

SOUTH HOOD CANAL

The "Canal Zone", as Hood Canal is referred to by the locals, is the eastern boundary of Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest. Southern Hood Canal is characterized by small resort towns on the shores of Hood Canal, which is actually not a canal in the true sense of the word, since it does not have an outlet on each end.

This scenic stretch of the Olympic Look is famous for its shellfish – oysters, clams, geoduck, crab and shrimp. You can harvest your own in season, purchase them at roadside stores or order up a plate at canal restaurants.

Small friendly places have names such as **Hoodsport, Hama Hama, Lilliwaup, Waketickeh, Duckabush, Eldon, Union** and **Belfair**. There are a number of public campgrounds, resorts and private RV parks along the shores, where you can rest awhile to soak up the tranquility and enjoy the pristine waters of the canal.

Twanoh State Park sits halfway along Highway 106, offering all the salt water activities. Resorts, camping, picnicking and RV spaces with all the hookups are available along the shorelines of the canal.

SHELTON

Shelton is the county seat of Mason County. Nestled in the center is the main street of Shelton, with quaint stores and a bustling community. History abounds in this town of 7,660. Trains once traveled the tracks from the timber harvesting forests down the main street, called Railroad Avenue, to the mills of the Simpson Timber Company. Many shellfish growers harvest crops there, and the Simpson timber mills work day and night, floating logs from the inlet to Puget Sound. Boats and boat houses moored at the Shelton Yacht Club bob to-and-fro.

HOODSPORT

Located 15 miles north of Shelton, on Highway 101, this unincorporated community stretches along picturesque Hood Canal. At the foot of Lake Cushman and Staircase, it rests quietly against the hillside. Many services, businesses and a district office of the U.S. Forest Service and Olympic National Park are located along the highway. Information is available for any of the parks, hiking trails, fishing areas, boating or recreational areas at the forest and park service visitor information office.

Two state parks, **Lake Cushman** and **Potlatch**, many resort areas with campgrounds, RV areas and motels are open year-round. Boats for fishing, scuba diving, shrimping and crabbing are available, as are personal guides. Close by, the Washington State Department of Fisheries raises salmon at its hatchery and the Skokomish Indian tribe manages a museum.



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MASON COUNTY

Mason County, with a population of 42,000, is the southern gateway to the Olympic Peninsula. In Mason County the relaxed atmosphere, non-congested highways and clean air provide a clean, healthy environment.

With 200 fresh water lakes and over 350 miles of salt water access, numerous hiking trails, recreational opportunities abound. Fishing, scuba diving, boating, water skiing, swimming, shellfish gathering, crabbing, shrimping, sailing or any water sport



you could wish for can be had in Mason County. If you enjoy the outdoor life, then try the many camping or RV parks.

Some of the finest fishing in the state can be found at Lake Nahwatzel a few miles outside of Shelton. Call the resort at (360) 426-8323 to check on how the fishing is.



Antique stores are plentiful throughout the area. Five golf courses are scattered throughout Mason County. Our large county fairgrounds hold festivals, events and RV conventions.



STORM KING RANGER STATION AREA

Storm King Ranger Station—The original Ranger Station was constructed in 1909 for the Forest Service and was located next to the highway. A grader rolled off the road and demolished the structure. The cabin was reconstructed using as much of the original materials as possible.

Marymere Falls Trail—Beginning in front of the ranger station the flat, gentle trail winds through old growth forest to Barnes Creek. A foot bridge crosses the creek and a series of switchbacks climbs to an overlook of the 90 foot falls. 1.5 miles round trip; allow about 1 hour for the hike.

Mt. Storm King Trail—Climbs steeply for 1.7 miles from the Marymere Falls trail to a point on the ridge. The trail climbs about 2,000' in just under 2 miles and affords a view of Lake Crescent and surrounding mountains. Caution: maintained trail ends before summit. Travel beyond this point is hazardous.

Barnes Creek Trail—Continues straight (south) without crossing over the creek towards Marymere Falls. Trail is not maintained and hikers should carry a compass, map and essential gear. Expect blown down trees across trail. Experienced hikers only. Backcountry trip permit required for overnight hikes.

Lake Crescent Lodge from Marymere Falls Trail—Hikers coming back on the Marymere Falls Trail will find the Lodge Trail about 400 feet past the Mt. Storm King Trail intersection. The Lodge Trail continues along Barnes Creek downstream, crosses under Highway 101, crosses Lake Crescent Road, and continues to the Lodge parking area.

Moments in Time Trail—This approximately 1/2 mile loop trail can be accessed from 3 points, the Storm King Ranger Station, Olympic Park Institute, or Lake Crescent Lodge. The trail winds through old growth forest, past former homestead sites, and offers nice views of Lake Crescent from Barnes Point.