

San Juan Islands Washington, USA



The San Juan Islands are an archipelago on the west coast of North America consisting of 172 islands located north and west of Seattle south of the border with Canada. They lie in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains and receive only half the rainfall of Seattle. In fact, they boast that the sun shines 247 days

of the year here and temperatures are rarely extreme making these islands a perfect place to bike, kayak, hike and relax. The islands are easily accessible by Washington

State ferries with multiple daily runs from Anacortes in addition to ferry service from late March until late September from Sidney, British Columbia, Canada.

The islands that are especially geared to tourists are Lopez, Orcas and San Juan Island. They all have accommodations, attractions and activities to keep most active people very satisfied. The total population of all the islands is just over 16,000 with close to half of them on San Juan Island. San Juan and Orcas Island are of a similar size while Lopez is almost half the land mass.

In the busy season of July and August, call for ferry and hotel reservations to avoid disappointment. The balance of the year is quieter except for holiday long weekends so spontaneous trips are possible. The beauty of ferry travel with your bike is that you never have to wait in line – just show up twenty minutes before the scheduled ferry departure. Even better is the fact that once you have paid for yourself and your bike (\$12.75 US) the rest of the ferry trips between the other islands will cost you nothing.





Getting to Anacortes and the San Juan Islands

Anacortes is the main gateway to the San Juan Islands. If you are driving to Anacortes to board a ferry for one of the San Juan Islands in the summer months then it is advisable to have a ferry reservation or you can be sitting in lines for hours. Even as a foot passenger with a bike it is advisable to be there 20 minutes ahead of time so you can be loaded first. Check the ferry schedule ahead of time online by visiting www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries or phone 1-206-464-6400.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE FROM SEATTLE TO THE ANACORTES FERRY TERMINAL

Visit www.airporter.com or call 1-866-235-5247 for schedule and fare information from Seatac airport in Seattle.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS

- Quiet, pastoral roads with very friendly locals on Lopez Island
- The pretty, rocky shoreline of Shark Reef Park on Lopez Island with its views of the swift water between it and San Juan Island
- The charming village of Olga on Orcas Island, home to Orcas Island Artworks
- Moran State Park on Orcas Island with lakes, hiking trails and waterfalls
- The attractive town of Eastsound Village on Orcas Island
- The activity of Friday Harbor on San Juan Island
- The marina and cafe at Roche Harbor on San Juan Island
- Walking and watching for whales in Lime Kiln Point State Park, San Juan Island
- Beautiful wild west coast vistas cycling south of Lime Kiln Point State Park and heading to Cattle Point
- Free ferries between the islands

By Car to the Anacortes Ferry Terminal

Take I-5 to exit 230 and follow the signs for the commercial district of Anacortes. From there follow the ferry signs to the terminal. The distance from I-5 to the ferry terminal is just over 18 miles (31 kilometres). There is long term pay parking available (with cash or a credit card) for very reasonable rates. Up to 96 hours will cost \$15 and time after that is added in \$5 increments and can be done from afar if you change your plans and decide to stay longer.

If you are boarding with a vehicle in the summer and on holiday weekend be in line one hour before sailing at non peak times and two hours before sailing at peak times.

By Boat to the San Juan Islands

PUGET SOUND EXPRESS

www.pugetsoundexpress.com
Ph: 360-385-5288

There is once a day boat service between Port Townsend and Friday Harbor from March until October. You can bring your bike on board for \$12.50 plus the passenger fee of between \$49.50 and \$52.50 depending on the season.

SAN JUAN ISLAND COMMUTER

www.islandcommuter.com
Ph: 360-738-8099

They offer passenger only service from Bellingham, Washington to Orcas Island and Friday Harbor on San Juan Island once a day for \$49 one way and \$59 return.

VICTORIA EXPRESS

www.victoriaexpress.com
Ph: 250-361-9144 or 360-452-8088

Once daily boat sailings are offered between Victoria, British Columbia and Friday Harbor on San Juan Island from late June until Labor Day weekend on a Friday through Monday basis. Fares are \$42.50 per person one way and bikes are free.

*Many hotels in the islands will pick you up from a ferry terminal with advance notice.

By Plane to the San Juan Islands

KENMORE AIR

www.kenmoreair.com

Ph: 866-435-9524

Kenmore Air has regularly scheduled flights to Lopez, Orcas or San Juan Island from Boeing Field near the Seattle airport. Free shuttles are provided between the Seattle airports. Flight times range from thirty to forty five minutes.

ISLAND AIR

www.sanjuan-islandair.com

Ph: 888-378-2376

They have charter service based in Friday Harbour on San Juan Island. They can take you to the other San Juan Islands in addition to Vancouver and spots on Vancouver Island at your convenience, for a price.

SAN JUAN AIRLINES

www.sanjuanairlines.com

Ph: 800-874-4434

There is daily scheduled service from Bellingham and Anacortes to the San Juan Islands. They also fly to Vancouver Island from the San Juan Islands.

Suggested Itinerary for the San Juan Islands

Day 1: Arrive in Anacortes and take a late afternoon (50 minute) ferry ride to Lopez Island. Ride into Lopez Village and spend the night at Edenwild Inn. Enjoy dinner at The Bay Cafe on the water.

Day 2: After breakfast buy picnic lunch supplies at Holly B's Bakery across the street. Head out for a day on your bike circumnavigating the island. Catch a late afternoon ferry to San Juan Island. Arrive in Friday Harbor and head to your hotel. The Friday Harbour House is a good choice and very convenient. There are plenty of dinner dining options within walking distance of the hotel.

