

Welcome to Tri-Cities, WA

*Welcome to the Tri-Cities—Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland,
where 300 sun-filled days offer visitors a year-round outdoor paradise.
Fun in the sun is a way of life in the Tri-Cities.*

The confluence of the Snake, Yakima and Columbia Rivers has produced an aquatic playground second to none. The area's inviting waterways beckon water lovers from all over the region to enjoy sailing, power and pleasure boating, waterskiing, swimming, fishing, windsurfing, and much more.

Recreational and sports enthusiasts love the Tri-Cities. Our professional sports teams: Tri-City Americans WHL ice-hockey; Tri-City Dust Devils professional baseball, an affiliate of the Colorado Rockies; and the Tri-Cities Fever, a member of the Arena Football 2 (AF2) League, offer something for everyone. From bicycling to bowling, hunting to fishing, soccer to water-skiing, recreational opportunities are endless.

Due in part to the area's exceptional climate, golf is one of the Tri-Cities most popular sports. The area's ten beautiful courses challenge the most experienced golfer, as well as the beginner. It is a very hard winter indeed when a round of golf cannot be played nearly every day of the year.

After savoring just one of the local premium wines, visitors will understand why the area has been rightfully called the Heart of Washington Wine Country. The Tri-Cities boasts more than 160 wineries within a one-hour drive, producing some of the finest wines in the world.

The wineries range in size from Columbia Crest Winery, where 1.7 million cases of wine are produced annually, to the intimate wine lounge and bistro experience offered by Bookwalter Winery, where 13,000 cases are produced annually.

Our unique combination of mighty rivers and cloudless skies has made the area a center for hydroelectric power, wind-power generation and solar studies. The Hanford Site, adjacent to Richland, adds nuclear energy and environmental research to this mix. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to explore the

area's Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science, and Technology, and LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory). Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating System and Nine Canyon Wind Farm add green power options for the area.

Not to be overlooked are the area's unique shopping and dining facilities. Almost every item or service imaginable can be found at one or more fine stores and shopping areas. A fascinating variety is the only way to describe the many excellent restaurants which offer fine cuisine in pleasing surroundings.

After a fine dinner, enjoy a pleasant evening on the town. Listen to your favorite music, dance to a live band or take in a play, all excellent ways to pass a Tri-Cities evening.

Like a fine wine, the Tri-Cities is coming of age. Not long ago, Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland were three pleasant little eastern Washington cities. Today they form a budding metropolitan area that has gained sophistication while keeping its small town charm.

RECREATION

- **Golf:** Eight driving ranges and ten beautiful golf courses (including a desert-target course and the Northwest's largest green) challenge the enthusiast. Reasonable greens fees, plentiful tee-times, and wonderful weather keep visitors playing year-round! Two championship putting courses and two miniature-golf courses offer family fun as well.
- **River Activities:** With three rivers, water sports are widely embraced. The Tri-Cities has two yacht clubs and two full-service marinas. The rivers also provide great fishing throughout the Columbia Basin (with several guided fishing services), and hunting is plentiful with some of the best upland game bird and goose hunting in the Pacific Northwest.

