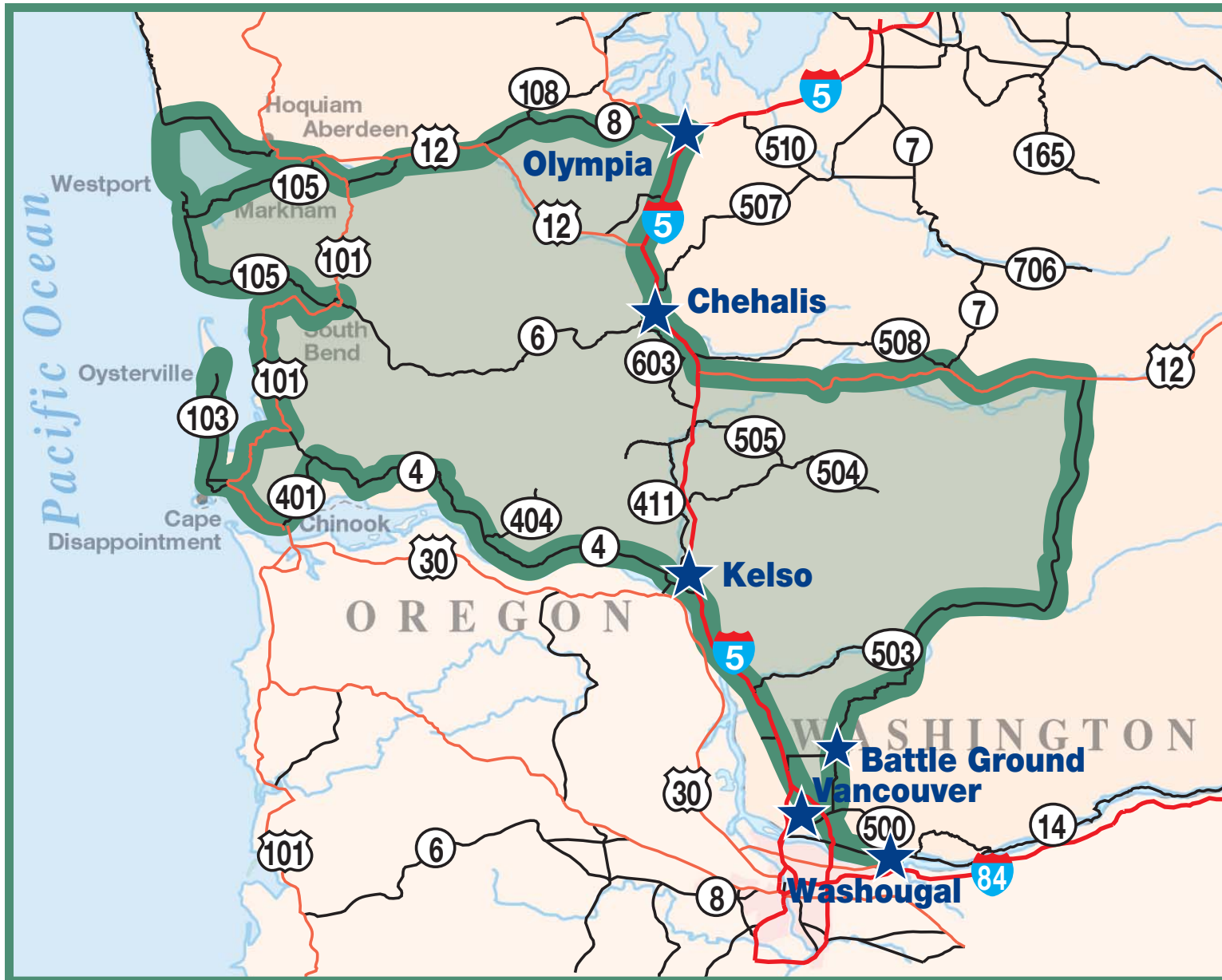


# MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS



## Two - Three Day Tour

- *Olympia • Chehalis • Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument*
- *Battle Ground • Washougal • Vancouver • Kelso • Chinook*
- *Cape Disappointment • Oysterville • South Bend*
- *Westport • Markham • Aberdeen • Hoquiam*

# MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS



Miles of stark countryside and rivers filled with floating trees. Wide, sandy beaches stretching to the horizon. The contrasts of nature are incredible. From the capital of the state to the throat of a volcanic crater and on to a tranquil wildlife refuge on the bay, this region is filled with natural beauty. Discover it all, along with infinite opportunities for fun at every turn.

