi-Fi, online computers and video gaming systems. A media zone has books, newspapers and magazines. It is home to Kegler's Bar & Grill, Outdoor Recreation and Information, Tickets and Travel. The Convergence Zone is also the place to make reservations for Rocky Point Recreation Area and Costen-Turner Park.

Fitness Center

3755 N. Wasp St., Building 117
 360-257-2420

The fitness center offers cardio and strength equipment; training and fitness rooms; basketball, volleyball, tennis and racquetball courts; three softball fields; a football and soccer field with a running track; and a sauna. You can also run Seaview Trail, which starts at the fitness center. One-on-one fitness assessments, personal training, group exercise classes, intramural sports and nutrition courses are available as well.

Although there is no recreational swimming facility at the air station, MWR has partnerships with two local pools. At Anacortes' Fidalgo Pool (360-293-0673), active-duty personnel and family members may swim for free. At Oak Harbor's Vanderzicht Pool (360-675-7665), active-duty personnel and family members swim for free and retirees swim at a reduced rate.

Gallery Golf Course

3065 N. Cowpens Road 360-257-2178

The 18-hole, award-winning course boasts spectacular views of the Olympic Mountains.

The course overlooks the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Vancouver Island. You can reserve your tee time online for expedited check-in. A pro shop, lessons and clinics are also available.

General Quarters Paintball

3535 N. Princeton St., Building 2510
 360-257-2432

Adrenaline, strategy, skill and speed combine for exhilarating thrills on two separate fields. On the speedball field, enjoy high-energy action, ducking behind a series of inflatable bunkers on a 190-by-115-foot field. The ever-evolving woods ball field encourages scenario play with its own unique set of natural foxholes, hideaways and fortresses.

For information on age restrictions, safety regulations and fees, visit the Fleet and Family Readiness website.

The Grind Skate Park

Corner of Intruder and Princeton streets
 360-257-3309

The Grind offers challenging obstacles, including a half pipe, quarter pipe, grind box, pyramid and stairs from dawn to dusk.

Community Recreation Tickets

3535 N. Princeton St., Building 2510
 360-257-2432

Community Recreation Tickets is the place to purchase discount tickets to northwest sporting events, concerts, theater performances, special events, dining venues, ski resorts, amusement parks and local attractions. Discounts and information are also available for hotels;



PHOTO COURTESY OF WHIDBEY AND CAMANO ISLANDS TOURISM

transportation; California, Florida and British Columbia attractions; and much more.

Liberty Northwest Center

1040 W. Intruder St., Building 382
 360-257-3309

Liberty Northwest Center offers a range of activities for single service members and geographical bachelors. The center, inside Adm. Nimitz Hall, has video gaming consoles, online computers, a music room with professional instruments, billiards, foosball, pingpong and more. Activities include instructional classes, concerts, outdoor excursions, volunteer opportunities, overnight trips and holiday events.

Navy Getaways

<https://whidbey.navylifepnw.com/lodging/navy-getaways>

Navy Getaways are the ideal places to play, rest, relax and recharge. Vacation rentals include everything from cottages and cabins to townhomes and resort-style accommodations. RV and tent sites feature barbecue areas, laundry facilities, bathhouses, kid’s play areas, community centers and more.

Cliffside RV park is one of the closest Navy Getaways. Nestled along the shoreline of Whidbey Island, Cliffside overlooks the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Vancouver Island, the San Juan Islands and the Olympic Peninsula. With its awe-inspiring location, Cliffside offers the ambiance of shoreline living, an open window on an ever-changing marine environment and unparalleled sunsets.

Visit the Navy Getaways website for a full list of getaways and more information on fees and registration.

Outdoor Recreation

3535 N. Princeton St., Building 2510
 360-257-2432

The Pacific Northwest is one of the most outdoor-oriented duty stations in the country. Experienced Outdoor Recreation staff can assist customers in selecting the right gear for outdoor

activities, whether it is a rental or special order. Rentals include motorized and human-powered boats, fishing and crabbing equipment, camping gear and mountaineering gear. Programs include whitewater rafting, kayaking classes, backpacking, hiking, snowshoeing and more.

Skywarrior Theater

955 W. Midway St., Building 118
 360-257-6684

Have a seat and enjoy the show at the Navy’s first digital theater. Skywarrior screens high-quality digital movies, including 3-D flicks.

SHOPPING

Whidbey Island Commissary

2090 N. Coral Sea Ave. 360-257-3318
www.commissaries.com

Save an average of 30 percent of your hard-earned dollars when shopping for groceries at the commissary. In-store amenities and specialties include an ATM, a bakery, custom photo cakes, a deli, party cakes, rotisserie chicken and sushi.

Whidbey Island Exchange

Main Exchange
 2110 N. Coral Sea Ave., Building 17
 360-257-0600
www.mynavyexchange.com

The Whidbey Island Exchange wants to be your first choice for shopping. It offers a price-match program that guarantees the lowest prices in town. Hours of operation for services outside of the main Exchange vary so call or visit the website for detailed information.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS MARC CIENCUA/RELEASED



Welcome

to Island County

WELCOME TO WHIDBEY ISLAND, the largest island in Washington state and one of the nine Puget Sound islands that make up the county. The county is more liquid than solid: 309 square miles of water vs. 208 square miles of land, says the U.S. Census. By land area, it's Washington's next-to-smallest county, eclipsing only San Juan County, a similar island fastness to the north, but one having only 174 square miles of land.

Whidbey Island forms the northern border of Puget Sound and lies about 30 miles north of Seattle, between the Olympic Peninsula and the Seattle-Metro corridor. Deception Pass is its northern boundary; Skagit Bay and Saratoga Passage are to the east, and Admiralty Inlet and the Strait of Juan de Fuca are to the west. It's about 55 miles long and 1.5 to 12 miles wide, though its eccentric shape produces arguable measurements. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island is a little over 5 miles north of Oak Harbor, the island's largest city with about 23,400 residents. Coupeville, 11 miles south of

Oak Harbor and with a population of 1,887, is the county seat.

In addition to Oak Harbor and Coupeville, Whidbey Island communities include Langley, Freeland, Greenbank, Clinton and Bayview, though only Oak Harbor, Coupeville and Langley are incorporated. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island is the county's economic driver, but timber, farming and fishing traditions persist and thrive. The island's ease of access, mild climate, beaches, woodlands, wildlife, historic sites and year-round festivals draw ever-increasing numbers of tourists.

HISTORY

Island County's original inhabitants were members of the Coast Salish tribes — Skagit, Snohomish and a scattering of Clallam — who lived in communal longhouses and practiced a subsistence lifestyle, dining on fish, shellfish, wild game, roots and berries. Diseases brought by European and American explorers from the late 1700s to the early 1800s decimated this

indigenous population (it's estimated that in some areas diphtheria, smallpox and measles killed 90 percent of them), and by the time settlers came pushing in from the east, the tribes were too depleted to resist.

British sea Capt. George Vancouver, commander of HMS Discovery, ventured into what would become Island County during a 1792 exploratory voyage, along with surveyor and naval engineer Joseph Whidbey. Whidbey circumnavigated the island through Deception Pass, proving to Vancouver that the land to the south was indeed an island. Vancouver, in response, named it after his shipmate.

In 1842, lawyer Isaac Neff Ebey became Whidbey Island's first known white settler by claiming 640 acres of fertile prairie and shoreline on Admiralty Inlet. He was named postmaster of Port Townsend, Washington, across the inlet, and rowed to work there every day. Such was Ebey's fortune and success that other would-be settlers, hearing about it, flocked to take possession of more Native American lands,

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Visitor Centers

Use the chambers' online membership directories to connect with local businesses as you settle into your new community.

Coupeville and Central Whidbey Island Chamber of Commerce

905 N.W. Alexander
Coupeville, WA 98239 360-678-5434
www.coupevillechamber.com

Langley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center

208 Anthes Ave.
Langley, WA 98260 360-221-6765
www.visitlangley.com

Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce

32630 State Route 20
Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-675-3755
www.oakharborchamber.com

to Ebey's undoing. In 1857, a Native American war party seeking revenge for a Haida chief's slaying by Americans came looking for the most important American they could find for a proxy killing: Ebey.

After the Oregon Territory Legislature carved out Washington Territory's Island County from the territorial Thurston County on Dec. 22, 1852,

more settlers moved in, mostly farmers but lumberjacks as well, and communities began to dot the pastoral setting.

Coupeville, county seat and oldest town on the island, was founded in the early 1850s by Capt. Thomas Coupe. Only an hour from downtown Seattle, Coupeville takes pride in its active-life opportunities, such as hiking, biking, kayaking and sailing. The Admiralty Lighthouse is here, as are the Coupeville Arts Center, Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens, the Island County Historical Society Museum, art galleries and antique shops, wineries, heritage farms and farmers markets.

Oak Harbor, 10 miles north of Coupeville, was established in the early 1850s as well, by Dr. Richard Landsdale, who named the small bay fringed by Garry oaks after the abundant trees. The Irish moved in within the decade, and in the 1890s, the Dutch followed; the Dutch influence is still visible more than 125 years later, with windmills, Dutch architecture and many, many tulips. The town incorporated in hope in 1915, but was almost wiped out in July 1920 by the "Oak Harbor Fire."

