

## RATINGS

The ratings on the following pages are intended to give you further information about the locations discussed in the book and to help you make comparisons and choices when planning your photographic journeys in Washington. Obviously, the ratings alone don't tell the whole story about a location and should be used only in conjunction with the chapter text.

Using a scale of 1 to 5, the ratings are assigned according to four different criteria: overall interest of a location (based mostly on its value as a scenic attraction), the location's photographic potential (can you make great images there?), and the level of difficulty in getting to the location, either on foot or by vehicle. In many cases, photographic potential and scenic value vary greatly depending on season, and these ratings are based on the peak time of the year for the specific location. Keep in mind that the trail ratings are based on normal, dry weather conditions; times and difficulty may be very different before trails are cleared in spring or early summer, or when storms hit in early autumn.

Note especially that Road Difficulty ratings are for normal, dry conditions. Driving conditions can change dramatically during or after a rain or a snowstorm. Some forest and desert roads have deep mud holes in winter and spring. When a road was last maintained also has a huge impact on its condition: a washboard gravel forest or desert road can be torture on driver and vehicle and can really slow you down. Always check current road conditions with local authorities before you leave. In my experience, the high school girl at the local fast food stop hasn't been down the road you need to know about, but the folks at the regional National Park, Forest Service and BLM ranger stations have good, current information and are happy to share it with you.

Rating	Scenic Value
-	Of no particular interest
♥	Mildly interesting, visit if nearby and/or time permitting
♥♥	Scenic location, worthy of a visit
♥♥♥	Very interesting, scenic or original location
♥♥♥♥	Remarkably scenic or rewarding location, a highlight
♥♥♥♥♥	World-class location, absolutely tops

Rating	Photographic Interest
-	Of no particular photographic interest
♦	Worthy of a quick photo
♦♦	Good photo opportunity
♦♦♦	Good photographic potential and scenic subjects
♦♦♦♦	Outstanding photographic potential, highly original or scenic subjects
♦♦♦♦♦	World-class photographic location, "photographer's dream"

Rating	Road Difficulty
-	Paved road, accessible to all normal-size vehicles
▲	Dirt road accessible without difficulty by passenger car (under normal conditions)
▲▲	Minor obstacles, accessible by passenger car with caution (under good conditions)
▲▲▲	High-clearance required, but no major difficulty
▲▲▲▲	High-clearance 4WD required, some obstacles, no real danger
▲▲▲▲▲	High-clearance 4WD required, some risk to vehicle & passengers, experienced drivers only

Rating	Trail Difficulty
-	No or very little walking (close to parking area)
●	Easy short walk (<= 1h r/t), for everybody
●●	Moderate hike (1 to 3h r/t) with no major difficulty or short hike with some minor difficulties
●●●	Moderate to strenuous (3 to 6h r/t) and/or difficulties (elevation gain, difficult terrain, some risks)
●●●●	Strenuous (> 6h r/t) and/or globally difficult (elevation gain, difficult off-trail terrain, obstacles, risks)
●●●●●	Backpacking required or for extremely fit dayhikers

