

Willapa Bay Water Trail Access Points

1. **Tokeland Marina:** Boat ramp, tent sites, Tokeland Hotel and Restaurant. Paddle up the short Cedar River or into Willapa Bay.
2. **Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WSDFW) boat ramp** at the mouth of the North River: Paddlers can go three to four miles up this scenic river or paddle seven miles southeast up the Willapa River to South Bend. Toilet. Launch area and parking lot can flood during extreme high tides.
3. **Boat ramp to the Willapa River** on the west end of South Bend on U.S. Highway 101: In South Bend adjacent to the Boondocks Cafe, you will find a small park, picnic area, toilet, mooring floats and kayak launch. Five miles west of South Bend on U.S. Highway 101 is Bruceport County Park with campsites.
4. **Access to the Willapa River and its south fork** in the Raymond area is available from Willapa Landing, the downtown Riverfront Park and the Port of Willapa Moorage. Restrooms, restaurants and various overnight facilities are available nearby.
5. **Boat launch in the Bay Center basin** at the mouth of the Palix River: There can be a lot of commercial boating in this area, so keep a sharp lookout. Campsites and RV facilities are 2.2 miles west at Bush Pioneer County Park.
6. **WSDFW boat ramp** on U.S. Highway 101: Just south of the Bay Center turnoff. Access to the upper Palix River and miles of meandering through meadows rich with wildlife. Launch area and parking lot can flood during extreme high tides.
7. **Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters (WNWRH):** Provides boat ramp, toilet, maps, access to the Naselle River and the south end of Willapa Bay. Five primitive campsites on Long Island. Launch area and parking lot can flood during extreme high tides.
8. **Boat basin at Nahcotta Marina**, also called Port of Peninsula: Provides boat launch, toilets and showers.
9. **Leadbetter Point State Park:** The end of the road on the Long Beach Peninsula. There are many hiking trails, good shoreline boating at high tide, toilets and beach access for boat launching (100-yard carry). No camping. Bay Center is five miles due east across Willapa Bay. Crossing should be done only with planning and care.
10. **Chinook County Park:** Day use. Access to Sand Islands.
11. **Ilwaco Marina:** Provides boat launch and full campground in the state park.
12. **Cape Disappointment State Park:** Provides boat launch and full campground in the state park.

LEGEND

- ★ Water trail access point
- Other recreational site
- Portage site
- 146-mile water trail from Bonneville Dam to Cape Disappointment State Park

Welcome to the Willapa Bay Water Trail



Supporting the trail

Washington Water Trails Association supports the Willapa Bay Water Trail through education, on-site stewardship and a number of other programs. Members receive a Cascadia Marine Trail handbook and quarterly newsletter. For more information or to help with this or other trails, contact:

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All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people, regardless of age, sex, creed, ethnic origin, or physical limitation.

Launch and camping fees

There may be fees for launching or camping at individual sites, payable at the site.

Safety tips

- Wear your life jacket. Wearing your life jacket is your best defense against capsizing accidents that can kill you.
- Be aware of the tides. Most of Willapa Bay is a mud flat. Becoming stuck or stranded can be a serious safety hazard. Always carry a tide book, and plan your trip accordingly.
- Dress for cold water. No matter what the weather forecast is, all paddlers are at risk from hypothermia if they fall in Washington's waters. Saltwater temperatures rarely rise above 55 degrees no matter how hot it gets in the summer.
- File a float plan. Tell a family member or friend where you are going, who you are boating with and when you will return. Include specific information on your destination, routes, description of boats and the name of the county sheriff's department to call if you do not return on time.
- Take a boating education course. Learn rescue techniques and how to use survival equipment. Practice rescues. Evaluate weather and water conditions before and throughout your trip. The better prepared you are, the more you will enjoy the trip and handle the unexpected.
- Use the Willapa Bay chart #18504 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Call (360) 902-8551 or the Telephone Device for the Deaf at (360) 664-3133 for more information. State Parks provides a free Washington Boater's Guide with safety tips.

Stops along the trail

Although most of the water trail access points are day-use only, camping is available on Long Island and the Tokeland Marina. More camping sites will be added in the future.

One of the basic concepts of the water trail is that after a day's travel, every boater who arrives for the night will have a place to camp. Tents should be placed compactly to fit as many boaters as possible. Also remember, campsites are intended for only one- to two-night stays. If all campsites are full, check the registration point for information on overflow camping.

Be kind to plants and wildlife

Please use only established campsites, and avoid crushing plants with your boots or shoes on land or in tidal areas. Some sites contain rare species that can, with care, be preserved.

Be kind to your neighbors

The close proximity of others means no boisterous behavior or noise, especially from 1 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. After people begin retiring, move away from the tents to continue conversations. Strive to preserve the serenity of the area and be considerate of others. Listen to radios or recordings only with headphones.

Camping tidbits

Most campsites have no water, so carry your own supply. Most campsites also have no facilities for wood fires, so unless there is a designated fire grate or concrete ring, no fires are allowed. Plan to use a camp stove. Campsites are in remote areas. Leave no trace by packing out all trash, including litter from the beach. Camping on Willapa National Wildlife Refuge's Long Island fills up on busy weekends, please keep this in mind when planning.


The Willapa Bay Water Trail stretches

along the Southwest Washington coast, touching some of the most beautiful spots on the shoreline and providing spectacular views of sandy beaches, dune grasslands, coastal pine forests, extensive salt and freshwater marshes and wildlife at play.

The Southwest Washington water trail, along with the Cascadia Marine Trail in Puget Sound and the Lower Columbia River Water Trail, is one of a growing number of trails for kayakers, canoeists and others using wind- and human-powered boats. These trails give users access to the shoreline, campsites and other public amenities along the route.

The Willapa Bay Water Trail is available through the cooperative efforts of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, as the lead agency; the Washington Water Trails Association, a nonprofit citizen group that promotes trail planning, building, and stewardship; the Washington State Department of Natural Resources; the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; city, county and local park districts; and users like you.

Washington State Parks



Your Guide to the

Willapa Bay

Water Trail

