



Washington: San Juan Island Family Adventure



Trip Summary

Picture the San Juan Islands as nature's theme park as your family hikes, bikes, boats, and kayaks, on San Juan and Orcas, two of the larger islands of this spectacular 100-million-year-old archipelago. Explore historic Lime Kiln State Park by foot and bike, making sure to keep an eye out on the coastline for the telltale "blow" of a whale. Stop in at Pelindaba Lavender farm to snap some Instagram-worthy photos of the watercolor landscape. Hike up to the highest point in the San Juan Islands to take in 360-degree views of the surrounding Pacific Ocean. Dip your paddle in Roche Harbor as you kayak around this magnificent area on the lookout for whales, porpoises, and sea lions. Come explore the San Juans with the experts in adventure travel!

The toughest part is going home.SM



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Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Seattle Arrival | San Juan Island | American Camp

Seattle Arrival: Welcome to Washington! Your guides will pick you up in the morning from your pre-trip hotel.

Transfer Time: 2 Hours

Ferry to Friday Harbor: Begin your journey to San Juan Island in Anacortes, a city on Fidalgo Island. On board, notice the hustle and bustle of city life begin to fade as we pass the picturesque islands of Lopez and Shaw. You'll be mesmerized by the rich blue tones of the water meeting the rocks lining the shore and lively greenery growing on the islands you pass by.

San Juan Island: San Juan is the second-largest island and is farther west of the Washington mainland than the other major surrounding islands. San Juan is home to over 6,000 people and is known for its artsy impressions, sea life, and outdoor adventures opportunities. Two harbors serve this island: Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor.

Friday Harbor to American Camp Bike Ride: Saddle up for a bike ride to American Camp which was occupied by the U.S. Army from July 1859 through November 1874 because of a water boundary disagreement with Great Britain. Prairie and forest cover this area and are dotted with white, historical coastal buildings. Pedal six miles to the visitor center and another two miles to South Beach or Cattle Point and back to Friday Harbor for a total of 10 or 11 hilly miles.

Accommodation: *Discovery Inn (L,D)*

Day 2: Roche Harbor | English Camp

Roche Harbor Sea Kayak: The San Juan Islands are considered one of the top sea kayaking destinations in the world. Kayaking this area showcases rugged coastline, expansive ocean views, snow covered mountains, and plenty of marine wildlife. This three-hour kayak tour is perfect for boaters of all experience levels. Paddle quiet bays and shoreline, keeping your eyes peeled for sea lions, bald eagles, otters, porpoise and – if you're lucky – orca whales.

English Camp to Friday Harbor Bike Ride: After some exploration around English Camp, home to the Royal Marine Navy in the 1860's, we hop on our bikes and ride a hilly 10 miles from English Camp to Friday Harbor. As we pedal up and down rolling terrain, we'll pass through bucolic farmsteads and extensive vineyards - a treat for the eyes on this challenging ride.

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Night On Your Own: Enjoy a night on your own this evening for dinner. Your guides will give you restaurant options to choose from in the area and will provide ideas on things to do on your own time. Alternatively, feel free to just relax tonight after a wonderful activity-filled day!

Accommodation: *Discovery Inn (B,L)*



Day 3: Lime Kiln Point State Park | Pelindaba Lavender Farm

Lime Kiln Point State Park: This park is famous for its perfect whale-spotting points, where humpback and minke whales swim past every May to September. Sea cliffs make great spotting areas around the park. Forty-one acres of land are open for day use to visitors who wish to explore the seaside grounds that also feature a lighthouse that is over 100 years old. You'll have the chance to explore the park on foot.

Lime Kiln Point to Pelindaba Lavender Farm Bike Ride: This bike venture leads you to a purple-clad field full of lavender lying in the south-central area of the island. Start your ride from Lime Kiln Point State Park and pedal a hilly 3.5-mile stretch to the Pelindaba Lavender Farm where you'll get to stop and experience the lavender with all five senses. Those who love lavender can purchase a memento or two to bring home! After this visit, bike back to Friday Harbor House, a little over 6 miles.

Accommodation: *Discovery Inn (B,L,D)*

Day 4: Orcas Island | Turtleback Mountain Preserve

Ferry to Orcas Island: Float from Friday Harbor to Orcas Island on a ferry for another chapter in this seaside adventure. This water route will take you past Yellow and Low Islands and between Crane Island and Shaw Island. Relax as you take in the sea views.

Orcas Island: Surrounded by small, scenic state park-designated islands, Orcas Island is a playground for adventurers. This horseshoe-shaped paradise was named by a Spanish explorer and it's simply a coincidence that the area is a habitat for orca whales. Orcas Island is the largest of the San Juan islands at around 57 square miles of land.

Turtleback Mountain Preserve Hike: Rising dramatically from the west side of Orcas Island, Turtleback Mountain offers trekkers spectacular scenic vistas of the surrounding natural landscape. On today's three-mile hike, we trek uphill the first half mile to find ourselves looking out over expansive sea views before beginning our downhill journey back to the base.