Day 3: Split your time on San Juan Island into two cycling days. The days can be done in any order. On one day you could visit the San Juan Vineyards, Roche Harbour and English Camp. You could spend a few hours



in Roche Harbor watching the world go by and enjoying lunch in the bustling cafe on the water. Head back to Friday Harbor in time to visit the Whale Museum (next door to Friday Harbor House). Enjoy dinner somewhere with a view of the busy harbor.

Day 4: On the second day you could head south from Friday Harbor to Cattle Point and hike to the lighthouse. Partially retrace your steps and make Lime Kiln Point State Park your next stop. You may be lucky enough to see some whales while enjoying a picnic lunch. Retrace about 3 miles of your route and head to Pelindaba Lavender Farm and tour the fields in bloom from July until September. Return to Friday Harbor for some R&R time or a few hours touring in a sea kayak if you are very ambitious. Consider an evening with the local theatre company.

Day 5: Catch a morning ferry to Orcas Island. Mentally prepare yourself for some hills – lots of them. Cycle the 9 miles from Orcas Village to Eastsound Village. Get settled into your accommodation and wander the galleries and shops of the village.

Day 6: If you love hills then consider a cycle

from Eastsound Village to either Olga or Doe Bay. The very fit and energetic could throw in a ride to the top of Mount Constitution which peaks out at 2409 feet (735 m) or hike some of the trails in Moran State Park. Return to Eastsound Village. If a day of hills isn't what you had in mind consider an all day guided sea kayaking trip to an area suited to your abilities. Return to Eastsound Village for another night and dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 7: After breakfast, cycle the 9 miles back to Orcas Village for a 9:20am or a 12:05 pm ferry ride back to Anacortes. It will take roughly an hour to accomplish this. A quieter back road alternative is possible for about half of the distance. The boat trip to Anacortes will take roughly 90 minutes.

LOPEZ ISLAND

Lopez Island is a small, friendly place with a strong pastoral feel. It is a terrific place to cycle as roads are quiet and the hills are small. There are several parks around the perimeter of the island that are perfect for a picnic and exploration on a sunny day. Our favorite was the Shark Reef Park on the west side of the island, a place where you could watch the seals, the seabirds and the fast moving water.

There are not a lot of short term accommodation choices and the prices are slightly higher than what you might pay on the other islands. However there are excellent restaurant choices, several small cafes selling espresso drinks, daily summer wine tastings at the local winery, sea kayaking and shopping opportuni-

ties. The island is well worth visiting for a night for two.

Bike Route and Highlights on Lopez Island

Always keep your eyes peeled for deer — especially on the downhill!

Lopez Island is a treat to cycle. It is an island that can be comfortably cycled in a day with a few side trips thrown in. Count on a ride of about 40 miles (64 kilometres) with barely a hill to speak of.

Getting to Lopez Village

A 5 mile ride to Lopez Village awaits your arrival at the Lopez Island ferry terminal. This ride gives you a taste of what is in store for the

rest of the island. There are pretty pastoral views almost immediately and gently rolling countryside. Roads are very quiet and the locals are among the biggest wavers of any population we have encountered.

After you disembark from the ferry follow Ferry Road until you reach the intersection with Military Road. Turn right and follow it about a mile until it meets Lopez Road. Turn left and head south for 1.5 miles until you reach the town. It is only a 'five road town' so you won't get lost. The total distance from the ferry to Lopez Village is 4.8 miles.

Circumnavigating Lopez Island

A circumnavigation of the island which finishes at the ferry is 41 miles (66 kilometres) in total but if you have spent the night in Lopez Village you will only have 36 miles (58

SEA KAYAKING

There is only one company offering kayaking tours on Lopez Island. Visit www.cascadiakayaktours.com for more information. Ph: 360-468-3008. They offer half and full day trips as well as a sunset trip in the summer.

BANKING AND INTERNET

Islanders Bank in Lopez Village has a branch as well as a 24 hour ATM machine. The Lopez Village Market also has an ATM machine but it can only be accessed during business hours.

Internet service is available at Lopez Village Park which is a WiFi hotspot. It can also be accessed at the Lopez Island Library at the corner of Hummel Lake Road and Fisherman Bay Road. The library is open Monday to Saturday starting at 10am. It closes at either 5pm or 6pm except Wednesdays when it closes at 9pm. Internet access is free.

CELL PHONES

Cell phone coverage is spotty or nonexistent.

LIQUOR STORES

The Lopez Island liquor store is in the village across from the museum and is open from Tuesday until Saturday. You can also purchase wine and beer at the gas station/convenience store in Islandale and wine from Lopez Island Vineyards.

km) to cycle. It can be comfortably done in a day in time to catch a late afternoon ferry to San Juan Island.

From Lopez Village head south on Fisherman Bay Road past Fisherman Bay until you reach Airport Road. Turn right and follow it down about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile until you reach Shark Reef Road. Turn left and follow the road for about two miles until you see the signs for the park. The total distance from Lopez Village is 7.7 miles. Expect lightly used roads through gently wooded and pastoral countryside. Once at the park, stash your bikes and head off by foot for the 10 minute walk to the water. The park is a spot worthy of some time. You can poke among tide pools and enjoy the vistas from the rocks. Exercise extreme caution in the cliffy sections since the water below is treacherous. Seals can be viewed from shore and bird life is everywhere.

After returning to your bikes, retrace your route about 200 feet and make a right onto Burt Road. Follow it along as it becomes Davis Bay Road. Turn right again after about three miles at Richardson Road. It becomes Vista Road and ends at Mud Bay Road. Turn right on Mud Bay Road and follow it until you reach the hamlet of Islandale where you will find a convenience store, wine store and small restaurant attached to the gas station. It is 8.3 miles from Shark Reef Point to Islandale.

To get to Agate Beach Country Park turn right at the gas station and head another 2.8 miles down along Mackaye Harbor Road. It is a pleasant spot to enjoy a picnic lunch and explore tide pools. Along the way in note the proclamation of a spandex free zone and nude beach.

