

Christie's Sightseeing Recommendations



If you are staying in the area a few more days, here are my sightseeing recommendations. These are the places I, a native of the area, grew up going and where I take my friends when they visit for the first time. They are all favorites of my family. For those of you flying into Seattle, you will be taking Interstate 90 east to Cle Elum where you will exit to go over Blewitt Pass to Leavenworth. I can send more specific directions to those of you driving (just let me know if you would like them), but for now I will just mention that as you go over I-90, you will go right by Snoqualmie Falls. If you have time, I would recommend stopping either on your way over or back. I'll start with where we will be . . . in Leavenworth.

Leavenworth – The Sleeping Lady is located in Leavenworth, Washington. Leavenworth is a Bavarian town with lots of little shops and restaurants. They have lots of different seasonal festivals and it is always fun to stroll through Leavenworth. More information is available at: <http://www.leavenworth.org/> . A colleague recently introduced me to the Alley Café which was excellent and I would highly recommend. Of course, I also always love to get some good old fashioned German food as well.

Mt. Rainier – The Mt. Rainier website is <http://www.nps.gov/mora/> . If you want to go to the highest point you can drive to, you can go to Sunrise. If you want the nice visitors center, you will want to go to Paradise. If you want the best food and lodging (in my opinion), you will want to go to the National Park Inn at Longmire. For a nice little hike, Narada Falls is beautiful or for a more leisurely walk, the Shadow of the Trails at Longmire is nice. The last time I was there, we had a nice visit with a beautiful Mt. Rainier deer in the meadow.

Pike Street Market/Seattle Waterfront – Breakfast at the Crumpet Shop on First Avenue near the main entrance to the market, Lunch – Mahi Mahi Tacos at Anthony's Fish Bar (this is my first choice, but if you prefer more traditional fish and chips, the historical place to go where my family went all the time growing up is Ivar's Fish Bar – the seagulls will be waiting in eager anticipation that you might share your chips), Dinner at Anthony's Pier 66 (I am sure everything is wonderful, but I have a hard time there ordering anything but the scrumptious Alaskan halibut with hazelnut butter and strawberry-rhubarb coulis.). The website for Anthony's Pier 66 and Anthony's Fish Bar is <http://www.anthonys.com/pierdiner.htm> . The website for Ivar's is: <http://www.ivars.net/> . The rest of the time can easily be spent strolling through the market, along the waterfront, and through Pioneer Square.

Snoqualmie Falls – Beautiful falls. If you are so inclined, there is a nice hike down to the base of the falls or you can just view it from the top at the observation deck. Lunch upstairs at the

Salish Lodge is a favorite of mine as well. They have a very nice restaurant downstairs, but I actually prefer their upstairs dining area. It is a more casual, pub-like atmosphere with a better view of the Falls (if you can get a window table) and equally delicious food. Great for lunch. Their website is <http://www.salishlodge.com> .

Olympic National Park and the Washington Coast – I recently went on a whirlwind trip out to the Washington coast. Cape Flattery is the northwestern most point in the continental United States. It is beautiful. There is also a nice museum at Neah Bay – The Makah Cultural and Research Center Museum: <http://www.makah.com/museum.htm> . After visiting those two places, I made my way down the coast to Rialto Beach and had dinner at Kalaloch Lodge. The whole Olympic Peninsula is beautiful. Here are two Olympic National Park websites: <http://www.olympic.national-park.com/> and <http://www.nps.gov/olym/> . Here is another helpful website: <http://www.olympicpeninsula.org/index.html?source=northolympic.com>

Victoria, British Columbia – If you are looking for a little international adventure, Victoria is beautiful. I also once went on a great whale watching trip off the north end of Vancouver Island. You can take the Victoria Clipper (<http://www.victoriaclipper.com/marketing/homepage.shtml>) from Seattle up to Victoria for the day or for a longer excursion. You can also drive either to Canada or to Port Angeles and take a ferry to Victoria. Here is a helpful website on Victoria: <http://www.tourismvictoria.com/>

San Juan Islands – The San Juan Islands are another very popular and beautiful destination. There is a lot to do and see there, as well as just being a great place to relax. There is much more information at: <http://www.guidetosanjuans.com/> . Personally, I have a trip planned to go to Rosario Resort on Orcas Island in September that I am really looking forward to. Their website is: <http://rosario.rockresorts.com/> .

These are just a few ideas. I could go on and on, but I will spare you that right now. If you want any further ideas or information, please let me know.