



BEST OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST 2010

TRIP ITINERARY (2-12-10)

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SAT-Sept 18 We will depart at 7:45AM (can you believe it's not 4:00AM?) from Niles to catch our 11:55AM United flight at O'Hare. Our non-stop flight is scheduled to land at 2:24PM in Seattle. Our deluxe motor coach will then take us on the hour and 45 minute drive north to the beautiful [San Juan Islands](#) and the charming port city of [Anacortes](#) on beautiful [Fidalgo Island](#). Once on the island we will stop for a neat hike at Heart Lake before checking in at the [Cap Sante motel](#) in the heart of the historic district. This area abounds with great little restaurants and is a very short walk to the harbor.

SUN-Sept 19 After a neat morning 2 mile hike from our motel up to the Cap Sante bluff overlooking the city and its harbor, we will leave for the 30 minute drive to [Deception Pass](#) and an awesome hike along the straits between Fidalgo and [Whidbey Islands](#). Following the hikes ranging from 1 to 5 miles we will continue on to [Coupeville](#) for lunch. This quaint village on the coast is the second oldest village in Washington State. After lunch we will complete our triple header with a stunning 3.5 mile coastal hike at [Ebey Point](#). Then it is back to Anacortes for our evening meal at another one of the great restaurants.

MON-Sept 20 Eager beavers can take an early morning hike from our motel on the [Tommy Thompson Trail](#) which goes out into the bay and features unique warning signs to beware of cracked sea shells. After breakfast we will head to the ferry terminal and take a 90 minute ride to Orcas Island. Our hike on this quiet, scenic island will be at [Moran State Park](#) through it's old growth forest. Hikes will range from 2 to 8 miles with more ambitious hikers going all the way to the top of [Mt. Constitution](#) at 2,407 feet. Others may elect to stop at Mountain Lake at about the half way point. Everyone will pass by [Cascade Falls](#). Following our gorgeous hikes we will go to the quaint village of [Eastsound](#) for a late lunch before returning to Anacortes.



TUE-Sept 21 This is a free day to explore Anacortes. Suggested activities include a whale watching cruise where you are likely to see sea lions and eagles as well, kayaking, biking or perhaps visiting nearby [La Conner](#). Hikers can enjoy the Staircase Hike along the bay to beautiful [Washington Park](#). Later I am treating everyone to dinner at the Anacortes Yacht Club with Jack and Gerri Gunn serving as host bartenders.



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WED-Sept 22 Today we will take the 60 minute drive to [Bellingham](#) and the [Lakeway Conference and Convention Center Hotel](#). Our hike will be at the beautiful [Chuckanut Mountain](#). Hikes will range from 1 to 11 miles, including an option to hike the very scenic [Fairhaven Trail](#) back to [Fairhaven](#), a lovely Victorian community adjacent to Bellingham. This city is the start of the Inner Passage to Alaska and has lots of neat shops and restaurants.

THU-Sept 23 We will get an early start for a beautiful 62 mile drive to the beautiful [North Cascades](#) area for some really cool high meadow trail hikes near Mt Baker. Hikes will range from 2 to 9 miles and will include the spectacular [Artist Ridge Trail](#), and the challenging Excelsior Pass – High Divide loop trail. I am guessing that we will stop at the [North Fork Brewery](#) in Deming on our return to Bellingham

FRI-Sept 24 Today we take the hour and a half drive back to Seattle. If the weather is clear we will take a little jog to [Magnolia](#) and hike the high ridge overlooking the Puget Sound and the Seattle city scape. Then downtown to the [Red Lion hotel](#), which is in the heart of this vibrant city that I will call the San Francisco of the Pacific Northwest. After checking in I will lead a stroll down to the [Pike Place Market](#) area on the waterfront. This is truly a unique and fun place to browse, shop and eat. Watch out for the [flying fish!](#)

SAT-Sept 25 I will lead the *Seattle Seven Mile* city hike that will feature many Seattle landmarks and neighborhoods. Included in the hike will be [Pioneer Square](#), the Miller Building, Quest Stadium, Safeco Field, an optional [underground tour](#), the Broadway district, the fabulous [REI flagship](#) store, the Seattle Center and the [waterfront](#). The Cheesecake Factory, just steps from our hotel, would be a great way to celebrate your last evening in the Great Northwest.

SUN-Sept 26 Reluctantly, we leave for our 11:00AM United flight home. We are due to land in Chicago at 4:44PM and should be back in Niles by 8:30PM.