It is 20.4 miles back from Agate Beach to the ferry. The miles seem to slide by as the roads are pretty, the views are great and the riding is quite easy. From Agate Beach retrace your steps to the gas station at Islandale. Make a left onto Mud Bay Road and follow it north as it becomes Centre Road. Centre Road runs like a spine down the island and affords vistas off to the east and west. Hummel Lake is at about the halfway mark back to the ferry. From Hummel Lake you can continue north along Center Road to the ferry or make a worthwhile side trip to Spencer Spit State Park.

To get to the park turn right onto Hummel Lake Road (at Hummel Lake), left onto Port Stanley Road and then the next right onto the road to Spencer Spit State Park. From Hummel Lake to the park it is only two miles. You will pass some pretty fields where you might see raptors patrolling the fields for mice. Once at the park, leave your bikes in the stand and head down the road to the spit. You can walk to the end of the spit and enjoy some beachcombing or perhaps cool off in the ocean on a hot summer day.

After leaving the spit, return to Port Stanley Road and turn right. This short but scenic stretch of road will take you down to Swifts Bay and along the water. Follow along Port Stanley Road to Ferry Road. When you arrive at Ferry Road you have a choice: 1) Turn right at Ferry Road and in just over a mile you will reach the ferry or 2) If you think you will have time on your hands you can always make a quick side trip to Odlin State Park. At the intersection of Ferry Road and Port Stanley Road head straight onto Odlin Park Road. The park is just ahead about a ¼ of a mile. It is a nice spot to watch the world go by while sitting in the shade or on the beach.

There is an espresso shop at the ferry landing though the hours are a bit hit in miss when it isn't the height of summer.

Accommodation:

Keeping in mind dining options, you will want to be close to Lopez Village so there are a limited number of choices. If you are interested in buying food and cooking then there are more possibilities. Assuming that you will dine at night in Lopez Village then some of the possibilities include the following:

EDENWILD INN

www.edenwildinn.com
132 Lopez Road, Lopez Island
Ph: 360-468-3238

Rates are \$170 and up. This is probably your best choice though a bit overstuffed with furniture for my liking.

BAY HOUSE AND GARDEN COTTAGES

www.interisland.net/cc
Ph: 360-468-4889

Two guest cottages are available in Lopez Village for \$150 per night. These are basic rooms with a good location.

LOPEZ FARM COTTAGES

www.lopezfarmcottages.com
555 Fisherman Bay Road, Lopez Island
Ph: 360-468-3555

Five cottages from \$145 and up are situated a mile from town across from the winery.

LOPEZ ISLANDER BAY RESORT

www.lopezislander.com
2864 Fisherman Bay Road, Lopez Island
Ph: 360-468-2233

Twenty nine fairly basic rooms with decks overlooking Fisherman Bay are available starting at \$99.

Restaurants

All restaurants are located in Lopez Village.

THE BAY CAFE

www.bay-cafe.com
9 Old Post Road, Suite C, Lopez Village
Ph: 360-468-3700

It is one of the finest restaurants in the northwest with lovely waterfront views.

LOVE DOG CAFE

1 Village Center, Lopez Island
Ph: 360-468-2150

Down home cooking with large servings.



VITA'S WILDLY DELICIOUS

Around the corner from the nursery and the Love Dog Cafe
Ph: 360-468-4268
They offer gourmet food and wine to go.

VORTEX

Homestead Building C, Lopez Village
Ph: 360-468-4740

Great for juices, salads, wraps and soups; organic ingredients are used where possible.

CAFE LA BOHEME

Lopez Plaza beside Holly B's
Ph: 360-468-3533

Delicious espresso drinks and teas are available with a copy of the New York Times.

HOLLY B'S BAKERY

165 Cherry Tree Lane, Lopez Village
Ph: 360-468-2133

It is the place for fresh baked treats and a good spot to stock up on lunch supplies for a picnic.

LOPEZ ISLANDER BAY RESORT

www.lopezislander.com
2864 Fisherman Bay Road
Ph: 360-468-2233

The resort is located just out of town heading south and would be a suitable place to eat if you had chosen to stay at the resort.

GALLEY RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

www.galleylopez.com/restaurant.htm
3365 Fisherman Bay Road
Ph: 360-468-2713

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are offered from this waterfront location just outside of Lopez Village.

SAN JUAN ISLAND

The quaint town of Friday Harbor is the gateway by ferry to San Juan Island. The town is filled with old wood frame buildings, art galleries, boutiques and restaurants. Island activities are easy to arrange from here. Aside from biking consider a whale or wildlife cruise or perhaps a guided half day or day of sea kayaking. There are bookstores to browse through, espresso shops to linger in and plenty of harbour activity to watch to while away part of a day.

There are about 40 miles (64 kilometres) of cy-

cling possibilities around the perimeter of the island. You can sample wines, visit historic Roche Harbor, check out the English and American Camp National Historic Parks, hope to see whales from shore at Lime Kiln Point State Park, visit a working oyster farm or sniff your way to a lavender farm which is in bloom between July and September.

Hiking, beach walking and picnicking can be enjoyable endeavours. At the southeast tip of the island, you can hike to a lighthouse and look over to Lopez Island. Close by at the American Camp there are 5 miles of beach for walking. Across from the English Camp a climb of Mount Young is a possibility.

Bike Route and Highlights of San Juan Island

Begin your tour of San Juan Island in Friday Harbor. The island can be cycled in one day though not at a particularly relaxed pace. If you have time, split the cycling into two days. Traffic is generally light except for summer weekends.

