

Explore ANACORTES

2021

A visitors guide
for a special island
community in
northwest Washington



SKAGIT PUBLISHING
A supplement to the
Anacortes American

21+



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About the Cover

Sean Bartlett submitted our cover photo, which he called "Beautiful Day on Campbell Lake." Bartlett was one of 15 photographers who participated in a photo contest to appear on the cover of our 2021 Explore Anacortes publication. He won a \$100 gift certificate to the local business of his choice, which was Adrift Restaurant.

The Anacortes American staff chose the cover winner, and many of the other wonderful photos also appear inside this book.

Anacortes  American

901 6th St., Anacortes, WA
98221
P: 360-293-3122
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Editor

Colette Weeks
cweeks@goanacortes.com

Layout

Briana Alzola
balzola@goanacortes.com

Advertising

Duby Petit
dpetit@skagitpublishing.com

John Williams
jwilliams@skagitpublishing.com

goanacortes.com

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Explore Anacortes

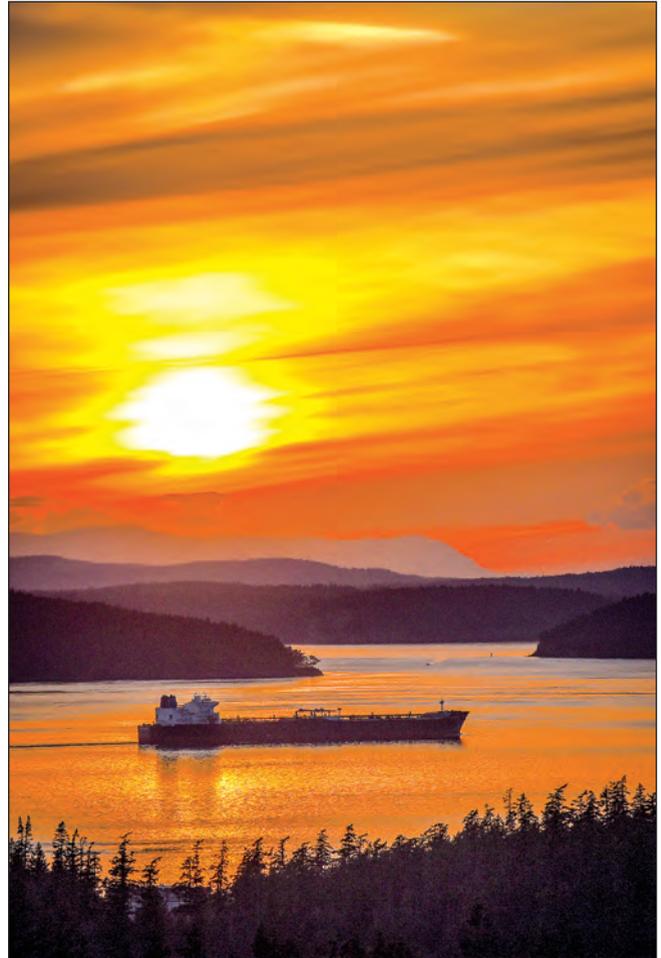
Welcome to Anacortes, nestled on beautiful Fidalgo Island.

This eclectic city of roughly 17,000 people is filled with art, music, history, nature and industry. It is surrounded by cold sparkling water with views of mountains and brilliant sunsets. It offers a variety of outdoor recreation from boating to camping, as well as indoor options that include dining and shopping.

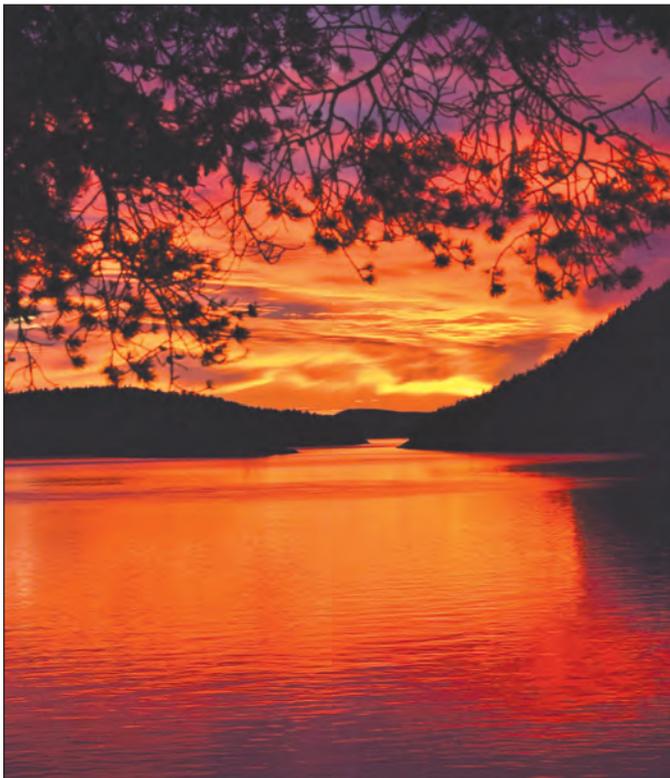
Protected forest lands, a walkable downtown, a large art and music scene and a working waterfront are all part of the island.