*Begin in Olympia, taking I-5 south and wind your way into volcano country.*

**OLYMPIA.** Named for the imposing mountain range to the northwest, this capital of Washington combines history with natural beauty. Stroll the *Capitol Campus* and *1908 Governor's Mansion*, and sample the Olympia oysters. In early fall watch the salmon jumping up the fish ladders on the Deschutes River in *Tumwater Falls Park*. Chamber of Commerce: (360) 357-3362.



Where to stay along the way:

**OLYMPIA AREA (TUMWATER)**  
Best Western Tumwater Inn (800) 848-4992

- **State Capital Museum.** This 32-room mansion takes you back in time to the pioneers, lawmakers and Northwest Coast Indians who shaped the first century of statehood. Admission: (360) 753-2580.
- **Olympia Brewing Company.** Tours reveal the many processes necessary to make one of the Northwest's most popular beers. The hospitality room offers adults a sample of the finished product. Free: (360) 754-5177.
- **Tumwater Falls Park.** A perfect picnic spot, these cascading falls mark the end of the Oregon Trail. Information: (360) 943-2550.

**CHEHALIS.** The Best Western Parkplace Inn & Suites is located half way between Portland and Seattle just off I-5. An hour to the Pacific Ocean and an hour to the Mt. St. Helens historic monument. This historic community offers many attractions for visitors of all ages. The *John R. Jackson House* is one of the oldest pioneer structures north of the Columbia River; free. Try the *Centralia-Chehalis Railroad* with steam excursions in the Chehalis Valley and enjoy dinner on the train, (360) 748-9593. Local history can be uncovered at the *Lewis County Historical Museum*, with displays of a blacksmith shop, general store, kitchen, Indian artifacts, and more. Admission: (360) 748-0831. The Veterans Museum offers one of the largest small arms collections in the country with weapons from the revolutionary war to Bosnia. This is a must see: (360) 330-7913.



Where to stay along the way:

**CHEHALIS - Best Western Park Place Inn & Suites**  
(877) 748-0008

## MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC

**MONUMENT.** Drive ten miles south on I-5 to Hwy 12 and head east to Hwy 131. Turn south and enter terrain that was dramatically changed over twenty-five years ago by a devastating volcanic eruption. Access to the region is limited, but local roads and overlooks provide many scenic views. Information: (360) 274-2100.

- **Mt. St. Helens.** Experience the awesome impact of Mt. St. Helens at the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center and Johnson Ridge Observatory, which are world class visitors centers.

- **Windy Ridge Viewpoint.** From Hwy 131, take Rt. 25 south to Rd. 99 for a distant look into the throat of the Mount St. Helens crater. This is about as close as you can get.
- **Ape Cave.** Back on Rt. 25, drive toward the south side of Mount St. Helens to Rd. 90, then take Rd. 830 north. If you want to explore the cave – actually a 12,810-foot long lava tunnel – bring a good flashlight or lantern. Guided tours also available.
- **Lava Canyon.** From Ape Cave, drive northeast along Rd. 83. This side of the mountain appeared to be untouched by the Mount St. Helens eruption, but geologists discovered an old lava flow underneath the top soil. Hike on any of the three trails.



Mount St. Helens.

**BATTLE GROUND.** Battle Ground is a small, but fast growing city surrounded by country landscapes. Recreation attractions are Battle Ground Lake State Park, The Lewis River (North and East Forks), Lewisville Park, the Skate Park at Fairgrounds Park and other lakes, streams, and forest recreation areas. You can go from mountain top to ocean beach within a day's drive! Ski, fish, wind-surf, hike, hunt, go boating, golf, go horseback riding, swim, sight-see, or attend major professional sporting events. Chamber of Commerce: (360) 687-1510.



Where to stay along the way:

**BATTLE GROUND - Battle Ground Inn & Suites**  
(360) 687-8881

- **Oregon Historical Society.** Oregon Historical Society is at 1200 S.W. Park Ave. Eight-story-tall trompe l'oeil murals of Western themes by Richard Haas grace the center, and its museum presents permanent and changing exhibits with the sights, sounds and stories of Oregon history. A comprehensive history exhibit includes artifacts, artwork, photographs, films and videos, and hands-on displays. The center's research library is the primary resource center for information about state history. Call (503) 222-1741 for more information.

# MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS



- **Oregon Sports Hall of Fame and Museum.** Oregon Sports Hall of Fame and Museum is downtown at 321 S.W. Salmon St. The hall of fame honors Oregon athletes from professional sports to high school. The museum contains interactive, sports-related exhibits; for instance, visitors can lift a shot put and try on hockey goalie gear. A locker room area displays memorabilia from such sports as hockey, skiing and soccer, and a large timeline traces the history of Oregon sports. Changing exhibits and videos also are featured. Call (503) 227-7466 for more information.

