



# POPULAR HIKES & TRAILS

## Bellingham City Parks Trails

### **Boulevard Park / South Bay Trail - 2 miles of trail**

Waterfront Park with great views of Bellingham Bay. Trail connects Fairhaven District to downtown Bellingham with a section of the boardwalk over water. Best access is at the park or in Fairhaven at 10th & Mill St.

### **Lake Padden Park - 2.6 miles around lake**

Trail skirts this serene city park lake. There's also 5 miles of bridal and mountain bike trails. Take I-5 exit 252 & drive southeast 2 miles.

### **Whatcom Falls Park - 5 1/2 miles of trail**

Trails braid around Whatcom Creek in this woodland park. Features a water fall and old stone bridge. Connects with Bloedel Donovan Park at Whatcom Lake. Take I-5 exit 253 and drive 2 miles east on Lakeway Dr.

### **Cornwall Park - 1.5 miles of trail**

Wooded park with many recreational amenities. Excellent for viewing a wide variety of trees and Squalicum Creek. Display rose garden (summer). Take I-5 exit 256 and drive 1/2 mile south on Meridian St.

### **Fairhaven Park - 1/2 mile loop within park, and beyond**

Adjacent to Padden Creek, this park features many recreational amenities. The loop trail connects with the Interurban Trail. Located 1/2 mile south of the Fairhaven District, on Chuckanut Drive.

### **Squalicum Harbor / Zuanich Point Park - 1 mile of trail**

Paved trail runs from Hotel Bellwether around the harbor to Zuanich Point Park. Beautiful views of the bay and boats. Restaurants. Ample parking.

### **Interurban Trail - 9 miles of trail**

Trail connects the Fairhaven District with Larrabee State Park, running adjacent to Chuckanut Drive most of the way. Switchbacks go through Arroyo Park, or you may skirt around the park on paved roads if bicycling. There are trailheads with parking in Fairhaven Park, on Old Fairhaven Parkway, Old Samish Highway and Chuckanut Drive. \*A Discovery Pass is required if parking in Larrabee State Park.

### **Railroad Trail - 3 miles of trail**

A gentle grade trail through neighborhoods. Connects Memorial Park with Bloedel Donovan Park. Views of the bay from the bridge. Look for marsh birds. There are several access points or begin at one of the parks.

### **Sehome Hill Arboretum - 5 miles of trail system**

Wooded hill adjacent to Western Washington University. View of bay from observation tower at the summit. Can drive to the top of the hill and park. I-5 exit 252, left on Bill McDonald Parkway and right on 25th St.

Bellingham Whatcom  
County Tourism

904  
Potter  
Street  
Bellingham,  
WA 98229

360.671.3990 |  
800.487.2032

*bellingham*



tourism@BhamEXP  
gham.o



## **Whatcom County Parks & Trails** (View maps at [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/parks/](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/parks/))

### **Hovander Homestead Park / Tennant Lake (Ferndale)** - 4 miles of trail

A 1 1/2 mile trail & boardwalk meanders through a wetland marsh at Tennant Lake. Climb a viewing tower. A 1/2 mile trail connects the lake with Hovander's "big red barn." There are also 2 miles of trail running along the river dike of the Nooksack River. Take I-5 exit 262. The park is located just south of downtown Ferndale.

### **North Lake Whatcom Park / Hertz Trail (Bellingham)** - 3 miles of trail

A level scenic lakeside trail snuggled tightly between Stewart Mountain and Lake Whatcom. Drive around the north end of the lake and almost to the end of North Shore Road to get to the parking lot and trailhead.

### **Stimpson Family Nature Reserve (Bellingham)** - 1 1/2 and 3 mile loop trails

Explore this dense forest with old growth trees, small waterfalls, a wild bird pond and a beaver pond. Take Lakeway Drive east from I-5 (Exit 253) for 3 miles. Turn right on Austin Road (turns into Lake Louise Rd.) and follow it 1.6 miles to a signed parking area on the left. \*No dogs allowed in this nature reserve.

### **Semiahmo Spit Trail (Blaine)** - 3/4 miles paved and 3/4 mile beach walk

Easy paved trail with scenic water views next to Semiahmo Resort. Great for a family bike ride with young children, or for bird watching. And, venture to the other side of the spit for a beach walk. Take I-5 exit 270 and follow the signs to Semiahmo Resort (about 9 miles).