You can experience:

- Roughly 3,000 acres of preserved forest lands with trails for hiking and biking
- Parks, beaches and water recreation, which includes nature watching, kayaking, boating and fishing
- An active art scene includes several galleries, an annual arts festival each August and a downtown art walk on the first Friday of each month
- Festivals celebrating the waterfront, pets, art, children, motorcycles, wine and beer
- The Anacortes Museum, the W.T. Preston historic sternwheeler and an array of murals attached to buildings around town of residents noted in the city's history.



AN OIL TANKER IN THE GUEMES CHANNEL, CONTRIBUTED BY DENIS LAW



A SUNSET OVER BURROWS BAY, CONTRIBUTED BY CHERYL HELLAM



ANACORTES FROM THE CAP SANTE VIEWPOINT, CONTRIBUTED BY DAVID S. SMITH

Outdoor Exploration

Forest Lands

The city-owned Anacortes Community Forest Lands cover nearly 3,000 acres on Fidalgo Island, protected for all visitors.

They feature forest lands, meadows, wetlands, Mount Erie and Sugarloaf Mountain, as well as Cranberry, Whistle and Heart lakes. The 50 miles of trails accommodate hikers, bicyclists and horse riders. Some allow two-wheeled motorcycles. Dogs must be on a leash.

Everyone can visit for free, and the Friends of Anacortes Community Forest Lands group leads occasional hikes.

Signs show current restrictions and regulations.

Color trail maps on water-resistant paper are available at City Hall, 904 Sixth St., and at the Anacortes Visitor Information Center, 819 Commercial Ave. Suite A. Electronic versions are on the city's website, www.anacorteswa.gov.

Parks

- **Ace of Hearts Rotary Park**, 38th Street and H Avenue. A Little League field and off-leash dog park with a watering station, wash-off hose and separate area for small dogs.

- **Anacortes Meditative Labyrinth**, 1702 22nd St. Meditative labyrinth open to all.

- **Ben Root Skate Park**, 2313 R Ave. in the Alice Parchman Newland Park. A 7,500-square-foot concrete skate area with lights, seating and restrooms.

- **Cap Sante Park**, 1000 W Ave. A 37-acre forested area at the top of Cap Sante, offering views of Anacortes, Fidalgo Bay and March Point.

- **Causland Memorial Park**, 710 N Ave. This 2-acre park is dedicated to Anacortes veterans and is on the National Register of Historic Places, featuring decorative rock structures, including a bandstand and amphitheater. Part of a war memorial has been under renovation in 2021, but could be finished by the park's centennial in late September.



A CURIOUS BARRED OWL IN THE ANACORTES COMMUNITY FOREST LANDS, CONTRIBUTED BY DALE JORDAN

- **Clearridge Park** on Blakely Drive is a small neighborhood park with two tennis courts and a basketball court.

- **Guemes Channel Trail** starts at the Edwards Way cul-de-sac. The walking/biking path runs about one mile along Guemes Channel toward downtown.

- **John and Doris Tursi Park**, 2200

Pennsylvania Ave., is a neighborhood park just east of the Anacortes Airport. Playground, picnic tables, a log pavilion and nature trail.

- **Kiwanis Waterfront Park**, 1708 Sixth St. Two acres overlooking Guemes Channel and the Guemes Island ferry landing area with benches, picnic tables,

pathways, an overlook and beach access.

• **N Avenue Park**, Second Street and N Avenue. Small park at a street end with views of Guemes Channel.

• **Roadside Park**, Kansas and Oakes Avenues. Small park at a street end with picnic tables and views of Guemes Channel. Stairs lead to Guemes Channel Trail.

• **Rotary Park**, 701 T Ave. The 1.5-acre park runs along the shoreline of a Fidalgo Bay inlet at the base of Cap Sante and next to Cap Sante Marina. Features disc golf course, walking trails, a gazebo, picnic tables and beach access.

