A weekend spent in the Skagit Valley provides an array of options for exploring your culinary senses. Bring a hearty appetite and save room in the car for goodies to take home.

Extend your weekend stay by combining your trip with a getaway to Whidbey Island or San Juan Islands. This itinerary can also be traveled in reverse.
The Skagit Valley is one of the most fertile regions in Washington State, and with a drive through this location, you are sure to see why. A lush valley bursting in technicolor welcomes spring in an unforgettable way. Tourists, artists and nature lovers are drawn to the annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival during the month of April. Summer’s crops spring to life with grape and berry vineyards, potatoes, alfalfa and other fruits and vegetables. In early fall, farmers set up shop along the country roads, selling their fresh harvest directly from their trucks. Winter brings wildlife viewers by the hundreds to catch the flurry of snow geese and hawks migrating to this fertile land.

Try some of the best apples in Washington State from Perkins Variety Apples in Sedro-Woolley. This family-owned farm is committed to producing organic, high-quality tree fruits like apples and pears. Sample delicious cider or step next door to the Perkin’s family winery, Eagle Haven Winery. Enjoy free tastings of Eagle Haven handcrafted wines in the garden area. Old growth, hand split cedar arches allow a perfect view into the orchards and vineyards.

Stop in for a treat at Snow Goose Produce located on Fir Island. Offering the best in organic produce and local fare such as fresh and smoked seafood, baked breads, artisan cheeses and wines. Even the ice cream, served in huge homemade waffle cones, is local, made with natural ingredients from Lopez Island Creamery and Edaleen.

Growing a wide variety of organic vegetables, fruits and flowers, Hedlin Farms has a farm stand located south of the Pioneer Monument in LaConner. Hedlin Farms is known for quality produce, served in many local restaurants, including Adrift in Anacortes.

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.
Enjoy a bountiful lunch at Seeds Bistro and Bar in LaConner. Serving delicious seasonal fruits and vegetables from local farms, free range chicken, fresh seafood, grass-fed beef, naturally nested eggs and more. Save room for the delectable desserts.

Stroll through the waterfront village of LaConner with its distinctive Northwest art galleries and local boutiques. Visit LaConner Quilt & Textile Museum featuring three stories of quilts and textiles that range from traditional to contemporary, with a focus on works from the Northwest.

Nell Thorn Restaurant & Pub offers an unforgettable quality dining experience built on locally sourced foods. Seafood lovers will adore the “Beach Bowl” packed with mussels, clams, prawns and finfish poached in a herb and fennel seed-scented tomato broth.

After dinner, drive to Mount Vernon’s historic Lincoln Theatre. From films, to plays, to concerts, the Lincoln is central to the cultural life of the Skagit Valley.

Stay the night on La Conner's only waterfront hotel, LaConner Channel Lodge. Luxurious accommodations and Northwest styling make this a truly memorable lodging experience.

**DAY 2**

Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery is a longtime Skagit County fixture, known for generous breakfasts and hefty cinnamon rolls. This award-winning homey café serves breakfast and lunch with locally sourced foods and of course, baked items made from scratch.

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**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 while visiting the Valley, buy perishable items last. Also, buy the most fragile produce such as ripe tomatoes, cherries, or apricots 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
Commune with the wildlife by taking a walk, run or bike ride on the Padilla Bay Dike Trail, a flat 2.3-mile trail through the Padilla Bay Reserve.

Drive the Farm to Market Road for numerous opportunities to sightsee, visit farms, market stands and specialty shops along the way. Sample organic cheeses, yogurt and meat at Samish Bay Cheese in Bow.

Stop at the big red barn at Rosabella’s Garden Bakery for apple cider donuts, the famous 5-lb. apple pie and other treats. At the BreadFarm artisan bakery you’ll find the dedicated crew punching dough at a big table behind a display counter filled with golden-crusted delights. Discover the best glass-bottled milk products at Golden Glen Creamery, plus take a tour and visit the cows, heifers, goats, chickens and turkeys on the farm.

Have a delicious lunch at Edison’s mercantile, Slough Foods specializing in serving local and whole foods. Picnic in the outdoor dining area – a great place to watch wildlife.

Travel I-5 toward the Skagit Valley and visit the Sakuma Brothers Market Stand in Burlington, the area’s premiere berry grower (and seller). Sakuma grows hundreds of acres of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries and more. Sakuma also grows and harvests teas – the only tea grown in the United States.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS:

Annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival (April) www.tulipfestival.org

Anacortes Wine Festival (April) www.anacortes.org

Burlington Dairy Berry Days (June) www.burlington-chamber.com

Bite of Skagit www.skagittourism.com

Burlington Harvest Days (September) www.burlington-chamber.com

Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms Tour (October) www.festivaloffamilyfarms.com
Go wine tasting at **Challenger Ridge Vineyards & Cellars** in Concrete, established in 2000 and today is the largest Pinot Noir Vineyard in Washington State. Situated on the banks of the Skagit River, you can enjoy wine tasting, bocce ball, horseshoes, wine tours, fishing in the Skagit and roaming the vineyard. The Cascade Trail running through the vineyard offers 23 miles of scenic views that can be explored by bike, walking or horseback. Challenger Ridge is also dog friendly with offerings of dog biscuits and dog wine.