Little Freeland, 17 miles south of Coupeville, was platted in 1900 between Holmes Harbor and Mutiny Bay as Whidbey Island's sole utopian community by a group of South Dakota socialists, the Free Land Association. Their plan was to give away land to members who then would all work together for the common good, but in

1920, the group went bankrupt. Now, Freeland is the banking center for South Whidbey Island as well as the home of Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, the Island's largest private employer.

Langley, on a South Whidbey Island bluff overlooking the waters of Saratoga Passage and the Cascade Mountains, was laid out in 1890, had a post office by 1891 and incorporated in 1913. It served as central supplier for outlying farmers (then, it styled itself "Hub of the Island") and was the western terminus for the steamer Camano, which took passengers and goods to Everett and Seattle. By the 1900s, South Whidbey Island had become a popular summertime destination. Since 1924, the Island County Fair (now known as the Whidbey Island Fair) has been held in Langley every August. In more recent years, it has been known to be called "Puget Sound's Largest Artist's Colony."

The southern end of the island has become a commuter bedroom community for Seattle and for Everett, where Boeing's Everett Production Facility is; workers travel to and from their jobs on Washington State Ferries.

SAFETY

State of Washington

Washington Traffic Safety Commission

Nonemergency 360-725-9860
www.wtsc.wa.gov

The Washington Traffic Safety Commission is the federally recognized highway safety office



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MANS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS CALEB COOPER



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS CALEB COOPER

of Washington state. It leads statewide efforts and builds partnerships to save lives and prevent injuries on the roadways for the health, safety, and benefit of communities.

Washington State Patrol

Nonemergency 360-596-4000
www.wsp.wa.gov

The Washington State Patrol, the state police agency, is one of two state law enforcement agencies considered to be a general authority law enforcement agency, the other agency being the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The nearly 600 Washington State Patrol officers patrol highways daily and are known as troopers although they are frequently colloquially referred to as staters.

Emergency Management Division

Nonemergency 253-512-8000
<http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division>

The Washington Emergency Management Division of Emergency Management plans for and responds to natural and man-made disasters. Visit the division’s website for a severe weather awareness guide and other preparedness information.

Island County

Emergency Management

Nonemergency 360-679-7370
www.islandcountywa.gov/DEM

The Department of Emergency Management is responsible for emergency management within

Island County to include planning and coordinating actions for the preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery from natural and man-made emergencies and disasters. Visit the office’s website for the county’s disaster planning guide and other disaster preparedness information, and to sign up for emergency alerts.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

The Pacific Northwest is known for its warm, dry summers and cool, stormy winters.

Winter weather on Whidbey Island is dominated by the Olympic Mountains a mere 30 miles to the southwest, across the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Olympics “intercept” incoming Pacific storms, generate tremendous lift and torrential rain on their windward side, and create a huge downdraft to their lee, over Whidbey Island. This lee trough is often seen as a small, swirling area of slightly lower pressure that simultaneously inhibits rainfall (NAS Whidbey Island receives less than half the annual rainfall of Seattle) and produces consistent near-gale-force winds out of the southeast. Thus, the same storm system that produces light winds and steady rain over much of the Puget Sound region typically yields only a light, wind-blown drizzle at NAS Whidbey Island.

Of course it does rain, and there are plenty of storms that come from due west or south that are not affected by the Olympic Mountains. In fact, NAS Whidbey Island is a favored rendezvous for cold British Columbian air and warm Pacific moisture, resulting in occasionally heavy

snowfalls. The warm air always wins, however, so the snow is never around for long. Expect winter temperatures predominantly in the 40s, though brief cold snaps in the 15 to 25 degree range are not uncommon.

With weeks on end of dry, sunny weather, cool winds and as much as 17 hours of daylight, Whidbey Island summers are worth the wait, even if you have to wait till mid-July. Fog is common in the morning hours but almost always gives way to bright sun by the afternoon and temperatures in the low 70s, making summer the favorite time of year to explore the mountains, waterways, forests and beaches of this Pacific Northwest gem.

Local Hazards

Every second counts in a disaster, so planning and preparation can be lifesavers.

Two good local resources for emergency preparation are the Island County Department of Emergency Management (<https://islandcountywa.gov/DEM>) and City of Oak Harbor Disaster Preparedness (www.oakharbor.org/page.cfm?pageId=98). The websites give residents, communities, public safety professionals, businesses and schools valuable information and resources on how to deal with potential emergencies. The following are considered significant hazards in Island County.

Another great resource for natural disaster and severe weather information is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/disasters. Here you can find information on how to prepare for various weather emergencies.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF WHIDBEY AND CAMANO ISLANDS TOURISM

Getting To & Around

Island County

IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO reach Whidbey Island by vehicle through Anacortes across the Deception Pass Bridge on State Route 20, though many people prefer the romance of a ferry ride and the mountain and saltwater vistas as the boat threads its way among the islands.

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, 12 miles south of downtown Seattle, is the main arrival point for air travelers.

AIRPORTS

Seattle-Tacoma

International Airport (SeaTac)

17801 International Blvd.

Seattle, WA 98158.....206-787-5388

www.portseattle.org/Sea-Tac

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island is a little under 110 miles northwest of Seattle's SeaTac International Airport, or about 2 hours and 45 minutes away. SeaTac is the largest airport in the Pacific Northwest; with 49.8 million passengers, the airport was the 29th busiest in the world in 2018. Major domestic air carriers include Alaska, Delta, American, United and Southwest airlines,

but an array of international carriers also cycle through the airport, among them KLM, Air France, Alitalia, British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, Icelandair, Air Canada, Aeromexico, Air New Zealand, Qantas, Emirates, Korean Air, Cathay Pacific, China Southern and JAL.

The Main Terminal is linked to two satellite terminals, North Terminal (N Gates) and South Terminal (S Gates), by an underground train loop (North Train Loop and South Train Loop).

All car rental agencies that operate at SeaTac Airport are at a separate rental car facility. Dedicated shuttle buses collect rental car customers from two pick-up areas outside baggage claim at the north and south ends of the main terminal 24/7.

Light rail service arrives and departs from the SeaTac/Airport Station, connected to the fourth floor of the airport parking garage. Rail service extends from the airport to downtown Seattle and the University of Washington.

The King County Metro Bus system and Sound Transit regional express buses also provide service to and from the airport.

Only Yellow Cab offers taxis at SeaTac Airport, and cabs are always waiting on the third floor of the parking garage. Call 206-622-6500.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Washington State Ferries

2901 Third Ave., Suite 500

Seattle, WA 98121.....206-464-6400

www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

From Mukilteo, north of Seattle, a 20-minute ferry ride takes you to Clinton, Whidbey Island's southernmost community on state Route 525. From Port Townsend on the Olympic Peninsula, take a 30-minute ferry ride to Coupeville Ferry Terminal, 4 miles southwest of Coupeville on SR 20.

Reservations are recommended and can be made online at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries.

Whidbey-SeaTac Shuttle

1751 N.E. Goldie St., Unit A-1

Oak Harbor, WA 98277.....360-679-4003

Toll free.....877-679-4003

www.seatacshuttle.com

Nine round trips per day from SeaTac International Airport to all Whidbey Island communities are provided by the Whidbey-SeaTac Shuttle. Island stops are conveniently located near state routes 20 and 525 at minimarts and service stations. The 15 vans and buses travel on the Clinton/Mukilteo Ferry and have first-on/first-off priority; the trip from the airport to downtown Oak Harbor takes about two hours and 15 minutes. Reservations must be made in advance.

Island Transit

19758 SR 20
Coupeville, WA 98239.....360-678-7771
www.islandtransit.org

On Whidbey Island, buses circle Island Transit's 14 routes from 3:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, though not Saturday, Sunday or major holidays. All Whidbey Island rides are free, and all Island Transit buses are wheelchair accessible and have bike racks. Vanpools can be arranged, including military commuter vanpools, and paratransit service is available for those whose disability prevents them from using regular bus service. Whidbey Island has eight Park & Ride lots.

DRIVING AND COMMUTING

Two linked north-south state highways, state Route 525 and SR 20, are Whidbey Island's main traffic conduits and are fed by county roads or city streets. Each serves about half the long, narrow island: SR 525 the South End, and SR 20 the North End. Together, they form the only nationally designated Scenic Byway on an island, the "Whidbey Island Scenic Isle Way," with its vistas of saltwater beaches, wildflower meadows, rich agriculture, mountains, forests, wildlife and historic sites.

Motorists coming to Whidbey Island from the south should take Interstate 5 to Whidbey Island/Mukilteo Ferry Exit 182, head north on SR 525 to Mukilteo and board a Washington State Ferry bound for Clinton.

From the east and north, follow Interstate 5 to Exit 230 in Burlington, then continue west on SR 20 over the Deception Pass Bridge to the island.

From the Olympic Peninsula, take SR 101 to its intersection with SR 20, drive northeast to Port Townsend and take the Washington State Ferry to Coupeville Terminal.

