

GET SOME FRESH AIR!



Picnic Spots

Maiben Park (Burlington)

Bow Hill Rest Area (I-5, Bow)

Washington Park
(Anacortes)

Rotary Park/Cap Sante Marina
(Anacortes)

Hammer Heritage Square
(Sedro Woolley)

Hillcrest Park (Mount Vernon)

Going for a Drive?

A great way to get out of your house (but still maintain physical distancing!) is to go for a drive! We have the privilege of living in one of the most lush and beautiful places on Earth. Why not get out and see it?

We combined our forces to compile some of the most scenic drives in the area for you to enjoy.

Skagit Flats

Tulip Fields From Hwy 20, drive south on Best Rd. to view the tulip fields our valley is famous for (also keep your eyes out for the **miniature donkey farm!**). Turn east on McLean Rd. to continue your drive past **Tulip Town** and **Roozengarde**. While the fields are not open for walking through or visiting, you can still see the rainbow of colors while driving through. To lengthen your drive, continue south on Best Rd, then turn right onto Chilberg Rd to head towards La Conner.

La Conner While many of the storefronts are closed, you can still drive through downtown and experience the quaint waterfront. Visit lovelaconner.com to grab a map for the **Walking Sculpture Tour** through town. Walk down and view the **marina**—you might see tug boats towing ships, sailboats, and maybe a seagull or two! Lengthen your drive by crossing the Swinomish Channel over the **Rainbow Bridge** to Fidalgo Island. Continue north on Reservation Rd. to reconnect with Hwy 20.

Bay View/Padilla Bay/Samish Flats From Hwy 20, head north on Bay View-Edison Rd. You'll pass by sweeping views of **Padilla Bay Estuary**, **Bay View State Park** (closed), and plenty of coastline. Shorten your drive by turning east on Josh Wilson Rd (you will not see Bay View State Park) and travel through **Skagit farmland** back to Burlington. Continue on Bay View-Edison Rd for coastal driving, then connect with Bow Hill Rd to head east towards I-5, or lengthen your drive by heading north on Chuckanut Dr/WA-11.

Wait! There's More!

Chuckanut Dr/WA-11 Continuing north from the Samish Flats, you will pass by many Skagit farms (keep your eyes out for the **buffalo farm**). Drive north along 10 miles of coastline around **Blanchard Mountain**. There are plenty of turnoffs to get out and get a sweeping view of **Puget Sound**, view **mussel and oyster farms** (stop by **Taylor Shellfish** to take a couple home), and maybe you might get a glimpse of **hang-gliders** launching from the cliffs above. Keep a sharp eye out for **shorebirds**—its springtime, after all! Chuckanut Dr ends in the Fairhaven neighborhood of Bellingham. You can head east on Old Fairhaven Pkwy towards I-5, or north on 12th St to visit Fairhaven.

North Cascades Scenic Highway

Up for a long drive*? Head east on Hwy 20 to travel the historic North Cascades Scenic Highway. There's plenty to see along this winding road, such as:

Historic Downtown Sedro Woolley From Hwy 20, turn right on Metcalf St to go straight through downtown. View **Hammer Heritage Square** and the clock tower, along with **frescoes** on the sides of the buildings depicting the logging history of the town. See if you can spot the **chainsaw-carved statues** in front of many of the buildings in town.

Northern State Hospital If you need a **long** walk, stop and explore the **sweeping estate** of the hospital, recently reopened for public viewing. Decommissioned in 1972, most of the remains and grounds of the hospital are open for exploring. There are **gravel walkways** for accessibility. To access, turn left on Helmick Rd. off of Hwy 20, the parking lot is .25 mile down the road. The recreation area is also home to a **Frisbee golf course**...heads up!

One step in front of the other...

