

# *Willkommen in Leavenworth*

## Washington's Bavarian Village!

Once a logging town, Leavenworth was transformed into a Bavarian Village in the 1960's, as authentic and delightful as many in the Alps. The town has become one of the main tour attractions in the State with quality Festivals, Shows, Sightseeing, and Activities throughout the year and had the honor of being named the "Ultimate Holiday Town USA" in December 2003 by the Arts and Entertainment Network!

We hope that this tour guide to the Leavenworth area will help you plan your trip and make Leavenworth an ideal part of your Washington State itinerary!

Outdoor Theater

River floats

Walking or hiking trails

Barbecues

Sleigh rides

In-town Nordic skiing

Village of Lights

Musical series

White water rafting

Agriculture tours

Unique shops

Snowmobile tours

Christmas lighting

Amazing golf courses

German cuisine

Gardens

Christmas Theater

Two-mountain skiing

Ice Festival

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# The History of Leavenworth

Native Americans of the Yakima, Chinook, and Wenatchi tribes first settled the area where Leavenworth now sits with plentiful deer and elk for hunting and fishing for salmon in the Icicle Creek. The first non-native settlers came for furs and farmland, and also with the gold rush of the 1860's. The families made their homes at the Icicle "flats" near Icicle Road and the Wenatchee River in the Icicle Valley.

Leavenworth was Platted in 1893 by a group of financiers headed by Captain Charles F. Leavenworth. From the beginning the heart of the town was the Great Northern Railroad – inspired by railroad tycoon J.J. Hill. James Jerome Hill, dubbed "the Empire Builder," dreamed of a northern transcontinental railroad and in 1892 began laying tracks that crossed the Wenatchee valley and continued up the Tumwater Canyon where Highway 2 is today. Leavenworth prospered from the railroad money in the form of employees who constructed tracks through the Cascade Mountains.

With the employees came their families, schools, and churches. Because of the railroad the abundance of timber in the Northwest could now reach the unquenchable markets in the Midwest and East Coast. A large lumber mill was built by Lamb Davis in Leavenworth adjacent to the railroad for convenience in shipping.

The 1920's brought drastic change. The Lamb-Davis lumber mill sold its land holdings and the Great Northern Railroad moved its operations to Wenatchee. With the economic crash of 1929 and the depression of the 1930's, Leavenworth was left with 24 empty storefronts on its two-block business street. The town was devastated and nearly died for lack of economy.

In the early 1960's the people of Leavenworth realized they needed to make an incredible effort to change their situation and decided to change the appearance of town to bring in tourists. In 1965, after much deliberation and research, the community leaders were swayed by the backdrop of Alpine hills and turned the town into a Bavarian Village. Determined to make the theme deeper than a facelift on buildings, the entire community banded together to create a credible illusion of a true Bavarian alpine village. With costumes that they designed and made in their homes and with entire families working together to man stores and services, the dream has become a reality. Major festivals have been created in the Bavarian theme and have become famous throughout the Northwest. The official Washington State Autumn Leaf Festival, Maifest, and Christmas Lighting Festivals lead the show of 13 major events and seasonal entertainment.

Considered by many to be "Washington's Playground," the Leavenworth area is an adventure and outdoor enthusiasts dream. Activities abound from the extreme to the mild, from white water river rafting and snow sports to birding and walking along the Wenatchee River.

With more than two million visitors each year, Leavenworth has become one of the top destinations for visitors to the Pacific Northwest, and continues to change and adapt with new activities, festivals, and events. The Bavarian village is becoming known as a haven of the arts, culture, nature, and recreation.

## Leavenworth Festivals and Events

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## Crowned A&E's Ultimate Holiday Town!

### **Village of Lights - December & January**

The Bavarian Village is decked out with thousands of twinkling lights throughout the holidays. Each weekend in December features a festival celebrating the Christmas season. See why Fodor's Travel Guide rated Leavenworth among the top 10 undiscovered winter destinations worldwide!

