



Nature Based!

*Snohomish County, Washington
Minutes North of Seattle*

Best in late spring, summer, and early fall months. Some components of the following tour are only available in the summer season. Call the Snohomish County Tourism Bureau for details. 888-338-0976.

Day 1

Start your day off with a tour of the **Snohomish River Estuary**, popularly known as the “**Everett Everglades.**” Over 350 species of migratory birds pass through the largest wetland near an urban center on the west coast. Eagles, falcon, heron, and seabirds make their home in the 1400 acre estuary wetlands. Your experience begins at the [Northwest Stream Center](#). This environmental education and interpretive facility located at [McCullum Park](#) in Everett is a restored wetland. This wetland and salmon stream was heavily impacted by urban development. The **Adopt-A-Stream Foundation** located the Northwest Stream Center on these grounds as a project to restore the wetland once buried by a parking lot! New spawning beds and fish habitat structures, and diverse habitats including wetland, mixed forest and salmon spawning stream are located within the 20-acre site.

After your educational experience, (*15 minutes north of the Northwest Stream Center*) explore the wetlands by kayak. Kayaking is a great way to view wildlife, and the [Ebey Island estuary wetlands reserve](#) has sloughs and rivers to get you close.

Scuba diving off the beach in Edmonds is an exhilarating experience. The [Edmonds Underwater Park](#), located just north of the ferry terminal, attracts scuba diver from across the nation. Starfish, anemone in all shapes and colors, crab and fish are just a few of the underwater sights to enjoy. For a less active approach to wildlife viewing, the [Edmonds Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary trail](#) interpretive signs border the marshland and bird watchers are rewarded during spring and fall migration. **Deer Creek Fish Hatchery** is another suggested stop in this waterfront community. The hatchery releases over 100,000 salmon annually.

End your day’s itinerary at the [Tulalip Fish Hatchery](#) on the **Tulalip Indian Reservation** before trying your luck at the [Tulalip Resort Casino](#).

Day 2

Your second day brings you close to nature again. [River rafting](#) in the Northwest is a spectacular experience and wildlife viewing by water is the best way to explore hidden places. The **Skykomish River** surrounds you with thundering waterfalls, awesome granite gorges, amazing mountain landscapes and old-growth forests brimming with foliage and wildlife. Fall, winter, spring and summer trips...white water to scenic float trips. (*Rafting location varies with the desired experience. White water will be found further east in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains (up to 1 hour away) or just 30 minutes east for a calmer river float trip.*)

Be sure to include a stop and wander through [The Outback](#) in Arlington...a wildlife animal park. Hand feed kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos; learn about llamas, alpacas, pygmy goats and ostrich. Or if things that crawl are more to your liking, the [Serpentarium](#) in Monroe is a ‘must see’. One of the most comprehensive collections of reptiles on the west coast. From Black Mambas to large anacondas, you’ll

see reptiles seldom found in other zoos. You can hold 10 different snakes; animals are highly visible and attractively displayed.

After your day in the elements, retreat to any one of the beautiful waterfront hotels in Edmonds, Everett or Mukilteo where you can watch the sun set over the Olympic Mountains while sipping a wonderful Washington wine or warming cup of world-renown coffee.

Day 3

View nature at the **Edmonds Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary** trails in Edmonds. Wander the boardwalk to hear and see any of more than 200 migratory birds as well as those making Puget Sound their year-round home. Interpretive signs border the marshland and bird watchers are rewarded during spring and fall migration. Other stops could include the **Edmonds Underwater Park**, north of the ferry dock, is 27 acres attracting scuba divers from across the nation seeking certification. Sunken structures offer passageways and enclosures housing schools of fish and plant life.

Lunch at the Edmonds waterfront or bistro in town.

Head north to Everett and board the ferry to [Jetty Island](#), a 2-mile long, man-made island with sandy beaches and shallow warm water. The free Jetty ferry departs from the 10th Street Boat Launch and [Everett Marine Park](#), located at 10th and West Marine View Drive in Everett. Sometimes called “wildlife island” you’ll spot more birds or even deer. With two miles of sandy beaches and the warmest water in Puget Sound, enjoy beach combing and marine programs offered by the Everett Parks Department.

End your day with a wine tasting and delectable dinner at [Lombardi's Neighborhood Italian](#) or [Anthony's](#) at the Everett marina.

*In any of the communities, expand your nature tour to include **river rafting, farmers markets, gardens and nurseries, agricultural tours of organic farms, forest hikes, and zoos and wildlife farms or ranches.** For more ideas, contact Amy Spain at the Snohomish County Tourism Bureau at (888)338-0976, extension 11, email me at amy@snohomish.org.*