- **Bicycling:** Active mountain bike and road bike clubs, and over 67 miles of well-maintained pedestrian and bicycle trails, reflect the healthy attitude and lifestyle of residents.
- **Horn Rapids Off-Road Vehicle Park:** High-speed racing action featuring two motocross tracks, 4x4 obstacle and team relay course, sand drag strip, and a go-cart track.
- **Rec Leagues:** Active recreational and co-ed sports teams compete through the cities' Parks & Recreation leagues, Columbia Basin College, and local athletic clubs. Organized sports include basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, bowling, darts, soccer, dodge ball, frisbee golf, and more.
- **River Tours:** For adventure sports enthusiasts, *Columbia River Journeys* offers guided jet-boat tours of the Columbia River and The Hanford Reach—one of America's newest National Monuments. The tour's professional guide service provides an inspiring look at the geology, history, and wildlife of the region. And *Columbia Kayak Adventures* offers kayak tours on the Columbia River or Yakima River Delta.
- **Snow-Skiing:** Fresh, dry, powder, and well-groomed slopes await the snow enthusiast. For downhill or cross-country, Ski Bluewood, Mission Ridge, Spout Springs, Mt. Hood, Snoqualmie Summit, Mt. Spokane, and White Pass are all within an easy drive.
- **Sports Tournaments:** The Tri-Cities hosts numerous annual tournaments: Washington State Track & Field Meet, Sagebrush Shootout Regional Soccer Tournament, Tri-Cities Channel Cats Regional Swim Meet, ASA Softball State Tournaments, Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments, jet ski tournaments, jet sprint boat tournaments, and most recently, the **FLW Bass Tournament**.

Music and dance is varied and whether it is jazz or swing, bluegrass and country, or rock and opera—you're sure to find it in the Tri-Cities.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

In the Tri-Cities family activities are a top priority. The **Three Rivers Children's Museum; Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology (CREHST);** Energy Northwest's **Columbia Generating System Visitor Center; LIGO Hanford Observatory; McNary National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center;** and **Ice Harbor Dam** provide a stimulating learning environment for all ages. With interactive exhibits and hands-on displays, children learn about history, science, the world and the environment.

The Columbia Park **Family Fishing Pond** is a great place to discover several species of warm-water fish—including channel catfish, largemouth bass, bluegill, walleye, crappie, and other anadromous species. Youth under 14 and disabled permit holders can fish for free. **The Playground of Dreams** is a 12,000 square foot playground which incorporates features representing local landmarks and attractions. Columbia Park's **Aquatic Splash Park** and **J&S Dreamland Express**, and Howard Amon Parks' **Sturgeon Cove Playground** offer fun for the entire family.

The **Yakama Indian Nation Cultural Center, Tamastlikt Cultural Center,** and **Wanapum Dam Heritage Center** provide a glimpse into the history and culture of the American Indian tribes that lived in the Tri-Cities area. The **Franklin County Historical Society Museum** and the **East Benton County Historical Society Museum** showcase the region's early history including Kennewick Man—the 9,200 year-old skeleton found on the banks of the Columbia River.

Youth recreation is year-round fun with ice-hockey and figure skating, roller skating, youth fishing, wildlife refuges, nature trails and *three* skateboard parks. In addition, summer camps, scouting troops, summer reading programs, and outdoor activities are organized through the cities, libraries, and civic organizations.

AGRICULTURE: A to Z

From apples to zucchinis—find a tempting array of garden goodies. Take a scenic drive through local farm country, seeking out the freshest in seasonal produce. Tender green asparagus, luscious cherries, delicious apples, mouth-watering melons, golden corn, vine-ripe berries, and sun-drenched wine grapes—discover all this and more.

PERFORMING ARTS

In the Tri-Cities the performing arts come alive with musicals, productions, and works of national distinction! Every event is sure to please and is a mere sample of the exceptional performances conducted by the arts organizations: **Mid-Columbia Regional Arts Council, Camerata Musica, The Richland Light Opera, The Richland Players, Columbia Basin College Performance Division, Ye Merrie Greenwood Players, Mid-Columbia Symphony,** and the **Mid-Columbia Regional Ballet.**

Or simply stop by the **Pasco Farmers' Market**, the largest open-air, fresh produce market in Washington State, the **Kennewick Farmers' Market**, or the **Richland Farmers' Market**—*Market at the Parkway!* Farmers' Markets offer the chance to sip, sample, and purchase direct from the grower. Fruits and vegetables piled high on a flatbed pickup; corn picked just hours before market; the sweet aroma of homemade bread; fresh jellies and preserves, one-of-a-kind handcrafted treasures; and the friendly din of a bustling crowd greeting friends and neighbors. One visit and you'll discover one of the best things about the Columbia Basin—the sweet bounty of harvest. And, Pasco's **Country Mercantile** is a produce stand, candy store, deli, retail and agricultural destination!

