Hi Julie,





Top Places to Hike in Washington

Washington has become one of the top destinations for people who love nature. After all, you can go from the top of a mountain to the middle of the forest to the shores of a beach in just a couple of hours! While we love all outdoor activities from paddle boarding to skiing, hiking truly takes the cake. Seeing an alpine lake surrounded by snowcapped mountains and evergreen trees is <u>always</u> breathtaking.

Here are some of our favorite places to hike year-round for incredible views.

1. Olympic National Park & Olympic National Forest

The first of three national parks on our list, these idyllic landscapes span most of the Olympic Peninsula. This is a great place to hike for people who want to see a lot of different scenery: the Pacific coast, alpine areas and temperate rainforests dotted with wildflower meadows.

2. North Cascades National Park

North Cascades National Park features the rugged mountain peaks of the North Cascades Range, the most spacious glacial system in the contiguous United States. It's so big that it spans three counties! Great for hiking, backpacking and camping, these mountains welcome you with easy to advanced trails for any hiker.

3. Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest & Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

These areas are two of the most popular hiking zones in Washington due to their proximity to Seattle right off I-90. There's a special program run each summer by King County Parks and King County Metro called Trailhead Direct, which offers shuttle service from designated areas to popular trailheads. Check it out here for route and fare information.

4. Mount Rainier National Park

Nothing says "Washington State" more than picturesque Mt. Rainier. Though you do need a permit to summit the mountain (many people use it as training for climbing Mt. Everest!), you can explore the lower parts of the mountain such as Sunrise or Paradise. Go in July or August to see hundreds of wildflowers and woodland creatures like marmots and birds.

5. Colville National Forest

Most people think that Eastern Washington is all flat desert- but we're here to tell you that isn't true! Colville National Forest is over 1.5 million acres of glaciers with mountain ranges, rivers and lakes, trails and wildlife. It's a perfect day trip from Spokane for avid hikers, campers or even fisherman!

Which one of our National Parks will you visit first? Have any questions about Washington or what it's like to live here? Reach out any time! We're here to help!



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