

UNFORGETTABLE GRAYS HARBOR WASHINGTON



GRAYS HARBOR TOURISM MEDIA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011 EDITION

NEW "GUIDE TO WALKS AND TRAILS OF GRAYS HARBOR" OPENS PATHS FOR WALKERS OF ALL ABILITIES

Free Publication Features 46 Accessible Trails

ELMA – A new "Guide to Walks and Trails of Grays Harbor County," is an informative and easy-to-read directory with maps that capture the unique landscapes of the area. With a host of suggested picturesque routes located across the county, from Lake Quinault to the Capitol State Forest, there is a path for every adventurer.



The guide is a perfect companion for people searching for a relaxing walk, scenic exercise, family-friendly rambles or those seeking a challenge on steeper terrain. This new guide, for example, offers outings through forested lands, the famed temperate rain forests, coastal estuaries, urban walks and relaxing riverside strolls.

The free, four-color "Guide to Walks and Trails of Grays Harbor County" is available through the Grays Harbor Tourism office in Elma as well as at the Grays Harbor Visitor Information Center in Aberdeen, chambers of commerce offices throughout the county, as well as doctors' offices and medical care facilities.

ANNUAL SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL TAKES OFF AGAIN

HOQUIAM – In spring of each year, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in the Grays Harbor estuary on their northern migration. This year was no exception.

Flying from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. Some birds travel more than 15,000 miles round trip.

Shorebirds feed on the open mudflats in the estuary and offer an impressive show. The sprint concentration of birds offers visitors a great chance to view a dazzling range of shorebird species. Observing the birds fly together in dramatic formations is a rare and wonderful event.

Another local bird and the fastest creature on earth, the Peregrine Falcon, also finds the shorebirds attractive. Falcons are natural their predators and use the migration as an opportunity to feed.

Noted wildlife artist, author and scientific illustrator, Bart Roulon, was the keynote speaker at the kickoff event at Hoquiam High School.



For more information about events in Grays Harbor County, please contact:

Grays Harbor Tourism at
www.visitgraysharbor.com

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Spring Events
in Grays Harbor

MAY

18 - 22 Razor Clam Digging

One more chance to dig for Razor clams during a late-season dig set to begin on morning tides at various Grays Harbor ocean beaches. No digging will be allowed after noon.

For additional information view the www.westportcam.com Web site.

29 Westport Blessing of the Fleet

This longstanding annual event includes a procession to the marina, blessing with a Coast Guard rescue demonstration following in Westport.

SPRING OUTDOOR ADVENTURE & RECREATION EXPO TO FEATURE TV PERSONALITIES AND LIVE ATTRACTIONS

May 21-22 at the Grays Harbor Fairgrounds

ELMA – Get out, get about, get next to nature. That is the message of the inaugural South Olympic Peninsula Outdoor Adventure & Recreation Expo, scheduled for a two-day run May 21-22 at the Grays Harbor Fairgrounds. The Expo will feature popular TV personalities from the Discovery channel series “Deadliest Catch,” BELO Broadcasting’s long-running “Northwest Backroads” plus the outdoor fishing and hunting show of “Hawg Quest.”

“Appearing will be the entire crew of the *Cornelia Marie* from the Deadliest Catch cable series,” Rod Easton, Fair and Events Supervisor said. “In addition,

the longtime host of ‘Northwest Backroads,’ Grant Goodeve, as well as Glenn Hall, host of Hawg Quest, and Jack Glass principal of Hook Up Guide Service will make presentations and meet with the crowd.

**SOUTH OLYMPIC PENINSULA
OUTDOOR RECREATION & ADVENTURE EXPO**

May 21-22, 2011
Saturday 10am to 8pm • Sunday 10am to 6pm
Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds • Elma, WA

At the Outdoor Expo, representatives will showcase the outdoor experiences, destinations, festivals and events in the South Olympic Peninsula region. “We see local businesses that are involved in the outdoor tourism markets, along with festival-event promoters and lodging providers participating in the event. This is a perfect opportunity to let the traveling public, along with outdoor enthusiasts, learn what is offered.” said Brent Hunter, Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator of Grays Harbor Tourism. “I also think that residents of the South Olympic Peninsula area will be surprised to find what to explore and enjoy in their own backyard.”

