



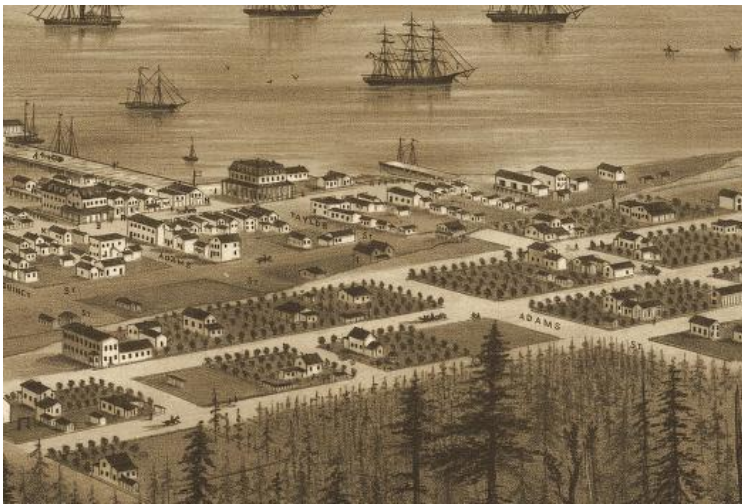
# DESTINATION FOCUS

AAA Washington Travel Services

## *Port Townsend*

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**PORT TOWNSEND** (pop. 8,820; alt. sea level to 310 ft.), located on the northeast corner of the Olympic Peninsula, is an important tourist destination billed as “Washington’s Victorian Seaport.” The main business district lies on a narrow plain at the edge of its namesake bay. Residential neighborhoods spread over the hills behind the waterfront. The bay opens into Admiralty Inlet, the entrance to Puget Sound, which just north of town leads to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The snowcapped Cascades line the eastern horizon. To the west rise the Olympic Mountains. Much of the city’s charm stems from its impressive collection of Victorian-era architecture and the entire central portion is a National Historic District.



*Port Townsend in the 1870s was already an important port and trading center.*

*[Jefferson County Historical Society]*

Coast Salish people of the s’Klallam Tribe lived in this vicinity for thousands of years. The Spanish explorer Manuel Quimper explored the nearby Strait of Juan de Fuca in 1790 and was probably the first European to see this area. The Quimper Peninsula, on which Port Townsend is located, bears his name.

Two years later British Captain George Vancouver described the inlet on the south side of that peninsula as a commodious harbor, naming it for the Marquis of Townshend. The first settlers arrived in 1851.

By 1853, Port Townsend, whose harbor offered safe moorage for the sailing vessels of the time, became the official port of entry when the district customs house was moved from Olympia. The economy prospered, first outfitting gold seekers bound for British Columbia in the late 1850s, later through the 1880s and 1890s, speculating on the prospects of attracting a transcontinental railroad line.

The city’s expansive layout reflects the vision of early settlers that Port Townsend would become the region’s major port and trading center. Substantial residences and business structures arose. By 1890 the city boasted foreign consulates, banks, large hotels, a streetcar line, shipyards and all manner of commercial establishments. During this time Port Townsend was called “The City of Dreams.” The

population reached nearly 7,000, but when plans for a railroad link fizzled in 1895, a long period of decline set in.

Upstart ports on the eastern shore of Puget Sound – Seattle, Tacoma and Everett – attracted the coveted rail service and all the rail-dependent industry and business. The city’s halcyon days seemed to have passed.

Port Townsend finally got rail service in the early 1900s, when a line was completed west to Port Angeles. A train ferry connected the city with Seattle (you can still see its trestle-like dock at the south end of the waterfront). The large pulp and paper mill on the city’s southern edge dates from 1927.

Aside from being seat of Jefferson County, Port Townsend is an important regional trading center. Today tourism forms a significant component of the local economy. Travelers enjoy the historic architecture, eclectic shops and galleries, restaurants, inns, scenic views, and recreational activities and thriving arts scene. The city’s full calendar of events ranges from fairs and festivals to performing arts.

## THE INFORMED TRAVELER

### WHOM TO CONTACT

**Emergency:** 911

**Police (non-emergency):** (360) 385-2322

**Weather:** <http://wa.weather-forecast.ws/port-townsend>

**Hospitals:** Jefferson General Hospital is north of SR-20 (Sims Way) at 834 Sheridan St.; phone (360)

### MEDIA

**Newspapers:** The weekly *Port Townsend-Jefferson County Leader* is published Thursdays - [www.ptleader.com/](http://www.ptleader.com/). The daily *Peninsula Daily News*, published in Port Angeles, also serves the area - [www.peninsuladailynews.com/](http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/)

**Radio:** There are no radio stations in the city, but stations from nearby cities offer good reception. Seattle’s KUOW-FM (94.9 mhz) offers National Public Radio programming.

