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TRAVEL & LIFE

ANNUAL

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GETAWAYS

»»» OUR PICKS FOR THE
BEST TRIPS IN 2019

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Azalea Way,
Washington Park
Arboretum,
Seattle, WA

© Arboretum Foundation

Spring *getaways*

Spring fever is real. I know first-hand. Maybe I am not a winter person, but when spring finally arrives it feels like a prison break. The warmth of the sun, the sound of songbirds and plants pushing through the soil lift my spirit more than any other season. Spring, when it first arrives, carries the unmistakable promise of new things to come.

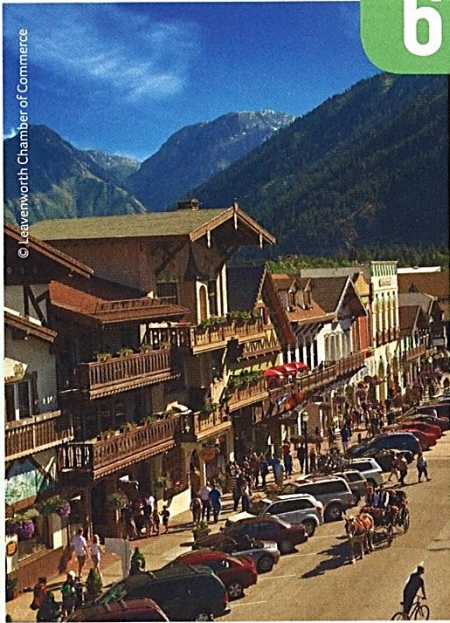
It also opens the door for new travel discoveries. In the “Spring” pages that follow, we urge you to take a hike—a long hike along Oregon’s Rogue River—to stay at a series of backcountry lodges along the trail. We take you to the unique landscape

of Palouse country to discover its small towns amid the beauty of fresh spring crops blanketing its famous rolling hills. We invite you to one of the Northwest’s most historic cities to discover its surprising concentration of world-class museums. And we set sail to explore Alaska on board a small ship that feeds its passengers dishes created by James Beard-awarded culinary stars. These are just a few ideas in the “Spring” section of this issue, and there are many more.

This spring indulge your wanderlust. I know I will.

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Cascade Mountain Foodie Getaway, Leavenworth, WA



© Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce

As the snow melts in “the Alps of Washington,” spring in the town of Leavenworth brings the end of ski season and the beginning of rafting season. Spring also brings visitors who just want to enjoy the ambiance of the Bavarian-themed village and enjoy its many pleasures, like food. And the culinary offerings are many with a new crop of restaurants that’s sprouted up and joined the old guard.

For chef-curated fine-dining, the single-seating restaurant Mana (manamountain.com) provides an elegant multi-course experience featuring local, organic and foraged ingredients. It has jettisoned to the top as one of the Northwest’s best restaurants.

The lively chef-owned Watershed Café (watershedpnw.com) offers contemporary and delicious interpretations of Pacific Northwest fare in a casual setting.

If you’re missing your bone broth bar back home, head straight to Yodelin (yodelinrestaurantgroup.com), where artisanal bone broth takes a delicious turn alongside power salads, gourmet sammies and more.

Dozens of other eateries, both Bavarian-themed and not, line the town’s streets. For German fare, you can’t go wrong with brats and beer at München Haus (munchenhaus.com). Or for a more elegant setting and classic German dishes, climb the stairs to Mozart’s (mozartsrestaurant.com).

With so many choices, the only way to find your favorites are by returning to Leavenworth again and again. For lodging, a full list of restaurants and other attractions, visit leavenworth.org.

Walk-on Weekend in Friday Harbor, Washington

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Pack light, leave the car at the Anacortes Ferry Terminal, walk on the Washington State Ferry and disembark in Friday Harbor. You are about to begin your weekend getaway in one of the Northwest’s most inviting waterfront towns.

The ferry route between Anacortes and San Juan Island is part of the San Juan Islands Scenic Byway, and “scenic” doesn’t begin to describe the views of emerald-forested islands, hidden coves and expansive waterways on the 1.5-hour journey. Once you arrive, walk off the ferry directly into Friday Harbor’s strollable downtown. Lodging, dining and everything you’ll need is within walking distance.

Friday Harbor is home to an array of small inns and B&Bs—strictly boutique—no mega-hotels allowed. For a luxury experience, book at the Friday Harbor House (fridayharborhouse.com), an acclaimed 24-room inn with an exceptional restaurant that focuses on island fare. For the B&B experience, check in at Tucker House Inn (tuckerhouse.com), which just turned 120 years old, and dine at the owners’ nearby fine-dining restaurant, Coho (cohosteaurant.com).

Friday Harbor is meant for slowing down, unwinding and browsing. The town is home to several fine-art galleries and one-of-a-kind shops. The Whale Museum is the place to go to learn about (you guessed it) whales, and the San Juan Islands Museum of Art is worth a visit.

Get outdoors and explore the island with a bicycle rental; there are several rental outfitters in town, some with electric bikes. Or take to the Salish Sea with a kayak tour or a whale-watching tour; guides are available in town.

The Anacortes Ferry Terminal is about 85 miles north of Seattle. Go to wsdot.wa.gov/ferries for the ferry schedule and fares. Check visitsanjuans.com for information about visiting Friday Harbor.

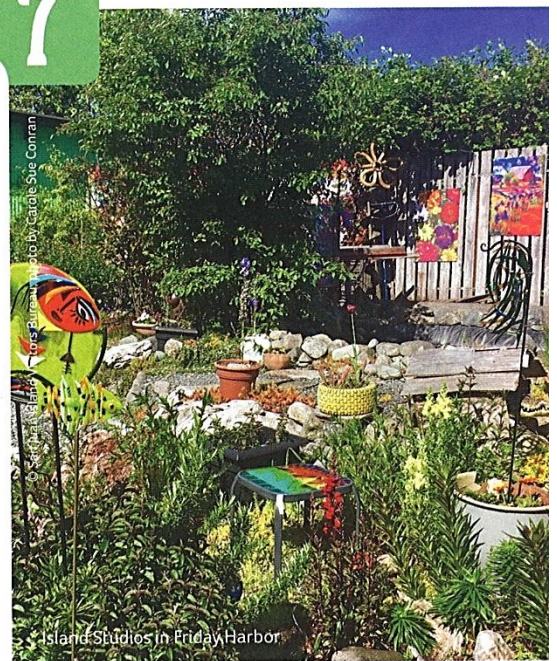


Photo by Carole Sue Conran

Island Studios in Friday Harbor