



Portland North: Iconic Northwest Volcanos

Volcanos, Wildlife Viewing, and a Historic Fur Trading Fort



HIGHLIGHTS

Explore the dynamic volcanic landscapes of Mt. Rainier and Mt. St. Helens and experience first-hand the window they provide on Pacific Ring of Fire.

KEY POINTS OF INTEREST

- Bird-watching along the Columbia River
- Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument
- Mt. Rainier National Park
- Hudson Bay Company's historic Fort Vancouver
- Scenic Byways

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Peer into the crater of Mt. St. Helens and relive the historic May 1980 eruption

Travel north into Washington State, stopping at [Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge](#) for some birding along the Columbia River and to visit the traditional Native American plank house. Then on to the Spirit Lake Memorial Highway (State Route 504) and the journey into [Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument](#). Witness the aftermath of an eruption and the life returning to the landscape from the Johnston Ridge Observatory, just 5 miles from the mouth of the crater. Learn more along the Winds of Change, Birth of a Lake, and Path of the Eruption Interpretive Trails.



Plank House at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, (US Fish and Wildlife Service)



View of Mt. St. Helens from Johnston Ridge Observatory, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument (US Forest Service)

Majestic Mt. Rainier-Washington's Tallest Peak

To the north and east lies [Mt. Rainier National Park](#). Head straight to Paradise for spectacular views of this 14,416 ft. volcano, then enjoy a meal or overnight stay at the historic [Paradise Inn](#). Be sure to explore the awe-inspiring Grove of the Patriarchs before leaving the park.

Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington



Exploring Mt. St. Helens East and South Sides

Travel west along the [White Pass National Scenic Byway](#) to Randle before returning south on to [Mt. St. Helens](#) on Forest Roads 25/99. Marvel at the force of the eruption as you drive through the blown-down forest up to Windy Ridge and peer down at the forever-changed Spirit Lake. Then on to the south side of the volcano for the lava features you've been looking for at Ape Cave, Trail of Two Forests, and Lava Canyon. [Lower Falls Campground](#) along the Lewis River offers the perfect spot to spend the night.



Paradise Lodge at Mt. Rainier National Park
(National Park Service)



View of Spirit Lake and Mt. St. Helens,
(US Forest Service)

Journey Back Through Time at Historic Fort Vancouver

Finish your trip with a taste of life during the fur trading days of the Hudson Bay Company, before the Oregon Territory became part of the United States. At [Fort Vancouver National Historic Site](#) tour the Chief Factor's house, step into the trading post to see what goods your beaver pelts might get you, and climb up the watch towers where the sentries stood guard.



Lower Falls Campground, Gifford Pinchot National Forest
(US Forest Service)



Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
(National Park Service)