**Television:** Port Townsend receives broadcast television stations from Seattle, Bellingham and Victoria, BC.

### Visitor information:

**Port Townsend Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center** (<http://ptchamber.org/tourism.html>): 2437 E. Sims Way, Port Townsend WA 98368. Phone (360) 385-2722 or (888) 365-6978.

### TRANSPORTATION

#### Approaches By Car

**State Route 20** (Water Street, Sims Way) connects Port Townsend with US-101 at Discover Bay, a dozen miles southwest. **State Route 19** branches southeast from SR-20, 4 miles south of town. Hwy. 19 connects with SR-104 and the Hood Canal Bridge.

#### By Air

**Jefferson County International Airport** ([www.portofpt.com/airport.htm](http://www.portofpt.com/airport.htm)) is 4 miles south of town via SR-20 and SR-19. The airport serves general aviation and there are several charter operations. There are no scheduled commercial air flights. The airport is a port of entry with customs facilities.

**Shuttle services** between Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and the Port Townsend area are offered by Pennco Transportation ([www.penncoshuttle.com](http://www.penncoshuttle.com)); phone (888) 673-6626.

### By Bus

**Olympic Bus Lines** ([www.olympicbuslines.com](http://www.olympicbuslines.com)) connects Discovery Bay (on US-101, 12 miles southwest of Port Townsend) with Port Angeles, Kingston, Edmonds, downtown Seattle (Greyhound Depot) and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport; phone (360) 417-0700 or (800) 457-4492.

### By Ferry

**Washington State Ferries** provides daily car ferry service between Port Townsend and Keystone on Whidbey Island. The terminal is on Water Street at the west end of the downtown waterfront.

**Puget Sound Express** operates daily passenger ferry service to Friday Harbor mid-April to mid-October; phone (360) 385-5288.

### Rental Cars

**Budget:** 518 Logan Street; phone (360) 385-7766.

### Public Transportation

**Jefferson Transit** serves the Port Townsend and Jefferson County areas daily with a fleet of buses. Phone (360) 385-4777 or (800) 371-0497; Web site: [www.jeffersontransit.com/](http://www.jeffersontransit.com/).

### Taxis

Taxi service is available from **Peninsula Taxi**, phone (360) 385-6394.

### Shopping areas

The waterfront business district has an eclectic mix of shops, boutiques and galleries in the blocks along Water Street between the ferry terminal and Monroe Street. The **Port Townsend Antique Mall**, 802 Washington St., has dozens of dealers on two levels.

The **Port Townsend Farmer's Market** (<http://ptfarmersmarket.org>) is held Saturdays 9:30am-1:30pm, from May through October and Wednesdays 3:30-6:30pm, from June through September in the Uptown District.

### Climate

Port Townsend has a Marine West Coast climate, generally free of temperature extremes. The city lies in the lee of the Olympic Mountains and receives considerably less precipitation than other areas west of the Cascades.