### **Ice Fest - January**

Ice Fest is a day for playing outside in the snow! Events include the "Great Smooshing Race," and the Northwest Regional Dog Sled Pulling Championships. Enjoy dog sled rides, sleigh rides, and skiing at the Leavenworth ski hill. The festival concludes with spectacular aerial fireworks over the snow!



### **Bavarian Maifest - May**

Maifest encompasses history with 16th century costumes, games, dancing, eating, drinking and general revelry in the olde world Bavarian sense! Complete with the traditional Maipole dance! There's shopping, Art in the Park, a craft bazaar, and traditional "oompa" music!

### **Leavenworth Spring Birdfest - May**

Enjoy birdsong and explore the natural habitat around Leavenworth with guided trips and activities from strolls to active hikes over wildflower covered hillsides.



### **Art in the Park - Summer**

Art in the Park is a celebration of renowned professional and amateur artisans that is on display in the village park Thursdays through Sundays beginning with Maifest and continuing through summer and fall.

### **Riverfest - May**

A weekend that celebrates playing on the river! Come and enjoy interpretive tours on the ecology of the Wenatchee River, test your mettle with some White Water Rafting and Kayaking, or put together a team for the down river races!



### **Bavarian Bike & Brews Festival - June**

Celebrate the outdoors and adventure of the Cascades with an IMBA sanctioned cross-country mountain bike race followed with a celebration of microbrewers. The next day is the USA Cycling Federation sanctioned Leavenworth Road Race.

### **Leavenworth Wine Walk - June**

A wine tasting event! Stroll the galleries and taste the wines that are produced by members of the Columbia Cascade Winery Association. Wineries are located from Leavenworth to Chelan.



### **International Accordion Celebration - June**

What better setting could there be than Washington's Bavarian Village for a celebration of accordion music including jazz, popular, classical, ethnic, and more! There are workshops, jam sessions, a parade, and four nights of concerts.

### Music Festival - July

On July weekends enjoy the Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival. The concerts feature a variety of music and Leavenworth's professional resident ensemble Kairos Quartet.

### Leavenworth Summer Theater - July - August

Live, Outdoors, & Under The Stars!

### Kinderfest, Polkarama, Wedding Show – July

A celebration for children on July 4 with hands-on exhibits, puppets, hayrides and more!

Polkarama is oompah music, vendors, live entertainment and dancing! Put a little oompah in your life!

The Leavenworth Wedding Show in the Festhalle

### Acoustic Music Festival - August

Great music from folk performers around the area on Blackbird Island.

### Bavarian Quilt Show – September

Heirloom quilts, new quilts and wearable clothing. Quilts are exhibited throughout the village with self-guided tours.

### Wenatchee River Salmon Festival – September

The annual return of salmon up the Wenatchee river is celebrated with hands-on exhibits, educational exhibits, entertainment, activities, and a 11 K walk through rural areas and the town of Leavenworth. Also, hike up the Icicle Ridge trail with views over the valley and village.

### Washington State Autumn Leaf Festival - September

Spectacular fall foliage and scenery is celebrated with a Grand Parade, entertainment, food booths, and activities.

### Oktoberfest – October

Two weekends of a German tradition from the old country with great German bands in the Festhalle, lots of food, and a traditional parade!



### Christkindlmarkt - November

Modeled after the great open-air Christmas markets in Germany, the village presents the sights, sounds, and smells of a traditional European market with booths, music, and roasting chestnuts.

### Christmas Lighting - December

Visitors come back year after year for this famous Leavenworth festival. Fridays the town is in darkness awaiting Saturday's festivities. Saturday at dusk everyone gathers to sing "Silent Night" and witness the lighting of the village as it is transformed into a magical wonderland of lights. See why USA Today rated Leavenworth one of the USA's top 10 Christmas towns!

