Where to next?

A guide to road tripping in the Emerald State

There is no better time for a road trip than summer — when the city heat becomes suffocating and the only thing you can think to do is escape, the sprawling roads of Washington are there to greet you and guarantee you a beautiful trip.

To begin, Washington is home to three national parks, all within driving distance of Seattle. Mount Rainier National Park offers a three-hour drive from the city, while Olympic National Park is a five-hour drive, and North Cascades National Park is a seven-hour drive.

Mount Rainier National Park

Mount Rainier National Park boasts more than 300 glaciers, 2000 species of plants, and 73 miles of coastline.

North Cascades National Park

North Cascades National Park has a 73-mile-long coastline and offers a variety of outdoor activities, such as hiking, fishing, and camping.

Olympic National Park

Olympic National Park covers almost one million acres, 95% of which is designated wilderness, according to the National Parks Foundation website. It covers three different ecosystems, and has a 73-mile-long coastline.

The park also has opportunities for swimming and paddling in the spring and summer.

You can take the ferry back to Fauntleroy or drive up the King Peninsula, stopping at Bremerton before catching the Bainbridge Island - Winslow ferry back to Seattle.

Washington State Parks

Washington State Parks offers a wide range of state parks, including Manchester and Illahee State Parks.

Manchester and Illahee State Parks

Manchester and Illahee State Parks are both a short drive and easy to get to. Manchester State Park is known for its beautiful beaches, while Illahee State Park is known for its cliffs and ocean views.

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