In addition, with the state's largest winery, and more than 160 additional wineries within a one-hour drive, the Tri-Cities is known as **The Heart of Washington Wine Country**. Visitors come from all over to tour and taste of our award-winning wines and specialty food products. 360° Cellars Estate Bed & Breakfast, Airfield Estates, Anelare Winery, AVA Wine Rooms, Badger Mountain/Powers Winery, Barnard Griffin Winery, Bookwalter Winery, Cañon de Sol Winery, Cave B Estate Winery, Chandler Reach Winery, Chateau Champoux Tours & Tasting, Columbia Crest Winery, Cowan Vineyards, Desert Wind Winery, Eaton Hill Winery, Fidelitas, Goose Ridge Estate Winery, Gordon Brothers Cellars, Hamilton Cellars, LLC, Heaven's Cave Cellars, Hedges Family Estate, Hogue Cellars, Kestrel Vintners, Kiona Vineyards Winery, Maryhill Winery, McKinley Springs, Mercer Estates, Milbrandt Vineyards, Oakwood Cellars, Olsen Estates, Pacific Rim, Piety Flats Winery, Preston Premium Wines, Seth Ryan Winery, Sleeping Dog Wines, Snoqualmie Vineyards, Tagaris Winery, Taptail Vineyard Winery, Tasawik Vineyards, Terra Blanca Winery & Estate Vineyard, Thurston Wolfe Winery are just a few of our world-renowned wineries!

DINING/RESTAURANTS

A fascinating variety is the only way to describe the many excellent restaurants in the Tri-Cities. From taco wagons to elegant fine dining, specialty coffee houses to ethnic bakeries, the mix is eclectic and the food superb. Sample authentic Mexican, Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Mediterranean, and American cuisine. Many restaurants offer beautiful river views, and the Columbia at sunset is absolutely breathtaking.

Also, as the world's second leading hop producer, the area naturally offers a selection of great craft and micro-breweries including: **Atomic Ale Brew Pub and Eatery**, **Ice Harbor Brewing Company**, **Snipes Mountain Brewing**, **Rattlesnake Mountain Brewing Co.**, and Grants Ale House. In addition, the American Hop Museum showcases the history of hops

production in the region.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The **Mid-Columbia Regional Library System** links the Pasco Public Library, Richland Public Library, and Kennewick Public Libraries with others throughout the state. In addition, the Hanford Technical Library, located in the Consolidated Information Center at WSU Tri-Cities, offers electronic services that provide access to information from around the world.

Continuing Adult Educational opportunities are endless with the Community Education/Community Schools Programs. These classes are offered as non-credit, creative learning experiences for residents or visitors. Learn Spanish, Russian, German, or Japanese; take up fly-fishing, photography, interior decorating, or country-western line dance; bone-up on computer skills, learn printing, layout and design; or get in shape through a fitness program; learn new recipes; and meet new people in a relaxed, fun environment.

There are more than 21 recreational parks in the Tri-Cities area alone; not including the eight National Wildlife Refuges, Nature Reserves, and trails within the region. Riverfront parks offer a chance for relaxed family outings, warm weather fun, and a personal view of breathtaking sunsets on the peaceful Columbia.

The Tri-Cities also boasts three newly renovated, full-service hospitals offering the utmost in professional medical care. In fact, many doctors and medical professionals are relocating to the Tri-Cities, attracted by a relaxed lifestyle and quality medical facilities. Ten minor emergency clinics provide immediate access to professional medical attention; and state-of-the-art centers, such as the Tri-Cities Cancer Center, the Kidney Center, Hospice at The Chaplaincy, Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute, and Mid-Columbia Regional Heart Center, provide regional specialty care.