The Washington State Department of Transportation maintains seven traffic cameras in the Oak Harbor area and an eighth to the south to alert travelers to potential traffic and ferry problems. Stay informed of local and state situations by going to www.wsdot.com/traffic or by dialing 511 for real-time traffic and weather information.

Washington State Department of Licensing
Oak Harbor Driver Licensing Office
656 S.E. Bayshore Drive, No. 4
Oak Harbor, WA 98277.....360-675-6466
www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense

The Washington State Department of Licensing issues driver's licenses, identification cards and vehicle registration and provides other driving-related services.

Washington State Patrol

District 7 Office
840 S.E. Eighth Ave., No. 101
Oak Harbor, WA 98277.....360-675-0710
.....360-805-1153
www.wsp.wa.gov

In addition to some 600 troopers patrolling Washington roads every day, another thousand less-visible civilian employees are doing their part in the agency's six bureaus for public safety, including those who work for the State Fire Marshal to help prevent fires in the home and workplace; the crime lab technicians and scientists who, among other things, process DNA samples in criminal cases; and investigative support staff who keep criminal records and databases up to date.

Help is at your fingertips: For roadside assistance and emergencies, call 911; for road closure information, 511; and for state ferry vessel and terminal security, 911.

Driver's Licenses

Military personnel and their spouses who are stationed in Washington from elsewhere may

continue to drive with a valid driver's license from their home state, but in general, all Washington residents who want to drive must apply for a driver's license once residency is established.

The state spells out what is required for licensing and insurance under various scenarios in its Washington Driver Guide, which can be downloaded at www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/docs/driverguide-en.pdf.

Distractions Driving

The state of Washington prohibits drivers from holding cell phones or other wireless communications devices to their ears; teenage drivers are barred from using all cell phones or other wireless communications devices; and text messaging is banned for all drivers.

Vehicle Registration

These days much of the former paperwork associated with driving can be handled online, including renewing vehicle license plates, replacing a driver's license or ID card, checking the status of a driver's license, reporting the sale of a vehicle and registering to vote. A Washington State Department of Licensing list of online options, "Do More Online," is available at www.dol.wa.gov.

Washington State Department of Transportation

www.wsdot.wa.gov
Visit the Washington State Department of Transportation website for interactive maps, information about road closures and travel advisories, and to view live traffic cameras.



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Housing & Real Estate

in Island County

THE CHARM OF ISLAND living, a mild climate, natural beauties and a small-town lifestyle coupled with easy ferry access to the vital city of Seattle contribute to a high quality of life not often found elsewhere. In 2018, an estimated 84,460 people called Island County home, the Census said, with just under 377 residents per square mile.

In 2017, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, in Island County, had a base population of approximately 7,500 military personnel, 1,200 civilian employees and 1,200 contractors for a total of 9,900, most of whom live off base in surrounding communities. The Census counted 12,039 veterans residing in the area in 2017. It's the largest naval aviation installation in the Pacific Northwest as well as one of the four naval installations forming Navy Region Northwest.

ISLAND COUNTY

Washington's Island County, which was a county before the state became a state (1852 vs. 1889), has become increasingly popular

with artists and retirees looking for pleasant, supportive surroundings in a stunning setting, but the secret is out as well with mainland city dwellers looking to build summer homes, and with tourists. Nine islands make up Island County, with Whidbey and Camano being the most populous; the other seven — Baby, Ben Ure, Deception, Kalamut, Minor, Smith and Strawberry islands — are small, mostly uninhabited, timbered bumps surrounded by salt-water but crucial to the region's bird life and as seal haul-outs.

Whidbey Island

1 N.E. Seventh St.
Coupeville, WA 98239 360-678-5111
www.islandcountywa.gov

The largest island in Washington state, Whidbey Island is about 55 miles long and from a mile and a half to 12 miles wide, though its meandering shape makes precise measurements near-impossible; Coupeville, the county seat, is the county's oldest town (and the second-oldest in the state), and much of its historic architecture has been meticulously preserved. Outdoor

activity is easy; hiking, for instance, is year-round, and it requires little specialized equipment to walk an old-growth forest trail, a beach or a prairie. Sailing, kayaking and fishing are popular and accessible. Major communities include Coupeville, Oak Harbor, Langley and Freeland.

City of Coupeville

4 N.E. Seventh St.
Coupeville, WA 98239 360-678-4461
<https://townofcoupeville.org>

Known to islanders as the heart of the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, Coupeville is responsible for much of the antiquarian preservation on Whidbey Island, starting with its historic waterfront district and wharf on Penn Cove.

Coupeville, population 1,959, also boasts the famed Penn Cove Shellfish farm and an ingeniously designed main street of false-front stores filled with antiques, crafts and other specialty items.

Homes in the Coupeville area range from well-established neighborhoods to new construction.

Median rent in 2018 was \$1,850, selected monthly owner costs of housing units with a mortgage were \$1,713 and mean travel time to work for those living in Coupeville was a little under 21 minutes. Overall, the cost of living is 27 percent higher than the national average.

City of Oak Harbor

865 S.E. Barrington Drive
Oak Harbor, WA 98277.....360-279-4500
<https://www.oakharbor.org>

Picturesque Oak Harbor's modern culture is steeped in history. Settled in 1849 by seafarers who established a trade port on Puget Sound, the community is now nearly 9 miles wide. The town was given its name by a pioneer physician, Dr. Richard Lansdale, because of its abundance of Garry oak trees, a relatively rare species.

The township enjoyed both a financial and population boom in the 1890s when Dutch settlers from the Midwest and Canada took up prosperous farms on its rich soil. Today, windmills, Dutch architecture and tulips still bear witness to that heritage. Many of the town's oldest structures were built near the harbor, since the water trade was the main initial source of income.

Hopeful Oak Harbor home-shoppers have plenty of condos, townhouses, single-family dwellings and land for new construction to choose from. The median selected owner costs for a home with a mortgage was \$1,600, median rent was \$1,111, and mean travel time to work was 18.6 minutes for the estimated 23,401 residents. The overall cost of living was 18 percent higher than the U.S. average.

City of Langley

112 Second St.
Langley, WA 98260.....360-221-4246
www.langleywa.org

Some say that Langley has the best of both worlds: a sweeping bluff overlooking the channel of Saratoga Passage, as well as a breathtaking 180-degree view of the Cascade Mountains.

Langley is also known for its high density of cottages, bed-and-breakfasts and inns, top-notch artists and craftspeople, delicious food and huge numbers of feral rabbits, love-bunny progeny from a reputed break-out at the Whidbey Island Fair's 2001 rabbit competition.

Many people would like to add to Langley's population of 1,136, so housing can be tight and expensive. Selected monthly owner costs for homes with a mortgage were \$1,884, median rent was \$1,057 and average travel time to work was a little over 34 minutes. The cost of living was 36 percent higher than the U.S. average,

largely because Langley housing costs were 97 percent more.

Freeland

Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Information Center
5575 Harbor Ave.
Freeland, WA 98249360-331-1980
www.freelandchamber.org

Three Seattle socialist idealists founded Freeland in 1900 as a utopian community, the idea being that all residents would get free land in return for working for the common good. The group effort broke apart in squabbles and bankruptcy in 1920, but the individuals who stayed created a pleasant, rural beach-front village. Visitors can spend the night at one of the many inns, cottages and bed-and-breakfasts, and in the morning, take a leisurely stroll down Double Bluff Beach. In addition to its amazing panoramic views of Mount Rainier and Seattle, the beach is dotted with places to picnic, leash-free dog areas and collection sites for driftwood aficionados.

At nearby Freeland Park, you can host a picnic at one of its many waterfront tables, dig for clams or simply watch windsurfers and boaters. And what waterfront park would be complete without a playground? Freeland Park has a quaint playground next to the picnic areas, ideal for family get-togethers.

The most recent count showed 1,698 residents of Freeland, where selected monthly owner costs for a house with a mortgage ran \$1,667, average rent was \$1,098, and travel time to get to work averaged 31.3 minutes. Overall, Freeland living expenses were 33 percent higher than the U.S. average.

At nearby Freeland Park, you can host a picnic at one of its many waterfront tables, dig for clams or simply watch windsurfers and boaters. And what waterfront park would be complete without a playground? Freeland Park has a quaint playground next to the picnic areas, ideal for family get-togethers.

PLANNING YOUR MOVE

Relocating to a new home can be one of the most stressful situations in life. Whether moving across town or the nation, preparation and organization make all the difference.

For military moves, visit www.move.mil for information about moving resources and to learn about the allowances and responsibilities of a military-sponsored move.

FINDING AN APARTMENT

Be prepared when you meet with the leasing agent, property manager or owner. Bring a list of

what you are looking for in a rental; it is important to be clear about your needs and to get all of your questions answered. You will also need to provide information and verification about your job, your income and your past rental history. Dress to make a good impression and treat the meeting like a job interview — be polite and arrive on time.

Use a written checklist with the landlord to document the condition of the rental before you move in, and keep a copy of the completed checklist to use when you move out. "Your Rights as a Tenant in Washington State" by the Northwest Justice Project can be downloaded at www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/your-rights-as-a-tenant-in-washington.

