

2024 ADS National Show

Things to do in Central Washington

Wenatchee is an area that is relatively unknown, especially to people from distant regions of the continent. People who want to see more, but don't know where to start might benefit from these ideas. Some people may not have "wheels," so we'll start with places within walking distance of the show headquarters.

1. Wenatchee is made for walking and our hotel is smack dab in the middle of downtown. Our many small businesses are perfect if you feel like moseying among the unique shops, eateries, and tasting rooms. Do a little antiquing or treasure hunting or enjoy the murals and sculptures in town. Wenatchee's "Art on the Avenues" (www.visitwenatchee.org/listing/art-on-the-avenues) has placed 85 sculptures within a few blocks of our show venue; the Two Rivers Art Gallery is just a couple blocks east. (www.2riversgallery.org)
2. There is a footbridge that goes from the Convention Center down to Worthen Street, and Pybus Public Market (www.pybuspublicmarket.org) is just a couple blocks south of where you step off the bridge. Established in 2013, Pybus is a great place to have a meal or browse handmade and homegrown one-of-a-kind items. It is also the official venue for the North Central Washington Dahlia Society annual show. Visit the wineries and taproom, enjoy authentic gelato, crepes, baked goods, and soups. Or pick up honey, specialty vinegars, oils and more. Get up close and personal with the mighty Columbia River by walking the Apple Capital Loop Trail. Just exit Pybus, look around and there it is. Walk as much or as little as you like on this 11-mile loop; if you prefer, you can rent a bicycle from Arlberg Sports at Pybus.
3. Have a "hoot" at the Owl. Located little more than a block south of our hotel, The Owl Soda Fountain has been in downtown Wenatchee since 1926. Get nostalgic with a chocolate malt, banana split, or enjoy a soda or a phosphate (www.facebook.com/OwlSodaFountain/).

You'll need wheels for the remainder of these ideas, but there will be many people who have driven over the Cascades to be with us. Time to carpool.

1. Ohme Gardens. Just a few miles out of town, Ohme Gardens (www.ohmegardens.org) was a labor of love by Herman and Ruth Ohme, starting in 1929. They had a dream to turn 40 acres of orchard land into an alpine meadow with evergreen pathways and shimmering pools, where they could enjoy incredible views of the Cascade and Stuart ranges and the Columbia-Wenatchee Rivers confluence. Doing most of the work by hand, they carved this little bit of heaven out of the rocks, sage and scrub desert growth that is native to the area. The gardens are now the property of Washington State Parks and managed by Chelan County. Wear comfy shoes and bring your hiking poles – or just sit or meditate by one of the reflection pools in the warm North Central Washington sunshine.
2. Is hiking your thing? You may need to spend an extra day or two here, but it will be worth it. The foothills surrounding Wenatchee are rich with hiking trails of all levels of difficulty. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust ensures responsible maintenance of these trails, committed to outdoor quality of life. Trails include Wenatchee Foothills, Horse Lake Reserve Valley Trail, Mountain Home, Saddle Rock, Jacobson Preserve and others (www.cdlandtrust.org).
3. Visit Cashmere, home of Aplets and Cotlets. Take a tour of the Aplets & Cotlets kitchen and store and walk around downtown Cashmere. Located in the geographic center of Washington, Cashmere's downtown has turn-of-the-century charm, shady sidewalks, and a world-class collection of local Native American artifacts on display at the Cashmere museum, where visitors can walk among any of the 20 original buildings. Stop at Apple Annie's across US-2 if you are in an antiquing mood (www.visitchelancounty.com/cashmere).
4. Peshastin Pinnacles State Park is just a short drive west of Cashmere, and if you like rocks, this is a great place to climb or just see the local geology up-close. Or you may just want to take photos, have a picnic, or stretch your legs. There is a short trail system and a nice loop trail [Peshastin Pinnacles State Park | Washington State Parks](#).
5. Visit a Fruit Stand just a few miles west of the Pinnacles. First you will see Prey's Fruit Barn, preysfruitbarn.org followed by Smallwood Harvest (www.smallwoodharvest.net). Much more than just fruit stands, these family fun spots are a great source as you will find all kinds of gifts, foods, and wines. This is definitely a must-see, especially if you happen to have kids with you.

6. Leavenworth is a Bavarian Village 22 miles west of Wenatchee on Highway 2, nestled at the bottom of towering mountain peaks in the Wenatchee and Icicle River valleys. When you are there, you feel like you've stepped into a different place and time. Historically the Yakama, Chinook, and Wenatchi tribes made their home here, hunting large game and fishing the creeks and rivers for salmon. When the railroad built tracks through this area around 1900, it became a thriving area for logging, trapping, and mining, attracting many settlers. However, in the mid-1930s, the railroad re-routed its tracks, and Leavenworth could barely survive without that railroad traffic. A group of town leaders came together in 1960 with a solution: change the town's appearance to look like a Bavarian village. They decided to develop a series of seasonal festivals, outdoor and indoor theatrical groups, thematic shops and restaurants, and arts and a pergola in the park . . . and the rest is history.
7. While you are in Leavenworth, take a side trip to Sleeping Lady Conference Center on the Icicle River. Grab a bite at O'Grady's Pantry & Mercantile or The Grotto Bar. Walk the grounds and don't forget to see the Chihuly glass sculpture, "Icicle Creek Chandelier" [Sleeping Lady Resort | Mountain Resort in Leavenworth, WA.](#)
8. As you leave Sleeping Lady and Leavenworth, go 3 miles west through the breathtaking Tumwater Canyon. Visit <https://the-alps-fudge-candy.edan.io> and the Tumwater Dam. [Tumwater Dam & Fishway \(chelanpud.org\)](#)
9. If you prefer to head southeast to the Columbia River Gorge, you can get on Highway 28 toward Quincy. You will drive past basalt cliffs and vineyards as you enter the [Ancient Lakes of Columbia Valley AVA - Washington State Wine Commission \(washingtonwine.org\)](#) You will be deep in the heart of the Ancient Lakes AVA where Cave B Estate Winery, Jones of Washington, Evergreen Vineyard, Ryan Patrick Vineyards, Spanish Castle Vineyards, and White Heron Cellar ply their trade.
10. Visit Lake Chelan www.lakechelan.com. Go north on Highway 97A for about 40 miles, and then – without warning – 50.3 miles of clear blue glacier-fed lake will suddenly fill your range of vision. With stunning natural beauty and 300 days of sunshine, Lake Chelan is surrounded by vineyards, mountains, and smalltown charm. Although the first wine grapes were planted in the Lake Chelan valley a century ago, it wasn't until 1998-2000 that Chelan licensed the first bonded winery in Chelan County. It now boasts 30 vineyards, 40 wineries, and 300 acres of grapes.