Northern San Juan Island Loop from Friday Harbor

The main artery to the north part of the island is Roche Harbor Road. So from the ferry terminal go right one block on Front Street. Turn left on Spring Street, go two blocks to Second Street and then turn right. Follow Second Street to the bend left at which point it is called Guard Street. Go one block on Guard Street and turn right on Tucker Avenue. Proceed on Tucker Avenue which becomes Roche Harbor Road as you pass University Road.

The road undulates gently and in just under three miles, San Juan Vineyards will appear on your right. If it is after 11am in the summer, consider stopping for some wine tasting. If not continue and in another mile and a quarter pass the Lakedale Resort. Three miles later the road swings right at the junction with West Valley Road. Turn right and follow it down past the Westcott Bay Reserve Sculpture Park which is worth a short visit to see some very interesting art. Make a left at the sculpture park and shortly you will be descending steeply to Roche Harbor. The place seems too good to be true. There are perfect lawns and perfect gardens and a perfect little



BANKING ON SAN JUAN ISLAND

ISLANDERS BANK

545 Park Street in Friday Harbor
ATM at the branch is available 24/7.

ATM's are also available at the Doctor's Office (the restaurant across from the ferry), King's Market and at Roche Harbor.

cafe right on the water. It is a super spot for a late breakfast or a coffee. There is also a small grocery store if you have forgotten picnic supplies. If the day is going to be a leisurely one you could contemplate renting kayaks here.

Roche Harbour houses a busy marina in addition to shops, a spa, restaurants and many other services catering to the tourist. When you have finished your visit, retrace your steps to the junction with West Valley Road. There is a steep hill to contend with getting out of Roche Harbor but the rest of the northern route has no onerous hills.

Turn right at the junction on West Valley Road towards English Camp less than a mile away. There is a seasonal visitor center here as well as self guided walk booklets available at the trailhead. The trail illuminates the Royal Marine era with its barracks, parade ground and even a formal garden for a homesick captain's wife. Another trail takes you up through the forest, past the English Camp cemetery and on to the summit of Young Hill at 650 feet with great views of both Vancouver Island and the Olympic Mountains.

You can return to Friday Harbor by retracing your steps back to Roche Harbor Road or to complete a loop, head south (right as you exit the side road from English Camp). Continue for 4 1/2 miles on West Valley Road until it becomes Beaverton Valley Road at the intersection with Boyce Road and Sandwith Road. Carry on straight 4 1/2 miles to reach Friday Harbor. Total mileage for this loop is in the order of 19 miles (31 kms).

Southern San Juan Island Loop from Friday Harbor

For a southern loop take Spring Street up from the waterfront to Mullis Street where you need to turn left. Go south on Mullis Street past the airport where it is now called Cattle Point Road and continue on to the big right bend. After another half mile the road bends left. Stay on this road for 6 ½ miles. The last two miles descend gradually to Cattle Point.

Cattle Point is located at the southern end of San Juan Island and enjoys excellent views of the channel between it and Lopez Island. Its name is derived from the days when the Hudson's Bay Company had a sheep and cattle farm on the site. A lighthouse was added in 1935 and now there is an interpretive center and walking trails that take advantage of the view.

Retrace your steps after leaving Cattle Point. There are beach access points just a few miles back up the road. Both South Beach (on the south side of the road off of Pickett's Lane) and Fourth of July Beach (accessed less than half a mile further up on the north side) enjoy great views and have lovely beach walking. They would both be picnic worthy destinations.

The turnoff to American Camp is another mile away just as you round the bend. There is a year round visitor center housing American Indian artifacts and a self guided history walk will allow you to relive the Pig War. It is quite a nice open spot to wander around and the views are wonderful on a clear day. If you are lucky you may hear the spouting of a whale!

Back out on Cattle Point Road, head north and in just over a mile turn left onto False Bay Road. This lovely quiet road takes you along False Bay where you might opt for a walk at low tide. There is very good birding in the area too. The road swings around and ends at Bailer Hill Road. If you turn right you can work your way back to Friday Harbor by turning left on Douglas Road, right on San Juan Valley Road and left on Mullis Street to Friday Harbor but for more exploration turn left to visit Lime Kiln Point State Park and the Pelindaba Lavender Farm.

Go left at Bailer Hill Road for 2 miles. It becomes West Side Road which is a great road to ride for the views out to the west. In 3 miles with some hill climbing you will reach Lime Kiln Point State Park. It bills itself out as perhaps the best place in the world to see whales

from shore. Park and lock your bike and take time to enjoy the shore side trails. Bring some binoculars so you can take advantage of any whale sightings.

Next is the Pelindaba Lavender Farm so back-track on West Side Road which becomes Bailer Hill Road and turn left onto Wold Road. The lavender farm is less than a mile up the road. You can tour the fields in bloom from July until September and there is a store onsite selling all manner of lavender products.

Return to Friday Harbor by turning right (north) onto Wold Road after visiting the lavender farm. Turn right 1½ miles later onto San Juan Valley Road and continue for 4 miles straight into Friday Harbor. The total mileage for the day is in the order of 31 miles (50 km).

Accommodation on San Juan Island

There is a wide range of accommodation available from a one room B&B to resorts and chain hotels with seventy plus rooms. The town of Friday Harbor is a great place to stay since there is so much to do within walking distance of anywhere you might be. Summertime prices can be double that of the





CELL PHONES AND INTERNET ON SAN JUAN ISLAND

Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor have cell coverage but outside of those immediate areas be prepared for no service.

SAN JUAN ISLAND LIBRARY

1010 Guard Street in Friday Harbor
Internet can be accessed at the library, which is open daily starting at 10am, except on Sunday, when it is only open from 1pm until 5pm.

THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

In the Victorian building across from the ferry in Friday Harbor
This restaurant has free internet access and is open from 7am until 9pm daily.

THE FRIDAY HARBOR SOUVENIR COMPANY

135 Spring Street, Suite F in Friday Harbor
Has two computer stations with internet access as well.

shoulder and quiet season and two night minimums are required at many spots. Some possibilities include the following hotels.

