## All-American Road

In 1998 the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program recognized the Chinook Scenic Byway with the designation of "All American Road." This is the highest honor in the collection of scenic byways known as America's Byways. To gain it, a road must be known nationally or internationally for scenic or other intrinsic qualities that provide an exceptional travel experience. Such a road is considered by tourists to be a one-of-a-kind experience—a destination unto itself.

## National Forests

National Forests are managed by the U.S. Forest Service to protect federal forest resources for the benefit of the American people. These resources provide public benefits in water, forage, wildlife, habitat, wood, recreation, and minerals. National Forests are divided into geographic administrative units called Ranger Districts. The Chinook Scenic Byway traverses the following two National Forests:

### Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

The Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest contains 1.7 million acres located on the west side of the crest of the Cascade Mountains. The forest extends from the Canadian border to the northern boundary of Mount Rainier National Park.

### Wenatchee National Forest

The Wenatchee National Forest contains 2.3 million acres extending about 135 miles along the east side of the crest and mid-central portion of the Cascade Mountains.

## Mount Rainier National Park

Mount Rainier National Park is managed by the National Park Service to protect and preserve its natural and cultural resources, while allowing for public enjoyment of its panoramic vistas, dense old-growth forest, alpine lakes, wildflower meadows, cascading rivers, waterfalls, rugged peaks, glaciers, and snowfields.

## Driving Tips

While driving please use caution as you share the road with cyclists, pedestrians and wildlife. Mountain roads are narrow, winding and subject to adverse weather. Heavy precipitation, avalanches and rockfall can occur at any time. Obey posted speed limits and pass vehicles in designated passing zones only. Turn lights on for safety.

Pull completely off the road in designated pullouts to take in roadside views. Do not block the roadway or expose your vehicle to oncoming traffic. The Washington State Patrol, Yakima and Pierce County Sheriff's Departments, US Forest Service and National Park Rangers routinely patrol the corridor and enforce traffic regulations.

## Seasonal Road Closures

Highway 410/Chinook Pass generally opens in mid-May and closes due to snow in mid-November. Snow or frost can cover the road at anytime in the early part of the season (May/June) and can return as soon as the end of September. Be prepared for changing road conditions at all times.

## Services Along the Corridor

Services such as gas, food, lodging and visitor information are limited along the corridor. There is a lack of services between Greenwater and Cliffield, so plan accordingly.

## Contact Information

Chinook Scenic Byway
[illegible]
Greenwater, WA 98022
www.chinookscenicbyway.com

Mount Rainier National Park
Tahoma Woods, Star Route
Ashford, WA 98304
(360) 569-2211

Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Snoqualmie Ranger District
42[illegible] Northeast Ave. N.
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
(425) 888-1421

Wenatchee National Forest
Naches Ranger District
[illegible]
Naches, WA 98937
(509) 653-1401

Federation Forest State Park
48001 Mowich Lake Road East
Eatonville, WA 98328
(360) 663-2207

Eatonville Area Chamber of Commerce
1121 Center Street
Eatonville, WA 98328
(360) 535-7848

Naches Valley Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 351
Naches, WA 98937-0351
(509) 653-2183

Crystal Mountain Ski Resort
33914 Crystal Mountain Blvd.
Crystal Mountain, WA 98022
(360) 663-2265 / 888-601-6199

*Includes links to other websites

(Clockwise from top left) Old-Growth Log on Greenwater Ranger Station, Guild House at Historic Pete's Pond, Trail Bridge and Interpretative at The Dalles Campground, Mother Fire Flower Monument in Greenwater, Mother Memorial Parkway Monument at Crystal Mountain Recreational Area Entrance, Mud Mountain Dam, Catherine Montgomery Interpretive Center at Federation Forest State Park

## Native American Names

Northwest American Indians knew the mountain long before European explorers reached the waters of the Pacific Ocean. For generations, they knew the mountain as Tahkoma, Tahoma, Tacoma and several other names. Many of the names mean "big mountain" or "money peak," or "place where the waters begin." The forests and meadows around Mount Rainier were important fall and summer hunting and gathering sites for the Nisqually, Puyallup, Upper Cowlitz, Muckleshoot, and Yakama people.

**The Elk on the Mountain**
Some people have spotted the head of an elk on the north face of the mountain. Above is a close-up view from the Snoqualmie Ranger Station at Greenwater

# Chinook Scenic Byway ▼ Points of Interest

### Enumclaw

Enumclaw, the "Gateway" to Mt. Rainier National Park, anchors the west end of the Chinook Scenic Byway. The City of Enumclaw offers retail services, medical, cultural, educational, and recreational facilities including playgrounds, city parks, athletic fields and a public golf course. Local events include bicycle races, the King County fair, street festivals, a Scottish festival and the annual 4th of July and Christmas parades, just to name a few.