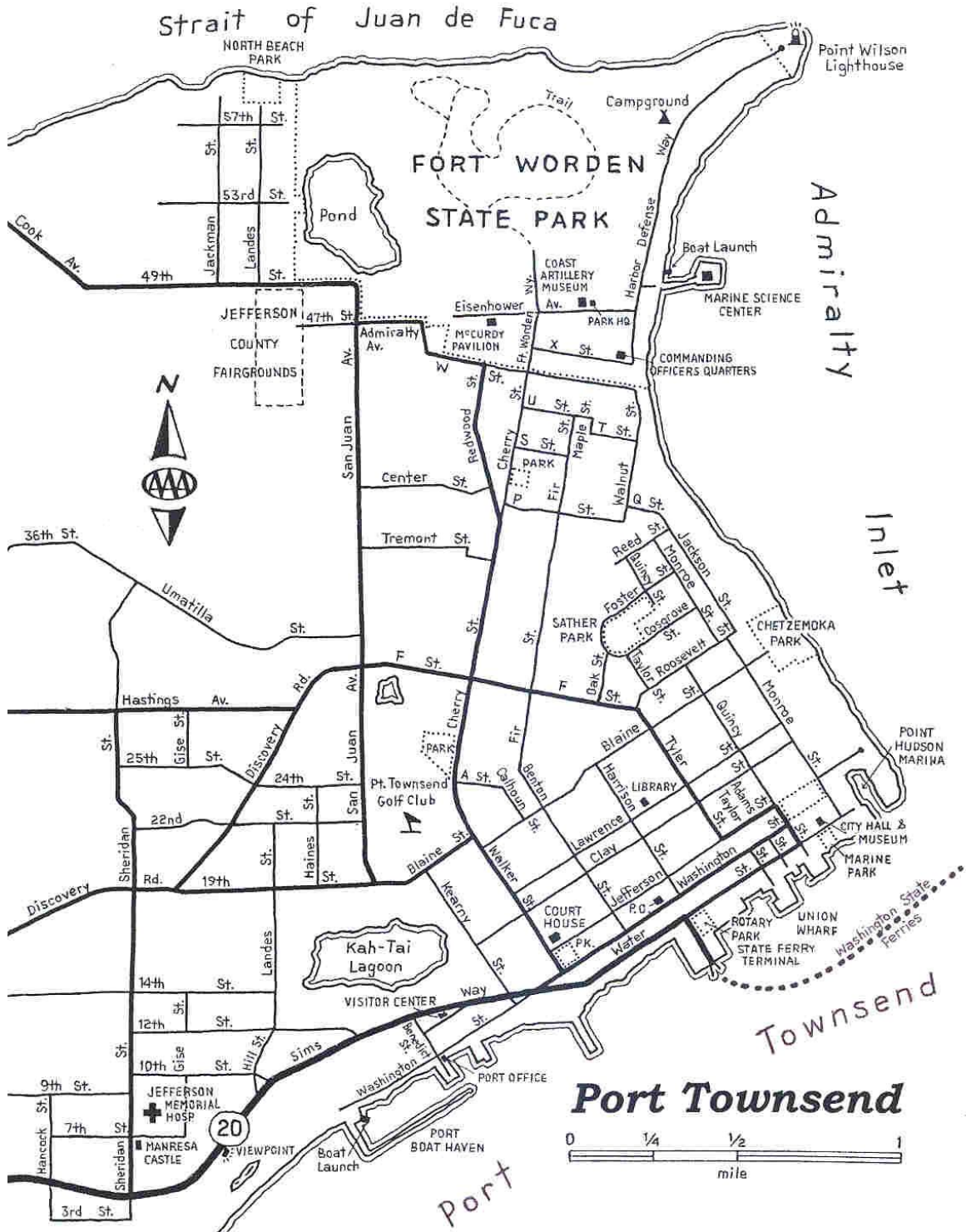
#### PORT TOWNSEND (alt. 100 ft.)

Averages	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Max. Temp. (°F)	45.3	48.6	52.0	57.0	62.8	67.4	71.9	72.2	67.8	58.6	50.4	45.9	58.3
Min. Temp. (°F)	36.3	37.5	38.8	41.9	46.0	49.6	51.9	52.2	49.6	45.0	40.2	37.3	43.9
Precip. (inches)	2.19	1.62	1.73	1.43	1.48	1.26	0.87	0.90	1.06	1.53	2.49	2.57	19.12
Snowfall (inches)	1.5	0.7	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.7	4.0

# THINGS TO SEE AND DO

## WATERFRONT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Port Townsend's core is the historic waterfront district – six blocks long and only a block or two wide. A bluff or gray clay, lower at its eastern end, separates the old downtown from the bulk of the city, which lies to the north. Two-, three- and four-story brick and stone buildings, most built in the late 1880s and early 1990s, line Water Street, its principal arterial. These historic structures now house hotels, restaurants, bars, coffee houses, stores, antique shops, art galleries and bookstores. The best way to explore the historic core is on foot - the description begins at the east end of the district and works westward.



**JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM** ([www.jchsmuseum.org/](http://www.jchsmuseum.org/)) is in the 1891 Port Townsend City Hall at Water and Madison streets at the east end of the historic district. Its displays and collections range from Native American through pioneer settlement and early 20th-century periods. The museum is open daily March-December, weekends only in January and February. **Marine Park**, opposite the city hall, features a dock for short-term boat moorage and good views of the harbor.