## Coming to Leavenworth





© Stephen Huffman

Ski Hill Amphitheater

Leavenworth rests in the foothills of the Cascade Mountain range near the center of Washington State, approximately two and one half hours from Seattle. As you drive through Stevens pass on highway 2 you are surrounded by mountains that rise to more than 8,000 feet elevation. Covered with trees, they are alight with color in the fall. Your trip will follow the Wenatchee River into the Tumwater Canyon, with the highway hugging the cliffs and winding through a river-rushing gorge. You round a final corner and the Village of Leavenworth opens up nestled against the mountainsides. The Wenatchee River continues into town and is joined by the Icicle River in River Front Park.

You'll find that the shops, hotels, restaurants, and public buildings are designed and built in a traditional Bavarian theme, with overhangs, hand painted murals, and ornate woodwork! Many of the town's private homes and bed-and-breakfasts are also in theme and it is worthwhile touring around the outskirts to see them scattered among the orchards.

From early in the spring until the first frost in the Fall the village is a brilliant canopy of colors from hundreds of hanging baskets and flower boxes, all with a backdrop of pine green forests on the Cascade foothills and bright blue sky of Eastern Washington.



© Stephen Huffman

Sound of Music

## In the Village

### Shopping

When the townspeople planned the theme for Leavenworth they adhered to strict guidelines for architecture and signage, which are still in effect. With no bright street signs or backlighting you'll feel that you're in a quaint countryside village. Follow the handcrafted signs, twinkling string lighting, and painted murals while browsing or window-shopping for items and gifts ranging from hand crafted cuckoo clocks and turn of the century music boxes to international hats and handmade wooden toys. Beer steins, nutcrackers, Christmas ornaments, and imported Bavarian clothing are more of the unique items you'll see.



### Dining

With over two million visitors each year, Leavenworth has become home to many incredible restaurants and eateries. From traditional German foods to Italian, Mexican and American cuisine, you'll find great food and unique entertainment. Enjoy a traditional "chicken dance" while eating a traditional German dinner or the sounds of classic accordion music.

### Theater

In the summer months and in November and December, Leavenworth Summer Theater performs 5 different plays. The summer plays are performed outdoors in two locations. There are performances at both the Hatchery Park Amphitheater and at the Ski Hill Amphitheater and the hills really do come alive with the "sound of music!"

### Arts

Through the summer "Art in the Park" is a showcase of local artisans who have pavilions through the center of town. The Icicle Creek Music Center has scheduled concerts with first class performances, and there are often talented musicians playing accordion and other instruments in town. Authentic



Icicle Creek Music Center

hand-painted murals are throughout the village, which tie together Leavenworth's natural surroundings and activities with a common Bavarian motif.

### Culture

Many unique shops and attractions are located in Leavenworth, with many tour friendly facilities including the only all-nutcracker museum in the U.S. showing nutcrackers from the 15th century to present times. While the emphasis is on the antique nutcrackers, the museum also displays the nutcrackers of the current makers.

### Nature

The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery was once the largest hatchery in the world and is host to a nationally famous festival each fall celebrating the salmon run. It is also host to many of the Leavenworth Summer Theater productions in an outdoor amphitheater. While strolling through Riverfront Park and onto Blackbird Island, you'll want your binoculars to view the abundance of birds and wildlife. Riverfront Park also hosts interpretive signs that tell some of the history of the area.

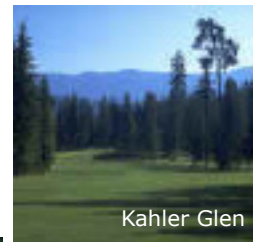
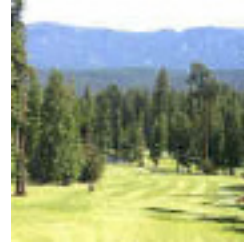
"The Four Seasons of Blackbird Island"