Enumclaw in native tongue means "thundering mountain", and is situated 750 feet above sea level in a pastoral setting between pristine farmlands and the Cascade Mountains. It is one of the largest thoroughbred horse breeding and boarding areas in the United States.

### King County Campgrounds and Community Center

The King County Fairgrounds located just east of Enumclaw was founded in 1883 and hosts one of the best annual-to-goodness county fairs. The fair features performers, animals, food, carnival rides and games, 4-H, FFA and Grange displays. The community center is a historic big building, known as "Hank's Barn," which includes a gymnasium and auditorium.

### Mud Mountain Dam Park

The popular day-use area at Mud Mountain Dam offers acres of open grass areas, multiple playgrounds, covered picnic and BBQ areas, a seasonal swimming pool with a fountain for children and a nature trail. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built Mud Mountain Dam on the White River in the 1940s to control floods in the lower White and Puyallup River valleys.

### Federation Forest State Park

This 615-acre State Park is a favorite place for picnics/gatherings, weddings and outdoor recreation. The diverse park includes numerous old-growth conifer trees and was acquired largely through the efforts of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Washington State. The park has 50 picnic sites, an amphitheater, two kitchen shelters, restrooms, nine miles of hiking trails, two miles of interpretive trails and the Catherine Montgomery Interpretive Center. Bird watchers enjoy the park's 100 species of birds. You will also see elk grazing along the freshwater frontage of the White River. The park and interpretive center are typically open between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend.

### Greenwater

The Iron Horse Trail brought ice and horse-drawn wagons through this area carrying early settlers west. Many years later, touring cars ferried early visitors through Greenwater to the newly dedicated Mt. Rainier National Park. Today, Greenwater caters to both summer and winter recreationalists and an international crowd of sightseers. Greenwater provides limited services including groceries, gas and food.

### Mount Rainier Viewpoint

This stop provides the first full view of Mount Rainier after leaving Enumclaw heading east approximately 23 miles. There are no services and this viewpoint is closed in the winter.

### Silver Springs Falls

The falls are located along the west side of the White River near the "Palisades Rock Formation" and is best viewed from the highway at viewpoint parking areas. High flows in the spring (before June) create the best viewing effect of cascading mist and runoff from the existing snow pack. Foot access to other viewpoints can be achieved by using the Silver Springs Trail.

### Greenwater Falls

The falls are located along the eastern forks of the White River canyon corridor and is best viewed from the highway at viewpoint viewpoints. High flows in the spring (before June) create the best viewing effect of cascading runoff from the existing snow pack. Foot access to the viewpoint can be achieved by using the Buck Creek Trail (#1194) and Snoqualmie Falls Trail (#1197).

### Buck Creek and Ranger Creek Recreation Area

This recreation area offers a variety of recreation experiences, such as dispersed camping, hiking, horseback trails and organization camp settings. This area is popular with people who drive recreational vehicles since the terrain is flat and open with various options available for camping or riding all terrain vehicles.

### Crystal Mountain Ski Resort

Skiers and snowboarders come from all over to Crystal Mountain for unparalleled skiing and snowboarding.

Crystal Mountain is Washington's only destination alpine ski resort, just 90 minutes from Seattle. Nestled in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, the resort offers condominiums, lodges and restaurants delight food lovers.

The resort encompasses 3,100 vertical feet and 2,600 acres of terrain consisting of high alpine bowls, tree-skiing, powder stashes and challenging chutes. Crystal Mountain transforms into a summer oasis featuring scenic hiking trails, mountain biking, horseback riding and a wealth of wildlife and natural scenery.

### Sunrise

Sunrise is the highest point in the park you can reach by vehicle. Facilities and services available include a visitor center, day use lodge with food service, picnicking and hiking. Overnight camping is available at the White River Campground on the road to Sunrise. Due to its elevation and heavy snowfall, Sunrise usually opens in early July and closes in late September. Expect congestion and heavy visitation on sunny summer weekends. Weekday visits are strongly recommended. Park entrance fee required on White River entrance station.

### Chinook Pass The Summit

Traveling over the summit of Chinook Pass is a peak experience both literally and figuratively. The Summit is marked by a pedestrian bridge overpass, constructed with massive log and stone features, that provides a picturesque and safe crossing for hikers on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The pass also marks the border between Mount Rainier National Park and the Wenatchee National Forest.

