



BEST OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST 2010

Tentative TRIP ITINERARY

SAT-Sept 18 We will depart at about 8:00AM (can you believe it?) 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. We will be shuttled to our downtown hotel and enjoy a late afternoon orientation hike, including [Pike Place](#) and the [original Starbucks](#), and a ton of good places to eat.

SUN-Sept 19 We will do a morning urban hike in this great city that includes the [Pier District](#), [Pioneer Square](#), the [Space Needle](#) and of course a trip to the fabulous [REI flagship](#) store. The remainder of the day can be spent shopping and dining in this delightful city on the Puget Sound.

MON-Sept 20 We will depart Seattle in our deluxe motor coach and take a two hour drive north to [Bellingham](#), the gateway to the [North Cascades](#). An afternoon hike is scheduled for the [Fairhaven Park](#) and [Chuckanut Mountain](#) trails, including a beautiful hike up to [Fragrance Lake](#). The rest of the day and evening can be spent exploring the Victorian port city of [Fairhaven](#). This is the start of the Inner Passage to Alaska.

TUE-Sept 21 We will get an early start for a beautiful 62 mile drive into the [North Cascades](#) for some beautiful high meadow trail hikes near Mt Baker. Hike choices include the Artist Ridge Trail, the Fire and Ice Trail, the challenging hike to Lake Ann and perhaps even the Excelsior Pass – High Divide loop trail. Then back to Fairhaven with a possible stop en route at the North Fork Brewery in Deming.

WED-Sept 22 Today we take the 1½ hour drive southwest to the San Juan Islands area and the charming port city [Anacortes](#) on beautiful [Fidalgo Island](#). Once on the island we will take an awesome hike at Deception Pass before settling in at our home base for the remainder of the trip. Anacortes is a resort city that offers many great restaurants and fun things to do. Heck, I wasn't even out of Anacortes Bay on a whale watching cruise when I saw my first Orca whale breach the water!

THU-Sept 23 Today we will board a ferry to Orcas Island for some really cool hikes, including one to a high mountain lake on [Mt. Constitution](#). We will lunch in the village of [Eastsound](#) at one of the many cool restaurants before returning to Anacortes.

FRI-Sept 24 We will go south about 45 minutes to [Whidbey Island](#) and do a really cool coastal hike at Eby Point. Following the hike we will rehydrate in the quaint port village of [Coupeville](#), the second oldest town in Washington.

SAT-Sept 25 On our final full day in Washington we will do a potpourri of neat little hikes around Anacortes, including Cap Sante, [Cranberry Lake](#) and Washington Park and the [Strait of Juan de Fuca](#). Then we will party and celebrate a great trip.

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