**Point Hudson Marina** anchors the east end of the waterfront. The **Wooden Boat Foundation** ([www.woodenboat.org/](http://www.woodenboat.org/)) occupies the former Coast Guard building at 380 Jefferson Street. The foundation sponsors the Wooden Boat Festival the weekend after Labor Day.

The district has numerous noteworthy structures. Walking west along Water Street from Madison, look for the **Franklin House**, built in 1886, this was the first brick “fireproof” hotel in the city. It stands on the site of an earlier hostelry dating back to 1869. Continuing west on Water Street, you’ll see the **Waterman & Katz Building** (1885), formerly a ship’s chandlery. The handsome cast iron façade of the **C.F. Clapp Building** (1885) is across the street. It originally housed a bank. The nearby **C.C. Bartlett Building** was built in 1881.



*The Hastings Building (1889) at Water and Taylor streets in the heart of old Port Townsend.*

The **Enoch S. Fowler Building** (1874), on Adams between Water and Washington streets, served as the Jefferson County Courthouse until 1892. It’s said to be the state’s oldest 2-story stone structure. Today it houses the *Leader* weekly newspaper. At the foot of Adams Street a small pocket park offers a panorama of Port Townsend bay.

The intersection of Water and Taylor streets was the heart of old downtown Port Townsend. The **McCurdy Building** (1887), at the corner, formerly housed the Delmonico Hotel and restaurant. Across the street is the **Hastings Building** (1889), a beautiful, three-story Victorian sporting a blue and white cast iron façade. Built at a cost of \$45,000, it was the most expensive commercial building in town at the time. Catty-corner across Water Street stands the **Mount Baker Block** (1890), a 4-story brick structure, designed as a hotel but converted to office and retail use. Its planned fifth floor was never built.

South of Water, Taylor ends at **Union Wharf**. Built in 1867, the pier could accommodate three ocean-going sailing vessels simultaneously. The original wooden structure collapsed years ago. Walk north on Taylor Street across Water toward Washington Street. The **Rose Theater** (1904) was originally a vaudeville house, later showing silent films. It’s been restored and is again screening motion pictures. The **Haller Fountain**, at Taylor and Washington, was originally built for the Mexican pavilion at the 1893 Columbian World Exhibition in Chicago. Theodore Haller donated the fountain to the city in 1906 to commemorate its pioneers. The bronze statue has been variously identified as *Galatea*, *Innocence* and *Venus*.

Back on Water Street, west of Taylor, the red **James and Hastings Building** (1889) now houses a variety of shops. The brick 3-story **Capt. H.L. Tibbals Building** (1889) contains the **Palace Hotel** (AAA 3-diamond). In its early years locals called it “The Palace of Sweets,” for the demimondaine who lived and worked therein. A ghost is said to haunt the property. The **Pioneer (F.W. Pettygrove) Block**, erected in 1889, is actually two structures, unified by a common façade and central stairwell.

## ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY & NEARBY VICINITY

There's plenty to see outside Port Townsend's waterfront district. The residential blocks above the bluff contain a treasure trove of Victorian architecture. Many of the homes feature Carpenter Gothic elements, gingerbread trim, turrets, pergolas and towers. Approximately 70 structures are on the National Registry of Historic Places. A number of them function as bed and breakfast inns. While only a few are open to the public, the city celebrates a **Victorian Homes Tour** weekend in late September, when many private residences are open. The best way to explore this more expansive district is by car, but walking is also pleasant.

Follow Washington Street, which leads up the bluff, parallel to Water Street. At Harrison and Washington stands the 3-story **Customs House** (1893), presently a post office. Sculpted faces of s'Kllam Chief Chetzamoka and his wives and brother cap the columns guarding the south entrance. Its lobby features historical photographs.



*The Old Consulate Inn is an AAA 3-diamond bed and breakfast.*

Five blocks west is a square. On its west side (Walker Street) is the ornate **Old Consulate Inn (F.W. Hastings House)**, an 1889 Queen Anne Victorian bed and breakfast, formerly the residence of the German consul. North of the square (Jefferson Street) stands the imposing red brick tower of the **Jefferson County Courthouse** (1892), blending Romanesque and Gothic motifs. Its architect, Willis Ritchie, also designed courthouses in Bellingham, Olympia and Spokane.

Follow Walker Street north three blocks to Lawrence; turn right (east). Lawrence leads to the **UPTOWN DISTRICT**, centered on Tyler. This commercial area dates back to the 1880s and was an attempt to offer Victorian ladies and gentlemen a proper venue to shop, as opposed to the more prosaic waterfront district with its bordellos and boisterous bars. The 1913 **Carnegie Library**, at Lawrence and Fillmore, is one of the few still functioning Carnegie-funded libraries.