Just a few blocks from the hustle and bustle of downtown Leavenworth lays a birdwatcher's haven. Nestled along the Wenatchee River, Blackbird Island is home and refuge to an assortment of wildlife. The diverse habitat hosts seasonal favorites from Bald Eagles and Osprey fishing the rapids, to a large variety of Warblers and other spring migrants. Flashes of color in the thickets could be a Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting or American Goldfinches. Secretive tree nesters such as Wood Ducks are common, as are a variety of other waterfowl. Canadian Geese follow the river as a flyway and can be heard in almost all seasons. Black-headed Grosbeaks make short work of wild berry crops, and their cousins, Evening Grosbeaks, flash black, white, and yellow as they move about from each food source. The soft tapping echoing through the snow-covered wood could possibly be a Northern Flicker, Downy, Hairy Woodpecker or an industrious Black-capped chickadee! California Quail can be seen scurrying through the underbrush and in spring young ones follow their parents as if on a grand parade. Late summer skies can be laced with raptors as they prepare to fly south. Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and an occasional falcon ride the morning thermals. By winter, the power lines are adorned with hunting American Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Walk softly and you may be treated to a sight of a deer, an otter or even a bear. Just the gentle flowing of the water, the rustle of the trees and closeness of wild things is enough to send any curious nature lover to Blackbird Island." - Diana Peffer

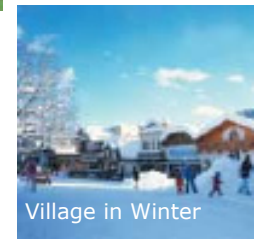
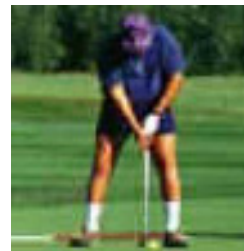
### Recreation

Opportunities abound for visitors who enjoy the outdoors. The Wenatchee River is host to some of the best river-floats and white water rafting in Washington. You'll be able to watch people in kayaks challenge the rapids and see the changes in the country side as the river takes you from the pines of the foothills to the arid region only 10 miles away.

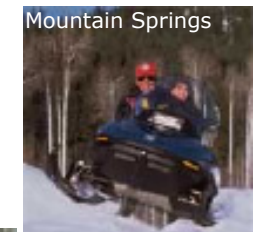
Horseback riding, rock-climbing, road and mountain biking, are pastimes that you'll see many visitors and residents participating in. In the winter activities include sleigh rides, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and all types of other alpine and Nordic snow sports.



Kahler Glen



Village in Winter



Mountain Springs



Mountain Springs

## Around the Wenatchee Valley

From the Summits of the local mountains down onto the banks of the local rivers, you will be astounded by the natural beauty and scenery around Leavenworth.

There are a number of ways to further enjoy the outdoors by hiking, golfing, river rafting, sleigh rides, and more.

### **Agriculture** - Leavenworth through Chelan

From mid-April through Fall there are four possibilities ranging from springtime blossom tours to Fall harvest tours. Chelan county is home to apple, pear, apricot, peach, and cherry orchards, as well as many other crops.

### **Smallwood's Harvest** - Peshastin

From the back of an old '68 pickup Smallwood's Harvest has evolved into a country mercantile nestled in a beautiful clapboard farmhouse surrounded by fruit trees. Beginning with the harvest of asparagus, closely followed by cherries, apricots, peaches, pears and apples, the aroma of fresh fruit and produce abounds.

Blended with antiques it brings back memories of childhood pleasures and adds a nostalgic touch to its surroundings. Locally made treats line the shelves with gifts sprinkled throughout. [www.smallwoodsharvest.com](http://www.smallwoodsharvest.com)

### **Liberty Orchards** (home to Aplets & Cotlets) - Cashmere

Not much has changed since the company began in 1920... They still use only the finest ingredients and slow-cook every batch of candy by hand. Over the years they've welcomed thousands of visitors from all over the world to this unique little factory in Cashmere, Washington. Come and take a tour of the traditional candy-making process from start to finish! [www.libertyorchards.com](http://www.libertyorchards.com)

### **Pioneer Village** - Cashmere

The Pioneer Village is constructed of twenty original pioneer structures dating back to the late 1800's, complete with interior artifacts, to provide an accurate "snapshot" of life the way it was in simpler times. The Chelan County Historical Museum houses treasures of historical interest for young and old alike. The 13,000 square foot museum includes outstanding displays of Native American artifacts, natural history, and pioneer exhibits. [www.visitcashmere.com](http://www.visitcashmere.com)

### **Ohme Gardens** - Chelan County

The Ohme family began an incredible project in 1929 which today has become a garden featured in many national and international publications.