• **Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve**, between the Washington State Ferries terminal and Edwards Way cul-de-sac. Features 25 acres of freshwater wetlands, 5 acres of upland habitat and 2,000 feet of sandy beach and eelgrass beds. A walking trail/boardwalk protects sensitive areas.

• **Shugarts Playground**, 10th Street and N Avenue. A half-acre park next to the Anacortes Public Library with a small playground and benches.



A PAIR OF EAGLES, CONTRIBUTED BY ERNIE HAYDEN

• **Storvik Park**, 1110 32nd St. The 8.7-acre park is home to the community-built Our Town Our Park playground. Includes a spray park open in the summer, plus a Little League field, two basketball courts, barbecues and picnic shelter. To reserve the shelter, call 360-293-1918.

• **Tommy Thompson Trail** is 3.3

miles of paved trail for pedestrians and bicyclists that runs along the west side of Fidalgo Bay, leading to a walkway over the bay on a former train trestle connecting to March Point. Trailheads are at 22nd Street and R Avenue, 30th Street and U Avenue, and in the Fidalgo Bay Resort at 4701 Fidalgo Bay Road.

• **28th Street Playground**, 28th Street and Q Avenue, a half-acre children's playground.

• **Volunteer Park**, 1915 13th St. The city's sports center has a fastpitch/Little League field, two regulation baseball fields, a field house, Kiwanis Meadows soccer field, basketball court and Doug Colglazier Playground. The park also has walking paths and a covered picnic shelter.

• **Washington Park**, 6300 Sunset Ave. The park encompasses 220 acres on the west side of Fidalgo Island. It has day-use and overnight camping facilities for tents and RVs, a boat launch, picnic shelters, playground and showers. A scenic 2.3-mile loop road around the park can be walked or driven. Camping reservations: 360-293-1918



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Explore Recreation

Marinas

- **Cap Sante Marina**, 1019 Q Ave., is owned and operated by the Port of Anacortes. It is a Customs port-of-entry on the west side of Fidalgo Bay within walking distance to downtown stores and restaurants. The marina provides permanent and transient moorage. www.portofanacortes.com/marina. 360-293-0694.
- **Skyline Marine Center**, 2011 Skyline Way, at Flounder Bay on Fidalgo Island is a full-service marina with slips up to 100 feet. Features guest moorage, a travel lift, fuel, pump-out services, shower and laundry facilities. skylinemarinecenter.com. 360-293-5134.

Kayaking

- **Anacortes Kayak Tours** offers tours and guides, including everything from an hour or two to multiple days. www.anacortes-kayaktours.com.
- **Blue Otter Outfitters** offers equipment rentals of kayaks, paddleboards and more. blueotter.com.

Nature tours, charters

Heading out in a boat may mean a glimpse of marine life ranging from orcas, gray whales and humpbacks to seals, otters and bald eagles.

Tours generally run from April to October with rates ranging from about \$75 to \$150.

Binoculars are encouraged.

- **Island Adventures**, www.island-adventures.com, 800-465-4604 or 360-293-2428
- **Outer Island Excursions** (plus charters and fishing), www.outerislandx.com, 360-376-3711
- **Deception Pass Tours**, www.deceptionpasstours.com, 888-909-TOURS

Charter services also offer transportation or fishing.

- **Island Express Charters**, www.islandexpresscharters.com, 360-299-2875
- **Jolly Mon Charters**, jollymoncharters.com, 360-202-2664
- **R&R Charters**, randrfishingcharters.com, 360-941-6515
- **San Juan Adventures**, sanjuancharters.net, 360-661-5475
- **Highliner Charters**, highlinercharters.com, 360-770-0341
- **StoutFish Charters**, stoutfish.com, 425-345-9577
- **Anacortes Yacht Charters**, www.anacortesyachtcharters.com, 1-800-233-3004
- **Crown Yacht Charters**, www.crownyachtcharters.com, 800-426-2313
- **Ship Harbor Yacht Charters**, shipharboryachts.com, 360-299-9193

Cycling or Walking

- **The Anacortes Community Forest Lands** are city-owned property offering easy to moderate trails. Color trail maps on



EVENING REFLECTIONS AT CAP SANTE MARINA, CONTRIBUTED BY LAURIE COTTINGHAM

water-resistant paper are available at City Hall, 904 Sixth St., and at the Visitor Information Center, 819 Commercial Ave. Suite A, or download at www.cityofanacortes.org.