FRIDAY HARBOR HOUSE

www.fridayharborhouse.com
130 West Street, Friday Harbor
Ph: 360-378-8455
This has a nice location overlooking the busy harbor and the rooms are well appointed.

BIRD ROCK HOTEL

www.birdrockhotel.com
35 First Street, Friday Harbor
Ph: 360-378-5848

EARTHBOX MOTEL AND SPA

www.earthboxmotel.com
410 Spring Street, Friday Harbor
Ph: 360-378-4000

BEST WESTERN FRIDAY HARBOR SUITES

www.fridayharborsuites.com
680 Spring Street, Friday Harbor
Ph: 360-378-3031
Just what you would expect from the Best Western chain.

ROCHE HARBOR RESORT

www.rocheharbor.com
Roche Harbor
Ph: 360-378-2155

LAKEDALE RESORT

www.lakedale.com
4313 Roche Harbor Road (4.5 miles from Friday Harbor) Ph: 360-378-2350
Lots of lodging options including lodge, log cabin and camping possibilities. Three lakes are also on the property and it is with biking distance to the restaurant called Duck Soup Inn.

THE DRAGONFLY INN

www.thedragonflyinn.com
4770 Roche Harbor Road, Friday Harbor
Ph: 360-378-4280
The inn is between Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor but close enough to a restaurant for dinner. Rooms are \$195 per night.

WILDWOOD MANOR BED & BREAKFAST

www.wildwoodmanor.com
5335 Roche Harbor Road, 5 miles from Friday Harbor Ph: 360-378-3447
An elegant inn which has been recommended by Frommers.

TUCKER HOUSE INN

www.tuckerhouse.com
235 C Street, Friday Harbor
Ph: 360-738-2783
This is an historic inn with cottages.

BED AND BREAKFAST ASSOCIATION OF SAN JUAN ISLANDS

www.san-juan-island.net
This website can help you find a B&B to suit your taste and budget.

WASHINGTON BED AND BREAKFAST GUILD

www.wbbg.com

Restaurants on San Juan Island

There are in excess of forty restaurants on San Juan Island including takeout and espresso shops. For a small island there is terrific

choice with all ends of the price spectrum represented. A walk on one of the main streets in Friday Harbor will offer lots of reasonably priced choices. Some of the more interesting spots are listed below.

DOWNRIGGERS

www.downriggerissanjuan.com
Ph: 360-378-2700
Reliable seafood on the waterfront in Friday Harbor by the ferry terminal.

VINNY'S

Ph: 360-378-1934
It serves upscale Italian food and is located across from Friday Harbor House.

FRIDAY HARBOR HOUSE

www.fridayharborhouse.com
Ph: 360-378-8455
Upscale northwest cuisine. Remodeled in 2009.

THE PLACE BAR AND GRILL

Located next to the San Juan ferry
Ph: 360-378-8707
It serves northwest gourmet food.

THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Across from the ferry Ph: 360-378-8865
This is a great little place for coffee drinks, sandwiches, soups and desserts. It gets busy just before a ferry leaves!

DUCK SOUP INN

www.ducksoupinn.com
Ph: 360-378-4878
Located between Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor but close to the Lakedale Resort. It serves upscale northwest cuisine.

ROCHE HARBOR RESORT

www.rocheharbor.com
Ph: 360-378-5757
Choose from 3 restaurants. Lime Kiln Café serves a great breakfast and lunch on the dock. McMillins serves northwest style food for dinner only and the Madrona Grill has a lunch and dinner menu.

There are a number of inexpensive spots for Mexican food (Mi Casita), Thai food (Golden Triangle) and pub style food (The Ale House).

LIQUOR STORES



ON SAN JUAN ISLAND

Wine can be purchased at King's Market and Marine at 160 Spring Street in Friday Harbor. There is also a full Washington State liquor store at 365 Spring Street in Friday Harbor.

San Juan Island Activities

THE WHALE MUSEUM

www.whalemuseum.org
62 First Street North, Friday Harbor
Ph: 360-378-4710

Open 9am -6pm daily in July and August and 10am-5pm daily in March-June and September-October. Here you can learn information about the local whales, view life sized whale models, view wildlife films and purchase books, maps and whale souvenirs.

SAN JUAN VINEYARDS

www.sanjuanvineyards.com
3136 Roche Harbor Road (a few miles from Friday Harbor on the road to Roche Harbor) Ph: 360-378-9463

The winery has been around since 1996 with production beginning in 1999. They grow and produce ten different grape varieties. The wine tasting room is open from 11am until 5pm in the summer season but call beforehand if you are there in the off season.

ISLAND STAGE LEFT

www.islandstageleft.org
Offers FREE performances from Thursday until Sunday from mid July until the third week of August. The theatre in the summer is held outdoors at the Roche Harbor Resort, rain or shine. In 2009 Shakespeare's "As You Like It" is playing. Donations are accepted.

SAN JUAN COMMUNITY THEATRE

www.sjctheatre.org
100 Second Street, Friday Harbor. Ph: 360-378-3210. They offer events all year long and they just might make your stay in Friday Harbor more interesting. Culture and exercise is always a good combination.

Kayaking Outfitters on San Juan Island

There are about 10 kayaking and tour outfitters on San Juan Island offering everything from hourly to multi day tours. The ones below are a sampling of what is out there. Some of the kayak companies also offer whale watching options.

SAN JUAN SAFARIS

www.sanjuansafaris.com
Ph: 800-450-6858
They offer 3 hour tours and a tour where you search for Orcas by kayak.

OUTDOOR ODYSSEYS

www.outdoorodysseys.com
Ph: 800-647-4621
They offer ½ day, 1 day, 2 day and even longer options.

