

GRANT COUNTY



2026 Travel Planner

ANCIENT PLAYGROUND

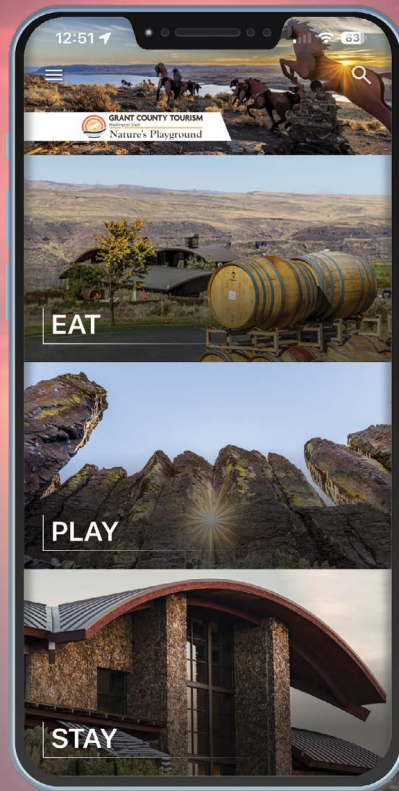


Breathtaking natural
beauty, outdoor adventure
and rural delights
at your fingertips.

Lose yourself in nature and find peace. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Your **ANCIENT PLAYGROUND** Awaits

Download the Grant County Tourism app and
carry the entire landscape in your pocket.



Discover hidden trails. Find the perfect swimming hole. Book your next farm-fresh meal. Experience rodeos, local fairs and seasonal celebrations.

Whether you're chasing sunrise at the dunes or need a last-minute tasting room recommendation, everything you need is right here.

EAT. PLAY. STAY.

Explore more, plan less.



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ANCIENT PLAYGROUND

Long before roads, towns or trailheads, Grant County was shaped by forces beyond scale.

Ice Age floods tore through the land, carving coulees and cliffs. Lava cooled into columns of basalt. Rivers claimed their paths and held strong. What remains is a landscape written in layers: vast, elemental and unmistakably alive.

Today, that foundation fuels a place defined as much by vision as by geology. Grant County is an ancient playground — defined by the past, inspired by the future. Here, pioneering communities continue to build on the land's legacy. Farmers and growers turn fertile ground into opportunity. Makers and creators draw inspiration from open space and raw terrain. Adventure and wanderlust follow the same lines etched by time.

This guide invites you into a modern Grant County shaped by rich history and forward momentum. Explore cliffs and canyons formed centuries ago. Paddle rivers carved by ancient floods. Discover working farms, vibrant communities and experiences that feel both rooted and new. From big-sky landscapes to local flavor, every moment connects back to the land right beneath your feet.

Grant County is not just a place to visit. It is a place to explore, create and play — where stories from the past continue to shape what comes next.

I never get tired of the blue sky. - Vincent Van Gogh



From big-sky landscapes
to local flavor, every moment
connects back to the land
right beneath your feet.



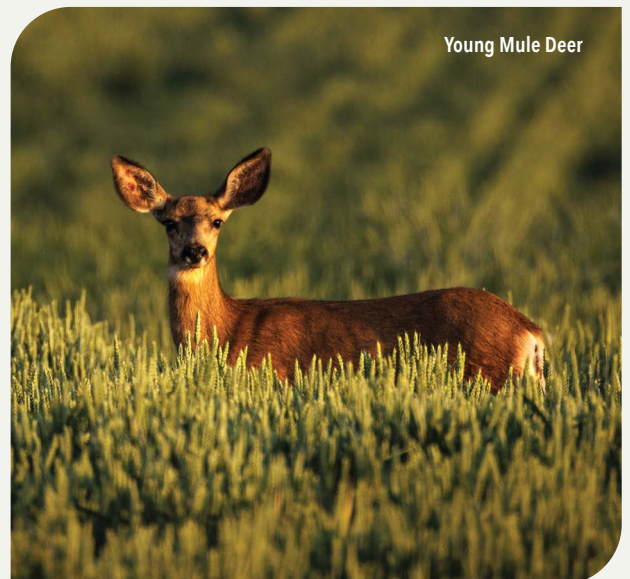
Written in **STONE & SKY**

When a lobe of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet blocked the Clark Fork River in northern Idaho, it created a massive ice dam. Between roughly 15,000 and 13,000 years ago, that dam failed repeatedly, unleashing catastrophic Ice Age floods across what is now Grant County. Each collapse near present-day Sandpoint, Idaho, released as much as 500 cubic miles of water into Eastern Washington, with torrents that surged at speeds approaching 65 miles per hour. Racing over basalt laid down millions of years earlier, the floods scoured and sculpted the coulees, cliffs and canyons that define the region today. The result is a landscape carved by water on a scale almost beyond imagination.