Never intending it to become a tourist attraction, "we just wanted to build a nice backyard". Neither botanists nor landscape architects, the gardens' guiding force has always been purely intuitive, and realization largely trial and error. There was never a written plan, ever; they simply carried out what they envisioned, depending on their inborn sense of beauty and proportion to create a garden completely in keeping with its inspiring vista. Their aim was never a development of a formal flower garden, but of informal, natural alpine beauty. The gardens have been on the cover of many magazines and





written about in many books - Gardening America, Gardens-Architectural Digest, and American Gardens to name a few. The garden is currently managed through an agreement with Chelan County and is self-supporting. [www.ohmegardens.com](http://www.ohmegardens.com)

**Rocky Reach Dam – Chelan County**

A highlight of any visit to the Rocky Reach Visitor Center is the opportunity for a close-up view of fish passing through the fishway. The fish viewing room, with five windows located on the west side of the fish ladder, allows visitors to watch salmon, steelhead, trout and other species continue their upstream migration to spawning areas. Salmon and steelhead are seasonal visitors. The best months of the year to see Chinook salmon are May and August. Sockeye salmon are most visible during July, and it's September for steelhead. "Look a salmon in the eye" in the fish viewing room, located downstairs in the Visitor Center at Rocky Reach Dam. [www.chelanpud.org](http://www.chelanpud.org)

**Washington Apple Commission - Wenatchee**

The Washington Apple Commission Visitors Center in Wenatchee and Washington's Fruit Place Visitors Center in Yakima both offer an in-depth look at the state's largest agricultural industry. More than 3,500 Washington tree fruit growers, from the Canadian border to the Oregon border, produce billions of pounds of fruit, including apples, cherries, and soft fruits such as peaches. In apple production alone, Washington is by far the national leader, providing more than half the fresh apples eaten in America.

We invite you to learn how so much fruit from so many growers reaches American households in top condition. Tour groups are welcome, so pack some lunches, load up the gang and head for the Washington Apple Commission Visitors Center, or Washington's Fruit Place Visitors Center, and spend a beautiful day in Fruit Country. [www.bestapples.com](http://www.bestapples.com)

**Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center - Wenatchee**

The Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center gathers and educates people to celebrate and preserve the history, arts, sciences, and rich diversity of this region and its people. <http://museum.wsd.wednet.edu>



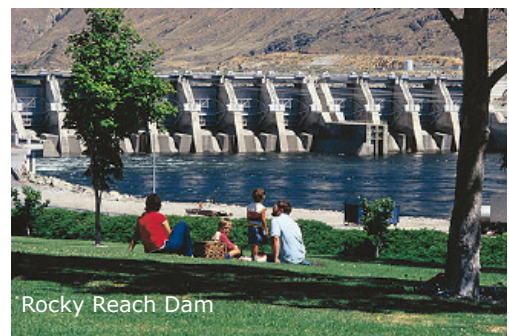
Pioneer Village



Ohme Gardens



Apple Commission



Rocky Reach Dam

For more information:

[www.washingtonstatetours.com](http://www.washingtonstatetours.com)

Milage to Leavenworth:

Seattle	120
Sea-Tac Airport	130
Spokane	190
Bellingham	156
Portland	275
Tri Cities	160
Vancouver B.C.	215
Wenatchee	25
Pangborn Airport	30
Cashmere	10
Ohme Gardens	23