**St. Paul's Church** (Episcopal), at Tyler and Jefferson, erected in 1865, is the oldest church in the Diocese of Olympia. A ship captain donated its bell tower requesting that it be rung whenever foggy conditions prevailed, having once been saved from running aground in such weather by the ringing of a bell.

The simple **Rothschild House** ([www.jchsmuseum.org/Rothschild/house.html](http://www.jchsmuseum.org/Rothschild/house.html)), at Taylor and Jefferson, is an 1868 gem in the Greek Revival style. The family, distantly related to the German bankers, occupied the home until 1959. It now functions as a museum featuring period furnishings. Its rose garden has dozens of old world varieties. It's open daily 10am-5pm, May through September (admission).

The more flamboyant 1889 **Ann Starrett Mansion** ([www.starrettmansion.com/](http://www.starrettmansion.com/)), at the corner of Clay and Adams, features a free-standing spiral staircase and ceiling murals. The home is now a bed and breakfast (AAA 3-diamond).

**CHETZEMOKA PARK**, at the eastern end of Blaine Street, occupies a 5-acre hillside site overlooking Admiralty Inlet. Established in 1904, it honors the local American Indian leader who befriended early settlers. This park features eight flower gardens, a playground and a gazebo erected in 1905. Massive banks of rhododendron bloom here in May.

**FORT WORDEN STATE PARK** ([www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Fort%20Worden&pageno=1](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Fort%20Worden&pageno=1)), entrance on Cherry Street, occupies 433 acres at the tip of the peninsula on the northern edge of Port Townsend. The park is a National Historic Landmark. Established in the late 1890s, it was one of a trio of fortresses, the so-called "Devil's Triangle," guarding the Admiralty Inlet entrance to Puget Sound. The other two were at Fort Flagler on nearby Marrowstone Island (*see description below*) and Fort Casey on Whidbey Island.

Washington State Parks acquired the fort in 1955 and it is one of the system's major facilities, offering a conference center, historic buildings, museums, lodging, a hostel, campgrounds and a wide range of recreational activities. The park incorporates the structures and gun emplacements of the old fort, together with a large forested tract and beaches fronting Admiralty Inlet and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It includes a dozen miles of hiking and biking trails.



*Fort Worden State Park features many historic buildings. [Photo: Washington State Parks]*

A row of stately white frame homes faces the parade grounds at the southern end of the park. These formerly housed the post's officers and their families. Some are available for overnight rental. The nearby rhododendron garden contains more than 1,000 plants.

The Jeffersonian-style **Commanding Officer's Quarters** (1905) was residence for the fort's commander until 1953. The building is restored and furnished in late Victorian period, providing a glimpse into the life of an officer and his family in the first decade of the 20th-century. The home is open daily June-August, weekends March through May and September through October (admission).

The **Coast Artillery Museum**, on Eisenhower Way, interprets the history of coastal artillery, emphasizing on the defense of Puget Sound harbors from the late 1800s to the end of World War II. Among the collections and artifacts visitors will see are a recently completed three-dimensional scale model of Battery Kinzie, showing the design and structure of the massive fortifications, and the emplacements for the two 12-inch disappearing guns that were kept in readiness for possible attack from 1910 to 1943. The museum is open weekends in May and daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day (admission).

**Centrum** ([www.centrum.org](http://www.centrum.org)) is a non-profit arts and creative education center hosting a year-round calendar of special events, workshops, seminars and artistic performances. Many of its summer musical and theatrical performances are open to the public. The McCurdy Pavilion, the fort's former balloon hangar, now serves as a performing arts venue.

**Marine Science Center** ([www.ptmsc.org/](http://www.ptmsc.org/)), on Harbor Defense Way, has displays of marine and natural history. In summer staff offer guided nature walks and other interpretive programs, including a 3-hour narrated boat trip around Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge. The center is open Wednesday-Sunday from mid-June through Labor Day; days vary at other times; phone (360) 385-5582 or (800) 566-3932 (admission).

**Point Wilson Lighthouse**, commissioned in 1917, stands at the end of its namesake point, where Admiralty Inlet meets the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The clay cliffs of Whidbey Island lie 6 miles across the inlet and the snowy dome of Mount Baker (elev. 10,775 ft.) dominates the horizon. The point is a great vantage for watching the parade of ships navigating the channel. To the west, a gray sand beach faces the Strait. Bunkers and old gun emplacements dot the grassy slopes above the beach.

