



Highlights

Farmers Markets:

- **The Bayview Farmers Market**
Saturdays, 10AM to 2PM (April - Oct.) For more info, please visit: www.bayviewfarmersmarket.com
- **South Whidbey Tith Farmers Market & Garden**, Thompson Rd. & SR 525, Saturdays, 10AM to 2PM (May - Oct.)

Berries are abundant on Whidbey Island and u-pick farms, near Langley, almost as plentiful.

- **Bell's Farm**, 892 West Beach Road, Coupeville, 360-678-4808 (Strawberries)
- **Dagualla Bay Farms**, 36699 SR20, Oak Harbor, 360-679-2192 (Blueberries and Strawberries)
- **Case Farm**, 98 Case Rd., Oak Harbor, 360-675-1803 (Blueberries and Strawberries)
- **Forget-Me-Not Farm**, 5700 Double Bluff Rd., 360-321-2523. U-pick by appointment. Open late June to mid July. (Marionberries and Raspberries)
- **Mile Post 19 Farm**, 8997 State Route 20, 360-678-3641, U-pick in season. (Raspberries)

Raven & Spade is a picturesque potager, just six miles from downtown Langley.

A short drive and ferry ride from the Seattle metropolitan area, Whidbey Island is refreshingly rural and a veritable breadbasket for surrounding towns and Puget Sound cities. The rural island is notable for its unique, picturesque communities and small-scale farms, which grow specialty crops including a great range of vegetables (kale, garlic, tomatoes, potatoes) and fruits – raspberries, loganberries, grapes, heirloom apples, and vintage pears – some in century-old established orchards. Wine makers have sought out the island lifestyle and are blending wines, growing grapes and offering tastings. Grass fed beef ranches, artisan creameries, and sought-out specialty nurseries round out the mix.

Chefs who have migrated to this rural lifestyle cater to a clientele with a sophisticated palate and preference for relaxed dining. Fresh seafood, including Dungeness crab and the island's signature Penn Cove mussels, is abundant.

This itinerary is based out of Langley due to its easy access to food, farms, lodging and other activities.



Day 1

GETTING TO LANGLEY/WASHINGTON STATE FERRY – From Everett and points south, catch a morning Washington State ferry across Puget Sound from Mukilteo to Clinton. Drive 10 minutes to the charming seaside village of Langley. If coming from the north as you arrive on Whidbey Island, plan for a stop at Deception Pass before continuing south to Langley.

ACQUAINTING YOURSELF WITH LANGLEY – Get a feel for Langley and the current food, musical and theater offerings at the locals' favorite **Useless Bay Coffee Co.**, where master roaster Des Rock uses a Probat UG15, roasting each varietal separately before creating signature coffee blends for espresso, lattes, cappuccino and more. If you get a coffee to go, know that the cups and lids are fully compostable. Take a peek at the vegetable gardens along the right side, behind and in front of the building.

LUNCH – Stay at Useless Bay Coffee Co. for a grilled Panini on organic bread from Essential Baking Co., hearty soup, or a crisp, light salad. Up the street is **The Braeburn** and across is the newly renovated **S.W. Commons Coffeehouse**.

Have a sweet tooth? Try the locally grown-loganberry truffles handmade at **Sweet Mona's** or more chocolate and satisfying treats at the town landmark **Star Store** or one of two bakeries in this easily walk-able village.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES – Interested in wine, grape growing, wine making? Whidbey Island has seven wineries, some with tasting rooms and vineyards. Start with **Whidbey Island Vineyards & Winery**, just a mile outside of downtown Langley. Owners Greg and Elizabeth Osenbach planted their first grapes in 1986 and opened the winery in 1992 with 400 cases of wine; their 2006 Yakima Valley Syrah and 2007 Yakima Valley Sangiovese both were awarded Gold Awards at the Seattle Wine Awards 2010. Next, head to **Taste-4-**

Fresh Sheet

Weather determines the availability of local products but Washington State farmers are always working hard to offer tasty products year round. See what's fresh now:

Spring (April – May)

Asparagus, Bok Choi, Broccoli, Cabbage, Herbs, Young Garlic, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Nettles, Peas, Radishes, Rhubarb, Salad Greens, Spinach

Summer (June – August)

Apricots, Blackberries, Blueberries, Carrots, Celery, Chard, Cherries, Corn (Sweet), Cucumbers, Garlic, Gooseberries, Green Beans, Jerusalem Artichokes, Melons, Nectarines, Onions (Sweet), Peaches, Bell Peppers, Chile Peppers, Plums, Raspberries, Squash, Strawberries, Tomatoes

Fall (September – November)

Apples, Blackberries, Blueberries, Brussels Sprouts, Collards, Carrots, Celery, Corn (Sweet), Cranberries, Garlic, Garbanzos, Grapes, Kale, Lentils, Pears, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Tomatoes, Winter Squash

Winter (December – March)

Apples, Beets, Carrots, Chard, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Mushrooms, Onions, Parsnips, Pears, Potatoes, Turnips, Winter Squash

Exceptional Meat, Seafood, Dairy & Preserves are available year round.

Wines at Bayview Corner and sample artisan offerings from Blooms' Winery and Spoiled Dog Winery. Then head up to Greenbank for a visit to **Holmes Harbor Cellars**, **Greenbank Cellars** and the tasting room for FishTalk Vineyards and others at **Greenbank Farm**. Purchase wine at the tasting rooms or browse the impressive selection at **The Star Store** or **2nd Street Wine Shop**. New to Langley is **Swede Hill Cellars** makers of Ott & Murphy Wines. Look for their shop on First Street.