Stand at Dry Falls, a 400-foot cliff stretching 3.5 miles wide, five times the width of Niagara Falls, and you're looking at what was once among the world's most powerful waterfalls. Grand Coulee, Potholes Coulee and Moses Coulee are remnants of this powerful reshaping, part of what is known as the Channeled Scablands.

This is a landscape that demands attention. Basalt walls rise from sagebrush flats that, in spring, erupt with colorful wildflowers — balsamroot, lupine, Indian paintbrush —

spreading vivid color across the scablands. Ancient, spring-fed lake beds shimmer under open sky, drawing waterfowl, mule deer, coyotes, and raptors that ride the thermals along the cliffs. The Columbia River threads through it all, its current now harnessed by Grand Coulee Dam, yet still flowing with the memory of ice-age chaos.



Young Mule Deer



Lake Lenore

LAYERS OF LANDSCAPE



Grant County doesn't commit to a single identity. Drive through and you'll find windswept sand dunes sculpted by time, desert lakes tucked into coulees, grasslands stretching to the horizon, the Columbia River winding through basalt cliffs and reservoirs teeming with fish.

The Columbia National Wildlife Refuge anchors the southern part of the county, offering a maze of potholes and wetlands where birdwatching and boating draw outdoor enthusiasts year-round. To the north, Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park provides about 14 miles of freshwater shoreline at the base of ancient cliffs.

Moses Lake — both the city and the body of water — serves as the county's hub, but venture out and you'll discover Potholes Reservoir, Soap Lake's mineral-rich waters and the Saddle Mountains rising in the south. Grant County is a place where you can paddleboard in the morning, hike through coulees at midday and watch the sunset from sand dunes by evening. Welcome to the ancient playground.



Aurora Borealis at Blue Lake

ROOTED & REAL

From dam towns to farming hubs to lakeside retreats—your guide to Grant County’s communities.

SOUTHERN GRANT COUNTY

1 Desert Aire

A riverside retreat on Priest Rapids Reservoir with its own regional airport for fly-in visitors. Expect rain-shadow sunshine and some of the warmest weather in Central Washington, plus golf, fishing at Jackson Creek Fish Camp and the Wanapum Heritage Center.

2 Mattawa

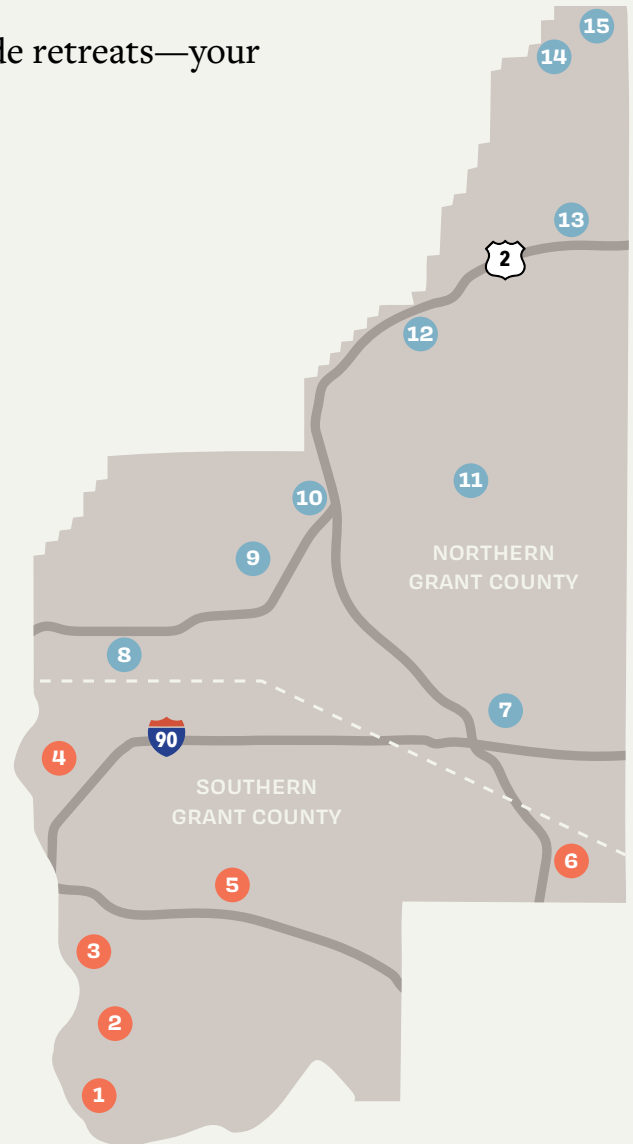
A farming town tucked along the Columbia River, where you won’t see it from the highway — true to its indigenous name meaning “Where is it?” The gateway to Wahluke Slope wine country.