### **Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve (Birch Bay)** - 3/4 mile trail

Features 54 acres of forest, bluff and beach, with a 3/4 mile fully accessible trail to spectacular viewpoints of the Strait of Georgia. A staircase descends from the bluff to access a windswept cobble beach at low tide. Take I-5 Exit 266 Grandview Rd. and drive west 8.5 miles then curve left on Koehn Rd.

### **Terrell Creek Marsh Interpretive Trail at Birch Bay State Park** - 1/2 mile loop

Easy walk and great trail to view more than 30 species of birds. Beach and mud flats adjacent. Fee to park.

## **Chuckanut Mountain / Larrabee State Park**

There is an extensive network of trails on Chuckanut Mountain which is located between Chuckanut Drive Highway 11 and Interstate 5. The trails listed are accessed on the west side of the mountain. Some trails can be reached via I-5 exit 240. Parking lots on State land require a Discover Pass (\$10/day, \$30/year). Detailed maps for sale at the Visitor Information Center or local book & sport shops. (Miles listed are one way).

### **Fragrance Lake** (1.9 miles / 3 km)

This popular trail is relatively steep, and takes you to the lake. There is a nice overlook at 9/10 of a mile. Paid parking across from the Larrabee State Park entrance (Discover Pass or \$10).

### **Pine & Cedar Lakes** (2-3 miles)

Steep for 1.5 miles, then levels off on an abandoned railroad grade. Outstanding alpine-type lakes, and vistas of Mt. Baker and the islands at an overlook near the lakes. Parking lot on Old Samish Hwy (Free).

### **Oyster Dome** (3.6-7.2 miles)

There is a network of trails on this southern part of the Chuckanuts. The Dome trail starts from Chuckanut Drive a few miles south of Larrabee State Park. (No parking lot). Spectacular views and boulder fields (not safe for rambunctious kids and pets). Trails also accessible from the east side.

### **Chuckanut Ridge Trail** (4 miles)

This mountain ridge offers great views. Easy access via a dirt road. From the Fairhaven District, drive south on Chuckanut Drive for about 4 miles. Turn left onto Highline Road (just before the fire station). This road veers left becoming Cleator Road. Drive for about 3 miles to the parking area. Several trails intersect, so keep an eye on where you're going. Also, there is a gate that is locked at dusk.

### **Clayton Beach** (1/2 mile)

A nice short trail to the beach just south of the Larrabee Park entrance. Parking at the Lost Lake parking lot.

## **Mt. Baker Trails** (Highway 542)

The Mt. Baker Highway is a designated "Scenic Byway" and begins at I-5 exit 253 in Bellingham. In winter, the road ends at milepost 55 at the ski area. In summer (around mid-July), the road is cleared of snow to Artist Point at milepost 58. Here is a short list of popular hikes. Stop by the Glacier Public Service Center for trail updates and maps. **Note:** There is a fee to park at National Forest trailheads and the Heather Meadows area under the Northwest Forest Pass program. \$5 for a day pass / \$30 for an annual pass.

### **Glacier Area Trails** (Miles listed round trip)

#### **Heliotrope Ridge** (6.5 miles RT / 10.5km) Strenuous

For the best and closest views of glaciers this moderate hike also features forests, flowers, streams and waterfalls. Usually open mid-July through October (depending on snow melt). *Directions:* Drive to milepost 34.3, turn right on Glacier Creek Rd. #39. Drive 8 miles on this narrow winding road to the trailhead.

#### **Damfino Lakes / Excelsior Pass** (6.5 miles RT / 10.5km) Moderate

Nice hike leads through forested slopes to open meadows by Excelsior Pass passing by Damfino Lakes on the way. *Directions:* Highway 542 to MP 36, take Forest Road 31, drive 15 miles to the end of the road staying on main route and not forking onto any side roads.

#### **Horseshoe Bend** (3 miles RT / 4.8km) Mild

Winds along the North Fork of the Nooksack River and is accessible most of the year.

*Directions:* Park at milepost 35.4 on Mt. Baker Highway across from Douglas Fir Campground.