Location	Page	Scenic Value	Photogr. Interest	Road Difficulty	Trail Difficulty
<b>2 Olympic Peninsula</b>					
Lake Quinault	21	♥♥♥	◆◆	—	♣
Ruby Beach	23	♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	—	♣
Hoh Rainforest	26	♥♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	—	♣
Second Beach & Rialto Beach	27	♥♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	—	♣
Cape Alava	28	♥♥	◆◆◆	—	♣♣♣♣
Shi Shi Beach & Point of Arches	30	♥♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆◆	—	♣♣♣
Sol Duc Falls	32	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	—	♣♣♣
High Divide Trail	34	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	—	♣♣♣♣♣♣
Lake Crescent & Marymere Falls	35	♥♥	◆	—	♣
Elwha River & Madison Falls	36	♥	◆	—	—
Hurricane Ridge	36	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	—	♣
Deer Park	38	♥♥	◆	♣♣	♣
Tongue Point and Dungeness Wildlife Refuge	39	♥♥	◆	—	♣♣♣♣
Port Townsend	40	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	—	♣
<b>3 Southwest Washington</b>					
Cape Disappointment State Park	44	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	—	♣♣♣
Lower Columbia River	45	♥	◆	—	—
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge	46	♥♥	◆◆	♣	♣
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site	47	♥♥	◆	—	—
I-5 Corridor – Southern Lowlands	48	♥	◆	—	♣
Battle Ground Lake State Park	49	♥♥	◆	—	—
Cedar Creek Grist Mill	49	♥♥	◆◆◆	—	—
East Fork Lewis River Waterfalls	51	♥♥	◆◆◆	—	♣
Silver Star Mountain	52	♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	♣♣	♣♣♣♣
Lewis and Clark State Park	54	♥	◆	—	♣
Rainbow Falls State Park	55	♥	—	—	—
Mima Mounds	55	♥	◆	—	♣
<b>4 Puget Sound</b>					
Downtown Seattle	59	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	—	—
Kerry Park Cityscape View	61	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆	—	—
West Seattle – Alki	62	♥♥	◆◆	—	—
Rizal Bridge City View	63	♥	◆◆	—	—
Discovery Park & West Point Lighthouse	64	♥♥	◆◆	—	♣♣♣
Woodland Park Zoo	65	♥♥	◆◆	—	♣
Washington Park Arboretum & Japanese Garden	66	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆	—	♣
Kubota Japanese Garden	68	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	—	♣
Bellevue Botanical Garden	69	♥♥	◆	—	♣
Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park	70	♥	◆	—	♣♣♣
Weyerhaeuser Bonsai & Rhododendron Gardens	71	♥♥	◆◆	—	♣
Saltwater and Dash Point State Parks	72	♥	—	—	♣
Tacoma	73	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	—	—
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge	75	♥♥	◆	—	♣♣♣
Olympia – State Capitol	76	♥♥	◆◆	—	—
Tumwater Falls	77	♥	—	—	♣
Gig Harbor	78	♥♥♥	◆◆	—	—
Vashon Island	79	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	—	♣
Bainbridge Island	80	♥♥	◆◆◆	—	♣
Poulsbo	82	♥♥	◆◆	—	—
Port Gamble	83	♥	◆	—	—
Point No Point Lighthouse	84	♥♥	◆◆	—	—
<b>5 San Juan Islands</b>					
Friday Harbor	88	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	—	—
Roche Harbor – Westcott Bay	89	♥♥	◆◆◆	—	—
English Camp	90	♥♥♥	◆◆	—	♣
San Juan County Park	91	♥	—	—	—
Lime Kiln Point State Park	92	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	—	♣
Pelindaba Lavender Farm	93	♥	◆	—	—
American Camp	94	♥♥	◆	—	♣