- The **Tommy Thompson Trail** is a scenic, flat ride or walk from downtown along the east side of the island on a paved trail that leads to the trestle that crosses Fidalgo Bay to March Point. Cyclists can add more miles by following the road around the point and then back to the trestle.

- The **Guemes Channel Trail** follows the shore on the north side of Fidalgo Island. It offers scenic views of the channel, Guemes Island and Mount Baker. Trail connections are off Edwards Way in the San Juan Passage subdivision and down the wooden stairs at Oakes and Kansas avenues.

More fun

- **Swinomish Golf Links**, 12518 Christianson Road, is an 18-hole, par-72 public course on the west side of Fidalgo Island between Fidalgo and Similk bays. The course is rated 67.8 for men and 65.2 for women. It has a slope rating of 110 for men and 106 for women. Operated by the Swinomish Casino & Lodge. swinomishgolflinks.com. 360-293-3444.

- Six **tennis courts** are at Anacortes Middle School, 22nd Street near J Avenue.

- **Pickleball courts** are at Clearidge Park, 1900 block of Blakely Drive next to the Anacortes Airport.

- **Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center**, 1603 22nd St., has a schedule that includes times for open swims and lap swims. The facility includes a 1,900-square-foot fitness center. www.fidalgopool.com. 360-293-0673

- A **spray pad** for kids is at Storvik Park, 1110 32nd St, is open during the warmer months.

Explore the Arts

Anacortes is well-known for its plethora of artists who call the town home. From galleries to performing arts to public art sculptures, there's much to see here.

For specific locations and events, check the websites of the various organizations for schedules and pandemic restrictions.

Public art

Along the streets of Anacortes are numerous murals and sculptures, available any time and in any weather.

In the roundabout where Highway 20 turns onto Commercial Avenue entering town, stands a large bird nest sculpture called "Aerie."

One of the newest additions is "Three Sails," a sculpture that doubles as a welcome sign near the Anacortes ferry terminal.

Murals appear in various places, including along the Tommy Thompson Trail, including two stainless steel joggers created by Ken Turner of Seattle and a series of murals completed by featured artists at the Anacortes Arts Festival.

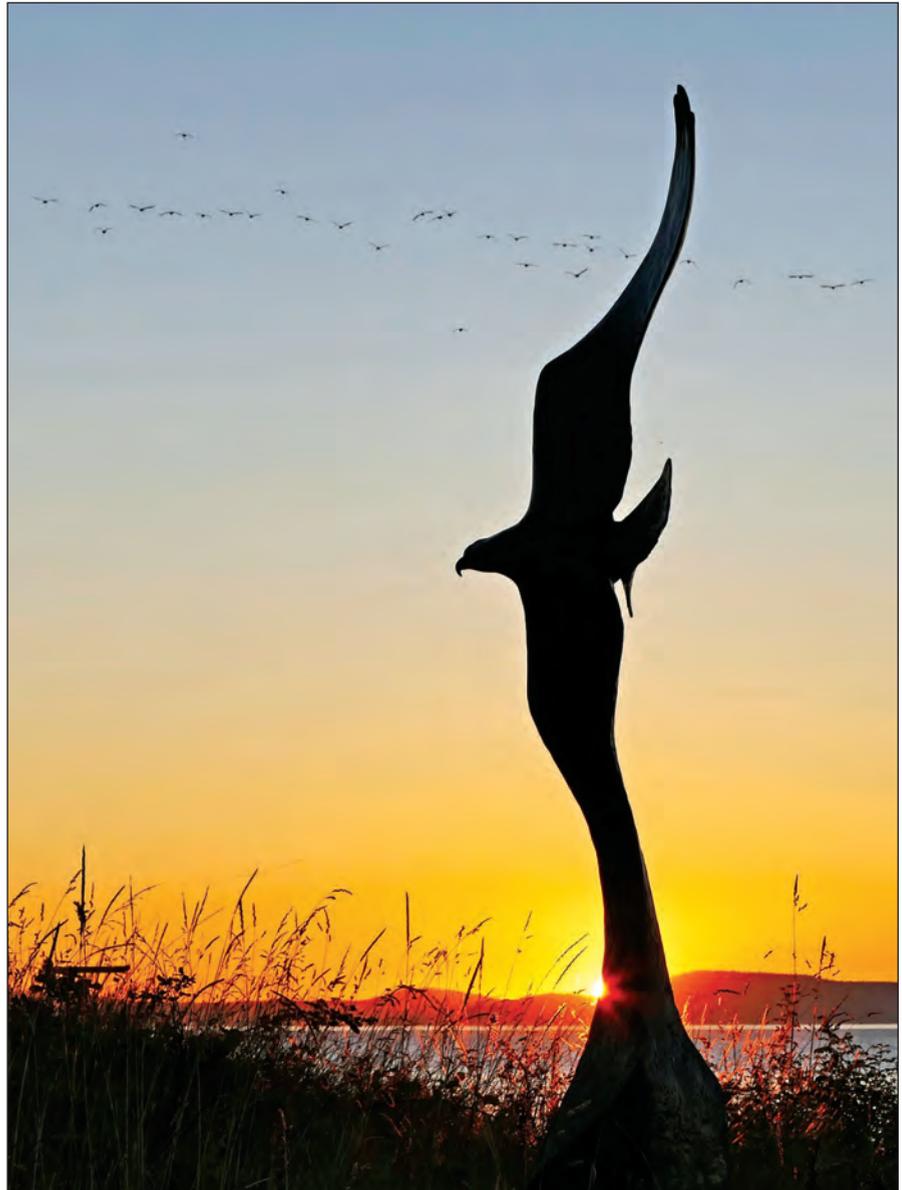
The "Lady of the Sea" statue stands watch over Cap Sante Marina, along with the Seafarers' Memorial. Nearby is the bronze orca fin called "Annie Curtis," created by Gerard Tsutakawa.