#### **Skyline Divide** (6 miles RT / 9.65km) Moderate

A favorite with old growth forests, meadows, wildflowers and panoramic high points. Mid-July to October. *Directions:* Drive one mile past Glacier, turn right on Glacier Creek Rd. at MP 34.3. (USFS Road 37). Drive 13 miles to the trailhead.

#### **Yellow Aster Butte** (8.5 miles RT / 13.7km) Strenuous

Trail travels through parklands, rock gardens, views of summits, streams and meadowlands.

At the summit of the butte enjoy the full panorama. *Directions:* Drive to milepost 46.2 and turn left on Twin Lakes Rd. #3065. Drive 4.4 miles to parking area.

#### **Hannegan Pass** (8 miles RT / 12.9km) Strenuous

Climbs through avalanche slopes, forest, streams and meadows with views of Ruth Mountain. At the pass you can continue on a steep trail to the peak with views of Mt. Shuksan. *Directions:* At MP 46.6 turn left on Hannegan Pass Rd. (#32) and drive 5.5 miles to trailhead (stay left at a fork in the road at mile 1.5).

## **Heather Meadows & Artist Point** (at mileposts 55-58)

#### **Picture Lake** (1/2 mile / .8 km) Mild

This short easy trail, which is also wheelchair accessible, is not short on views. Get your camera out for the spectacular shot of Mt. Shuksan reflecting in the lake. It also offers nice fall color.

*Directions:* Parking is on the Mt. Baker Highway at milepost 55.

#### **Fire and Ice** (1/2 mile / .8 km) Mild

This is a self-guided interpretive trail, and is wheelchair accessible. Several other trails also begin at this point (Wild Goose 1.5 miles). *Directions:* Park at the Heather Meadows Visitor Center at milepost 56.

#### **Artist Ridge** (2 miles / 3.2 km) Mild

This self-guided interpretive trail takes you to overlooks with great views of Mt. Baker and other peaks.

*Directions:* Trail begins at the east side of the parking lot at Artist Point.

#### **Chain Lakes Trail & Loop Trail** (2-9 miles / 1.6-14.5km) Moderate

The first mile of this trail is nearly level, although on the side of a steep slope. It takes you to a junction with a closer view of Mt. Baker. At this point turn around or the trail splits and ambitious hikers can continue on the Chain Lakes Loop or go to Ptarmigan Ridge (3.5 more miles). *Directions:* Trail begins at the south west end of the Artist Point parking lot.

#### **Table Mountain** (3 miles / 4.8 km) Moderate. NO DOGS!

The first part of this hike is steep and zig zags up through lava cliffs. (Not recommended for young children). It ends at a mountain plateau with panoramic views. *Directions:* Trail begins at the North West side of the parking lot at Artist Point.

## **Contacts for more detailed trail information**

### **Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department**

3424 Meridian Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

360-778-7000

Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm

[cob.org/government/departments/parks/](http://cob.org/government/departments/parks/)

Website has information and maps for parks, trails, dog exercise areas, tennis courts and other recreation amenities.

### **Whatcom County Parks**

3373 Mount Baker Highway, Bellingham, WA 98226

360-733-2900

Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm

[co.whatcom.wa.us/parks/](http://co.whatcom.wa.us/parks/)

Information on County managed parks, trails and facilities with a link to a map and guide.

### **Mt. Baker Ranger District**

[fs.usda.gov/detail/mbs/about-forest/offices/?cid=fsbdev7\\_001645](http://fs.usda.gov/detail/mbs/about-forest/offices/?cid=fsbdev7_001645)

### **US Forest Service headquarters**

810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley

360-856-5700, ext. 515 / open Mon-Fri

### **Glacier Public Service Center**

10091 Mt. Baker Hwy, Glacier

360-599-2714 / open seasonally & most weekends

### **Washington Trails Association**

[wta.org/go-hiking/hikes](http://wta.org/go-hiking/hikes)

### **Northwest Geology**

Dave Tucker's website is very informative about the geology of the region.

<http://nwgeology.wordpress.com/>

### **Books**

"Hiking Whatcom County" 6<sup>th</sup> Edition - by Ken Wilcox

Contact Village Books for printable editions or search on line for used.

Village Books

1200 11th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

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