- **Oregon Zoo.** Oregon Zoo is off I-405 exit 1D, then 3 mi. w. to US 26 exit 72. The zoo entrance welcomes visitors to the alpine atmosphere of a mountain village. The plaza overlooks a simulation of the Cascade Mountains, with mountain goats and a snow cave. Exhibits replicate the natural environments of zoo inhabitants. The zoo's Great Northwest exhibit offers visitors a close-up view of black bears, bobcats, cougars and eagles, while the Africa Savanna features a giraffe, hippopotamuses and a black rhino. The Africa Rain Forest includes bats, colobus monkeys and tropical birds. Streams, foliage and thunderstorms in the Bamba du Jon Swamp provide a habitat for crocodiles, fish and reptiles. During the summer, visitors can board a train for a 4-mile ride through wooded hillsides to the International Rose Test Garden and Japanese Garden before catching a later train back to the zoo. Call (503) 226-1561 for more information.

- **Portland Art Museum.** Portland Art Museum is in the downtown cultural district. The museum was founded in 1892 and is the region's oldest visual and media arts center. It is internationally recognized for its permanent collection of 40,000 objects displayed in 112,000 square feet of galleries. The distinguished collection includes French painting, English silver, the arts of North America's native peoples, graphic arts and centers devoted to Pacific Northwest artists as well as modern and contemporary art. The museum's Northwest Film Center hosts the annual Portland International Film Festival. Call (503) 226-2811 for more information.



*Winding scenic roads through the towering trees and mountains.*

- **World Forestry Center Discovery Museum.** The museum has hands-on, interactive exhibits that engage visitors to learn about the forests and trees of the world. Highlights include a water-free raft ride, smoke jumper simulator and a lift allowing visitors to climb 45 feet for a birds-eye view of the trees. Call (503) 228-1367 for more information.

**WASHOUGAL.** This community is situated on the Washington side of the Columbia River and marks the west entrance to the amazing Columbia River Gorge, which is a very popular tourist and wind surfing destination. Approaching from the Lewis & Clark Highway provides an impressive view of Mt. Hood above the Cascade Mountains.



*Where to stay along the way:*

**WASHOUGAL - Parkersville Inn & Suites**  
(360) 835-9292 / (800) 780-7234

**VANCOUVER.** Continue on S.R. 503 to a city where you can experience living history, waterfront parks or natural wonders in one day! Visitor's & Convention Bureau: (877) 600-0800.



*Where to stay along the way:*

**VANCOUVER**  
**Best Western Inn of Vancouver** (888) 254-3900  
**Best Western**  
**Vancouver Mall Dr. Hotel & Suites** (800) 937-8376

- **Clark County Historical Museum.** The history of Clark County is on display at this Vancouver museum, which is housed in a former Carnegie Library. Built in 1909, this building is on the National Register of Historic Sites. Exhibits feature a Native American gallery, railroad exhibit, American military memorabilia and other artifacts dating back to the 13th century. Visit an old country store, country kitchen, and doctor's office. Call (360) 993-5679 for more information.
- **Officers Row.** Where else in the Northwest can you stroll past 22 preserved Victorian homes on the National Historic Register? Built in the mid-to-late 1800s, these beautifully restored homes were built to house U.S. Army officers and their families stationed at Vancouver Barracks. The O.O. Howard House is open to the public with the Visitor Information Center, the Grant House features The Restaurant at the Historic Reserve and Commanders Whiskey and Wine Bar, and the Marshall House offers tours and an exhibit on General George C. Marshall, it's most famous resident. Call (360) 992-1800 for more information.
- **Pearson Air Museum.** Aviation history is on display at Pearson Air Museum. Exhibition areas offer a stunning collection of vintage airplanes, interpretive displays, an interactive children's center, theater presentations, a restoration shop and gift shop. Located at the oldest continually operating airfield in the U.S., the main exhibition area hosts special events and dances. Group tours and special event facilities available Call (360) 694-7026 for more information.
- **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.** The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge offers over 5,000 acres of vital migration and wintering habitat for spring and fall migrating birds. The mild winter climate and wetlands along the Columbia River create ideal resting and feeding areas for 180 species of birds such as Canada Geese, Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue Herons, swans, shore and song birds, and a variety of waterfowl. Visitors can see these and other magnificent wildlife while driving the 4-mile auto tour or hiking along the two-mile Oaks to Wetlands Wildlife Trail year-round. Call (360) 887-4106 for more information.

# MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS



- **Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge.** This triple-decker paddle wheeler offers sightseeing and meal cruises in the Columbia River Gorge. Specialty cruises are available. Call (800) 643-1354 for more information.

