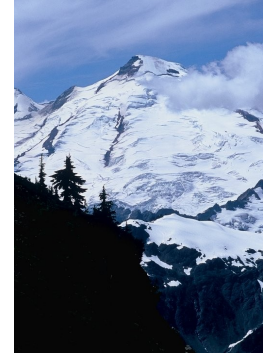
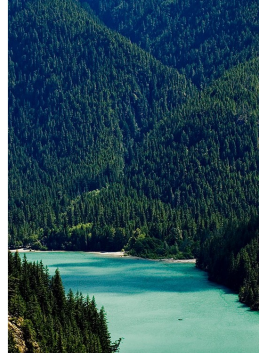
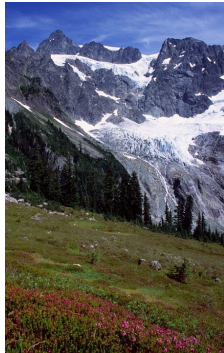
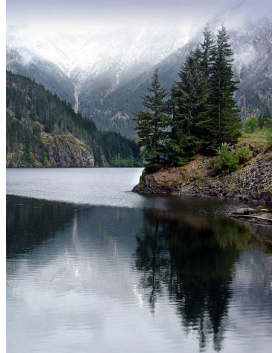




The Back Roads of Washington Drive

The Oregon S2000 Owner's Forum: [HTTP://OREGON.S2KI.COM](http://OREGON.S2KI.COM)

This 2 day drive will take you on many back roads in **Washington** as you loop up and cross the **Cascades** on the most northerly crossing. This is a very scenic drive that will give you lots of great views along the way. Return to **Portland** will be via *I-5*.



Driving = 20% 1, 70% 3 and 10% 4

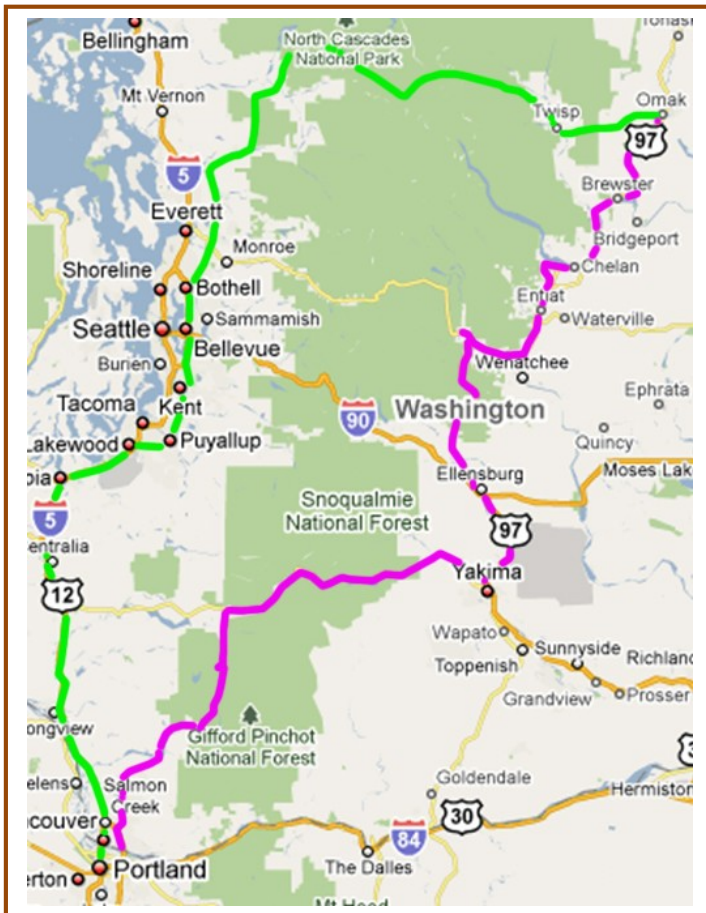


Scenery = 4

Total Driving Time: 14 hrs. 45 mins. / 817 miles

Find your way to *I-205* on the **Washington** side of the **Columbia River**. From the **Portland** area take *I-205* north across the river.

Portland to Omak - Driving Time: 7 hrs. 15 mins. / 407 miles



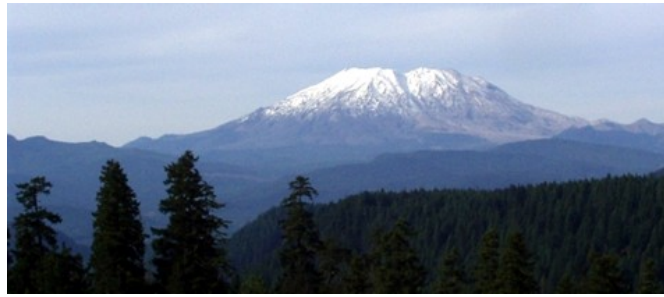
Zero your odometer trip gauge as you leave or pass by the **I-205 / Hwy. 14 interchange** (the mileage points are based on this).