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Orcas Island Whale Watching: Board a boat and get ready to go whale watching, a highlight of this Washington vacation! This all-afternoon tour will take you to the best spots to look for all the different kinds of whales of this area and learn how they hunt, interact, and migrate. Cruise along from Deer Harbor and keep your eyes peeled.

Accommodation: *Rosario Resort (B,L,D)*



Day 5: Moran State Park | Mount Constitution

Moran State Park: Explore Moran State Park, named for Robert Moran, the Seattle Mayor and ship builder who provided the land for this locale. Enter the park under the arch and be surrounded by rich green forests. This 5,424-acre park has 38 hiking trails and five freshwater lakes, an adventurer's Pacific Northwest paradise.

Mount Constitution Hike: Begin at Mountain Lake and head toward Twin Lakes for a strenuous but spectacular hike up Mount Constitution, the highest in the San Juan Islands at 2,398 feet elevation. You'll trek 1.5 miles on flatter terrain before reaching a challenging last mile up steep switchbacks to the top. From the peak on a clear day, we can observe Mount Baker, the North Cascades, and the other islands of the San Juan Archipelago.

Accommodation: *Rosario Resort (B,L,D)*

Day 6: Cascade Lake | Anacortes | Seattle Departure

Cascade Lake Hike: Circle Cascade Lake on a 2.7-mile round trip loop trail that offers intimate views of the lake and its pine-studded shores. Along the western banks you'll have various viewpoints on the banks of the lake. You may also catch a glimpse of a deer or two on your venture.

Ferry to Anacortes: Make your way back to Anacortes by ferry. Ride past Shaw, Lopez, and Blakely Islands, viewing the rolling forested hills on each island and perhaps getting another look at marine wildlife popping above the waves.

Transfer Time: 2 Hours

Seattle Departure: Your guides will shuttle you back to Seattle to get ready for your departure home.

Accommodation: (B,L)

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*



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Distinctive Accommodation

Discovery Inn - 3 night(s)

Located minutes from the Friday Harbor ferry landing on beautiful San Juan Island, the Discovery Inn provides affordable comfort in a park-like setting. The handsomely appointed rooms are designed for relaxing and are decorated in restful colors. Each recently renovated room features air-conditioning, free Wi-Fi, a flat screen TV, Keurig coffee maker, and private bath. The lovely property features yard games, a large outdoor Jacuzzi, deck with flowers, and sitting area. Within a mile of the Discovery Inn is downtown Friday Harbor where you'll find award-winning dining, art galleries, and fun shops with souvenirs for browsing.



Rosario Resort - 2 night(s)

Over one hundred years ago Seattle Shipbuilder Robert Moran built Rosario with Arts and Crafts ideals in mind - time spent with family, a respect for nature and a return to hand craftsmanship lost in the industrial revolution. One hundred years later, Rosario Resort & Spa on Orcas Island offers comfortable and relaxing guest accommodations with beautiful views of Washington State's San Juan Islands. Rosario Resort's guest rooms are surrounded by the natural beauty of the San Juan Islands with views of magnificent East Sound and Cascade Bay on Orcas Island. This beautiful island is an ideal Northwest escape for those who love nature, outdoor activities and cultural attractions. From kayaking and whale watching on Puget Sound to touring artisans' studios, enjoying the wide array of activities will help create an unforgettable experience in one of the world's most stunning locations.





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Activities Featured on This Trip



Hiking: Most hikes on this adventure are considered easy to moderate (2 to 4 miles with up to 400 feet of elevation gain). Oftentimes, we'll do several shorter hikes over the course of one day. If a more difficult hike is listed on this itinerary, its mileage and elevation gain will be listed in the day's activity description within the detailed itinerary.

Biking: Most bike rides on this trip are considered easy to moderate (10 to 20 miles, flat and/or rolling terrain). If a more difficult bike ride is included on this itinerary, more specific details will be included in the day's activity description within the detailed itinerary. Bike rides are van supported, meaning that there will be checkpoints along the way in which you can access the van/guide if needed or can end your ride early. There will also be one guide accompanying the group by bike.

Kayaking: Our goal while kayaking is to stick to the flatwater sections of the body of water we're paddling in. Your group will stick together as your guide navigates the best path to keep the group safe. Gear and paddling instruction provided.

Small Ship Cruising: The goal of cruising by small ship or boat is to get a different perspective of the beauty of the region. A captain and crew will give you a short safety briefing before heading out into open water. You'll be educated and informed on the marine ecosystem while maintaining respectful and responsible behavior around the local wildlife.

What's Included?

Included in Trip Price:

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths
- All meals as listed in itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners
- Any necessary equipment - all safe and well-maintained
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service
- Access to a guest portal with trip planner materials
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities, and national park entrance and permit fees

Not Included in Trip Price:

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities
- One dinner during the trip
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities
- All types of travel insurance
- Personal expenses