**MANRESA CASTLE** ([www.manresacastle.com/](http://www.manresacastle.com/)), at Sheridan and Seventh streets in the west part of the city, has had several incarnations. Built in 1892, it first served as a sumptuous residence for the city's first mayor, Charles Eisenbeis. The brick walls of the original mansion are a foot thick. After Eisenbeis' widow remarried and moved away, it stood vacant for nearly two decades. It passed to the Catholic Order of the Society of Jesus in 1927. The Jesuits named it for Manresa, Spain, where their order originated, added a wing two years later and used the property as a training center for priests. In 1968 new owners converted it to a hotel (AAA 2-diamond).

**OLD FORT TOWNSEND STATE PARK** ([www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Old%20Fort%20Townsend](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Old%20Fort%20Townsend)), is 4 miles south of town on SR-20. Established in 1856 to protect pioneer settlers, the fort had a sporadic history. Its troops participated in the 1859 "Pig War" border dispute with England in the San Juan Islands. A fire that destroyed the barracks in 1895 participated the post's closure, but it was reactivated during World War II when it served as facility for defusing enemy ordnance. Nearly 6 miles of trails lace through the 367-acre forested park. Interpretive signs describe its natural and historical attributes. A 150-foot bluff overlooks the tidal shoreline of Port Townsend bay. Day use areas are open daily; the campground is open from early April into late October. (Fee).

**PORT TOWNSEND AERO MUSEUM** ([www.ptaeromuseum.com](http://www.ptaeromuseum.com)), is located at the Jefferson County International Airport, 5 miles south via SR-20 and SR-19. The museum has more than 20 antique and classic aircraft, including a rare 1909 Pleriot XI Luscombe 8A. Many of the planes are operational and fly regularly. Open Wednesday through Sunday 9am-4pm. (Admission).

## SIGHTSEEING

### Boat Tours / Wildlife Tours

- **Puget Sound Express** ([www.pugetsoundexpress.com/](http://www.pugetsoundexpress.com/)) offers a full-day sightseeing trip to the San Juan Islands and a mid-day (4-hour) whale-watching trip, April through September. Trips depart Point Hudson Marina, east end of Water Street. Phone (360) 385-5288.
- **Puget Sound Marine Science Center** ([www.ptmsc.org/](http://www.ptmsc.org/)), offers narrated wildlife cruises to Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge on selected dates from late March through December. Trips depart Point Hudson Marina; phone (360) 385-5582 or (800) 566-3932.

### Scenic Flights

- **Goodwin Aviation** ([www.goodwinaviation.com](http://www.goodwinaviation.com)) offers aerial tours of the Olympics, San Juan Islands and surrounding waters in Cessna aircraft from Jefferson County International Airport; phone (360) 531-1727.

### Walking tours

- **Sidewalk Tours** depart from various downtown locations, offering a guided overview of the city's history and architectural legacy; phone (360) 385-1967 (AAA discount).

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Bicycling** – Port Townsend is a popular biking town. The Larry Scott Memorial Trail follows a former railroad grade west from the Port Boat Haven Marina. Bike shops have more information on safe cycling itineraries.

- **P.T. Cyclery** ([www.ptcyclery.com/](http://www.ptcyclery.com/)), downtown at 252 Tyler St., rents road bikes, tandem bikes and mountain bikes Monday through Saturday; phone (360) 385-6470.

### Golf

- **Discovery Bay Golf Club** ([www.chevychasegolf.com](http://www.chevychasegolf.com)), 8 miles southwest of town at 7401 Cape George Rd., is an 18-hole, par-73 course. Phone (360) 385-0704 or (800) 385-8722.
- **Port Townsend Golf Club** ([www.porttownsendgolf.com/](http://www.porttownsendgolf.com/)), in town at 1948 Blaine St. is a 9 hole, par-36 municipal course. Phone (360) 385-4547.

