

300 Days of Sun

By **Northwest Travel Staff** - May 11, 2017



Seeking sun, fun and wine? Look no further than **Tri-Cities, Washington**. Comprised of the neighboring cities Kennewick, Pasco, Richland and West Richland, the Tri-Cities is a great escape from overcast skies and chilly temps. Here are a few ways to best enjoy the area's 300 days of sun. Note: Sunglasses required.

Explore the Heart of Washington Wine Country®

Located within an hour's drive of more than **200 Washington wineries**, wine tasting is a 'must-do' when visiting the Tri-Cities. Pack a picnic basket and head to Red Mountain to enjoy award-winning wines. Stunning vineyards provide the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable experience.

Take a short drive to Prosser, a neighboring agricultural community with a rich history often recognized as the "Birthplace of Washington Wine." Embrace Prosser's laid-back lifestyle while enjoying a variety of wines served from

boutique tasting rooms to large scale production facilities.

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Enjoy Water and Weather

The Tri-Cities' moderate climate and hundreds of sun-filled days creates an ideal destination for **outdoor exploration**. With three rivers, there are ample opportunities to enjoy water recreation. Boating is best enjoyed on the Columbia River. Take advantage of a pontoon boat for a relaxing cruise with friends and family or a speedboat for those interested in waterskiing, wakeboarding or tubing. For those seeking inner bliss, try standup paddleboard yoga at sunrise. (Don't worry, you might fall in, but the water is fine!). Adventurers can navigate kayaks through river rapids while enjoying the unparalleled scenery of the **Hanford Reach National Monument** or the Tapteal Water Trail.

Experience the Great Outdoors

There is also plenty to do for those who prefer their **outdoor adventures on land**. Conquer the local trail systems in the region's unique shrub steppe habitat and keep an eye out for local wildlife. Summiting Badger Mountain rewards hikers with sweeping vistas of the Columbia Valley. Cyclists of every skill level will appreciate various biking trails that wind throughout the Tri-Cities. The **Sacagawea Heritage Trail** is 23-mile paved loop trail that runs along the Columbia River shoreline, connecting Kennewick, Pasco and Richland. Mountain bikers prefer the State Patrol Trails, a fast paced network of single tracks of varying elevations.

Taste Tri-Cities

Three-hundred days of sunshine means the Tri-Cities is not only the Heart of Washington Wine Country, but also "America's Bread Basket." The local bounty is shared at **farmers' markets** throughout the region from May to October. It's easy to fill a pantry with the freshest produce along with all of the other tasty offerings. The Country Mercantile, with locations in Pasco and Richland, offers an indoor farmers' market experience year-round featuring regional produce along with gourmet goodies. Local produce inspires menus of **restaurants** throughout the Tri-Cities, which are best enjoyed watching a spectacular sunset.

Pack your sunblock, put on your favorite sunnies and head to Tri-Cities, Washington!