BUYING A HOME

The county's communities give newcomers numerous of choices when selecting a home. Enlist the help of a reputable real estate agent to help you sort through the area's home options. The Washington Association of Realtors is a central source of local real estate information and assistance. Those interested in purchasing a new home can find the expertise and professional services they need at www.warealtor.org.

State Programs

Washington provides housing programs and incentives to help residents with home ownership. For more information, visit <http://portal.hud.gov> and select "Washington" from the "State Info" drop-down menu.

Island County Housing Programs

The Island County Housing Authority has several housing programs to help residents keep a roof over their heads, especially senior citizens and those with low incomes. For more information, visit <http://affordablehousingonline.com/housing-search/Washington/Island-County> or call 360-678-4181.

Potentially helpful state agencies include the Washington State Housing Finance Commission (www.wshfc.org/buyers), the Washington Homeownership Resource Center (www.homeownership-wa.org) and The Foreclosure Fairness Program (www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/housing/foreclosure-fairness).

The federal government's Housing and Urban Development Department's housing assistance includes help with rent, heating and electric bills, mortgages and other areas of need, though available funding may at times limit some specific missions. Go to www.needhelpayingbills.com/html/housing_and_urban_development_.html.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS WYATT L. ANTHONY/RELEASED

Employment & Economy

in Island County

ISLAND COUNTY IS SITUATED in the Salish Sea in Northwest Washington. As its name suggests, it is made up of several islands. The two largest are Whidbey and Camano. Island County is the second-smallest county in Washington by landmass, just larger than neighboring San Juan County. Island County is bounded to the north by Deception Pass and by Puget Sound to the south. Skagit Bay and Saratoga Passage are located to the east and Admiralty Inlet and the Strait of Juan de Fuca are west of Island County. Skagit and Snohomish Counties lie to the east of Island County and the Olympic Peninsula lies across the water to the west.

Whidbey Island is divided economically into two regions: the northern end of the island (encompassing Oak Harbor and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island), and the remainder of the island (encompassing Coupeville, Greenbank, Freeland, Langley, Clinton and smaller communities in between).

The economy of the northern end of Whidbey Island is strongly influenced by the presence of

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) near Oak Harbor. NASWI is Oak Harbor's largest employer; thus, Oak Harbor has a predominantly service-based economy, and several national chain stores have been attracted to the Oak Harbor area.

The economy of Whidbey Island south of Oak Harbor relies heavily on tourism, small-scale agriculture and the arts.

For thousands of years, Island County was inhabited by several groups of Coast Salish Indians. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the population was decimated by disease transmitted through contact with European and American explorers. Settlement by nonindigenous people began in the 1850s. Early industries included logging, fishing and farming, as well as some related manufacturing industries.

In 1941, the U.S. Navy started construction on NASWI, which transformed Oak Harbor into a booming community due to the creation of construction jobs and influx of Navy personnel. NASWI remains a strong economic stabilizing

force in Whidbey Island. NASWI has also brought many highly skilled workers to Whidbey Island. There is not a strong economic base to provide sufficient employment for the spouses and dependents of those workers; consequently, commuting to nearby counties provides a relief valve for residents seeking jobs.

The median age in Island County is about 44 years old, meaning the workforce skews older. Median household income in Island County is \$61,516, slightly higher than the national average, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island contributes significantly to Island County's economy and to a lesser degree Skagit County's. At almost 13,000 employees, the base is four times the size of the next nearest employer in Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom counties. In direct military and civilian payroll, the base contributed \$548 million dollars into the regional economy in fiscal year 2017. The number of veterans

living near the base is three times higher than the national average.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

National Resources

At the national level, websites such as www.linkedin.com, www.monster.com, www.careerbuilder.com and www.indeed.com have extensive search capabilities as well as resume tips, forum support and professional networking options.

The National Military Spouse Network, a networking, mentoring and professional development organization, has a wealth of career information at its website, www.nationalmilitaryspousenetwork.org.

Local Resources

WorkSource Washington

265 N.E. Kettle St., Suite 102
Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-675-5966
<https://worksourcewa.com>

WorkSource Washington is a statewide partnership of state, local and nonprofit agencies that deliver an array of employment and training services for job seekers and employers. Customers access services through the website or through a network of more than 60 WorkSource centers, affiliates and connection sites statewide.

Washington State Employment

Security Department

212 Maple Park Ave. SE
Olympia, WA 98501 360-902-9500
<https://esd.wa.gov>

The Washington State Employment Security Department is the state’s largest and most comprehensive employment resource. Services include job listings, occupational information, job training programs and a host of specialized services for veterans, displaced workers and other targeted populations. For young people seeking employment in the region, the Youth at Work website provides job search information, as well as tips on resume writing and other resources.

State of Washington

<http://careers.wa.gov>

Employment opportunities with Washington State are posted online. Search by category, department or location, then apply online. Find employment assistance, look for internships or sign up for the Federal Job Corps Program here as well.

Island County

1 N.E. Seventh St.
Coupeville, WA 98239 360-678-5111
www.governmentjobs.com/careers/islandcounty

Island County is among the Top 10 employers in the county. Jobs are posted online with benefits information, and applications are submitted online. Call the Human Resources Department at 360-678-7919 with any questions.

Town of Coupeville

4 N.E. Seventh St.
Coupeville, WA 98239 360-678-4461
www.townofcoupeville.org

Visit the town’s website for information about job opportunities.

City of Langley

112 Second St.
Langley, WA 98260 360-221-4246
www.langleywa.org

From the main menu on city’s website, click “Residents” then “City of Langley Jobs” to view job openings.

City of Oak Harbor

865 S.E. Barrington Drive
Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-279-4500
www.oakharbor.org

From the main menu on city’s website, go to “Residents,” then click on “Employment” in the drag-down menu to access links to Oak Harbor’s job openings, Island County’s employment opportunities and other job resources.

CIVILIAN OPPORTUNITIES

Federal Jobs

Visit www.usajobs.gov to search for Department of Defense jobs at NAS Whidbey Island, or call the human resources office at 360-257-2979.

NAF Jobs

For information about service jobs, including openings in lodging, marina, recreation areas and more (non-appropriated fund positions), visit <http://whidbey.navylife.pnw.com/welcome- aboard/area-resources/employment-resources>.

Exchange Jobs

Search for jobs at Whidbey Island’s Navy Exchange and Navy Lodge at www.mynavyexchange.com/work4us.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Washington State Small Business Development Center

The Washington State Small Business Development Center offers small-business resources for those looking to start a business. Visit <http://wsbdc.org> for more information.

Small Business Resources

www.usa.gov/business

Learn the steps to start and grow a small business at USA.gov’s Small Business website. The platform features hand-picked government websites helpful to small business owners. Learn about business taxes and incentives, financing a business, importing and exporting, federal government contracting, state business resources and more. The website also provides information on a wide range of programs and services to help veterans, women, minorities and the economically disadvantaged start or grow a business.



WWW.ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/GEHRING



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Health Care

In Island County

THERE ARE MANY HEALTH care services in Island County for military, civilians and veterans, though implementation of the Affordable Care Act has changed established insurance options. Visit www.healthcare.gov for information on open enrollment for health care coverage under the national Affordable Care Act.

See the Military Buyer's Guide to connect with local hospitals and medical centers, health care centers and health care providers.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CLINICS AND RESOURCES

A community health center or clinic is customarily the place to go for those who have no health insurance or have limited income or ability to pay medical fees. Such clinics accept most insurance and provide affordable, comprehensive health care by well-trained, professional staff. They also serve those who are uninsured and underinsured, and most are open to making

sliding scale payment arrangements based on income and family size.

For a list of community health centers in the state, visit the website of the Washington Association of Community & Migrant Worker Health Centers at www.wacmhc.org and select "Find a Health Center."

DENTAL CARE

The Washington State Dental Association website, www.wsda.org, is a useful place to start in finding a dentist with its roster lists. Select "Public Resources" from the home page and choose "Find a Dentist" to locate a dentist, hygienist or dental assistant. You can also seek referrals from people you know who've had dental care in the area.

The Washington State Department of Health's website at www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/OralHealth/FindingDentalCare presents a number of options for low-cost or free dental care, as well as tips for oral health. Go to "You

and Your Family" and click on "Oral Health" for information about fluoride, adult teeth, children and teen teeth, and more.

FINDING A LOCAL DOCTOR

Before you arrive at your new assignment, you can check the Washington State Department of Health's online directory of medical providers at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/providercredentialsearch>. You can browse for a provider by type or by name. This should give you a preview of the local medical practitioners as well as where you might need to go for specialized care.

Personal referrals from friends or other medical personnel can add to your options.

You can check a doctor's certification at the American Board of Medical Specialties at www.abms.org. To see if anyone has registered a complaint or taken disciplinary action against the doctor, visit the Washington Medical

Commission at <https://wmc.wa.gov/public> or call 360-236-2750.

Treat finding a doctor as seriously as looking for a new job or a new home. You want to be comfortable with the person who will see you while you are most vulnerable.