**Kayaking** – The waters around Port Townsend offer outstanding kayaking opportunities.

- **PT Outdoors** ([www.ptoutdoors.com/](http://www.ptoutdoors.com/)), in Flagship Landing Mall at 1017B Water Street, rents sea kayaks, rowboats and sailboats. A variety of guided kayak tours are offered daily. Phone (888) 754-8598.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH (mid-March) – **Victorian Festival** (Downtown: tours, exhibits, arts & crafts, wines, high tea, workshops)

MAY (mid-May) – **Rhododendron Festival** ([www.rhodyfestival.org](http://www.rhodyfestival.org))

JUNE (late June) – **Chamber Music Festival** (Centrum)

JULY (early) – **Festival of American Fiddle Tunes** (Centrum)

JULY (early) – **Hadlock Days** (community festival in Port Hadlock)

JULY (late) – **Jazz Port Townsend**

AUGUST (early) – **Jefferson County Fair**

AUGUST (mid-August) – **Uptown Street Fair & Kiwanis Classic Car Social**

SEPTEMBER (early) – **Wooden Boat Festival**

SEPTEMBER (mid-month) – **Historic Fall Homes Tour**

SEPTEMBER (late) – **Port Townsend Film Festival**

OCTOBER (early) – **Jefferson County Farm Tour & Harvest Celebration**

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER – **Holidays in Port Townsend** (Christmas Tree Lighting first Saturday in December)

## AROUND THE AREA

**PORT HADLOCK** (pop. 3,500, alt. 100 ft.), 8 miles south of Port Townsend via SR-20 and SR-19, is the largest of a trio of communities – including Irondale and Chimacum – known as the Tri-Area. This was an early industrial center. An iron smelter operated on the waterfront (below the foot of Monroe Street) from 1879 until 1889. The commercial and residential district that grew up around the smelter was known as Irondale. The old smelter reopened as a steel mill in 1909, but went bankrupt two years later. A sawmill opened along the bay in 1886 and Capt. Samuel Hadlock platted a townsite, naming it for himself. From 1911 until 1913 a distillery, near the south end of the bay, produced industrial alcohol and byproducts. A resort occupies the former alcohol plant. One of the area's more interesting buildings is **Hadlock Manor**, on Curtiss Street, a residence built in 1890 by a Swedish sea captain.

**Indian Island**, just east of Port Hadlock, is a naval ordnance depot. The natural channel of Portage Canal separates the island from the mainland. The island is a military reserve and is closed to the public, except for SR-116, which traverses its southern end and continues across a narrow neck of land to Marrowstone Island (*see description below*).

**CHIMACUM** (pop. 800, alt. 120 ft.) is just south of Port Hadlock on SR-19. Its name recalls a s'Klallam tribe who lived in the area before the coming of Europeans. Highway 19 leads south from Chimacum through the lush rural landscape of **Beaver Valley**. Homesteading started here in the 1850s. Four miles south of Chimacum you'll pass the intersection with **Egg and I Road**, named for Betty MacDonald's book about her life as a young wife on a chicken farm. The popular 1947 motion picture starring Claudette Colbert and Fred MacMurray introduced the colorful characters Ma and Pa Kettle (Marjorie Main and Percy Kilbride), featured in nine subsequent films.

**ANDERSON LAKE STATE PARK** ([www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Anderson%20Lake&pageno=1](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Anderson%20Lake&pageno=1)) is 1 mile west of SR-19 on Anderson Lake Road. The 410-acre forested park offers hiking and biking trails, birdwatching, non-motorized boating and fishing (late April through August). Park open daily 6:30am to 9pm late April through September (fee).

**Visitor information:** Port Hadlock - Tri-Area Chamber of Commerce ([www.porthadlock.org/](http://www.porthadlock.org/)), P. O. Box 1223, Port Hadlock, WA 98339; phone: (360) 379-5380.

**MARROWSTONE ISLAND** (pop. 840, alt. sea level to 195 ft.) is 13 miles southeast of Port Townsend via SRs 20, 19 and 116. The island measures 7 miles long by an average half-mile wide. Captain Vancouver sighted the clay (marrow) cliffs at its northern tip in 1792, naming it Marrowstone Point, believing it and adjacent Indian Island to be the headlands of a peninsula connected to the mainland. The American Charles Wilkes expedition of 1842 called it Cravens Peninsula, but the name did not prevail.

**NORDLAND** (pop. 550, alt. 17 ft.), on SR-116, midway up the island at its narrowest point, bears the name of pioneer settler Peter F. Nordby, who platted the townsite on the small cove of Mystery Bay in 1892. The cove was first called Nicholls Bay, recalling James Nicholls who homesteaded here in 1871. Its present name came into popular usage during Prohibition as bootleggers had a habit of hiding their boats in the cove.