Hours for the Outdoor Expo are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Adult tickets are \$8, youth 5-15 \$5, and children under 5 are free. Complimentary parking and camping, with hookups, are available on site during the weekend event.

GRAYS HARBOR TOURISM LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

Easier Navigation of County Attractions and Destinations

ELMA – April 5, 2011 — Surfing in Grays Harbor County has taken on a new meaning with the launch of the Grays Harbor Tourism Web site that highlights the area cities, towns, events and sights.

Redesigned from the top down, the site welcomes visitors with an appealing display of lush photography intertwined with useful information. From Aberdeen to East County and ocean beaches to the Quinault Rain Forest, the Web site content suggests ways to encounter wildlife close-up, go angling for fish, and paddle through the Twin Harbors or cycle scenic back roads. Within an hours’ drive from the county seat of Montesano, the site offers a wide range of destinations. Maps unfold with year-round travel routes plus insider information on events and activities.



30 VFW Memorial Ceremony
Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in Westport begins at 11 a.m.

Contact: (360) 268-9543.

JUNE

June 1 - September 30 Westport Charter Association Fishing Derby

Compete for daily cash prizes when you book a charter boat ride in the sport fishing capital of the world.

Sign up at the Westport marina.

4 - 5 Ocean Shores Kite Challenge

Local specialty retailer and sponsor, Cutting Edge Kites, is home to the two-time world champion stunt kite flying team. Come be entertained by the antics of colorful kites handled by skilled kite fliers.

Information: (360) 289-0667.

11 3rd-Annual Fleur de Lis Festival



Five thousand blooming iris announce the festivities at Westport Winery as it celebrates all things French.

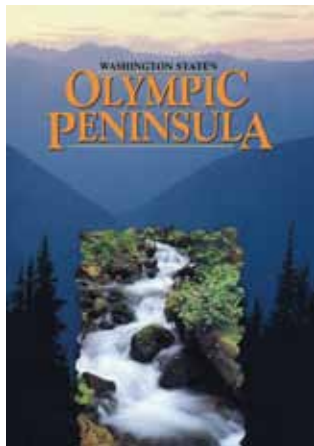
Featured events are a French-style marketplace hosted by the Westport Art Festival, cheese tasting, and competitions on the winery’s petanque court plus Chef Erin Worth’s Fleur de Lis French onion soup. In addition, the winery will offer cheese, chocolate, wine and charcuterie tastings.

Admission is free.

Address: 1 South Arbor Road, Aberdeen, WA 98520, off SR 105.

“We began with the idea that Grays Harbor County is filled with little-known attractions in addition to popular destinations,” said In-and-Out Productions, a Sequim-based Web development company. “Our collection of images is arranged like a visitors’ scrapbook, mingling personal photographs with natural materials and informative calendar listings plus tourism suggestions. It offers a birds-eye view of the county in unforgettable way.”

New Travel Video Shows Olympic Peninsula at its Best



Visitors to the Olympic Peninsula this summer will get a fresh look at the attractions that make the western part of Washington state so spectacular. Pacific Northwest-based video company, Hatzoff Productions has just released the 2011- edition DVD, *Washington State's Olympic Peninsula*.

Hatzoff has produced a popular five-video series of travelogues over the years, so this updated version of the Olympic Peninsula picks up a few current destinations with a contemporary twist. Viewers can escape with a *Twilight* experience in Forks. Dramatic footage of the magnificent Olympic National Park and explorations of Pacific Ocean beaches are edited for beauty and fun. In addition, there are hikes in the Hoh Rain Forest, kayaking on Lake Quinault and biking along scenic Peninsula trails.

The focus on Grays Harbor destinations includes a visit to Ocean Shores shops and galleries plus the excitement of booking a fishing charter for deep-sea adventure at Westport. The allure of the great outdoors in this 30-minute tour of *Washington State's Olympic Peninsula* is unmistakable.