CRYSTAL SEAS

www.crystalseas.com
Ph: 877-732-7877
They offer a range of sea kayaking trips including a sunset paddle and a boating/kayaking option.

SAN JUAN KAYAK EXPEDITIONS

www.sanjuankayak.com
Ph: 360-378-4436
The small company has been around for 29 years and each trip is still owner guided. They offer three and four day trips only.

Whale Watching Companies on San Juan Island

San Juan Island is ideally located for whale watching and considered to be the best spot in the San Juan Islands to enjoy success in sightings. You won't have to go far to sight one of the pods of resident Orca whales. There are lots of whale watching companies so look for ones that have stellar reputations and show a huge respect for the animals. Consider the size of the boat, the quality of the naturalists

and their knowledge of the local area. Also consider whether the boat is open or covered so you aren't baking in the sun for hours. Below is a sampling of some of the companies.

SAN JUAN SAFARIS

www.sanjuansafaris.com Ph: 800-450-6858
They have daily half day tours from late April until October and Saturday only tours in the slower season.

SAN JUAN EXCURSIONS

www.watchwhales.com Ph: 800-809-4253
In prime summer season they run up to two tours a day, each lasting 3 ½ to 4 hours.

MAYA'S ORCAS CHARTERS AND TOURS

www.mayaswhalewatch.biz
Ph: 360-378-7996
This is a small boat that runs tours on a year round basis. They don't take more than six passengers at a time. They run up to three times per day in the height of the summer. One of the captains has been taking guests out since 1988.

Galleries on San Juan Island

There are seven galleries in Friday Harbor within about four blocks of each other. If you enjoy the art world then a few hours of wandering from gallery to gallery is a pleasant way to spend some time. The galleries include the following:

ARCTIC RAVEN

130 First Street South
Features native art which includes masks and wood, stone and bronze sculptures.

WATERWORKS GALLERY

Spring Street at Argyle Street
Represents an eclectic group of contemporary artists. They feature monthly shows.

ISLAND STUDIOS

270 Spring Street
Represents over 120 artists from the San Juan Islands. They feature jewelry, pottery, weaving, paintings and a whole lot more.

ISLAND MUSEUM OF ART

314 Spring Street
A museum featuring changing shows of local and regional artists.

FRIDAY HARBOR ART STUDIO

30 Web Street

Focuses on scrimshaw and engraved prints of sailing ships and whales.

BISON GALLERY

65 Nichols Street

Features fine art and sculpture from known and up and coming artists throughout the Pacific Northwest. All creative mediums are represented.

GALLERY SAN JUAN

210 Nichols Street

A fine art gallery featuring local and Northwest artists.

Getting around San Juan Island

If you would like to see more of the island off of the bike then visit www.sanjuantransit.com for public transit information.

ORCAS ISLAND

Orcas Island is horseshoe shaped with Eastsound Village at the top of the horseshoe being the geographic and social center of the island. Here you can find the greatest variety of accommodation and restaurants. Shops and galleries are also plentiful and from May until September there is a Saturday farmer's market. Count on a ride of nine miles from the ferry to Eastsound Village if you book accommodation there.

Orcas Island is the largest of all the San Juan Islands though there are 2000 fewer people living on it as compared to San Juan Island. The highest point of all the islands, 2409 foot Mount Constitution is near Moran State Park. Here in the eastern section of the horseshoe you can swim in Cascade or Mountain Lake, access trails to climb to the mountain or cycle the 11 miles to the end of the road at Doe Bay. It will be almost another five and a half miles to cycle to the top of Mt. Constitution and nine miles to get you back to Eastsound Village.

The western section of the horseshoe will have you cycling 11 miles from Eastsound to check out the Deer Harbor area. On the way there are two pottery studios worth visiting representing over 90 artists in total. It likely won't be hard to find something you fancy



though the transportation of the object of your desire might prove difficult.

In Deer Harbor you can take advantage of whale watching and wildlife tours or if you've done that already consider joining a guided tour by sea kayak.

Bike Route and Highlights of Orcas Island

Orcas Island is in a different league for cycling than the other two islands. We were warned but it wasn't till I was climbing the umpteenth hill that I really realized just how much more difficult this island is to cycle. If you are an avid cyclist you will enjoy a real workout but if you are an occasional cyclist you might prefer to take advantage of all the other activities available on the island. Also, you cycle more through forest on Orcas Island and though there are some nice views, it feels much less open than either Lopez or San Juan Island.

Although you can stay in Orcas Village the bulk of activities on Orcas Island are centered on Eastsound Village. I recommend that you bike there. It is 9 miles from the ferry dock to Eastsound Village and there are a couple of large hills initially followed by rolling country and a descent into the village itself.

Leave the ferry terminal by heading left and

then right onto Orcas Road. Climb one very large hill in the first two miles and then a lot of undulating hills. Orcas Road leads you right down into Eastsound Village where most of the hotels and B&B's are within a mile of the downtown area.

It would be difficult to cycle the whole island in a day and make it back in time to catch a ferry so I recommend you spend one night somewhere in the vicinity of Eastsound Village. The next day head east along the water on Crescent Beach Road and climb a small hill to reach Olga Road. Turn right and cycle almost 7 hilly miles (11 kms) to Moran State Park and Mt. Constitution Road. If you are feeling particularly ambitious you could cycle to the top of Mount Constitution, 6 miles (9.5kms) further up and topping out at 2,409 feet (735 m) above sea level. Alternatively you can park your bike and hike some of Moran State Parks' thirty miles of trails. In the summertime a swim in one of the lakes will cool you off.

After a visit to the park continue heading south on Olga Road for 2 ½ miles. It is mostly downhill to Olga, a small but pretty village with a gallery, art shop and cafe at the main intersection with Pt. Lawrence Road. From here it is 17 tougher miles to return to Orcas Village and the ferry so the 'juice' in your legs and the ferry schedule may determine if you wish to continue any further.