Other popular pieces include "Wind-song," a Leo Osborne bronze at Kiwanis Waterfront Park near the Guemes Ferry Terminal, "The Bird Family," a Philip McCracken bronze at the post office downtown, "How Much Longer" by Peregrine O'Gormley at Fourth Avenue and O Street and "The Leaking Vase" by Andries Lukas Breedt at the N Street Park.

On the south side of the Wilson Hotel on Eighth Street, there is Anne Curtis Bowman (the city's namesake and wife of city founder Amos Bowman) painted by Swedish artist Lisa Liedgren in 2007.

Even the garbage cans offer an artistic touch.

Cans downtown pay homage to 11



WINDSONG, A STATUE AT KIWANIS WATERFRONT PARK, CONTRIBUTED BY JACK HARTT

salmon canneries that operated here in the early 1900s with paintings of early salmon labels wrapped around each can.

Visit anacortesartscommission.com to see the location of permanent pieces and what's new. Maps are at the Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center on Commercial Avenue.

Murals

Murals depicting some of Anacortes' most colorful residents of the past were created, starting in 1984, by Anacortes artist Bill Mitchell. He died in 2019, but his murals remain, including one of himself in his trademark three-wheeled 1954 Autoette near the corner of Fifth Street

and O Avenue.

More than 150 murals can be seen around town, including Bobo the Gorilla, who lived in Anacortes before moving to Woodland Park Zoo.

Find a mural map at the Anacortes Visitors Center.

Art events

- From 6-9 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, the First Friday Gallery Walk features some of the best new art around Anacortes. Galleries and businesses host shows with special hours, artist receptions and refreshments.

- The Fidalgo Island Quilters feature their stunning fabric art each April during the annual Quilt Walk. Businesses and shops downtown feature pieces from the quilters in their stores. Their next full quilt show is in 2022. Visit fidalgoislandquilters.com.

- The Anacortes Arts Festival each August brings about 100,000 of people to see the work of 250 traveling art vendors, a fine art show and musical acts. In April, the festival traditionally hosts a 5K color run event. Visit anacortesartsfestival.com for details.

- The third weekend of October, the Arts Commission hosts a 98221 Studio Tour, which allows visitors to stop by the studios of dozens of local artists, see demonstrations and enter to win prizes. Visit www.anacortesartscommission.com/98221-studio-tour.html.



INTERACTIVE ART AT THE ANACORTES ARTS FESTIVAL, FILE PHOTO

Music

- A summer series of rock and blues concerts are held Friday nights at Seafarers' Memorial Park in Cap Sante Marina. Also in summer, a Wednesday jazz series brings even more live music to the area. Learn more about that at portofanacortes.com.

- The Heart of Anacortes also hosts an outdoor summer music concert series. Visit theheartofanacortes.com.

- The library hosts free jazz concerts

the second Sunday of each month.

- Local pubs often offer live music.

Performing arts

- Anacortes Community Theatre presents several shows each year. Visit acttheatre.com.

- Fidalgo DanceWorks school holds classes for all ages throughout the year, as well as shows in June and December, in addition to the annual holiday ballet "The Nutcracker." Visit fidalgodanceworks.org.

Tribal Nations

Two tribal nations, Swinomish and Samish, are indigenous to the Fidalgo Island area.