FOR VETERANS

Veterans in Island County are served within Veterans Integrated Service Network 20 — the Northwest VA Health Care Network, with the nearest major medical center in Seattle, about 80 miles from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. VISN 20 serves the entire Pacific Northwest, including Alaska, a region with 1.1 million veterans. The closest community outpatient clinics to NAS Whidbey Island also are in Seattle.

The following is a list of community-based outpatient clinics and the vet center in Seattle. For a full list of clinics and other facilities, go to www.pugetsound.va.gov.

**VA Puget Sound Health Care System
Seattle Division**

1660 S. Columbian Way
Seattle, WA 98108.....206-762-1010
www.pugetsound.va.gov

**North Seattle CBOC
(Valor Healthcare)**

12360 Lake City Way NE, Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98125.....206-384-4382

Seattle Regional Benefits Office

915 Second Ave.
Seattle, WA 98174.....800-827-1000

**Washington State Department
of Veterans Affairs**

1102 Quince St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504360-725-2200
Veterans Crisis Line800-273-8255
www.dva.wa.gov

The Department of Veterans Affairs improves the quality of life for Washington’s veterans, military and their families by increasing awareness and access to appropriate federal, state and local resources.

The Department of Veterans Affairs operates two service offices in the area:

Seattle Division

1660 S. Columbian Way
Seattle, WA 98108.....206-762-1010

American Lake Division

9600 Veterans Drive
Tacoma, WA 98493.....253-582-8440

HOSPITALS/MEDICAL CENTERS

Because emergencies don’t announce themselves, it’s prudent to know where to go when

they happen. Saving minutes in a crisis can mean saving a life. Knowing what services are available, and where, can make all the difference. In life-threatening situations, call 911 immediately and follow dispatcher instructions.

Everett Medical Center

2930 Maple St.
Everett, WA 98201425-261-1500
<https://wa.kaiserpermanente.org/html/public/locations/everett>

Island Hospital

1211 24th St.
Anacortes, WA 98221360-299-1300
www.islandhospital.org

Providence Pavilion for Women & Children

900 Pacific Ave.
Everett, WA 98201425-258-7123
<http://washington.providence.org/clinics/pacific-campus-and-pavilion>

Providence Regional Medical Center-Colby

1700 13th St.
Everett, WA 98201425-261-2000
<https://washington.providence.org/locations-directory/r/regional-medical-center>

**Providence Regional
Medical Center-Pacific**

916 Pacific Ave.
Everett, WA 98201425-261-2000
<https://washington.providence.org/locations-directory/r/regional-medical-center>

Seattle Children’s Everett-North Clinic

1815 13th St.
Everett, WA 98201425-783-6200
www.seattlechildrens.org/contact/north-clinic-everett

Skagit Valley Hospital

300 Hospital Parkway
Mount Vernon, WA 98273360-424-4111
www.skagitregionalhealth.org/home/location-landing/skagit-valley-hospital

Swedish Medical Center-Mill Creek

13020 Meridian Ave. S
Everett, WA 98208425-357-3900
www.swedish.org/locations/mill-creek-campus

WhidbeyHealth Medical Center

101 N. Main St.
Coupeville, WA 98239360-678-5151
www.whidbeyhealth.org/locations/medical-center



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS MARC CUENCA



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS MARC CUENCA

Family Resources

in Island County

PICKING UP FROM ONE place and moving to another is always a hassle, especially when kids and pets are involved. Knowing whom to call or where to find information can help make the transition easier.

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org

The Red Cross helps members of the military, veterans and their families prepare for, cope with, and respond to, the challenges of military service.

The American Red Cross offers confidential services to all members of the military, veterans, and their families by connecting them with local, state and national resources through the network of chapters in communities across the United States and offices on military installations worldwide.

Local Red Cross offices develop and maintain relationships with key community partners. Military families rely on the Red Cross to help them identify their needs and connect them to the most appropriate Red Cross and community resources. This key Red Cross service includes

responding to emergency needs for food, clothing, and shelter, referrals to counseling services (e.g., financial, legal, mental health), respite care for caregivers, and other resources that meet the unique needs of local military members, veterans and their families.

The American Red Cross Emergency Communications Center is available to help 24/7. Call 877-272-7337 or submit an online request at <https://saf.redcross.org/css>.

Armed Services YMCA

www.asymca.org

The ASYMCA is made up of 13 branches and about 20 affiliate locations at local Y's and on some DOD facilities across the U.S.

It makes military life easier by providing programs and services to the young men and women of all five armed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

ASYMCA programs, services and events are designed to help the family come together, stay together and have the ability to adjust, bounce back and thrive wherever the services send them —

with a particular focus on junior-enlisted men and women, the individuals on the front lines of defending our nation. Programs are offered at low cost and require no dues or membership fees.

Signature programs include: Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala, Art and Essay Contest, Military Family Month, Operation Hero, Operation Holiday Joy, Operation Kid Comfort, Operation Outdoors, Operation Ride Home, Parent and Me, Teddy's Child Watch and YMCA/DOD Military Outreach Initiative.

Find ASYMCA locations by visiting www.asymca.org/locations.

Child Care Aware

www.childcareaware.org

Improving access to affordable, quality child care is one of Child Care Aware of America's top goals. Search the site's "State by State Resources for Families" to connect with national organizations and associations that provide information for families regarding child development, parenting, and child care concerns and questions.

The site has information on the different types of child care and how to choose the right child care for your family. Financial resources include a child care budgeting calculator and information on federal and state fee assistance. There's also a special section for military and DOD families with links to military child care fee assistance. To speak with a specialist about military and DOD child care programs, call 800-424-2246, option 6.

Military OneSource

www.militaryonesource.mil

Military OneSource is your central hub and go-to-place for the military community. Get to know your benefits and prepare for the big stuff — deployments, reintegration, moves, parenthood, retirement and more. Browse by topic or search for that strangely specific question you want to know the answers to. No matter where military life takes you, with Military OneSource you will always be in the loop.

Operation Homefront

www.operationhomefront.org

Operation Homefront assists military families during difficult financial times by providing food assistance, auto and home repair, vision care, travel and transportation, moving assistance, essential home items, and rent-free transitional housing for wounded veterans and their families.

Helping military families gain long-term stability is a specific concern for Operation Homefront. Homes on the Homefront awards mortgage-free homes, impacting veteran families for generations to come. The caregivers for wounded warriors also need help and that is why Hearts of Valor was formed.

Operation Homefront's annual gala recognizes extraordinary military kids. The organization also hosts multiple Homefront Celebrations, Star-Spangled Baby Showers, Back-to-School Brigades and Holiday Meals for Military events each year to show appreciation to military spouses.

Visit Operation Homefront online for more information.

Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families

1110 Jefferson St. SE
 Olympia, WA 98501360-725-4665
 Toll free866-482-4325
www.dcyf.wa.gov

The Department of Children, Youth & Families is the state's newest agency. It oversees several services previously offered through the state Department of Social and Health Services and the Department of Early Learning. These include all programs from the Children's Administration in DSHS such as Child Protective Services' investigations and Family Assessment Response, licensed foster care and adoption support. The

department's areas of service include an abuse hotline, services for adoption, child care, foster care, domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, substance abuse and more.

Oak Harbor Office

275 SE Pioneer Way, Suite 301
 Oak Harbor, WA 98277.....360-679-7150

United Service Organization

www.uso.org

Since 1941, the USO has kept our military men and women connected to their families, home and country no matter where they are or under what conditions they serve. Programs for military families include Couples Seminars: Stronger Families, Comfort Crew for Military Kids, Operation That's My Dress, United Through Reading, Baby Showers: USO and What to Expect Present Special Delivery and The Sesame Street/USO Experience.

The USO also provides transition services to support Americans' return to civilian life after completing their military service. For more information, go to www.uso.org/programs/uso-pathfinder.

Visit the USO's website to find a location near you.

PETS

Moves are stressful for everyone — including the family pet. Pets can sense stress and a change in routine can be difficult for them. If possible, keep your pets in a quiet, secure area while movers pack up or unload your belongings. Movers will have your door open while they move boxes and furniture, and a pet may slip out the door undetected. Make sure you keep a collar with an ID tag on your pet at all times. Ensure the tag has your current phone number on it. It is also a good idea to microchip your pets. Remember to keep the microchip's contact information up-to-date. If your pet escapes during any part of your move, you want the animal shelter that scans the chip to be able to contact you.

Visit the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living> for a full list of wildlife dangers and how to avoid them, and the Washington State Department of Health's web page describing how to avoid pests, such as ticks and spiders, at www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Pests.

Animal Services

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Puget Sound Region
 16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
 Mill Creek, WA 98012425-775-1311
<http://wdfw.wa.gov>

The WDFW manages and ensures the long-term well-being of fish and wildlife, especially as humans continue to encroach on wildlife habitats. The website offers tips about living with many of the species across the state. For information about wildlife in the Puget Sound region specifically, visit <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regions/region4>.

Whidbey Animals' Improvement Foundation

Ellery Cramer Family
 Animal Shelter – Main Facility
 60 Rhododendron Park Road
 Coupeville, WA 98239360-678-8900
www.waifanimals.org

Whidbey Animals' Improvement Foundation is a nonprofit organization on Whidbey Island that provides coupons for reduced-cost spaying and neutering, food and financial assistance for low-income pet owners, foster care, veterinary services, low-cost adoptions and more. For more information on WAIF's animal shelters and cat adoption centers, visit its website.