Location	Page	Scenic Value	Photogr. Interest	Road Difficulty	Trail Difficulty
Cattle Point	95	♥♥♥	♦♦	–	♣
Eastsound	97	♥♥♥	♦	–	–
Moran State Park	97	♥♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	–	♣♣
Eastern Orcas	99	♥♥♥♥	♦	–	–
Western Orcas	101	♥♥♥	♦	–	–
Turtleback Mountain Preserve	102	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣♣♣
Shaw Island	103	♥♥♥	♦	–	–
Odlin County Park	105	♥	–	–	–
Spencer Spit State Park	105	♥♥	♦	–	♣
Fisherman Bay Preserve	106	♥♥	♦♦	♠	♣
Shark Reef Sanctuary	106	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣
Mackaye Harbor & Agate Beach	107	♥♥	♦	–	–
Iceberg Point	108	♥♥♥	♦♦	–	♣♣
Watmough Bay Preserve & Point Colville	109	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	♠	♣♣
<b>6 Northwest Washington</b>					
Mukilteo Lighthouse	113	♥♥	♦♦	–	–
Camano Island State Park	114	♥♥	♦	–	♣
Whidbey Island	115	♥♥♥	♦♦	–	♣
Deception Pass State Park	116	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	–	♣
Fidalgo Island	118	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣
Skagit Wildlife Area	120	♥	♦♦♦♦	–	–
Skagit Valley Tulip Farms	122	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	–	♣
Chuckanut Drive & Larrabee State Park	124	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣
Bellingham	125	♥♥	♦♦	–	♣
<b>7 Northern Cascades</b>					
Mount Shuksan & Artist Point	129	♥♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦♦	–	♣♣
Yellow Aster Butte	131	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	♠	♣♣♣
Nooksack Falls	133	♥♥	♦	–	♣
Skyline Divide Trail	134	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	♠	♣♣♣
North Cascades Highway	135	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	–
Baker Lake	136	♥♥	♦♦	♠	–
Park Butte Trail	137	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	♠♠	♣♣♣
Sauk Mountain	138	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	♠♠	♣♣♣
Mountain Loop Highway & Sauk River Valley	139	♥♥	♦♦	♠♠	♣
Skagit River Bald Eagles	140	♥♥♥	♦♦	–	–
Cascade Pass	142	♥♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦♦	♠♠	♣♣♣♣
Ross Lake National Recreation Area	144	♥♥♥♥	♦	–	–
Maple Pass – Heather Pass Loop Trail	146	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣♣♣
Blue Lake	148	♥♥	♦♦	–	♣
Washington Pass	148	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣
Methow Valley	150	♥♥♥	♦♦	–	–
Patterson Mountain – Thompson Ridge	152	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	♠	♣
Lake Chelan - Stehekin	153	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣
<b>8 Central Cascades</b>					
Stevens Pass - U.S. Highway 2	158	♥♥♥♥	♦♦	–	–
Wallace Falls	159	♥♥	♦♦	–	♣♣
Lake Serene - Bridal Veil Falls	160	♥♥♥	♦♦	♠	♣♣♣
Deception Falls	162	♥	♦	–	♣
Lake Wenatchee & Hidden Lake	163	♥♥	♦♦	♠	♣
Tumwater Canyon	164	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣
Leavenworth	165	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣
Alpine Lakes Wilderness – The Enchantments	167	♥♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦♦	♠♠	♣♣♣♣
Blewett Pass	171	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣
Alpine Lakes Wilderness – South	172	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	♠	♣♣♣♣
Snoqualmie Pass	174	♥♥♥	♦♦	–	♣♣♣
Franklin Falls	175	♥♥	♦♦	–	♣♣
Twin Falls – Olallie State Park	176	♥♥	♦♦♦	–	♣♣
Snoqualmie Falls	177	♥♥♥♥	♦	–	♣