If beer is your preference, Langley's former fire station is now home to **Olde World Ales & Lagers**. Learn about the process from owner Michael McMahon, while sampling handcrafted ales including the Useless Bay Sweet Espresso Stout and Langley Schlager.

DINNER – Dine with locals at the bar or al fresco overlooking the Saratoga Passage at **Prima Bistro** – a Northwest bistro inspired by French classics. Try Chef Sieb Jurriaans crisp pork belly, truffled wild prawns and steak frites with locally grown, braised greens from Willowood Farm. Sip on elegant cocktails and choose from an extensive wine list with by the glass offerings. Hear live musical entertainment on Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons.

AFTER DINNER – Langley is the center of live entertainment on Whidbey Island. Check for performances at **Whidbey Island Center for the Arts**, **Whidbey Children's Theater**, **Useless Bay Coffee**, **Maurlee's**, **Island Coffee House**, **Mukilteo Coffee Company**, and **Prima Bistro**, or take in a film at **The Clyde**, a 1937 renovated theatre on First Street.

OVERNIGHT – At the Inn or B&B of your choice. **Saratoga Inn** and **Garden Path Suites** are among the available choices in town. **Eagles Nest Inn** is tucked in a natural setting, just 1¼ miles outside of town. **Farmhouse B&B** is a bit further away in Clinton.



Keep an eye out for local produce and farm stands for snacking, home-cooked meals and preserving.

TIPS:

Tips for Bringing Your Bounty Home:

Cool It - If possible, bring a cooler for fragile produce. Gel Pacs, block ice and bagged ice can help keep your produce, meat and dairy products cool or frozen while you travel. Not tomatoes however – they lose flavor when chilled!

Buy Produce Last - If you plan on sightseeing and making additional stops, buy perishable and fragile produce such as raspberries last.

Tips for visiting farms:

- Wear closed-toe shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty
- In the summer, go in the morning when it's cooler
- Remember sunscreen, a hat and water
- Use hand sanitizer after each farm visit so that you can eat each harvest along the way



Siegerrebe cluster © 2008 Joe Menth

Sip award-winning wines in the tasting room at Whidbey Island Winery or plan your visit around one of the winery's fun events.

Day 2

Before heading out to see the island's farms, have a hearty breakfast at your chosen inn or B&B. Staying at **Eagles Nest Inn**? Consider the alder-smoked salmon soufflé or the German puffed pancake with wild island berries. At the **Saratoga Inn**, start the day with homemade quiche and strawberry scones. Farmhouse B&B's homegrown strawberries and rhubarb often make an appearance in breakfast offerings. Or head out for breakfast at **Useless Bay Coffee Co.** or **The Braeburn**.

FARM VISITS – Pull on your boots and explore farms firsthand.

Chocolate Flower Farm, one of several specialty nurseries on Whidbey Island, specializing in chocolate colored and scented plants, with an annex in downtown Langley called The Garden Shed.

The Raven and The Spade Roadside Garden, an artfully created, certified-organic potager at 4785 East Harbor Road in Freeland. An interweaving of beauty and productivity, beds of vegetable, herbs and ornamentals are set off by large grass paths and a greenhouse.

Call ahead to see if Vicki Brown has time to show off her girls at **Little Brown Farm**, making and selling artisan goat cheese, on this hillside farm in Freeland.

With its bountiful farms and quality produce, the growers of Whidbey Island have recently branded their offerings. Look for the Whidbey Island Grown label on produce sold throughout Puget Sound.

Festivals & Events

- Penn Cove Mussel Festival**, March
- Savor Spring Wine Tour**, May
- Whidbey Island Farm Tour**, September

Short List of Shops

The Garden Shed, First St., for specialty seed, chocolate candles, chocolate colored plants and more.

Star Store Annex, Second St., for botanicals and natural body care. Locally grown produce (including dried beans from Willowood Farm) and a wide selection of owner-reviewed wine at **The Star Store**.

Langley Clock & Gallery, down the lane at 220 Second St., for hand-crafted twig furniture.



© 2010 Joanne Lechner, Eagles Nest Inn



© 2010 Chocolate Flower Farm

LUNCH – Pack a picnic or return to town and try **Café Langley**.

AFTERNOON – Stretch your legs and take in views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic mountains from **Ebey's Landing**, outside of Coupeville. Or stay closer to Langley, browse the many shops and then take a walk along the water or down the hill to the marina.

DINNER – Dinner at **Café Langley**, **Edgecliffe**, **Prima Bistro**, or **Inn at Langley**, where Chef Matt Costello features fresh and flavorful fare from Shipki, Wind Willow and Rabbit Run farms. **Maurlee's Take Out** is another option.

AFTER DINNER – Enjoy any of a number of live performance venues or take a moonlit stroll.

OVERNIGHT – At the Langley inn or B&B of your choice.

More Information:

Langley Chamber of Commerce

www.visitlangley.com
(360) 221-6765

Whidbey Camano Islands

www.whidbeycamanoislands.com

Washington State Tourism

www.experiencewa.com

***End Note:** This itinerary was created in December 2010. We apologize if there are any minor inaccuracies. Dates and hours may vary, so we suggest you confirm dates and hours in advance of traveling. Wishing you happy and safe travels.*