It is another 3 miles to Doe Bay and 5 miles to the Pt. Lawrence Reserve, the easternmost tip of Orcas Island. Both are accessed by turning left in the town of Olga onto Pt. Lawrence Road and continuing until the road ends at the reserve. There is a resort in Doe Bay but public water access is poor out there. The other alternative to get to a beach is to take the first right off of Pt. Lawrence Road onto Obstruction Pass Road and follow it to Obstruction Pass State Park. From there hike half a mile to the beach. This would be a nice spot for a picnic lunch. Retrace your route back to Eastsound Village.

A return to Orcas Village and the ferry is either a retrace along Orcas Road or cycle to Crow Valley Road which runs parallel and to the west of Orcas Road. This road is accessed by turning right off of Orcas Road just over a mile west of Eastsound Village. If you have time it is a worthwhile alternative to Orcas Road and traffic is lighter especially once you pass the intersection to West Beach Road.

Continue for 6 ½ miles and turn left onto Deer Harbor Road. Follow it for a mile and turn right on Orcas Road. Continue into the town of Orcas Village.

ONE WAY MILEAGES THAT MIGHT HELP PLAN YOUR DAY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Obstruction Pass State Park to Orcas Village and the ferry using Orcas Road – 19.6 miles (31 km)
- From the top of Mt. Constitution to Orcas Village using Orcas Road – 20.7 miles (33 km)
- Moran State Park to Orcas Village via Orcas Road – 13.6 miles (22 km)

Accommodation on Orcas Island

There is no shortage of accommodation on Orcas Island but some of it is quite a distance from the ferry. It is important to take this into account if you arrive on a later ferry, es-

pecially in the off season when daylight hours are shorter. Therefore it is likely that you will need to cycle to West Sound, Deer Harbor or Eastsound Village although you could also stay at the Orcas Hotel in Orcas Village across from the ferry. Other options can be found at www.orcas-lodging.com.

ORCAS HOTEL

www.orcashotel.com

Across from the Orcas Island ferry landing
Ph: 360-376-4300

The 3 storey Victorian hotel is on the National Register of Historic Places and well located within walking distance of the ferry. Rooms are \$89 and up depending on the size and time of the year. The hotel has a restaurant.

EASTSOUND LANDMARK INN

www.landmarkinn.net

67 Main Street, Eastsound
Ph: 360-376-2423

Condos overlook Eastsound Bay. Rates are \$129 and up.



INN AT SHIP BAY

www.innatshipbay.com
8 Orcas Hill Road near Eastsound
Ph: 360-376-4300

The Inn features nicely appointed rooms on grounds with heirloom fruit trees. There is an onsite restaurant and it is only a short distance into Eastsound. Rates start from \$89 and up.

TURTLEBACK FARM INN

www.turtlebackinn.com
Crow Valley Road (though many miles from Eastsound) Ph: 360-376-4914

The farmhouse is set on 80 acres of countryside and is consistently given excellent reviews in magazines like 'Travel and Leisure'. Rooms are \$100 and up.

Restaurants on Orcas Island

For a small island there is a remarkable amount of choice when it comes to eating out. The bulk of the restaurants are in Eastsound but Deer Harbor, Olga, West Sound and Orcas Village all sport at least one restaurant. There are lots of espresso type cafes in Eastsound and each one has its own feel. A sampling of some of the possibilities is listed below.

CHRISTINA'S

www.christinas.net
310 Main Street, Eastsound
Ph: 360-376-4904

A nationally acclaimed restaurant in business for 28 years serving regional produce and seafood. Dinner only.

ERB'S VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

at 188 A Street, Eastsound
Ph: 360-376-7834
Breakfast, lunch and dinner is available daily with 100% organically grown local produce.

INN AT SHIP BAY

326 Olga Road
Ph: 360-376-5886
An old farmhouse overlooking Ship's Bay is the setting for locally grown organic meals.

BILBO'S FESTIVO

310A Street, Eastsound
Ph: 360-376-4728
Mexican food is available indoors and outside on a patio. Reservations are recommended in the summer months. Dinner only.

THE MANSION DINING ROOM

At Rosario Resort and Spa, at the Rosario Resort off of Olga Road
Ph: 360-376-2152

An all day menu is featured in the historic Moran Lounge and seasonally on the Pool Deck and at the Cascade Grill. Very pleasant water views.

CAFE OLGA

11 Pt. Lawrence Road, Olga
Ph: 360-376-5098
Breakfast, lunch and dinner are available in the gallery space. Friendly spot.

KINGFISH INN

4362 Crow Valley Road, West Sound
Ph: 360-376-4440
Waterfront dining in a casual setting with burgers and seafood available.

THE ORCAS HOTEL

18 Orcas Hill Road, Orcas Village
Ph: 360-376-4300
A historic building is the setting for a steak and seafood style bistro meal. There are nice water views and you can watch the activity around the ferries.

Orcas Island Activities

FARMER'S MARKET

Every Saturday from early May until late September 25 artisans and 15 farmers and food producers show up to sell their wares at the Village Green. The market lasts from 10am until 3pm.