3 Beverly

A quiet outpost along the Columbia River. Walk or bike the historic Beverly Railroad Bridge, part of the Palouse to Cascades Trail, for sweeping views of the river cutting through basalt cliffs. Nearby, the Beverly Sand Dunes stretch along the shoreline.

4 George

In the shadow of The Gorge Amphitheatre, where summer concerts draw crowds from across the Northwest. Outside festival season, it’s a quiet stop before heading into the coulees. Visit on the Fourth of July for the town’s signature celebration, featuring the world’s largest cherry pie, served at noon.



5 Royal City

Where farm-to-table isn’t a trend but a way of life. The surrounding fields produce what ends up on your plate the same week, at restaurants like Gård Public House.

6 Warden

A blink-and-you-miss-it farming community that represents the working heart of Grant County. Stop for fuel, maybe a meal and appreciate the agricultural landscape that feeds the region.



Moses Lake

NORTHERN GRANT COUNTY

7 Moses Lake

The lake itself invites paddling, fishing and swimming, while the downtown area provides dining, breweries and easy access to trails. It's where small town practicality meets recreation.

8 Quincy

A genuine farming town where tractors share the road with cars and roadside stands sell fresh produce. Sunlit and future-focused, Quincy balances agricultural heritage with quiet growth. The Farmer Consumer Awareness Day each September is the real deal — locals celebrating what they grow.

9 Ephrata

The county seat offers tree-lined streets perfect for a quiet stroll, plus the Grant County Historical Museum where pioneer stories come alive through artifacts and photographs. Stop for coffee downtown and feel the rhythm of a working town.

10 Soap Lake

Float effortlessly in mineral-rich waters that are said to have healing properties, then refuel at Cloudview Kitchen. This quirky lakeside town embraces its reputation and therapeutic legacy.

11 Wilson Creek

Basalt bluffs frame this quiet crossroads where Wilson Creek meets Crab Creek. A rural pause along State Route 28 with serene beauty. One weekend each summer when the annual car show brings vintage rides and crowds to Main Street.



Hartline



North Dam Park, Grand Coulee

12 Coulee City

The oldest town in Grant County sits on Banks Lake's southern shore, just four miles from Dry Falls. Launch a boat, cast a line or use it as your quiet basecamp for coulee exploration.

13 Hartline

Wheat fields, wide sky and a quiet main street along Highway 2. Stop to browse the historic Hartline School, now a secondhand store or just stretch your legs between Coulee City and Spokane, where the pace slows to match the landscape.

14 Electric City

Born to house dam workers in 1934, this Banks Lake town now welcomes anglers to a world-class fishing destination and visitors to nearby Steamboat Rock State Park. Summer brings the laser light show projected onto Grand Coulee Dam's spillway. Bring your boat or your camera.

15 Grand Coulee

Come for the dam, stay for the laser light show projected onto the spillway each summer evening. Sitting along Lake Roosevelt, this gateway town offers lodging, dining and front-row access to one of the world's largest concrete structures.



Explore Grant County's cities and towns on the **Tour Grant County App**. Find more information on local recreation, lodging and dining.

RUGGED BEAUTY SHAPED BY FLOODS

Experience the Epic Grandeur of Grant County

CASCADE
MOUNTAIN
RANGE

POINTS OF INTEREST see county map on right

1

Dry Falls



Stand at the edge of a massive Ice Age gorge and take in panoramic views. Stop at the visitor center, then drive down to the lakes below for a different perspective.