Continue north on *I-205* for **3.7 miles** and take the *Hwy 500* exit (**Exit #30A**). Follow the signs to *Hwy 500 EAST*. Once on *Hwy 500* get into the center or left lane - both become *Hwy 503*. The signs say "to **Brush Prairie** and **Battle Ground**".

Stay on *Hwy. 503* through **Brush Prairie** and **Battleground** to **Amboy (mile 27.4)**. At **Amboy** turn **right** / east on *Hwy 503*. *Hwy 503* will dead-end into *Hwy 503/Lewis River Road (mile 36.1)*. Turn **right** / east on *Lewis River Road*. Just east of **Yale (mile 39.5)** is **Yale Park** on your **right**.

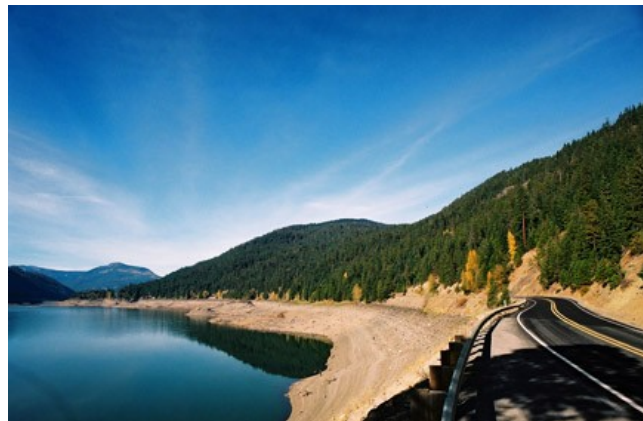
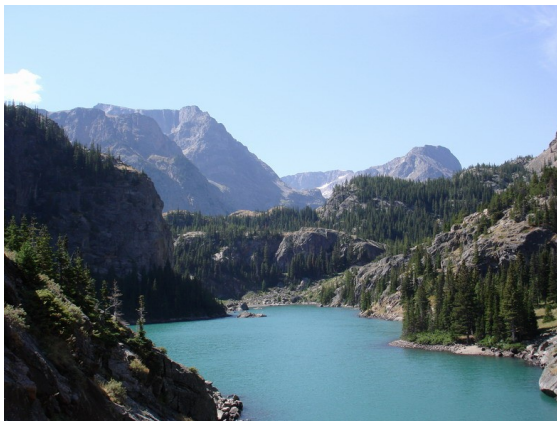
You will want to stop here for a pit-stop (nice facilities) as the next rest stop is 1-1/2 hours away! This is a day-use area, but if you tell the entrance guard you just want to use the facilities there is no charge. **Yale Lake** is a beautiful setting! Leaving the park, turn **right** / east on *Lewis River Road*. You will pass through

Cougar and the road becomes *FS 90*. The highway winds along and above **Yale Lake and Swift reservoir**. You will enter the *Gifford Pinchot National Forest* and turn **left** /north on *FS Road 25* (**mile 60**). There are a lot of hills and nice winding roads – with little traffic. You will pass by the back-side of **Mt. St. Helens**.



At **mile 85.3** you will come to the turn-off (*FS Road 99*) for the **Windy Ridge Observation Center**. Turn **left** / west and then **right** into the **Wakepish Trailer Drop** to use the restrooms. Return to *FS Road 25*. Turn **left** / north. Continue north to **Randle**. *FS Road 25* becomes *Washington Hwy. 131* as you approach **Randle**.

At **Randle (mile 105.1)** turn **right** / east on *US Hwy. 12 – The White Pass Scenic Byway*. *Hwy. 12* follows the **Cowlitz River** and crosses **White Pass** before running by scenic **Rimrock Lake**.



At **Yakima** follow the signs to *I-82 North (MILE 192.7)*. Head north on *I-82* out of **Yakima**. Take **Exit #26**. At the end of the off-ramp is a **Shell** 🛢️ Station (**MILE 197.7**). You may want to use the restrooms here.

Rather than proceeding on *I-82*, when you leave the station, cross over *I-82* and turn **right** on **Washington Hwy. 821**. This will take you up some winding roads and through the **Yakima River Canyon** and into **Ellensburg (MILE 229.8)**.



Hwy. 821 will become *Canyon Road* which will become *Main Street* as you enter **Ellensburg**. Continue through the downtown area and then turn **left** on *University Way*

which becomes *West Cascade Way*. At *Reecer Creek Road* turn **right** and then immediately **left** on *Dry Creek Conn.* Just past **Ellensburg** turn **right** again heading north on *Hwy. 97 (MILE 233.9)*.