The Samish and Swinomish are stops on the annual Canoe Journey, which features traditional dress, dances, food and other cultural sharing.

Both cohost a cultural day each summer at Bowman Bay.

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

The Swinomish Casino & Lodge is located on Highway 20, just east of Anacortes.

Views from the building take in the the land that the Coast Salish people have called home for thousands of years.

The tribe also operates an RV park and Swinomish Links Golf Course.

Information: www.swinomish-nsn.gov

Samish Indian Nation

The Samish Indian Nation owns the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort, featuring scenic views of Fidalgo Bay and access to the Tommy Thompson Trail, which can be taken into town by bicycle or on foot.

Information: www.samishtribe.nsn.us



THE FERRY TO THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS BATTLES SOME CHOPPY WEATHER, CONTRIBUTED BY CATHY MARTIN

Explore the Area

Beyond personal vehicles or taxi service, here are some other ways to get around the island and neighboring areas:

By Ferry

- Washington State Ferries provides passenger and car service from the Anacortes terminal to Orcas Island, Lopez Island, Shaw Island, Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, and Sidney, British Columbia, Canada. The terminal is at the end of Highway 20, four miles west of downtown.

Reservations required for vehicles.

Information: 888-808-7977 or wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

- Guemes Island Ferry provides ferry service for passengers and vehicles from Anacortes across the Guemes Channel to Guemes Island. The dock is located at Sixth Street and I Avenue. Crossing takes about five minutes.

Information: 360-419-7618 or skagit-county.net/Departments/PublicWorks-Ferry/main.htm

By Airplane

- Anacortes Airport, at 4000 Airport Road, offers various airport services. San Juan Airlines operates several flights to the San Juan Islands and Bellingham.

Charters and scenic flights are available. Call San Juan Airlines at 800-874-4434.

Airport information: 360-299-1828 or www.portofanacortes.com/airport

By Bus

- Skagit Transit, based in Mount Vernon, provides bus service in Anacortes Monday through Saturday.

Route 410 includes stops at the Guemes Ferry terminal, the Washington State Ferries terminal and March Point. Route 409 runs from 10th Street and Q Avenue downtown to Island Hospital, with stops including the Guemes Island ferry, Fidalgo Pool and the senior center. Other routes will transport riders from Mount Vernon or Oak Harbor to March Point and back.

Skagit Transit runs throughout Skagit County with connector service to Bellingham, Everett and Whidbey Island. The main transfer for most routes is in downtown Mount Vernon. Dial-A-Ride service is available for people with disabilities who cannot travel on fixed routes.

A Park & Ride lot is east of Anacortes at March Point.

Information: 360-757-4433 or skagit-transit.org

www.anacortesfarmersmarket.org

ANACORTES FARMERS MARKET

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2021 Schedule

Winter:

second Saturdays

January - April

the Depot @ 7th St. & R Ave.

9am-2pm

Summer:

every Saturday

May 1 - October 30

the Depot @ 7th St. & R Ave.

9am-2pm

Pie Festival:

September 18

during the market

Holiday:

November 20 & 21

Port Transit Shed @

100 Commercial 10am-4pm



Explore History

The Anacortes Museum

and the Maritime Heritage Center are hubs of local history.

The museum, located at 1305 Eighth Street, is open daily except Mondays and is free to visit. Pandemic restrictions may apply. The former Carnegie Library generally has a rotating exhibit as well as permanent displays of Anacortes history.

Even when doors are closed, museum staff members are updating social media with historical photos and stories and visitors can check out an online database filled with more than 20,000 photos, see short documentaries and more on the museum website.

Check www.anacorteswa.gov/333/Museum or find the Museum on Instagram and Facebook for updates and current information.

The museum also runs the Maritime Heritage Center and W.T. Preston snagboat, located at 703 R Ave. The Heritage Center focuses on Anacortes' tradition of fishing and history of boatbuilding and marine transportation. Outdoor signs and displays showcase the marine history of the area and are available for viewing at any time.

The center is usually open on weekends in April, May, September and October and daily (excluding Mondays) from June to August.

The W.T. Preston is a historical sternwheeler that served as a snagboat, located next to the heritage center. The vessel is the last one to work in the Puget Sound and one of only two snag-



THE W.T. PRESTON SNAGBOAT, FILE PHOTO

boats remaining in the United States. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and retired from duty in 1981. It came to Anacortes in 1983 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

Visit www.anacorteswa.gov/333/Museum.

Tours

Several self-guided tours are available year-round to see the beautiful sights of Anacortes.