Pets for Patriots

<https://petsforpatriots.org>

Pets for Patriots' vision is to end animal homelessness in the United States while giving our military veterans and their families the greatest "thank you" of all: the extraordinary love of a companion pet. It makes this happen through its nationwide shelter and veterinary networks, military and veteran organizations, and a public that values the lives of both the vulnerable and heroic among us.

To learn more about adopting a pet, visit <https://petsforpatriots.org/adopt-a-pet/how-it-works>.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS JOHN HETHERINGTON



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS MARC CIENIGA/RELEASED

Education & Academics

in Island County

FOR THOSE MOVING TO a new location, it's important to know what educational options are available. This chapter outlines the public schools system in Island County, along with information about local libraries and higher education. There are private schools, charter schools and home schooling available to children in the county as well.

To be enrolled in a Washington school, a child must be at least 5 years old by Aug. 31 of the school year. Those wishing to register their child in school should bring the following to the school office: a birth certificate or other proof of the child's age, the child's previous school records and immunizations records. Check with the school for additional requirements. For more details on Washington's minimum vaccine requirements for students in grades K-12, please visit the Washington State Department of Health's website at www.doh.wa.gov or the State of Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website at www.k12.wa.us.

In 2010, Washington, along with 42 other states, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Department of Defense Education Activity, adopted Common Core State Standards that provide a consistent

set of educational expectations for students, regardless of ZIP code. When a family moves, a student's education is often disrupted because the student may be forced to repeat material or learn at a different level at the new school. With common standards across states, this disruption will be reduced — of particular interest to military families. At present, national Common Core State Standards exist only for English language arts and mathematics, with science and social studies in development, though Washington has state standards across the full curriculum. For more information, visit www.corestandards.org.

Choosing a School

Choosing the right school is very important, so be sure to research each one before deciding. Contact the school by phone or by visiting its website, which is a valuable source to learn about a school district's statistics and curriculum. Talk to people in the area, especially friends and colleagues who already live there.

If the school shows promise, schedule a visit and bring a list of written questions about student-teacher ratios, computer availability, extracurricular activities, sports programs, music programs, gifted programs and grading standards.

Discuss the potential school with your child: what they liked and what they didn't like. Your family's

ability to readily adapt to a move and to find happiness in your new home may depend, in part, on how happy your children are in their new school.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are public schools of choice that are tuition-free, serve all students and have open enrollment. For more information, visit the Washington State Charter Schools Association website at <http://wacharters.org>.

HOME SCHOOLING

For an introduction to home schooling in Washington Homeschool Organization website at <https://washhomeschool.org>. Here you will find information on home-school rules and regulations, testing information, home-school curriculum providers and more.

Family Learning Organization

P.O. Box 1750
Mead, WA 99021 509-467-2552
www.familylearning.org

The Family Learning Organization was incorporated in 1986 and has since established a long history of serving the home-school community beginning in Spokane, extending nationally through its advocacy and testing services. The organization's

purposes are to advocate for home-based education, to facilitate the encouragement of home-schooling families, to help preserve the freedom of parents to educate their children, and to serve as a means of communication and networking. Through the organization, home-schooling families can network with more experienced parents.

Washington Homeschool Organization

P.O. Box 66960
Seattle, WA 98166.....425-251-0439
<http://washhomeschool.org>

The Washington Homeschool Organization (WHO) is a statewide, nonprofit membership organization. WHO provides parents/guardians with resources, information about state laws and facilitates communication with local school officials, among other things.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

To search for local private schools in Washington, visit the National Center for Education Statistics website and use the private school search tool at www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch. Users may search by location, religious affiliation, school type and more.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Anacortes School District

2200 M Ave.
Anacortes, WA 98221360-293-1200
www.asd103.org

Located on Fidalgo Island, 20 minutes north Whidbey Island, the Anacortes School District is an award-winning district with 2,700 students in three elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, an alternative high school and an early childhood education center.

Coupeville School District

501 S. Main St.
Coupeville, WA 98239360-678-2400
<http://coupeville.k12.wa.us>

Coupeville School District offers quality, personalized education programs and services to approximately 850 preschool through 12th-grade students. Serving the central portion of Whidbey Island, the district's schools are about 20 minutes south of NAS Whidbey Island. Schools include one elementary school and a combined middle and high school. The middle and high schools share library, music and cafeteria areas but have separate classrooms and lunchtimes for grades six through eight and nine through 12.

Oak Harbor School District

350 S. Oak Harbor St.
Oak Harbor, WA 98277360-279-5000
www.ohsd.net

Oak Harbor is the largest school district in the region, serving more than 5,500 students on nine

campuses: five elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school and a parent-school partnership. All schools place a strong emphasis on academics, arts and student achievement.

UNIVERSITIES/HIGHER EDUCATION

Island County offers plenty of opportunity for continuing education. The Navy College Office in the Naval Operational Support Center, Building 2739, Room 134, provides a comfortable study area and services to promote all phases of voluntary education. Individual or group counseling is available to assist sailors, dependents and DOD personnel in the development of educational goals toward certificate or degree attainment. Use the following contact information to start your search for the school that is right for you.

Bellingham Technical College

3028 Lindbergh Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98225360-752-7000
www.btc.edu

Brandman University-NAS Whidbey Island

1045 W. Midway St., Room 116,
Building 2739
Oak Harbor, WA 98278800-746-0082
www.brandman.edu/whidbey-island-nas

Columbia College-NAS Whidbey Island

1045 W. Midway St., Room 117,
Building 2739
Oak Harbor, WA 98278360-279-9030
www.ccis.edu/nationwide/whidbey

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

981 N.E. 21st Court
Oak Harbor, WA 98277360-279-0959
<http://worldwide.erau.edu/locations/whidbey-island>

Everett Community College

2000 Tower St.
Everett, WA 98201425-388-9100
www.everettcc.edu

Skagit Valley College-Whidbey Island Campus

South Whidbey Center
1900 SE Pioneer Way
Oak Harbor, WA 98277360-360-675-6656
www.skagit.edu

Washington State University-Island County Extension

101 N.E. Sixth St.
Coupeville, WA 98239360-240-5558
<http://extension.wsu.edu/island>

Western Washington University

516 High St.
Bellingham, WA 98225360-650-3000
www.wvu.edu

LIBRARIES

Sno-Isle Libraries serves 728,745 residents in Washington's Snohomish and Island counties through 21 community libraries, online services and Library on Wheels. Public libraries in the area offer learning, recreation, distance education, internet connections and other resources for users — all for free. In addition, school libraries that support the curriculum and offer internet access and other resources are in most public and private schools, and academic and special libraries are found in colleges and universities. The Washington State Library, www.sos.wa.gov/library, supports libraries in the state with resources, interlibrary loan and other assistance.

For a full list of libraries in Washington, visit the Washington State Library website. The following public library branches are near Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Get information about services, hours and events by visiting the branches' websites.

Camano Island Library

848 N. Sunrise Blvd.
Camano Island, WA 98282360-387-5150
www.sno-isle.org/locations/camanoisland

Coupeville Library

788 NW Alexander St.
Coupeville, WA 98239360-678-4911
www.sno-isle.org/locations/coupeville

Oak Harbor Library

1000 S.E. Regatta Drive
Oak Harbor, WA 98277360-675-5115
www.sno-isle.org/locations/oakharbor

EDUCATION LINKS

Find resources to help your student achieve academic success at these websites:

- **Washington State Board of Education:** www.sbe.wa.gov
- **Washington PTA:** www.wastatepta.org
- **Reading is Fundamental:** www.rif.org
- **U.S. Department of Education:** www2.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml

Military Child Education Coalition: Ensures quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation and transition. Visit www.militarychild.org for information on programs and resources.

Tutor.com: Eligible students and service members in U.S. military families around the world can work one-to-one with an expert tutor online 24/7. Get free help with homework, studying, test prep and proofreading in more than 40 subjects. Visit <http://military.tutor.com>.





PHOTO COURTESY OF WHIDBEY AND CAMANO ISLANDS TOURISM

Living

in Island County

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST BOASTS plenty of entertaining activities — music, sports, theater, museums, parks and shopping. Try your hand at clamming and crabbing, for instance, or watch a movie at one of the last drive-in theaters in the state. Don't miss the Penn Cove Mussel Fest or the hundreds of sailboats floating in the Oak Harbor Marina for Whidbey Island Race Week. And be sure to check out the PBY-Naval Air Museum.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Residents of Island County will enjoy a variety of annual events, festivals and community gatherings.

Boeing Seafair Air Show

www.seafair.com

The first weekend of August brings the Boeing Seafair Air Show to town where you'll witness the U.S. Navy Blue Angels perform dazzling stunts and aerial maneuvers as spectators look on in amazement from the shores of Lake Washington. The Blue Angels participated in their

first air show in 1946 and since have performed for an estimated 11 million spectators during air shows each year.