Sea Kayaking out of Orcas Island

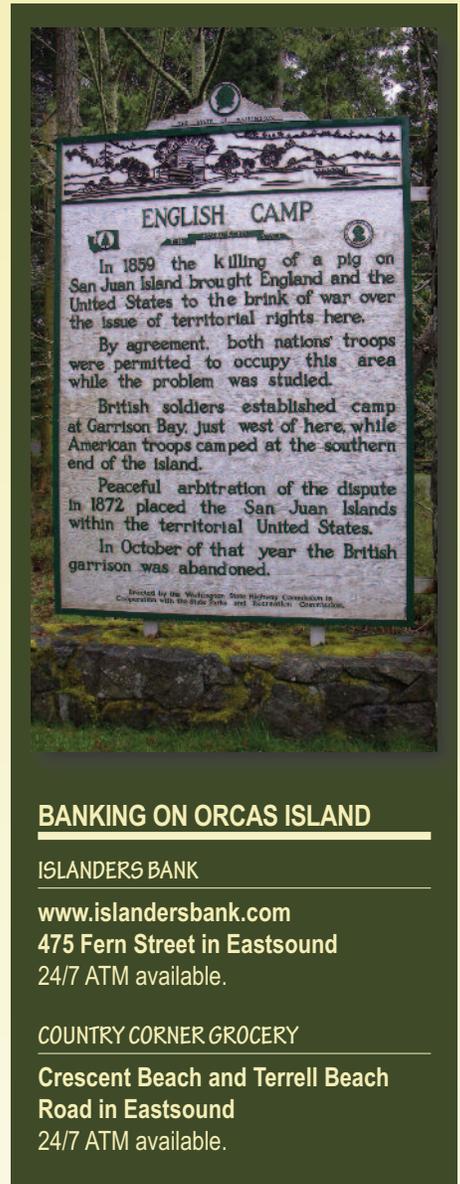
There are quite a number of companies offering tours. Almost all will offer half day trips and several offer a full day trip to Sucia Island, a small state park north of Orcas Island. Sucia Island is reputed to have sandy beaches, protected bays and interesting sandstone formations making it an appealing side trip. Below is a list of companies.

SHEARWATER ADVENTURES

www.shearwaterkayaks.com
Ph: 360-376-4699
Offering half day, sunset and Sucia Island trips.

ORCAS OUTDOORS KAYAK ADVENTURE TOURS

www.orcasoutdoors.com



BANKING ON ORCAS ISLAND

ISLANDERS BANK

www.islandersbank.com
475 Fern Street in Eastsound
24/7 ATM available.

COUNTRY CORNER GROCERY

Crescent Beach and Terrell Beach Road in Eastsound
24/7 ATM available.

Ph: 360-376-4611

They offer hourly, full day and multi day tours.

LIEBERHAVEN RESORT AND MARINA

www.orcaslandkayaks.com
Ph: 360-376-2473
The kayaks can be rented on an hourly basis out of a marina near Obstruction Pass in the extreme southeast corner of the island.

Whale Watching out of Orcas Island

You will likely have to travel further to see whales from Orcas Island but it is still very doable. Consider engaging one of the following companies for your viewing.

OUTER ISLAND EXPEDITIONS

www.outerislandx.com

Ph: 360-376-3711

They offer trips from May through mid September with groups of no more than six people. An evening dinner trip with crab catching in season is also an option.

DEER HARBOR CHARTERS

www.deerharborcharters.com

Ph: 360-376-5989

They offer up to two trips a day lasting for up to four hours.

ORCAS ISLAND ECLIPSE CHARTERS

www.orcasislandwhales.com

Ph: 360-376-6566

They offer daily tours. Noteworthy is the fact the owners played a role in the movie 'Free Willy II'.

Galleries on Orcas Island

CROW VALLEY POTTERY

www.crowvalley.com

On the main street in Eastsound and on Orcas Road on the way into Eastsound

Ph: 360-376-4260

A great place to visit with an ever changing display of high calibre work by local artists.

ORCAS ISLAND ARTWORKS

www.orcasartworks.com

11 Pt. Lawrence Road, Olga

Ph: 360-376-4408

Over 60 local crafts people are represented. The gallery is open from mid February until December and also features a cafe for lunch and dinner.

Tour Companies

Some of you might still be more interested in having a touring company handle all the reservations and detailed planning. They would also be able to move your luggage making your bike that much lighter. There is a wide range of companies listed below with their websites and approximate 2009 prices. All prices are in US dollars but you can figure out the currency of interest by using the currency converter site at www.xe.com. All rates are based on double occupancy.



CELL PHONES AND INTERNET ON ORCAS ISLAND

Your cell phone will have a very limited range on this island. It should work in Eastsound and probably at the ferry terminal but otherwise there will be very spotty service.

ORCAS ISLAND LIBRARY

500 Rose Street in Eastsound

The library offers free internet and opens at 10am Monday to Saturday. They stay open till 7pm Monday to Thursday and 5pm on Friday and Saturday. Closed on Sunday.

ERB'S VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

188 A Street, Eastsound.

Free WiFi is available all day.

LIQUOR STORES ON ORCAS ISLAND

Island Market in Eastsound sells beer and wine. There is also a liquor store adjacent to the Village Shop at 274 'A' Street in Eastsound.

BICYCLE ADVENTURES

www.bicycleadventures.com

Ph: 360-786-0989

Four day guided trips are \$US1988 per person while six day guided trips are \$US2574. There is an option of an 8 day trip for \$US3194 which includes Victoria, British Columbia.

ESCAPE ADVENTURES

www.escapeadventures.com

Ph: 800-596-2953

They have four and six day trips with some camping options. Contact them for pricing.

BACKROADS

www.backroads.com

Ph: 510-527-1555

They handle 2 night/3day and 5 night/6 day trips for \$US1598 and \$US2698 while staying at premiere inns.

TREK TRAVEL

www.trektravel.com

Ph: 866-464-8735

They lead 6 day/5 night trips for \$US2895 per person and stay in upscale resorts and inns.

TERRA TREK

www.goterratrek.com

Ph: 360-378-4223

They run 1 to 5 night trips and you can choose between camping and inns. Prices range from \$US499 for 1 night/2 day camping trips up to \$US2380 for 5 night/6 day inn trips.