For retail or individual sales orders, contact Hatzoff Productions: info@videotravelogues.com or call (800) 458-5335. \$19.95 plus tax and shipping.

Picking or Plucking Cranberries in Grayland

If you thought cranberries were only from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, you may have a surprise coming. Tokeland and Grayland in southern Grays Harbor County feature a number of coastal cranberry farms that are easily viewed from SR 105. Berry harvest is in the fall months when the bogs are flooded. An annual Cranberry Festival is celebrated in Grayland, October 8-9th.

“The tart red berries have been growing wild on the Washington coast peat bogs since the end of the last ice age, and there are now miles of cultivated bogs reaching from the Long Beach Peninsula up toward Grayland.

“Until the 1940s, cranberry picking was a really tough job. A picker would have to get down on hands and knees, pluck the berries, and then put them into a big box. Later, one- and two-handed cranberry scoops helped ease the picker’s job, and in the 1950s suction pickers make the harvest a bit smoother. But was a cranberry farmer with a sore back who revolutionized cranberry picking forever.”

—From *Washington Curiosities*, Second Edition, page 91, by Harriet Baskas, published by Insider’s Guide, Copyright 2008.

11 Flag Day Parade & Dance at Ocean Shores

Honor Old Glory with an old fashioned parade with more than 50 entries wind through downtown Ocean Shores.

For information about the parade and dance: (360) 289-0667.

24 - 26 The Five Star Dealerships Sand & Sawdust Festival

Master woodcarvers from around the world come to compete in this 3-day competition. Auctions held daily. On Saturday, visit the beach where artists compete for the best sand sculpture. Families & kids welcome to enter the competition. Free sand-sculpting lessons on Friday.

Information: (360) 289-3797 or contact ACT.

24 - 26 Rusty Scupper’s Pirate Daze

Rival pirate brigades invade the seaport of Westport for a weekend of fun, food and frivolity. Visitors are invited to dress up in pirate finery to dance and enjoy the mystique of local legend Rusty Scupper and his bawdy band of buccaneers.

For additional information and a complete calendar of events, go to www.westportcam.com.



GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY IS A FISHERMAN'S DREAM

Fish the bay, ocean, streams, rivers or lakes ...the outdoor adventure choice is yours in one of the most angler-friendly counties in the state. From the foothills of the Olympic Mountains to the sandy shores of the Pacific Ocean, several large rivers and countless streams are all great places drop your line.



Follow Grays Harbor Tourism's 'Fish the Harbor' driving tour for a sampling of the fishing possibilities. But first, check the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations before you cast that line! Licenses are available at any sporting goods or bait and tackle shop in Grays Harbor. Visit <https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw>.

EASTERN GRAYS HARBOR

'East County,' as it is known locally, has several rivers that provide great spots for anglers who want to catch their limit.

WESTPORT

Offers excellent saltwater fishing in all seasons at the Sport Fishing Capital of the World. Cast your line in the open ocean from a charter boat for deep-sea tuna, halibut, rockfish and salmon from Westport. Surfperch fishing is also an exciting activity on the ocean's edge. Fishing for surfperch is available along the coast but it is especially attractive in Westport and Ocean Shores because of the broad and accessible beaches.

NORTH COUNTY

Drift a lazy river for steelhead, trout or salmon on Grays Harbor's inland waterways. For the casual angler, bank-fish for sturgeon or trout is easy at many locations. For example, Lake Quinault is a scenic destination and is easy to reach off Highway 101 near Amanda Park.

All around the county, fly-fishing abounds in fresh-water rivers and streams for trout or salmon. There are several experienced fishing guides available who can direct you to the fishing locations of a lifetime. There is no end to the possibilities because Grays Harbor is home to more than 100 freshwater lakes.

Ocean Shores is Popular Coastal Destination



If you are making spring vacation plans, Ocean Shores may be an excellent and affordable suggestion. The town's unique setting on six miles of public Pacific Ocean beach forms the western edge of a 6,000-acre peninsula. Ocean Shores is also home to more than 23 miles of interconnecting fresh water lakes

and canals that are excellent for fishing and viewing wildlife and waterfowl.