2

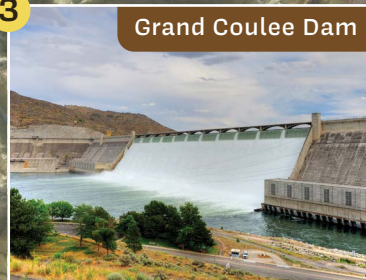
Steamboat Rock



A towering basalt butte rising from Banks Lake, surrounded by water access, hiking trails and shoreline campsites. Go early for calmer winds and quieter trails.

3

Grand Coulee Dam



One of the largest concrete dams in the U.S., spanning the Columbia River. Visit the overlook or time your trip for an evening laser light show in summer.

4

The Gorge Amphitheatre



A world-famous concert venue set high above the Columbia River. Even without a show, the views alone are worth the stop.

5

Ancient Lakes



Hike into a desert basin shaped by Ice Age floods, where small lakes and seasonal waterfalls sit beneath towering basalt walls.

6

Potholes Reservoir



A maze of waterways, sand dunes and hidden coves ideal for boating, fishing and paddling. Launch points are scattered throughout the area.

7

Moses Lake Sand Dunes



Ride, hike or explore rolling dunes just minutes from town. Popular for off-road vehicles — check access points and seasonal conditions before heading out.

8

Crescent Bar



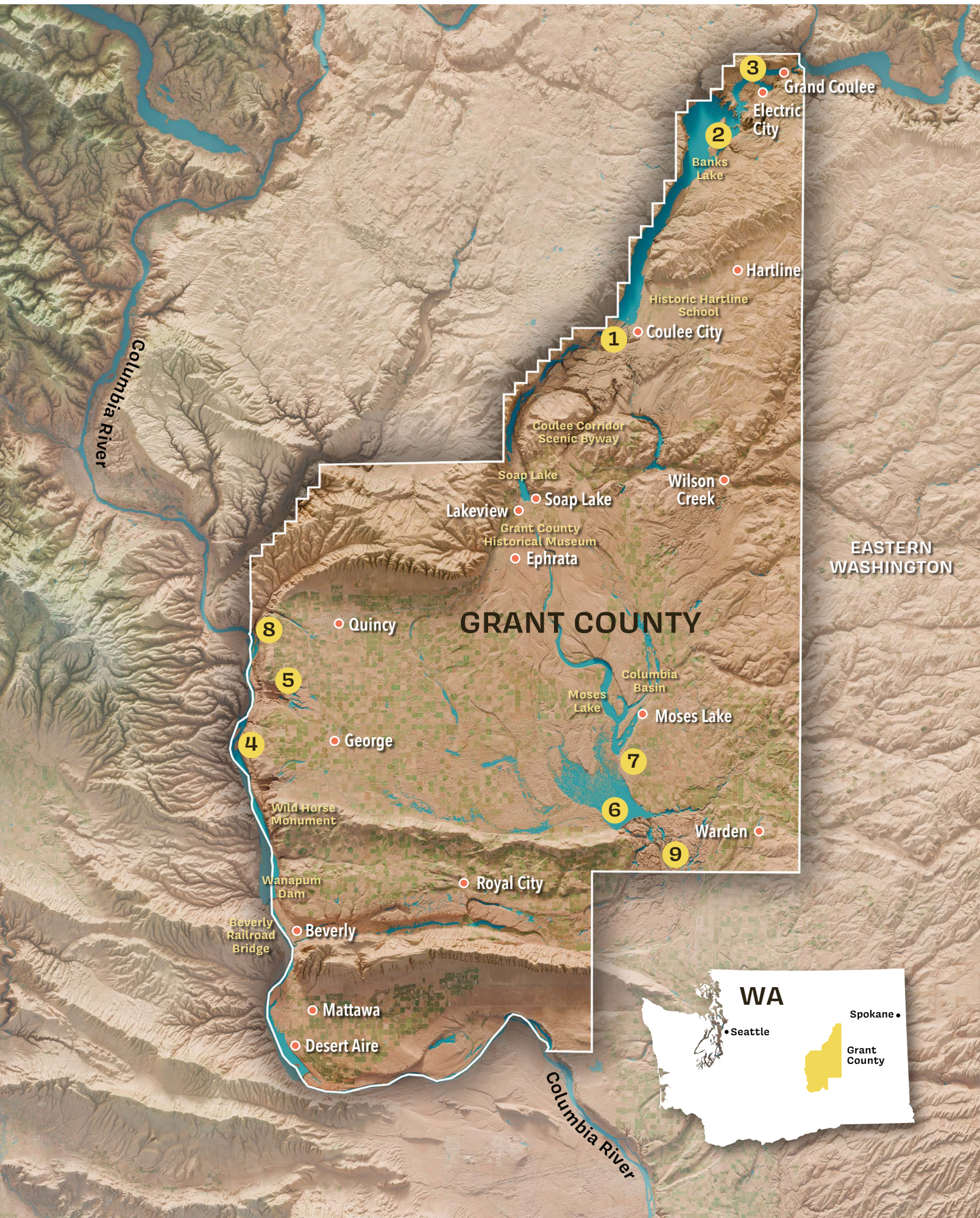
A riverfront escape along the Columbia with beaches, golf and resort amenities. A great place to cool off or stay overnight near the Gorge.