The Cap Sante esplanade is located behind the W.T. Preston snagboat. The

waterfront walk offers views of Fidalgo Bay and several interpretive displays featuring the area's history.

A walking tour of historic downtown Anacortes offers a chance to see the city's older homes. Brochures are available at the Visitors Center and online at www.cityofanacortes.org.

The Tommy Thompson Trail starts at the intersection of 11th Avenue and Q Street and continues south through town and out onto the water toward March Point. Along the way are Discovery Points filled with facts about Fidalgo Bay's history and diverse ecology.

Farmers Market

The Anacortes Farmers Market

opens from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday from May to October.

Vendors sell farm-fresh vegetables, cheese, health goods, jams, cut flowers, arts and crafts. If COVID-19 regulations allow, the market may host music, community programs and

self-help workshops.

The winter market is the second Saturday of each month from October to May, a pie festival is held in September, and a holiday market is in November.

The open-air market is held next to the Depot Arts Center at 611 R Avenue.

Information: anacortesfarmersmarket.org



THE GUEMES ISLAND FERRY, FILE PHOTO

Explore Guemes Island

Guemes Island is the smaller neighbor of Fidalgo Island, located just a five-minute ferry ride away. The island is made up of only roughly 5,505 acres or about 8.6 square miles.

The ferry terminal is located at 500 I Ave. and offers trips across the channel every half hour or so. The ferry carries passengers with a vehicle or without.

Visit skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksFerry/main.htm for a schedule, ticket prices and any current limitations.

When the COVID-19 pandemic does not limit activities, the Guemes Island Store offers frequent live music. It also showcases local food and a small selection of groceries.

Hiking and outdoor activities are available throughout the island.

An island labyrinth is located between the Guemes Island Community Church and the Guemes Island Community

Center.

The Guemes Island Resort offers a variety of accommodations and features a boat launch, kayaks and a sauna.

Young's Park, 13 acres at 4243 Guemes Island Road, has picnicking amenities and water access for day use.

Head east for a great view of nearby islands from Guemes Mountain, which boasts a hike that is roughly 1.2 miles in length, with 550 feet of elevation gain. The trailhead is a small parking area located just off South Shore Road and includes a bike rack for anyone biking to the trail from the ferry terminal.

The Peach Preserve is located off South Shore Drive and is well-known for its birdwatching. It has about 64 acres of protected land and roughly half an acre of trails.

Kelly's Point beach is protected land accessible for low-impact, non-motorized use. The parking area is accessible from West Shore Drive.

Anacortes Museum

For Information Call:

(360) 293-1915 or

Check our Website:

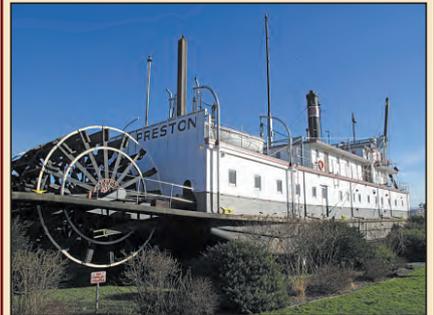
museum.cityofanacortes.org

Anacortes Museum

1305 8th Street • Anacortes, WA

Exploring the history of Fidalgo and Guemes Islands through:

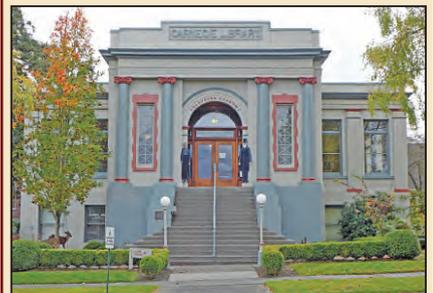
- Educational Programs • Exhibits
- Research Library • Special Events



The W.T. PRESTON & Maritime Heritage Center

7th Street & R Avenue

Check our website for our current schedule



8th Street & M Avenue

The Carnegie Gallery

Gallery Open Year-Round

Check our website for our current schedule

Weather

Mild weather is one of the many benefits enjoyed by Fidalgo Island.

The area receives roughly 28 inches of rainfall a year, but summer brings a long stretch of sunshine — dry and fabulous with temperatures averaging in the 70s from July to September.

October offers what is typically a short fall season, with colder temperatures and wind often arriving in early November. There is even occasional snow. Still, the mercury rarely dips below freezing for long. The same clouds that bring a little rain also offer some protection from colder temperatures.

Signs of spring usually begin to show as early as February.