The town attracted many Norwegian immigrants and a fish cannery operated 2 miles north in the early 1900s. The island's poultry industry was important from 1924 through the 1940s. Marrowstone was noted for its premium turkeys. The island was also noted for its strawberry crop, but this industry too has disappeared.

**MYSTERY BAY STATE PARK** ([www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Mystery%20Bay&pageno=1](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Mystery%20Bay&pageno=1)), just north of town, caters primarily to boaters, but also nearly 700 feet of tidewater shoreline and stunning views west to the Olympic Mountains (fee).

**FORT FLAGLER STATE PARK** ([www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Fort%20Flagler&pageno=1](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parkpage.asp?selectedpark=Fort%20Flagler&pageno=1)), crowns the northern end of Marrowstone Island, 4 miles north of Nordland via SR-116. Although its tip is a mere 2 miles across the harbor from Port Townsend, the drive by car totals 18 miles.



*Fort Flagler State Park occupies the northern end of Marrowstone Island. Port Townsend lies in the background across its namesake bay.  
[Photo: Washington State Parks]*

The Army erected a coastal defense installation here in the late 1890s, complete with camouflaged concrete ramparts and rifled cannons mounted on disappearing carriages.

The fort, named for Brigadier General Daniel Webster Flagler, formed one of the triad of such installations protecting the entrance to Puget Sound. The post was deactivated in 1953 and became a state park in 1955. The 784-acre park features historic buildings, gun batteries, 5 miles of hiking and biking trails, 3.6 miles of beachfront, campgrounds and overnight lodging and sweeping views (fee).

One of the buildings houses a **Military Museum** documenting the history of the post. The museum is open daily June through October, Fridays through Sundays in May and weekends only from November through April. Park rangers also conduct guided tours; phone (360) 385-3701 (Donation).

**Marrowstone Point Light**, located at the northeastern tip of the island, was erected in 1918. It's the smallest lighthouse on Puget Sound, replacing an earlier light tower dating from 1888. The shallows off the point at the entrance to Port Townsend bay are a notorious hazard to navigation and the site was recommended for a lighthouse as early as 1856. On a foggy afternoon in October, 1892, two ships collided in the waters off the point killing 5 persons.

**PORT LUDLOW** (pop. 1,968, alt. 55 ft.), is 19 miles south of Port Townsend via SR 20, SR-19 and Oak Bay Road. Port Ludlow is a resort and residential community located on its namesake bay on the west shore of Puget Sound. In 1842 explorer Charles Wilkes named the bay for Augustus A. Ludlow, a Naval officer in the War of 1812. The settlement grew up around a sawmill established in 1853. Large sailing vessels docked in Port Ludlow to load lumber for foreign destinations. It was also a shipbuilding center during the 1870s. The Pope and Talbot timber company acquired the mill in 1879. Mill manager Cyrus Walker built Admiralty Hall, a sumptuous mansion here, hand picking every foot of wood used to erect the elegant edifice. The mill closed in 1935 and, sadly, the mansion was torn down in 1940.

Pope and Talbot repurchased land around the old town site in 1968 and started the planned community. Port Ludlow's residential areas nestle amid trees on curving, paved lanes that climb the hillside overlooking the bay. Longest of the town's bike and nature trails is the 5-mile **Timberton Loop Trail**. Another interpretive trail follows the beach, through woods to a salmon stream and Ludlow Falls. The full service **Port Ludlow Marina** rents small boats, kayaks and bicycles.

The destination **Resort at Port Ludlow** ([www.ludlowbayresort.com/](http://www.ludlowbayresort.com/) AAA 3-diamond) offers a wide range of recreational activities and the **Harbormaster Restaurant**. Campers enjoy the **Port Ludlow RV Park** ([www.portludlowrvpark.net/](http://www.portludlowrvpark.net/)).

**Visitor information:** Port Ludlow Chamber of Commerce ([www.portludlowchamber.org](http://www.portludlowchamber.org)), P.O. Box 65305, Port Ludlow, WA 98365; phone: (360) 437-9798.

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Bicycling / Boating / Kayaking

- **Port Ludlow Marina**, 1 Gull Drive, rents bikes, small boats and kayaks; phone (360) 437-0513

### Golf

- **Port Ludlow Golf Club** ([www.ludlowbayresort.com/golf/](http://www.ludlowbayresort.com/golf/)), is a 27-hole championship course with three nines tucked into the woods overlooking the bay and Sound. Phone (877) 805-0868.

jpk – 21 December, 2006