Just west of the summit is the Tipsoo Lake day use area of Mount Rainier National Park. Facilities at Tipsoo Lake include parking, restrooms and nature trails. Visitors can take a short nature trail around Tipsoo Lake with outstanding views of Mount Rainier and other cascade peaks.

Just east of the summit is a scenic pull-off and side with outstanding views of cascade peaks and vistas looking east. Facilities include parking and restrooms.

### Pete's Peak Viewpoint

Named for Thomas Pete, a 19th century homesteader and miner, the peak is an excellent example of the rugged geologic features represented in the eastern Cascades. This volcanic peak, elevation 5,917 feet, is composed of andesite lava flows, volcanic ash and breccia, which consists of rock fragments.

### Bumping Lake and Nelson Prairie

Chief Justice William O. Douglas owned a home in Nelson Prairie and spent much time at Bumping Lake. Hiking and fishing in the surrounding wilderness area that was later named for him. Bumping Lake is a natural lake that was expanded in size by the construction of the dam in 1910. Camping, fishing and hiking opportunities abound in the Bumping River drainage. Take Forest Road 1800 to Bumping Lake and Goose Prairie.

### Boulder Cave

Boulder Cave is a unique geologic attraction. The cave was formed by thousands of years of erosion by Devil's Creek and is the home of the Townsend's bat. The cave is closed from November 1st through April 1st to protect the bats, which rest there in the winter. The cave is accessible from a parking area via a 1.5-mile loop trail. Bring your flashlight to explore this beautiful cave.

### Cliffield

Cliffield is a quiet year-around recreation area nestled in the Wenatchee National Forest. This small hamlet consists of recreation homes and the Whistlin' Jack Lodge. This beautiful Naches River location has excellent Cliffield view. Since Chinook Pass is closed six months of the year due to heavy snows, Cliffield is the last stop for service coming from Naches.

### Edgar Rock

Edgar Rock was named after John Edgar, an early pioneer who guided wagon trains across the Cascades in the 1860s. Today, a trail climbs up and over the rock, a route that Edgar used when he traded with Indians. This weathered basalt formation, part of a large micaceous volcano, has served as a landmark for many years.

(Above from top) Chinook Pass, Looking East on Mather Memorial Parkway, Eastern Cascade Landscape

### Chinook Pass Visitor Center

The work center served as a ranger station from 1938 to 1941. Many of the buildings were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. Adjacent to the CCC carry-and-ranger station are granite columns marking the western end of the Mather Memorial Parkway.

### Lava Flows

Exposed along the north side of the Byway are several significant exposures of volcanic rock which clearly reflect past lava flows. These unique volcanic features are just a few of the many significant geologic landforms that dominate the east end of the Byway.

### Oak Creek Wildlife Area

The Oak Creek Wildlife Area contains approximately 42,000 acres and provides critical winter range for populations of big game, primarily Rocky Mountain elk. The area also provides habitat for a small band of California Bighorn Sheep that were reintroduced in 1967 from British Columbia.

The Oak Creek Wildlife Area is home to many species of wildlife. A winter feeding program for elk was started in 1945. A parking and viewing area with an interpretive center allows the public an up-close view of the elk.

### Naches

The City of Naches serves as the eastern portal to the Chinook Scenic Byway. The small city of 750 residents is located in the Naches Valley just 15 miles northeast of Yakima. The community has a variety of services, and is conveniently based with multiple restaurants and vineyards.

(Clockwise from above) Naches Ranger Station, Pete's Peak, Lava Flows near Nile Creek, and View of Valley just East of Chinook Pass

(Clockwise from bottom left) View of Mount Rainier from Rimrock Pull-off, Dense Forest near Silver Springs Campground, Mount Mather Memorial Parkway Signage, Entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, View of Mount Rainier from Chinook Pass

(At right, from left to right) Bumping Lake, American River, Rock Formation West of Naches, Confluence of the Naches and American River

Traversing Chinook Pass on the north side of Mount Rainier National Park, the Chinook Scenic Byway offers unique beauty and awe-inspiring views. Anchored by majestic Mount Rainier, the corridor traverses the mighty Cascade Range between Enumclaw and Naches along State Route 410. With a diversity of landscape from east to west, a variety of recreational opportunities are available. To the east of Chinook Pass are talus and basaltic rock formations in the Wenatchee National Forest and to the west are dense forests and rich vegetative habitats in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Throughout the corridor there are many trails that lead from meadows carpeted with flowers to snow capped mountains and glaciers. Opportunities abound for hiking, climbing, snowshoeing, ski-touring, skiing and snowboarding, cycling, horseback riding, animal watching and more. Enjoy this relaxing drive while journeying through your senses. Return when your spirit needs replenishing.

www.chinookscenicbyway.com