9

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge



A vast network of wetlands, lakes and basalt channels known for birdwatching and quiet exploration. Best visited early morning or at dusk.



GRANT COUNTY

EASTERN
WASHINGTON



WA

Seattle

Spokane

Grant
County

CAST, DRIFT, DIVE

Fishing spots and what's biting

Water is everywhere in Grant County — more than 140 lakes and reservoirs carved by ancient floods, fed by springs and rivers, teeming with fish. Cast a line in the heart of Moses Lake or hike into remote waters where few anglers venture. Walleye, bass, trout, perch, bluegill, crappie and catfish thrive year-round.



Banks Lake

Grant County's signature fishery, stretching between Electric City and Coulee City, with the majestic Steamboat Rock rising from the water. Smallmouth bass hide in rocky shorelines, walleye cruise the depths and rainbow trout chase bait. Several boat launches provide access to this dramatic landscape.

Columbia River

The ancient current flows through Grant County for miles. Smallmouth bass hug rocky banks, walleye patrol deeper water and sturgeon lurk in the channels. Shore access at Beverly, Desert Aire and Vantage. Boat launches at Crescent Bar and Wanapum Dam. Spring and fall bring the best smallmouth action.

Dry Falls, Dusty, Lenice, Nunnally and Lenore Lakes

Selective gear rules (no bait, barbless hooks only) mean bigger fish and technical fishing. March openers bring trophy trout hunters from across the Northwest. Expect rainbow, tiger, brown and Lahontan cutthroat trout ranging 15-20 inches, with some exceeding 4 pounds.

Lake Roosevelt

One of Washington's largest lakes with diverse fishing opportunities. Smallmouth bass, walleye, rainbow trout and kokanee thrive where Grand Coulee Dam backs up the Columbia River. Year-round access with good action in winter when other waters freeze.

Martha and Upper Caliche Lakes

Near George, these lowland lakes offer good shoreline access and draw crowds for the March 1 season opener. Get there early, claim your spot and enjoy the tradition of opening day. Rainbow trout, averaging 11-13 inches with occasional 20-inchers, cruise the shallow waters.

Moses Lake

Drop a line right in the heart of town. Launch at dawn, cast from downtown docks at sunset or fish Blue Heron Park anytime between. Spring walleye, summer bass, year-round perch and crappie make it easy to fish without leaving the city.

Potholes Reservoir

A maze of channels, islands and hidden coves south of Moses Lake where trophy walleye and bass thrive. Launch from MarDon Resort or Potholes State Park and spend the day exploring. When winter freezes the reservoir solid, ice fishermen drill holes for yellow perch.

Quincy Lakes Wildlife Area Unit

Multiple quiet lakes including Burke, Cliff, Crystal, Cup, Evergreen, Quincy, Upper Spring and Lower Spring. Stocked with rainbow, brown and tiger trout, while some hold bass, walleye and tiger muskies. Boat launches at Burke and Quincy lakes. October through February, the road closes to vehicles and you'll walk in for solitude and uncrowded water. Pack a float tube for the remote lakes.

Rocky Ford Creek

A fly-fishing-only spring creek north of Moses Lake where crystal-clear water reveals rainbow trout over 10 pounds cruising beneath the surface. Catch and release, barbless hooks, no wading. The clarity demands stealth and precision because fish see you as easily as you see them. Best November through May before summer vegetation chokes the creek.