Anacortes benefits from the rain shadow provided by the Olympic Mountains, shielding the island from some clouds that pass over. As a result, the area can claim more hours of sunshine than its neighbors to the east and more than Seattle. Most days offer at least a momentary peak beyond the clouds.



SUNSET BY DON SCHMUDE

Explore Events

Events are getting off to a slow start in 2021 because of pandemic restrictions, but community organizations, the City of Anacortes and Chamber of Commerce are still aiming to hold events, festivals, fundraisers and fun runs as the situation improves.

Check the status of events at the goanacortes.com online calendar or at the event organizer's website.

Spring

- **Anacortes Sip and Savor**, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, is April 12-16. This pick-up-and-go event is a replacement for the annual Anacortes Spring Wine Festival. Participants can

purchase one of 500 curated boxes including Skagit County items like salmon, chocolates, honey and wine. anacortes.org

Summer

- The annual **Anacortes Waterfront Festival** is scheduled for June 5-6. This family-friendly free event features boat building, free boat rides, a children's area, a car show, vendors, food and entertainment. anacortes.org

- The annual **Salish Sea Native American Cultural Celebration** is typically the first weekend of June at Deception Pass State Park. Celebrate the culture of

two local Coast Salish tribes with canoe rides, native singers, drummers, weavers, artists and food. Presented by the Samish Indian Nation, the Samish Canoe Family, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Swinomish Canoe Family.

- The **Anacortes Boat and Yacht show**, hosted by the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, the Northwest Marine Trades Association and Cap Sante Marina, is expected to take place in June. Last year's event moved to an online format, but it's too soon to tell what it will look like this year, according to event staff. anacortesboatandyachtshow.com

- The City of Anacortes hosts or co-hosts several events in the summer including **Bark in the Park** (typically

in June, a festival celebrating the city's canine friends) and the **Kids-R-Best Fest** (typically in July, full of activities and booths aimed at children). City staff were optimistic, but dates had not been set at publication time. cityofanacortes.org/490/Parks-Recreation

- The **Fourth of July** celebration begins with a town portrait at 10 a.m. in downtown Anacortes on Commercial Avenue. A parade starts at 11 a.m. Later, enjoy music at the Rock the Dock community concert at Seafarers' Memorial Park followed by fireworks over Fidalgo Bay.

- **Shipwreck Fest** is tentatively scheduled for July 17. Each year, Commercial Avenue is closed to traffic for this swap meet and filled with furniture, clothes, lamps, boat gear, tools and collectibles. The event starts at 8 a.m. downtown and wraps up in the afternoon. Free to attend. shipwreckfest.com

- The **Anacortes Arts Festival** is set for Aug. 6-8. In a normal year, the festival brings about 100,000 visitors to town and features 250 booth artisans downtown. Arts at the Port showcases 30 more artists in three exhibitions, and there are art demonstrations, live music, kids' activities, food vendors and beer and wine gardens. The event also includes an Art Dash event. anacortesartsfestival.com

- The **Anacortes Cancer Walk** generally takes place mid-August. It is an annual event to raise money for cancer care in town. It features a 10-mile walk and live concert. Find the page on Facebook.

- **Open Streets and Anacortes Buskerfest** is generally late August on Commercial Avenue. Take to the streets by foot, bike or skates. Any human-powered vehicle is welcome, and buskers entertain at street corners.

Fall and Winter

- The annual **Oyster Run** takes place the last weekend in September on Commercial Avenue. Anacortes welcomes about 10,000 leather-clad bikers who ride into town from various points as part of the largest one-day motorcycle run in the Pacific Northwest. The free event includes motorcycle vendors, musical entertainment and plenty of oysters. It was



GLASS ART AT THE ANACORTES ARTS FESTIVAL, FILE PHOTO

canceled last year due to the pandemic. oysterrun.org

- **Bier on the Pier** is usually the first weekend of October at the Port of Anacortes Transit Shed with dozens of breweries and cideries, plus food vendors and music. anacortes.org

- The **98221 Studio Tour** is the third weekend in October. A self-guided tour of artists living and working in the 98221 ZIP code. About 30 artists participate, open studios and demonstrate techniques. anacortesartscommission.com/98221-studio-tour.html

- The **Anacortes Tree Lighting and holiday parade** are the first weekend in December. This holiday weekend in Anacortes includes the tree lighting, pictures with Santa, music, cocoa, an artwalk, parade, gift show and fundraisers. anacortes.org

- **Wonderland Walk at Washington Park** is the second weekend in December. Campsites are decorated with lights and holiday fun. Visitors are encouraged to carpool and bring flashlights. cityofanacortes.org



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