The whole family will love a stop at **Schuh Farms** in Mount Vernon. This family-owned farm offers u-pick flowers, berries, vegetables, pumpkins and tulips. The barn offers local culinary delights including cheeses and seasonal gifts. Seasonal hayrides, petting zoo and kids barrel train ride are also offered.

Learn about Deception Pass, the Bridge and surrounding area on an amazing **Deception Pass Tour** aboard the “Island Whaler.” Enjoy the thrill of the fast jet boat through Deception Pass with a knowledgeable interpreter.

End your bountiful journey by dining at **Adrift Restaurant** in Anacortes where chefs transform the bounty from the Skagit Valley farmlands and the surrounding waters of the Straits of Juan de Fuca into superior cuisine, and present it in an atmosphere that will nurture both body and spirit.

**LOCAL TIP:**

**Tune in to 1630 AM:**
"InFARMation" Travelers Agricultural Radio Updates

As you drive through the Skagit Valley tune to 1630 AM on your car radio and learn why local farmers call this fertile valley the "Magic Skagit." Hear crop reports, farm history and special stories about the dozens of crops grown in this special valley. Find out what crops are being harvested or planted right now.

**InFARMation is a collaborative project made possible by:**
Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, Skagit Valley College Radio Station KVSR 91.7 FM, WDOT, Leadership Skagit, EDASC, WSU Skagit County Extension and many community volunteer announcers.
MORE INFORMATION:

Washington State Tourism
www.experiencewa.com

Skagit Valley Tourism
www.skagittourism.com

Mt Vernon Chamber of Commerce
105 East Kincaid St., Mount Vernon
www.mountvernonchamber.com
(360) 428-8547

Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
www.tulipfestival.org
Annually held April 1-30

Skagit Valley Wine Association
www.skagitvalleywineries.com

Perkin’s Variety Apples
8243 Sims Road, Sedro-Woolley
360-856-6986
www.perkinsvarietyapples.com

Eagle Haven Winery
8243 Sims Road, Sedro-Woolley
360-856-6248
www.eaglehavenwinery.com
Open spring and summer, Mon-Fri. 11am-5pm

Snow Goose Produce Market
15170 Fir Island Road, Mount Vernon
(360) 445-6908
Open daily, limited business hours closed in the winter

Hedlin Farms
12052 Chilber Rd., Mount Vernon
(360) 466-3977
Open Sunday 10am-6pm

Seeds Bistro
623 Morris St., LaConner
(360) 466-3280
www.seedsbistro.com
Open daily 11am-9pm

La Conner Visitor Information
606 Morris Street, La Conner
(360) 466-4778 (888) 642-9284
www.laconnerchamber.com

LaConner Quilt & Textile Museum
703 S. 2nd Street, La Conner
(360) 466-4288
www.laconnerquilts.com
Open Wed.–Sun. 11am-5pm

Nell Thorn Restaurant & Pub
205 Washington St., LaConner
(360) 466-4261
www.nellthorn.com
Open Tues.–Sun. Hours vary by day

Lincoln Theatre
712 S. First St., Mount Vernon
(360) 336-8955
www.lincolntheatre.org

LaConner Channel Lodge
205 N. First Street, LaConner
(360) 466-1500
www.laconnerlodging.com

Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery
720 S. First, LaConner
(360) 466-4451
www.calicocupboardcafe.com
Open Daily 7:30am-4pm

Padilla Bay Dike Trail
11404 Bay View-Edison Rd.,
Mount Vernon
padillabay.gov/recopportunities.asp

Samish Bay Cheese
15115 Bow Hill Rd, Bow
(360) 766-6707
www.samishbaycheese.com
Open Mon–Fri, 10am-4pm
Sat–Sun 12pm-4pm

Rosabella’s Garden Bakery
8933 Farm to Market Road, Bow
(360) 766-6360
www.rosabellasgarden.com
Open daily 9am-5pm

BreadFarm
5766 Cains Court, Bow
(360) 766-4065
www.breadfarm.com
Open daily – Hours vary by day

Golden Glen Creamery
15098 Field Rd, Bow
(360) 766-6455
Open daily 10am-4pm

Slough Foods
5766 Cains Court, Bow
(360) 766-4458
www.sloughfood.com
Open Wed–Sun. 11am-6pm

Sakuma Brothers Market Stand
17400 Cook Road, Burlington
(360) 757-6611
Open daily June – October 10am-5pm,

Challenger Ridge Vineyards & Cellars
43095 Challenger Road, Concrete
(425)422-6988
www.challengerridge.com
Open Sat-Sun. 11am-5pm
MORE INFORMATION:

Schuh Farms
15565 Memorial Highway,
Mount Vernon
(360) 424-6982
Open April 1-Dec. 22. 9am-6pm

Deception Pass Tour
160 E. Cornet Bay Road, Oak Harbor
(888) 909-8687
www.deceptionpasstours.com
Daily cruises at 11am - 5pm on the hour
Sunset Cruise daily at 6pm.
Closed Wednesdays in June

Adrift Restaurant
510 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes
(360) 588-0653
www.adriftrestaurant.com
Mon-Thurs 8am-9pm
Fri-Sat. 8am-10pm

End Note: This itinerary was created based on a culinary/agritourism workshop conducted by Washington State Tourism and Washington State Department of Agriculture with feedback from various destination marketing and agriculture organizations. 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.