There are many walking trails still open in the area. Here are a few:

Whatcom Falls Park (Bellingham)

Boulevard Park (Bellingham)

Washington Park Loop Rd (Anacortes)

Tommy Thompson Trail (Anacortes)

Skagit River Park/Dike Trail (Burlington)

Rails to Trails (Burlington/Sedro Woolley)

Northern State Recreation Area (Sedro Woolley)

Skagit Riverwalk Park (Mount Vernon)

Edgewater Park (Mount Vernon)

Little Mountain Park (Mount Vernon)

Lyman/Hamilton/Birdsview As you continue up Hwy 20, don't blink! You might miss the tiny townships of Lyman, Hamilton, and Birdsview. Keep your eyes peeled for **Lyman Elementary School**, historic **Hamilton Baptist Church**, and good old-fashioned diner **Birdsview Burgers**. The small towns are nestled among the trees...look hard!

Concrete Further up the road you will pass through Concrete...it's hard to miss the **giant welcome sign!** See if you can spot the **high school overpass**. Take a detour down Main St. and see the historic **Concrete Theater** and more! Can you spy the 285-foot **Lower Baker Dam**? It's there too! Continue east on Hwy 20 to lengthen your drive. To take a different route home, cross the **Skagit River** and take South Skagit Highway to connect with Hwy 9 south of Sedro Woolley.

Rockport/Marblemount/Newhalem As you progress upstream, you'll come across the small towns of Rockport, Marblemount, and Newhalem. Among the mountain landscape, you'll pass by **Cascadian Farms**, the **Buffalo Run Restaurant**, and many more roadside stops. There are plenty of pullouts to stop and view the **Skagit** and **Baker Rivers**. Stop for a picnic at the **roadside park** in Newhalem. Take a quick peek at **Diablo Lake** before pulling a U-ie and heading back down the highway.

**The full drive is several hours long. Rest room access is unknown. Highway 20/Rainy Pass is closed after Newhalem.*

Other Scenic Drive Ideas

Stanwood Instead of taking I-5 all the way to Stanwood, take a detour on Pioneer Highway. Gives great views of the **South Skagit River Delta**. If you want a longer drive, Pioneer Hwy connects with Hwy 530 at I-5.

Oso/Darrington Take Hwy 530 east towards Oso for fantastic views of **Three Fingers Mountain**, **Whitehorse Mountain**, and maybe even **White Chuck Mountain**. Continue east and you'll eventually meet up with the **North Cascades Scenic Highway** at Rockport.

Mt Baker Highway Hwy 542 sends you straight up the mountain. Drive across the **Nooksack River**. Pass by **Deming Speedway**. Have a picnic at **Silver Lake**. Get gas at **Maple Falls** (seriously...it's the last station before the climb!) Enjoy views of **waterfalls, creeks, and glaciers**. Start your drive in Bellingham, from Exit 255-Sunset Rd/WA 542 and continue east. Lengthen your drive by going through Sedro Woolley and heading north on Hwy 9 towards Sumas. You'll pass by Nooksack river **tributaries**, small towns **Acme** and **Van Zandt**, and maybe even a **Christmas tree farm** or two.

Whidbey Island Scenic Byway

Want some coastal views? Drive west on Hwy 20 and just keep going. See the shops at **Sharp's Corner**. Pass by **Pass Lake**, and **Campbell Lake**. Shorten your drive by turning down **Rosario Rd** and take the long way around Fidalgo Island. To continue south, cross over **Deception Pass Bridge**. Stop in the middle at **Deception Island**. Look west towards **Bowman's Bay** and **North Beach**. Look east towards **Cornet Bay**. Continue south. You'll pass by the **Whidbey Island Naval Station**...can you identify the airplane marking the entrance? Continue south towards **Oak Harbor**. Take a detour to **Windjammer Park** and see if you can spot any kite flyers. South of Oak Harbor, you'll pass the **Blue Fox Drive-In** (closed) screen. Down the road you will skirt around **Penn Cove**, then get a chance to turn off towards **Fort Ebey**. Insider tip: take Ebey Rd to **Ebey's Landing**, then continue south. It's one of our favorites! It will connect with Hwy 20 to take you to **Fort Casey State Park**. The forts are unfortunately closed until May, but you can still enjoy the drive past them! Hwy 20 ends at Clinton Ferry Dock.

Have caution while you drive, and observe social distancing practices.

Happy Trails!

