

# Recreation



The last day of the BSPC is Recreation Day. Conference participants go off in small parties to hike, bike, kayak, etc. -- or just to relax in the Pacific Northwest. Then they typically get together in Bellingham in groups of various sizes for one final dinner before heading home the following day. (All of the Recreation Day activities are optional.)

Here are a few of the many excellent recreational activities available in the Bellingham area.

## Hiking

There are a remarkable number of fantastic hiking trails in and around Bellingham. Many of the best trails are in the nearby Cascades (pictured above), where there are numerous hikes featuring gorgeous alpine vistas within 90 minutes of Bellingham. But there are also a number of great trails right in town (some of them wheelchair-friendly, and others that are highly suitable for young kids), and many others within 15 minutes of downtown. For information about hiking in and around Bellingham, you might try [this website](#) or [this one](#).

Another good option is to combine a ride on scenic Chuckanut Drive with a hike in beautiful [Larrabee State Park](#).

## Rafting/Kayaking

[River Rafting](#) and [sea kayaking](#) are also possibilities.

## Camping/Cabins/Fishing

[Here is a map of some of the campgrounds in Washington State](#). There are also many [cabins and houses for rent in the Mt. Baker area](#). And in addition there is (apparently) a lot of good fishing in [Whatcom County](#).

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## **Ferry Riding**

One of the most enjoyable things to do in the area is simply to ride the [Washington State Ferries](#) to various destinations in the [San Juan Islands](#). (Friday Harbor on San Juan Island is a good destination for a day trip, and [Lopez Island](#) is especially good for cycling or kayaking), or the [BC Ferries](#) to various destinations in [The Gulf Islands](#).

## **Whale-watching**

Or you could take a one-day [whale-watching cruise](#) from Bellingham to Friday Harbor; the route through the [San Juan Islands](#) is particularly beautiful, and there is a high likelihood of seeing whales, porpoises, seals, eagles, and other wildlife. There is also a different outfit that does [whale-watching cruises from Friday Harbor](#).

## **Berry Picking**

Another option, which happens to particularly kid-friendly, is to go berry picking. There are lots of places in the area, including [Bow Hill Blueberries](#) and [Boxx Berry Farm](#).

## **Relaxing in Parks and Coffee Shops**

Many BSPCers spend a leisurely Recreation Day wandering around Bellingham, visiting parks, bookstores, coffee shops, etc. One advantage of this plan (known as The Schaffer Plan) is that you don't have to get up early to go hiking or kayaking. Another advantage is that you can reconvene at the end of the day for dinner and another round of late-night revelry with all the BSPCers who have spent the day in more traditional recreational pursuits.