

# Cascade Loop shows beauty of NW corner

## Washington roadway should be near top of bucket lists

**T**he Cascade Loop is a special place destined to satisfy the appetites of those yearning to escape their daily grinds and fulfill their wanderlusts. It's 440 miles and located in the state of Washington.

Blessed with majestic scenery, intimate towns and a plethora of adventures, Cascade Loop emits charisma and boasts the beauty of the U.S.'s upper-northwest region. Clouds and rain are synonymous with Washington, but few attractions shine brighter than Mother Nature's greatest work.

Everett is a popular place to begin a journey on Cascade Loop. Located off the coast of the Possession Sound, its eclectic personality appeals to many tastes. Sunbathe on the sandy beaches of Jetty Island; take a jaunt through downtown and delight in its boutiques, bars and restaurants; or hike in the mountains.

Leavenworth is a town teeming with Bavarian architecture, a rugged landscape and outdoor recreation. Tyrolean dancers and the "Looking Good in Lederhosen" contest steal the spotlight during spring's Maifest, and no German village would be complete without an Oktoberfest celebration – the largest in the world aside from Germany's.



**THROWN FOR A LOOP** – Snow-covered mountains serve as the backdrop to Bavarian buildings of Leavenworth, Wash. Image: Bill Perry. Adobe Stock.

The "Apple Capital of the World" can be found in Wenatchee. Orchards populate acres of land that are seated by the foothills and towering peaks of the Cascades. Attractions include The Apple Capital Loop Trail, Ohme Gardens and Rocky Reach Dam Park.

Take a pitstop at Beebe Springs

Nature area to get a photograph of "The Chief." The 3D metal sculpture of a Native American on horseback, wearing a feathered headdress and hoisting a Columbia River salmon captures the spirit of the location.

Family adventure reaches its apex at Lake Chelan Valley. The waterway

offers a host of activities in the foreground of the magnificent mountains and tree-covered hillsides.

Lake Chelan's year-round recreation includes a charming shopping district, bountiful agriculture and a wine industry. Take a boat ride across the lake, ride bicycles or hike its miles of trails.

For those who have a liking to the Wild West, a trip to Winthrop is essential. Preserved in the 1850s, its antique boardwalks, old-fashioned boutiques and cozy overnight options more than live up to its reputation. Its proximity to Okanogan National Forest provides Winthrop with the largest network of cross-country skiing trails in North America.

Washington Pass Overlook is a lookout on a ledge overlooking Liberty Bell Mountain. Deception Pass Bridge & State Park is a site for scuba divers. And perched on the bluff on Whidbey Island, overlooking the waters of Saratoga Passage and the Cascade Mountains, Langley will transport guests far from the craziness of big-city life.

The rising popularity of road trips should put the Cascade Loop near the top of any traveler's bucket list. Just pick the date and circle it on your calendar.

# South Korea lights up, blossoms in Busan

## Vibrant seaside city has metropolitan charm, culture

**S**outh Korea may not quickly come to mind when thinking about your next vacation, but maybe it should.

Perhaps a visit to Busan – the country's second-largest city. Tucked away on the southeast side of South Korea, Busan neighbors with the Sea of Japan, making it an ideal stop on a cruise vacation.

Its impressive skyline is populated by buildings that light up the valleys. The city winds through hillsides. The bay snakes between this metropolis and a causeway wraps around it like a magical belt.

Yachts populate the bay in the foreground of massive edifices that reflect off the calm waters. Colorful houses, temples and stone bridges enlighten centuries past. Sandy beaches and rocky shorelines set a stage meant for prime time.

Visit fish markets and a host of other unique eateries to enjoy tasty local cuisines. Busan is famous for its street food. Ssiat hotteok – or deep-fried pancakes stuffed with seeds, nuts, brown-sugar syrup and cinnamon – is the preferred dish.

Imagine the adventures of a worldly cruise that ports in Busan. Excursions abound; the biggest issue likely would be which ones to take. The sights leave you in awe and the experiences have you wondering what took you so long



**CENTRAL CITY** – The incredible skyline of Busan, South Korea is a wondrous sight that shows off the city's best characteristics. Image: SeanPavonePhoto. Adobe Stock.

to discover this city.

Here are some prime spots to see in Busan:

**Jagalchi Fish Market** – One of Busan's most popular attractions, it's a place where you can spot sea creatures you never knew existed. The seven-floor structure offers a variety of

treats. Choose a sample and have it prepared by one of the nearby restaurants.

**Gamcheon Culture Village** – One of the city's most-photographed areas, this old neighborhood was built for Korean War refugees and has been converted into a colorful, art-focused

community. Looking down over the rainbow-colored houses is an unforgettable experience.

**Songdo Beach and Cable Car** – The most central of Busan's seven main beaches, it's also the famous site of the first cable car in Korea. Stroll along Songdo's skywalk over the sea, known as Songdo Cloud Trails.

**Oryukdo Skywalk** – The see-through walkway will test your fear of heights, but it's worth the risk. It's relatively short but offers epic views of the Oryukdo Islands at the point where the South Sea meets the East Sea.

**Gwangalli Beach** – Located near the city center, it's the ideal place to park yourself in the sand and absorb the vibrant sunrises. Take a casual evening stroll and enjoy a nightcap at one of the many pubs lining the beachside avenue.

**Haedong Yonggungsa Temple** – An ancient temple by the sea, it is one of Busan's most popular attractions. It's also known as the "Dragon Palace Temple."

**Beomeosa Temple** – Considered Busan's most important temple, it's beautifully situated on the slopes of Mt. Geumjeong – the highest in the city – and dates to 678 A.D.

Busan is a shining city between the hills. It's vibrant, beautiful and culturally interactive. It may seem a tad out of the way, but it's a trek worth taking.