Seep Lakes

Spring-fed gems in the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, where sandhill cranes and waterfowl outnumber anglers. Expect quiet mornings and wildlife encounters along with your catch. The fishing season on the CNWR is the last Saturday in April through September 30. The fishing season on the Seep Lakes outside of the CNWR is year-round.

Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park

Cast beneath ancient cliffs where one of the world's most powerful waterfalls once roared. Blue Lake, Deep Lake, Park Lake and Perch Lake hold stocked rainbows that regularly reach 15 inches. Good bank access for families and boat launches for those ready to explore.



Coulee Playland Resort, Electric City

Fishing Near Electric City



REEL TALK

Fishers age 16+ need a valid Washington State fishing license. Purchase online at FishHunt.DFW.WA.gov (at least 10 days in advance), by phone at (360) 902-2464 or at sporting goods stores and tackle shops throughout Grant County.

Some lakes have special regulations, including catch-and-release, barbless hooks, selective gear rules or seasonal closures. Always check current Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations before fishing.

When winter locks up, ice fishing begins with holes drilled in frozen waters. Ice conditions vary and can be dangerous. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife does not monitor ice safety. Always check thickness yourself, never fish alone and stay off if you're uncertain.

DISCOVER PASS REQUIRED

A Discover Pass (\$10/day or \$45/year) is required for parking at Washington State Parks, Department of Natural Resources sites and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife lands throughout Grant County. This includes state parks, trails, water access points, wildlife areas and campgrounds.



Exception: A valid hunting or fishing license with a Vehicle Access Pass covers WDFW sites.

Purchase online at
DiscoverPass.WA.gov or at
retailers throughout the county.



SUN-SOAKED SHORES

Best places to take a dip in Grant County

Long summer days and wide-open skies make Grant County a natural place to cool off. From freshwater lakes framed by towering cliffs to mineral-rich waters unlike anywhere else in Washington, these are some of the best places to dive in.

Moses Lake has multiple public beaches and easy access. Blue Heron Park offers an unsupervised swim area with gradual entry, ideal for families. Cascade Park blends sandy shoreline with picnic shelters, playgrounds and a soccer complex. McCosh Park in downtown pairs beach access with Surf n Slide Water Park right next door.

On Banks Lake, one of the most iconic swim settings in the county, swimming takes on a dramatic backdrop at Steamboat Rock State Park. Here, basalt walls rise straight from the water, and swimmers can choose between sandy shoreline entry or deeper water off the docks.

At Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park, Park Lake and Blue Lake provide calmer, protected water tucked beneath towering walls shaped by Ice Age floods. The setting feels cinematic — warm rock, still water and big desert sky. Access to amenities like concessions and swim retail.

For something entirely different, Soap Lake delivers a naturally buoyant float. Its mineral-rich waters make swimmers unusually buoyant, creating an almost weightless experience that has drawn visitors for generations.



Sunbanks Resort, Electric City

Along the Columbia River, Crescent Bar Recreation Area offers river access with resort amenities and vacation rentals, while Desert Aire pairs riverside beaches with some of the warmest summer temperatures in the region — long, sun-soaked days that seem made for swimming.



Soap Lake

The setting feels cinematic —
warm rock, still water
and big desert sky.

GLIDE & FLOW



In Grant County, water and desert meet in wide-open ways. Whether you paddle quietly at sunrise or head out for a full day, these are some of the best places to launch.

Banks Lake delivers scale and scenery in equal measure. Open water invites kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding and powerboating, while protected coves offer calmer conditions. Near Northrup Point, narrow channels wind between rocky islands. Paddling along Steamboat Rock's base places you beneath towering basalt walls.



Moses Lake wraps around the city, making it one of the most accessible places to get on the water. Launch from Blue Heron Park and explore sheltered bays ideal for beginners or challenge yourself on open stretches when the wind picks up.

At Potholes Reservoir, the landscape resembles a maze. Channels, islands and quiet coves weave through sand dunes, creating endless routes to explore. Launch from Potholes State Park or MarDon Resort and drift into secluded pockets where the only sounds are wind and water.