Just outside of **Leavenworth** follow the signs to *Hwy. 2 West* - turn **left** on *Hwy. 2 (MILE 282.5)* for the last few of miles into **Leavenworth**. If you left **Vancouver** at **7:00 am** you should arrive in **Leavenworth** at about **1:30 pm (MILE 287.2)**. [GPS: *Downtown Leavenworth* address is 800 Front Street, Leavenworth, WA]



There are many fine German restaurants in **Leavenworth** – **Christa's Café**, **King Leopold's**, etc. And lots of touristy shops. You will want to refuel here in **Leavenworth**.

Leave **Leavenworth** the way you came in – head southeast on *Hwy. 2*. Once in **Wenatchee** follow the signs to *Hwy. 97 Alternate (MILE 306.4)*. This will take you up the **Columbia River** on the west side. Just past **Winesap** take a tight **left** turn onto *Hwy. 971 (MILE 330.2)*.



This will take you over some ridges and then will swoop down to **Chelan Lake (MILE 339)**. Turn **right** and continue along *Lakeshore Road* into **Chelan (MILE 350)**. Stop here to enjoy the lake, do some shopping, etc.

Continue east on *Hwy. 97A / East Woodin Avenue* through town. At *Hwy 97*, turn **left** / north (**MILE 355.4**). Continue north on *Hwy. 97* along the **Columbia River** to **Brewster** and then on to **Omak (MILE 407.2)**.



Find your motel and do a little local exploring. [GPS: *Downtown Omak* address is 401 Omak Ave., Omak, WA]



Omak to Portland - Driving Time: 7 hrs. 30 mins. / 410 miles

Have your breakfast restaurant prepare you a picnic lunch for later.



Zero your odometer trip gauge as you leave **Omak** (the mileage points are based on this).

Leave **Omak** the way you came in – head south on *Hwy. 97*. At **MILE 5.7** turn **right** on *Hwy. 20* west. You will come to a town where you will swear is right out of the old west – **Winthrop** (**MILE 45.6**). Don't be surprised to see cattle being herded right across the highway here.



From here on you will be climbing up the eastern side of the **Cascades**. You will see lots of scenic forests, snow-capped peaks and sparkling lakes.



You will go over **Washington Pass** and **Rainy Pass** before heading down the **Skagit River**.



There are many places along *Hwy. 20* to stop and enjoy that picnic lunch.

Stop off at the **Diablo Dam** overview to see the dam – one of 3 on the **Skagit River** that produce power for **Seattle**.



Be sure to stop at the **North Cascades Visitor Center (MILE 119.7)**.



Continue west on *Hwy. 20* to **Rockport (MILE 142.9)**. Refuel here in **Rockport**. Turn **left** / south on *Hwy. 530 south*. Continue south and west on *Hwy. 530* to **Arlington (MILE 189.5)**. Turn **left** / south on *Hazel Street / Hwy. 530 / Hwy. 9*. Continue south on *Hwy. 9*. At **MILE 219.1** take the ramp to *Hwy. 522 south*. At **MILE 221.7** take the ramp to *I-405 south*. Follow *I-405* to **Renton**.

Take **Exit #2A** to *Hwy. 167 South* toward **Kent/Auburn (mile 243.4)**. Continue south on *Hwy 167*. At **North Puyallup** follow the signs to *Hwy. 512 South (mile 263.8)*. In **Puyallup** *Hwy. 512* turns west. At **Lakewood (mile 276.6)** take the ramp to *I-5 South*.

If you didn't do the picnic lunch and are hungry by now, you might want to stop at the **Mayan Restaurant** at **Exit #111** just north of **Olympia (mile 292.4)**. Turn **right** on *Marvin Road*. The restaurant will be on your **right**. Excellent Mexican food! [**GPS**: *Mayan Restaurant* address is 2120 Marvin Rd NE Olympia, WA]

Continue south on *I-5* to **Portland (mile 410)**.



Note: The route from **Cougar** to **Randle** is only reliably open from July through October. Winter snows typically create havoc with the roads and the **Forest Service** needs time to repair them, replace bridges, etc. It is ALWAYS a good idea to contact the **Forest Service** before heading up there. Their number is: (360) 497-1100. You can also check their website for up-to-date information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/current-conditions/>

If this route is closed, then head up *I-5* to **Exit #88**. Follow the signs to *Hwy. 12 east*. Continue on *Hwy. 12* to **Randle** and pick up the above schedule from there.

White Pass Scenic Byway: <http://whitepassbyway.com/>

Cascade Loop Scenic Highway: <http://www.cascadeloop.com/index.php>

Washington State Road and Pass information: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TRAFFIC/>

Omak Motels: **\$55** to **\$105** per night

www.kayak.com or:

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g58654-Omak_Washington-Hotels.html

This is merely a suggested drive. You can shorten it – lengthen it – reverse it – modify it – deviate from it or just stay home and detail your car.

Enjoy and Drive Safely! S2Ki Oregon -  The fun starts here!

Revised 1/8/2010