**KELSO.** Drive north on I-5. Situated along the Cowlitz River, Kelso is an important fishing and canning center, with plentiful runs of steelhead trout and sturgeon. It's also a base for exploring *Mount St. Helens* from its west side. Chamber of Commerce: (360) 577-8058.



Where to stay along the way:

**KELSO - Best Western Aladdin Motor Inn-Kelso**

(360) 425-9660 / (800) 238-7234

- **Cowlitz County Historical Museum.** See full-size reproductions of pioneer rooms, a general store, loggers' bunkhouse, log cabin, and other artifacts. Donations: (360) 577-3119.
- **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Visitor Center.** About 15 miles north of town, on the shore of Silver Lake, this center features a walk-in cross section of the volcano. There are also dozens of exhibits, videos, and a short trail to an overlook of the lake and mountain. Admission: (360) 274-2100.
- **Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center.** To see more of the Mount St. Helens' area, turn east on Hwy 504 for a drive along the fork of the Toutle River. At Coldwater Lake fishing and boat rentals are available. The center has interactive exhibits and spectacular views of the Upper Toutle River Valley and the crater and lava dome of Mount St. Helens. Admission: (360) 274-2131. Continue seven miles east to the *Johnston Ridge Observatory*, which is five miles from the crater, for an up-close look. (Closed winter.)

**CHINOOK.** Take S.R. 4 to S.R. 401, to the *Lewis & Clark Campsite*, where they stayed in November 1805, just before their journey came to an end. Drive through *Fort Columbia State Park* featuring bunkers, lookouts, searchlight stations, and gun batteries. Information: (360) 642-3078.

**CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT.** Continue on S.R. 401 west onto the bottom of the Long Beach Peninsula at Ilwaco. *Ilwaco Indian Heritage Museum* exhibits cover the life of the Chinook Indians and local settlers. Admission: (360) 642-3446. A few miles north is *Long Beach*, home to the *Washington State International Kite Festival*, held in late August. Stop by the *World Kite Museum*, to see kites from around the world. Information: (360) 642-4020.

- **Cape Disappointment National Park.** On the tip of Cape Disappointment is Washington's first military installation guarding the entrance to the Columbia River. Spend some time exploring trails

leading to isolated coves and wide, sandy beaches. Information: (360) 642-3078.

- **Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.** In the park a 200-yard path takes you to a display of the epic journey to open the Northwest for settlement. Learn all about the expedition through artifacts, sketches, exhibits and a multimedia presentation. Donations: (360) 642-3029.
- **North Head Lighthouse.** Feast your eyes on a spectacular vantage view of the Pacific. Members of the Coast Guard are usually on duty to answer questions. Open June through August. Admission: (360) 642-3029.

**OYSTERVILLE.** Hwy 103 north brings you to another era filled with homes and buildings dating from the turn of the century. Visitor's Bureau: (800) 451-2542. Travel five more miles to *Leadbetter Point*, an isolated area with 28 miles of beach.

**SOUTH BEND.** Drive back down the peninsula to Ilwaco and head north on Hwy 101 to enter *Willapa Bay*, a national wildlife refuge and a haven for hundreds of birds and animals. South Bend's *Pacific County Historical Museum* features artifacts and is the starting point for several walking tours. Donations: (360) 875-5224.

**WESTPORT.** Hwy 101 north goes inland for about 23 miles, then joins with Hwy 105 west to this scenic fishing town. It offers shops, restaurants and miles of beaches, plus a ferry to nearby Ocean Shores. Information: (800) 345-6223. Charter a boat for deep-sea fishing or visit the *Westport Maritime Museum*, which includes a children's discovery room. Donations: (360) 268-0078.

**MARKHAM.** Hwy 105 east takes you to cranberry country and home of the *Ocean Spray* plant. Take a tour and then sample the juices made by the company. Information: (360) 532-1924.

**ABERDEEN.** Located at the mouths of the Chehalis and Wishkah rivers on Hwy 105, this town is filled with handsome Victorian houses. Chamber of Commerce: (800) 321-1924. Tour *Grays Harbor Seaport* with exhibits on shipbuilding and a replica of the *Lady Washington*, the ship that explored the Northwest coast in 1792. Admission: (360) 532-8611.

**HOQUIAM.** This picturesque sawmill town on S.R. 109 west borders the *Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge*. Chamber of Commerce: (800) 321-1924. Bring your binoculars for great birdwatching, then tour *Hoquiam's Castle*, built during the boom days of logging, complete with turrets and lavish furnishings. Admission: (360) 533-2005.

*Your loop tour is almost completed – return to Aberdeen and then take U.S. 12 east to Hwy 8 and back into Olympia.*



*A lighthouse stands watch over rugged shorelines.*