Coupeville Arts and Crafts Festival

<http://coupevillefestival.com>

The Coupeville Festival is held each August with Penn Cove as the quaint backdrop. Come experience some of the finest art and crafts with vendors from all across the country. In addition to the vendor booths, the festival also features an art gallery and wine reception, a wine and beer garden, a hands-on children's activity area, a food court and live entertainment.

Everett Sausage Festival

www.everettsausagefest.com

The Everett Sausage Festival is a family-oriented weekend fair in October centered on a Bavarian theme. For the past 40 years, this festival has delighted visitors with such offerings as its traditional Bavarian dinner to a variety of food booths, children's games, the

family entertainment stage, bingo, carnival, and Bavarian beer garden and stage. Visit the event's website for more information.

Holland Happening Festival

<https://whidbeycamanoislands.com/event/holland-happening-international-festival>

Every April, in honor of Oak Harbor's Dutch history, the town is filled with tulips to kick off the annual three-day Holland Happening Festival. Events include a family-friendly carnival, a street fair featuring Dutch food, wooden shoe carving, a "Klompen Canal Race" and an international dance festival. The festival culminates with a grand parade along the waterfront.

Oak Harbor Pigfest

www.oakharborpigfest.com

The annual Oak Harbor Pigfest is a block party and pig roast developed to help raise funds for the local food bank, North Whidbey Help House. Every August, the community comes together for live music, entertainment (including

a pie-eating contest) and delicious food to help give back to those in need. Visit the website for more information.

Paine Field Aviation Day

www.paineairport.com/198/Paine-Field-Aviation-Day

The Paine Field Aviation Day, held in May, features both vintage and new aircraft in a family-friendly event that attracts 5,000-8,000 attendees. Kick off the event with a 5K run/walk, and follow it up with a firefighters' pancake breakfast. Visit the event's website for hours and schedules.

Penn Cove MusselFest

<http://thepenncovemusselsfestival.com>

The Penn Cove MusselFest, held over a weekend in March, is a Coupeville tradition. "Bold, briny and blue," the world famous mussels will be the centerpiece of two days of festivities, including chowder-tasting and mussel-eating competitions, farm tours and activities for all ages featuring locally flavored fun. Visit the event's website for hours and schedules. The competition sells out quickly so get your tickets early.

The Lights of Christmas

www.thelightsofchristmas.com

More than a million Christmas lights will be displayed during 19 days in December, a spectacle spread over 15 acres at Warm Beach Camp in Stanwood, Washington. The Lights of Christmas is the largest holiday light display in the Pacific Northwest that combines live entertainment, children's activities, food, holiday shopping and more. Visit the event's website for more information.

Welcome the Whales Festival

<http://visitlangley.com/lp/whale-parade>

This event in April includes hands-on educational displays, costume-making and children's activities, followed by the Whale and Critter Parade in downtown Langley ending at the waterfront Whale Bell Park with a blessing for the whales, music and celebration on the beach, while watching for gray whales in Saratoga Passage. The Langley Whale Center will be open the day of the event, with special activities and displays about gray whales and staffed by Orca Network/Whale Center docents.

Whidbey Island Fair

<http://fair.whidbeyislandfair.com>

Whidbey Island Fair provides entertainment and a place for Island County residents to gather with family and friends to celebrate the fruits of their labor and enjoy that which is so special about living in the area. In addition, there are

agriculture and horticulture exhibits, crafts, art exhibits, live entertainment, carnival games, rides, delicious fair food and more.

Whidbey Island Race Week

<http://whidbeyislandraceweek.com>

Whidbey Island Race Week draws more than 100 sailboats to the Oak Harbor Marina for an annual July event, accompanied by lots of food and entertainment after racing during the week-long festivities. Visit the event's website for more information.

ARTS

Island County residents enjoy a wealth of artistic endeavors, from theaters to music to dance and more.

Everett Performing Arts Center

2710 Wetmore Ave.
Everett, WA 98201425-257-8600
www.villagetheatre.org/epac.php

One of the premier spaces for the performing arts in nearby Snohomish County, Everett Performing Arts Center (EPAC) offers a more than 500-seat auditorium with a proscenium stage, including full theatrical lighting and sound systems, an orchestra pit, rigging/fly system, wing space, shop and costume facilities. Along with the auditorium, EPAC has a multipurpose community room and spacious lobby area, making the entire facility ideal for a wide range of activities.

Everett Philharmonic Orchestra

P.O. Box 1751
Everett, WA 98206206-270-9729
www.everettphil.org

The Everett Philharmonic Orchestra performs at the Everett Civic Auditorium and Everett Presbyterian Church. The orchestra musicians come from varying professional backgrounds united by

their passion for performing symphonic music. Under the baton of Paul-Elliott Cobbs, this group has played together for more than 25 years.

Historic Everett Theatre

2911 Colby Ave.
Everett, WA 98201425-258-6766
<https://yourhistoriceveretttheatre.org>

This performance space — more than 100 years old — is one of the historical gems in the community which was saved from the wrecking ball by many dedicated community members willing to donate time, money and spirit to make sure that Everett did not lose one of the most recognizable buildings in the downtown area. There is always something to see at the Historic Everett Theatre, from concerts by world-famous entertainers to live theatre productions with the theatre's own Outcast Players.

Island Shakespeare Festival

5476 Maxwellton Road
Langley, WA 98260360-331-2939
www.islandshakespearefest.org

The Island Shakespeare Festival is a three-month-long celebration from July through September of the acting craft. While the Bard is the featured playwright each year, the festival also schedules the works of others. One evening you may go to see Shakespeare, the next, another leading playwright. Visit the festival's website for details on this season's offerings.

Pacific Northwest Ballet

301 Mercer St.
Seattle, WA 98109206-441-2424
www.pnb.org

Pacific Northwest Ballet, one of the largest and most highly regarded ballet companies in the United States, was founded in 1972. The company of nearly 50 dancers presents more than 100



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performances each year of full-length and mixed repertory ballets at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall in Seattle and on tour. The company has toured to Europe, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada and throughout the United States.

The Clyde Theatre

217 First St.
Langley, WA 98260..... 360-221-5525
<http://theclwyde.net>

The Clyde Theatre was built in 1937 — the height of the Depression — by Norman and Hazel Clyde. Although a lot more humble than the grand movie palaces being built in the big cities, the new theater was greeted warmly by folks on South Whidbey. After being purchased in 1972, a small stage was added to show live performances of musical acts. Today, the theater offers current movie selections. Visit the website for current movie listings.

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts

565 Camano Ave.
Langley, WA 98260..... 360-221-8262
www.wicaonline.org

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts is dedicated to offering high-quality performances exposing residents and students to local and nationally recognized artists, musicians, literary works and authors as well as the chance to be a part of in-house full-scale theater productions. Between October and June, there are over 80 total performances in the 246-seat theatre requiring anywhere from 350 to 400 volunteers in a variety of positions.

Whidbey Playhouse

730 S.E. Midway Blvd.
Oak Harbor, WA 98277..... 360-679-2237
www.whidbeyplayhouse.com

The Whidbey Playhouse has been presenting live theater in Oak Harbor for more than 50 years. Since its first production, “Madame President” in 1966, the Playhouse has presented hundreds of musicals, dramas, comedies, melodramas, mysteries, youth productions, variety shows and original musical reviews. Currently, the Playhouse produces five shows (plays and musicals) during the regular season (September through June), plus a full youth theatre program with workshops and summer productions.

MUSEUMS

Learn about the Washington’s history and cultural contributions by visiting any one of the many local museums.

Admiralty Head Lighthouse

Fort Casey State Park
1280 Engle Road
Coupeville, WA 982399 360-678-1186
<https://parks.state.wa.us/505/Fort-Casey>

Built in 1861 and rebuilt in 1903, the lighthouse guided tall ships toward the Whidbey Island shore where they could fill their sails with wind. It was the last brick lighthouse designed by renowned German architect Carl Leick, its walls 18 inches thick to withstand the earthquakes that shake western Washington. Admiralty Head’s Fresnel lens was extinguished in 1922, but the lighthouse today welcomes visitors, weddings and tour parties with the help of dedicated volunteers. Hours vary by season; check the website for more information.

Museum of Pop Culture

325 Fifth Ave. N
Seattle WA 98109..... 206-770-2700
www.mopop.org

The Museum of Pop Culture, (formerly known as EMP, or the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame) has plenty to offer visitors, including interactive activity stations where visitors can perform music before a virtual audience, sound sculpture and various educational resources. The 140,000-square-foot Frank O. Gehry-designed facility is home to exhibits that cover pop culture, from the art of fantasy, horror cinema and video games to science fiction, literature and costumes from screen and stage. MoPOP hours vary by season; check the website for more information.

Island County Historical Society Museum

908 N.W. Alexander St.
Coupeville, WA 98239 360-678-3310
www.islandhistory.org

Island County Historical Society Museum chronicles the island’s rich heritage. Learn about Island County history, featuring exhibits such as its oldest artifact, a 120,000-year-old Ice Age tree trunk and a 1902 Holsman Autobuggy, the first car on the island. The museum is open year-round, excluding major holidays when the doors are closed.