SHOPPING

Almost every item or service imaginable can be found within the Tri-Cities. Newly renovated Historic Districts are home to unique specialty shops, which carry handcrafted keepsakes and one-of-a-kind collectibles; numerous antique stores are filled with hidden treasures; and the Columbia Center Shopping Mall, one of the largest covered malls in eastern Washington, draws shoppers from throughout the region.

FESTIVALS

Every year numerous festivals celebrate the diverse interests of our cities; providing hours of entertainment for residents and wonderful fun for visiting family and friends.

- **Benton-Franklin Fair and Rodeo:** Each year the Rodeo showcases National Champion cowboys and bull riders, with the fair bringing in country and pop music stars.
- Renaissance Faire: Step back in time as **Ye Merrie Greenwood Players** transform Howard Amon Park into Merrie Old England. Actors in full period costume delight the crowd with Shakespearean reenactment, jousting, gaming, and a royal wedding; complete with ladies-in-waiting and knights in shining armor.
- The **Tri-Cities Water Follies** is a series of summer activities culminating in the single biggest visitor draw of the summer: The Columbia Cup Hydroplane Races. One of only six unlimited hydroplane race sites in the nation, we proudly host nearly 60,000 visitors who come to view the unlimited hydroplanes race for three days of food, fun, and sun!
- **FirstNight!** This is an alcohol-free New Year's Eve community celebration of arts and culture, and rotates through different locations each year.
- The **Allied Arts Art in the Park** is a juried arts and crafts show ranked in the top 150 of National Craft Shows. Other annual shows include **Christmas Memories, Candy Kane Christmas, Winter Boat Expo, Regional Home & Garden Show**, and several antique shows throughout the year.
- **Cool Desert Nights** is an annual celebration of classic cars; with hundreds of classic and vintage autos descending on the Tri-Cities to "show off" for thousands of visitors. The festival includes a street dance, poker runs, live music, great cars, and lots of camaraderie in the hot Tri-Cities sunshine.
- **Catch the Crush** is the Columbia Valley Winery Association's annual fall festival celebrating the bounty of harvest. Watch the grapes come in from the field—crushing, stemming, and pressing into future vintages; visit with winemakers, sample free-run juice, and enjoy special art, food, entertainment activities, and more.

SUNDAY DRIVES & EASY DAY TRIPS

The Tri-Cities lies within the heart of a diverse and interesting region, offering opportunities for mini-vacations and lazy Sunday drives. Enjoy winery tours, farm tours, Pendleton's underground and bordello tour, the Pendleton Roundup, the Oregon Trail Museum, the Omak Stampede, Fort Walla Walla and the Whitman Mission, the Yakama Nation Cultural Center, Toppenish City of Murals, Leavenworth/Bavarian style community, Grand Coulee Dam, windsurfing at Hood River, the Stonehenge replica and Maryhill Museum, Hutterite Colony tours, and so much more.

TRI-CITIES TRIVIA

- Largest open-air fresh produce market in Washington State
- Second largest navigational lock in the world
- First commercial airport west of the Mississippi
- 300 days of sunshine annually
- Ten golf courses
- 160 wineries in a one-hour drive
- Three rivers: Yakima, Columbia, and Snake Rivers
- Twelve museums and visitor centers
- Nine National Wildlife Refuges and nature preserves
- Four National Historic Register sites
- Rattlesnake Mountain—tallest treeless mountain in the Western Hemisphere
- Last free-flowing stretch of the mighty Columbia River
- Nation's second largest wine producing area
- Kennewick and Richland are located in Benton County; Pasco in Franklin County
- The combined population of Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland is 164,230
- The combined population of Benton and Franklin counties is 235,700
- Pasco is the County Seat for Franklin County
- Tri-Cities elevation ranges from 300 feet to 700 feet, with the Rattlesnake Mountain Ridge elevation reaching 3,500 feet