Location	Page	Scenic Value	Photogr. Interest	Road Difficulty	Trail Difficulty
<b>9 Mount Rainier</b>					
Nisqually Entrance – Longmire	186	♥♥♥	◆◆	–	♣
Comet Falls & Van Tump Park	188	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣♣♣
Christine Falls & Roadside Viewpoints	190	♥♥	◆◆	–	–
Narada Falls	191	♥♥	◆◆	–	♣
Paradise	192	♥♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆◆	–	♣♣
Inspiration Point & Pinnacle Peak	198	♥♥	◆◆◆	–	–
Reflection Lakes	199	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	–	–
Stevens Canyon	200	♥♥	◆	–	–
Grove of the Patriarchs & Ohanapecosh	201	♥♥♥	◆◆	–	♣
Tipsoo Lake & Naches Peak Loop Trail	203	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣♣
Sunrise	204	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	–	♣♣
Carbon River	207	♥♥	◆◆	▲	♣
Spray Park & Mowich Lake	208	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆◆	▲	♣♣♣
Wonderland Trail	210	♥♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	–	♣♣♣♣♣
Westside Viewpoints: Gobblers Knob & Glacier View	211	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	▲	♣♣♣♣
<b>10 Mount Saint Helens</b>					
Spirit Lake Highway	215	♥♥♥	◆◆	–	–
Coldwater Ridge	216	♥♥♥	◆◆	–	–
Johnston Ridge	217	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣
Northeast Side of Mount St. Helens	218	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣
Norway Pass	220	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣♣♣
Pumice Plain & Loowit Falls	222	♥♥♥	◆◆	–	♣♣
South Side of Mount St. Helens	223	♥♥	◆◆	▲	♣
<b>11 Southern Cascades</b>					
Goat Rocks Wilderness	227	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	▲	♣♣♣♣♣
Packwood Lake	228	♥♥	◆	▲	♣♣
Walupt Lake & Nannie Ridge	228	♥♥♥	◆◆	▲	♣♣♣
Adams Creek Meadows	230	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	▲▲	♣♣♣
Takhlakh Lake	231	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆	▲▲	♣♣
Council Bluff	233	♥♥	◆◆	▲▲	♣♣
Bird Creek Meadows	234	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	▲▲	♣♣
Lewis River Waterfalls	236	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣
Indian Heaven Wilderness	239	♥♥	◆◆	▲	♣
Indian Heaven Loop Trail	240	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	▲	♣♣♣
Trout Lake	241	♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣
Wind River Waterfalls	243	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣
<b>12 Columbia River Gorge</b>					
Cape Horn	247	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣♣♣
Beacon Rock State Park	248	♥♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣♣
Dog Mountain	250	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆	–	♣♣♣
Coyote Wall Trail	251	♥♥	◆◆	–	♣♣
Catherine Creek	252	♥♥♥	◆◆	–	♣
Klickitat Trail	254	♥♥	◆	▲	♣♣
Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge	255	♥♥	◆◆◆	–	♣
Dalles Mountain Road	256	♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆◆	▲	♣
Horsethief Lake Petroglyphs	258	♥♥♥	◆◆	–	♣
Maryhill	259	♥♥♥	◆	–	–
Oregon Waterfalls & Wildflowers	260	♥♥♥♥♥	◆◆◆◆◆	–	♣
<b>13 Southeast Washington</b>					
Yakima Valley	263	♥	◆◆	–	♣
Oak Creek Wildlife Area	264	♥♥	◆◆	–	–
Yakima River Canyon	265	♥♥	◆◆	–	♣♣
Wenas Wildlife Area - Umtanum Ridge	266	♥♥	◆◆	▲▲	♣♣
Gingko Petrified Forest	268	♥	◆	–	♣
Crab Creek Wildlife Area	269	♥♥	◆	▲	♣
Ancient Lakes	270	♥♥	◆	▲	♣♣
Beezley Hills and Moses Coulee	271	♥♥	◆◆	▲	♣
Potholes - Columbia National Wildlife Refuge	273	♥♥♥	◆◆	▲	♣

Location	Page	Scenic Value	Photogr. Interest	Road Difficulty	Trail Difficulty
Hanford Reach National Monument	275	♥♥	♦♦	♠	♣♣
MacNary National Wildlife Refuge	277	♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Wallula Gap	278	♥	♦	♠	♣♣
Palouse Falls State Park	278	♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	♠	♣♣
Walla Walla to Clarkston	280	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Fields Spring State Park – Blue Mountains	280	♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	—	♣♣♣
Hells Canyon	282	♥♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
The Palouse	283	♥♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦♦	♠	—
<b>14 Northeast Washington</b>					
Spokane	291	♥♥♥	♦	—	—
Manito Park Gardens	292	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Riverside State Park	293	♥♥♥	♦	—	♣♣
Mount Spokane	294	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	♣♣
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge	295	♥♥♥	♦♦	♠	—
Twin Lakes & Coffeepot Lake	296	♥♥♥♥	♦♦	♠♠	♣♣
Dry Falls	298	♥♥♥	♦♦	—	—
Steamboat Rock State Park	299	♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	♠	♣♣♣
Okanogan Highlands	301	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	♠	—
Kettle River Range	302	♥♥♥	♦♦♦	—	—
Selkirk Mountains	303	♥♥♥♥♥	♦♦♦♦	♠	♣♣



*Red barn at sunrise, The Palouse (photo by Laurent Martrès)*