



Purple Haze Lavender offers vacation rentals starting May 16.

## Fjord to Forest

Explore classic Pacific Northwest surroundings from a cozy base in Sequim

written by Molly Allen

SEQUIM IS TINY but mighty. This small town on the northern tip of Washington's Olympic Peninsula is a charming base for exploring classic Pacific Northwest outdoor treasures.

Driving there primes you for the experience. Heading north on Highway 101, trace your way along the natural fjord that is the Hood Canal, one of the major basins of the Puget Sound. Let your mind drift to thoughts of marine life and its bounty, heightening the anticipation of lunch at Hama Hama Oysters in Lilliwaup. In 4.5 miles north in Hoodspport, grab a cone of locally made Olympic Mountain Ice Cream at Hoodspport Coffee Co. to make the drive that much sweeter.

Stay in a marine mindset in Sequim by making your base atop a bluff overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca. At the George Washington Inn, a luxurious bed and breakfast on 10 acres near Olympic National Park, take in the views of the Pacific Ocean, Olympic Range and the estate's lavender farm. The Colonial design emulates George Washington's Mount Vernon home. Or, keep it rustic at Sunset Marine Resort's cabins, with wood stoves, kayak rentals for exploring the waters of Sequim Bay just outside your door and a pet-friendly policy, too.

When making your itinerary, include the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge. As one of the longest sand spits on the planet, its grass beds create the fertile habit that attracts migrating shorebirds throughout spring and fall. Its isolated beach harbors harbor seals and their pups, and salmon and steelhead have nurseries for their young here, too. With more than 600 acres and more than 250 species of birds, Homo sapiens enjoy the habitat by walking miles of sandy beach and listening to waves lap against driftwood.

The next day's excursion should be a 10-mile roundtrip hike to the New Dungeness Lighthouse, which still guides mariners navigating the Strait of Juan de Fuca.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Dungeness Spit offers a stunning view of the Pacific. New Dungeness Lighthouse has been guiding mariners since 1857. Sequim has charming shops and restaurants. George Washington Inn is a luxurious property with Colonial style. Fishing on the Upper Dungeness River is one of many ways to relax around Sequim.



Nearby, the Olympic National Forest protects nearly a million acres of wilderness, including old-growth temperate rainforests, more than 70 miles of wild coastline and sandy beaches for tide-pooling, lakes for paddling and fishing and a lifetime's worth of hiking on trails dotted with gushing waterfalls.

Back in Sequim, the Olympic Discovery Trail will prompt you to join the bike friendly culture. The 120-mile, partially paved trail links Port Townsend to Port Angeles, tracing the Pacific shoreline and views of mountains and classic Pacific Northwest forests along the way.

These adventures will make you crave local cuisine. Head to Nourish Sequim, which celebrates the area's culinary artisans who raise, grow, forage and catch the ingredients of the dishes prepared here and served in a farmhouse atmosphere. End the afternoon with a pint at the Peninsula Taproom, offering a casual vibe with a long list of tap options. Dine waterside at Dockside Grill, with Olympic Mountain views, steaks and classics such as freshly made linguine with clams in an herb, garlic and white wine butter sauce. At the end of the day, raise a glass of something white and crisp while watching the sun set over Sequim Bay.



SEQUIM, WASHINGTON

### EAT

**Dockside Grill**  
www.docksidegrill-sequim.com

**Peninsula Taproom**  
www.peninsulataproom.com

**Nourish Sequim**  
www.nourishsequim.com

**Rainshadow Café**  
www.rainshadow-cafe-business.site

**Pane d'Amore Artisan Bakery**  
www.panedamore.com

**Alderwood Bistro**  
www.alderwoodbistro.com

### STAY

**George Washington Inn**  
www.georgewashingtoninn.com

**Sunset Marine Resort**  
www.facebook.com/SunsetMarineResort

**Dungeness Bay Cottages**  
www.dungenessbaycottages.com

**Eden by the Sea**  
www.edenbythesea.net

**Juan de Fuca Cottages**  
www.juandefuca.com

### PLAY

**Graysmarsh Farm**  
www.graysmarsh.com

**Fleurish Lavender of Lost Mountain**  
www.fleurishlavender.com

**Purple Haze Lavender**  
www.purplehazelavender.com

**Washington Lavender**  
www.walavender.com

**Olympic Game Farm**  
www.olygamefarm.com