PBY-Naval Air Museum

270 S.E. Pioneer Way
Oak Harbor, WA 98277..... 360-240-9500
<http://pbymf.org>

The PBY Naval Air Museum is a showcase for Whidbey Island’s naval aviation history. The museum is an easy-to-find resource for those curious about the seaplanes that came to call Whidbey home and naval aviation in general. The museum features several interactive exhibits that can give visitors a taste of the PBY experience. People can squeeze inside the cramped space of a PBY gun turret and feel what it must have been like. There are two flight simulators



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where visitors can try flying everything from the PBY to today's modern aircraft. There's also a theater where visitors can learn about the Navy's presence on Whidbey starting with the seaplane base east of Oak Harbor.

PARKS

Residents and visitors to the Pacific Northwest flock to the great outdoors, enjoying a multitude of lush parks and recreational areas. Check your community's parks and recreation listings to see more of what your local area has to offer.

Deception Pass State Park

41020 State Route 20
Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-675-3767
<http://parks.state.wa.us/497/Deception-Pass>

Washington's most-visited state park, Deception Pass State Park, spreads over 4,134 acres, a marine and camping park with 77,000 feet of saltwater shoreline and 33,900 feet of freshwater shoreline on three lakes. Deception Pass and the high bridge connect Western Washington's mainland with Whidbey and Fidalgo islands, creating a gateway for exploration. Families can fish and swim in Cranberry Lake. Beachcombers look for shells along miles of Puget Sound beachfront. Hikers can trek through forest and out along bluffs. And birdwatchers fill their field guides with notes.

Fort Ebey State Park

400 Hill Valley Drive
Coupeville, WA 98239 360-678-4636
<http://parks.state.wa.us/507/Fort-Ebey>

Fort Ebey State Park, a 645-acre camping park on Whidbey Island, was originally built as a coastal defense fort in World War II. Concrete platforms mark the gun locations. The park offers

panoramic views of the Puget Sound shoreline, the Olympic Mountains and sunsets. The park features paragliding, surfing and gun batteries to explore. The park has 3 miles of saltwater shoreline on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, a freshwater lake for fishing, and miles of hiking and biking trails.

Fort Nugent Park

2075 S.W. Nugent St.
Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-279-4500
www.oakharbor.org/page.cfm?pageId=193

This 40-acre community park meets the needs of the south and west portions of the city, as well as providing ball fields for the entire community. The park has a lot to offer, including a large playground, five soccer fields, two football/soccer fields, one baseball/football field, a full basketball court, two volleyball courts, an 18-hole disc golf course, walking trails, a wetland area and a public art display.

Joseph Whidbey State Park

Crosby Road
Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-678-4519
<http://parks.state.wa.us/526/Joseph-Whidbey>

Joseph Whidbey State Park is a 112-acre day-use park with 3,100-feet of saltwater shoreline on the Strait of Juan De Fuca in northern Puget Sound. The scenery is beautiful, views are magnificent, wildlife is everywhere and the beach is one of the grandest on Whidbey Island.

Windjammer Park

Southwest Beeksma Drive
Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-279-4756
www.oakharbor.org/page.cfm?pageId=192

Oak Harbor's Windjammer Park is a 28-acre park along the harbor offering 30 tent campsites,

56 RV sites, three Little League baseball fields, two tot lot play areas, two basketball courts and shoreline picnic tables and barbecue pits. There are 2,100 feet of trails along the waterfront to explore. During the summer, the beach has lagoon swimming, and in late summer and early fall, kite flying, picnic areas and an assortment of outdoor activities take over. Windjammer Park also provides a boat launch.

SHOPPING

From malls and major department stores to unique boutiques and souvenir shops, there's something for every taste and budget.

Everett Mall

1402 S.E. Everett Mall Way
Everett, WA 98208 425-355-1771
www.shopeverettmall.com

Everett Mall, the largest area shopping center, offers an escape from inclement weather. The mall houses a 16-screen movie theater and more than 100 shops under the same roof.

Waterfront Place

Port of Everett
www.portofeverett.com/real-estate/waterfront-districts

Everett's past as a booming port town is celebrated daily at the port's Marina Village located along the bay. Styled after a 1890s waterfront marketplace, the village is home to numerous restaurants and specialty stores and, of course, a marina. A schooner departs from the marina taking sightseers on historical tours and cruises.



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Oak Harbor Main Street

Downtown Oak Harbor
<https://oakharbormainstreet.com>

This historical downtown district next to the water houses local boutiques, restaurants, artisan outlets and other specialty retail stores that please both locals and visitors alike.

Pike Place Market

85 Pike St.
 Seattle, WA 98101.....206-682-7453
www.pikeplacemarket.org

With more than 9 acres of land and more than 100 years of history, the Pike Place Market represents “The Soul of Seattle.” Opening for business for the first time Aug. 17, 1907, with just eight farmers and their wagons, today Pike Place is America’s premier farmers market. With more than 225 small independent businesses, 225 craftspeople, 85 farmers and a diverse array of restaurants, the market attracts over 10 million visitors a year.

Seattle Premium Outlets

10600 Quil Ceda Blvd.
 Tulalip, WA 98271360-716-3900
www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/seattle

Seattle Premium Outlets features an upscale collection of over 130 designer names from women’s apparel and jewelry to sporting goods. Find BOGO (buy one, get one) deals, deep discounts and deals galore at the outlets. There is also an indoor food court with fast food options and sit-down options.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Whether you are looking to take in a game or cool off with a trip down a waterslide, you will find what you are after in Island County.

Blue Fox Drive-in

1403 N. Monroe Landing Road
 Oak Harbor, WA 98277.....360-675-5667
www.bluefoxdrivein.com

The Blue Fox Drive-in is one of the few remaining drive-in theaters in the state of Washington. The Blue Fox has an on-site go-kart track and snack bar, and offers party packages with train rides, go-kart specials and arcade fun. The drive-in shows classic cartoons prior to the main film, in true retro style. Call the 24-hour movie information line, 360-675-5667, or visit www.bluefoxdrivein.com for current movie listings.

Everett AquaSox

Everett Memorial Stadium
 3802 Broadway
 Everett, WA 98201425-258-3673
www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t403

The Everett AquaSox are a minor league baseball team in the short-season Class A Northwest League. The team began play in 1984 as the Everett Giants, an affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. Just over a decade later, the Everett Giants and Bellingham Mariners switched cities for the 1995 season, and the Seattle Mariners’ affiliate was renamed the Everett AquaSox. Catch one of their games at Everett Memorial Stadium.

Fishing, Crabbing, Clamming

<http://wdfw.wa.gov>

Whether you’re a freshwater or saltwater fishing enthusiast, the islands offer a bounty of seafood. Whidbey’s numerous lakes are ideal for fishing for largemouth bass or trout. Lone, Deer, Goss, Cranberry and Pass lakes are all stocked annually. Catch-and-release fly

fishing at Whidbey’s Pass Lake is for serious fly fishermen who enjoy donning waders and plunking down in float tubes. Crabbing is one of Puget Sound’s most popular recreational fisheries. Each year, sport fishers catch more than a million pounds of Dungeness crab, using pots, ring nets and their bare hands. In addition, there are more than 40 public clam and oyster beaches on Whidbey and Camano Islands. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has information about licenses, regulations and seasons on its website.

Golf

This region has previously been known as the birth of grunge rock, Starbucks and wet weather but has built up quite a golf empire over the past decade, blossoming into a destination worthy of players from around the world. When the U.S. Open chose Chambers Bay Golf Course as its 2015 host, it was a proverbial “open for business” sign for golf tourism in the Pacific Northwest that was previously nonexistent. A variety of public and country club courses are available near Island County, including the 18-hole semi-private Whidbey Golf Club and all-weather, year-round Useless Bay Golf Course. For a full list of public and private courses in Washington, visit the Washington State Golf Association directory at <http://thewsga.org/membership-home/course-directory>.

Woodland Park Zoo

5500 Phinney Ave. N
 Seattle, WA 98103.....206-548-2500
www.zoo.org

Founded in 1899, Woodland Park Zoo has sparked delight, discovery and unforgettable memories for generations of Northwest families. The zoo manages the largest live animal collection in Washington state, with 1,100 animals, representing more than 300 species. The zoo provides a home for 40 endangered and 17 threatened or vulnerable animal species. The zoo’s botanical collection includes more than 92,000 plants and trees representing more than 1,300 species. A gift shop, food pavilion, picnic areas and on-site educational programs are also available.

GO, TEAM, GO!

You may carry your sports team loyalties with you, no matter where you go, but you can root, root, root for the local favorites too. Check out www.Govx.com for discounted sports and race tickets for current and former military members.

You serve your country.



As a servicemember, your life of service is just beginning.

Help your community, your country and veterans.

And have a good time making differences with people who get you.

Be part of the legacy. Share the vision.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

www.legion.org



1 in 5 children faces hunger.

There's more than enough food in America for every child who struggles with hunger. Help get kids the food they need by supporting Feeding America, the nationwide network of food banks. Together, we can solve hunger™. Join us at [FeedingAmerica.org](https://www.FeedingAmerica.org)

