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TRAVEL & LIFE

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GETAWAYS
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PICKS

If you need more Wallace trivia to convince you that it might a contender for the Center of the Universe title, consider these facts. Wallace has been the world's largest silver producer for more than 100 years. The entire town is on the National Register of Historic Places. And 1,000 miles of mining, logging and Forest Service roads make it the world's largest snowmobile trail system.

Plan your winter getaway to Wallace, Idaho, at wallaceid.fun.

8 White Pass Scenic Byway, WA

One of the most scenic, yet least traveled mountain passes in Washington is White Pass, which is located on US 12 connecting Western Washington with Yakima on the east side of the range. The route is known as the White Pass Scenic Byway.

White Pass is home to the White Pass Ski Area, known for its terrain appropriate for every level of ability. Visitors can stay slope side at the Village Inn, which offers several dining options. This full-service resort includes child care, lessons, gear rentals and everything you need to make a winter getaway at White Pass a memorable one. Unobstructed views of Mt. Rainier cap the list of amenities.

Another winter attraction along the byway is the feeding of the elk. Hundreds of elk converge at the Oak Creek Wildlife Area for the feeding program beginning in January. Visitors can watch the elk at close range from a viewing area and interpretive center. A Discover Pass or a day pass available at the site is required.

Be sure to check road conditions before setting out on the White Pass Scenic Byway in winter. Plan your winter trip to White Pass at whitepassbyway.com. Check out White Pass Ski Area at skiwhitepass.com.

9 A New Sculpture Forest on Whidbey Island, WA

As if Whidbey Island were not magical enough, a new sculpture park combines nature and art. At the Price Sculpture Forest, visitors can wander through a winding labyrinth of life-size sculptures in the forest just 1.5 miles east of Coupeville.



The highly anticipated sculpture forest features a growing number of works from half a dozen local artists. Discover the century-old forest and native plants, along with art hanging from trees or hidden behind foliage. Children are encouraged to be curious, wander and be immersed in nature.

The living trail system has two walking trail loops, each with their own theme: Nature Nurtured sculptures relate to earth's natural elements, while Whimsy Way sculptures are more humorous and playful. The connected loops were designed intentionally to provide significant personal space, making it a safe social-distancing activity.

Whidbey Island native Scott Price created the Sculpture Forest to integrate art and nature, to preserve the habitat and share the forest, and to create a playful yet educational experience with a sense of anticipation. The sculpture forest is open every day from dawn to dusk, with free public tours available with advanced reservations.

Find information at SculptureForest.org. Plan your trip to Whidbey Island at whidbeycமானislands.com.

10 A Lakeshore Retreat: Kirkland, WA

So close (to Seattle), yet so far away: that's the city of Kirkland, across Lake Washington from Seattle. Kirkland offers a small-town atmosphere that, even for a staycation, makes you feel you've traveled hundreds of miles to a destination you've been dreaming of visiting.

Walks along the lakeshore, a stroll to spot the city's public art, a rainy day snuggled in your hotel room ordering room service and reading that book you've been meaning to get to—these are what an off-season retreat to Kirkland is all about.

When you are ready to venture a little farther, neighboring Woodinville is Washington's wine tasting hub with a concentration of more than 130 wineries to choose from. If you plan a serious wine-tasting excursion, let someone else do the driving and book a guided wine tour.

Centrally located in downtown Kirkland, the contemporary Heathman Hotel makes a perfect home base. Its restaurant, Hearth, serves up inventive comfort food cooked in a... yes, a hearth.

Plan your getaway at explorekirkland.com.