RENT TO FLOAT

Banks Lake

- **Coulee Playland** — Pontoon boats, fishing boats, sport boats, pedal boats, kayaks, paddleboards

Crescent Bar

- **Crescent Bar Excursions** — Pontoon boats, jet skis, kayaks, paddleboards
- **Columbia Jet Skis** — Pontoon boats, jet skis

Moses Lake

- **Pro-Touch Jet Ski and Boat Rental** — Pontoon boats, ski boats, jet skis
- **Lakeshore Water Sports** — Kayaks, paddleboards
- **A Ride in the Park** - Paddleboards

Park Lake

- **Sun Lakes Resort** - Paddleboards, Aqua-Cycles, NuCanoes, kayaks, 4-person pedal boats, row boats

Potholes Reservoir

- **MarDon Resort Marina** — Pontoon boats, fishing boats, kayaks, paddleboards



Banks Lake

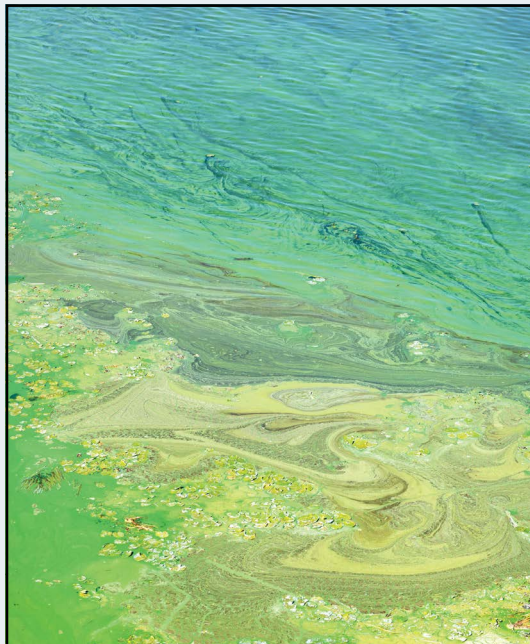
SPLASHDOWN CENTRAL

When lake swimming isn't enough and you want water features, slides and supervised fun, Grant County delivers.

At Surf 'n Slide Water Park (Moses Lake), open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, summer moves at full speed. Ride the standing wave on the Flowrider, drift along the lazy river or race down twisting slides into the main pool. Younger swimmers wade in through the zero-depth beach entry and explore Treasure Island's spray features, while diving boards, sand volleyball courts and an Olympic-size competitive pool keep the energy high. Lifeguards oversee the action throughout the summer, and water wheelchairs and a lazy river lift are available upon request for accessible entry.

Ephrata Splash Zone offers family-friendly aquatic fun with a splash pad, diving boards, swimming lanes and a rope obstacle course. The facility includes designated play areas for younger children and grassy areas perfect for picnics. Lifeguards keep watch seasonally, and a concession stand keeps everyone fueled.

Quincy Aquatic Center is getting a complete transformation. After nearly 70 years in its original location, a brand-new facility opens in East Park in summer 2026, featuring a lazy river, three waterslides, a zero-depth entry pool and a large play structure with smaller slides designed for younger children. The new center offers modern amenities while preserving the community's tradition of summer aquatic fun.



ALGAE ALERT!

Grant County lakes are beautiful, but algae blooms can occur during warm weather. Check current water quality conditions before you head out.



CHECK BEFORE YOU GO:

Scan the QR code or visit
MosesLakeWatershed.org/Tracker





TRAILS THROUGH TIME

In Grant County, trails do more than connect two points. They climb through rock, trace vanished floodwaters and follow routes first walked by homesteaders and wildlife. Every path moves through a landscape shaped by ice, fire and time.



For experienced hikers

The trail up Steamboat Rock State Park climbs steeply through loose rock and towering basalt columns before opening onto a vast summit plateau. From the top, Banks Lake stretches in both directions, Grand Coulee Dam rises to the north and forested mountains lift beyond the horizon. In spring, wildflowers soften the rim. The ascent is rugged. The reward is perspective.

Near Quincy, the Ancient Lakes trail drops into a canyon carved by Ice Age floods. Sagebrush and balsamroot line the path. A rare desert waterfall spills over dark basalt in spring, and twin lakes glow blue beneath sheer cliffs. It feels hidden, elemental and improbable in the middle of the Columbia Basin.

The Northrup Canyon trail offers a quieter alternative. Erratic boulders left by glaciers dot the meadows, and a small lake waits near the end of the route. Fewer hikers venture here, making it a place for solitude beneath towering rock walls.

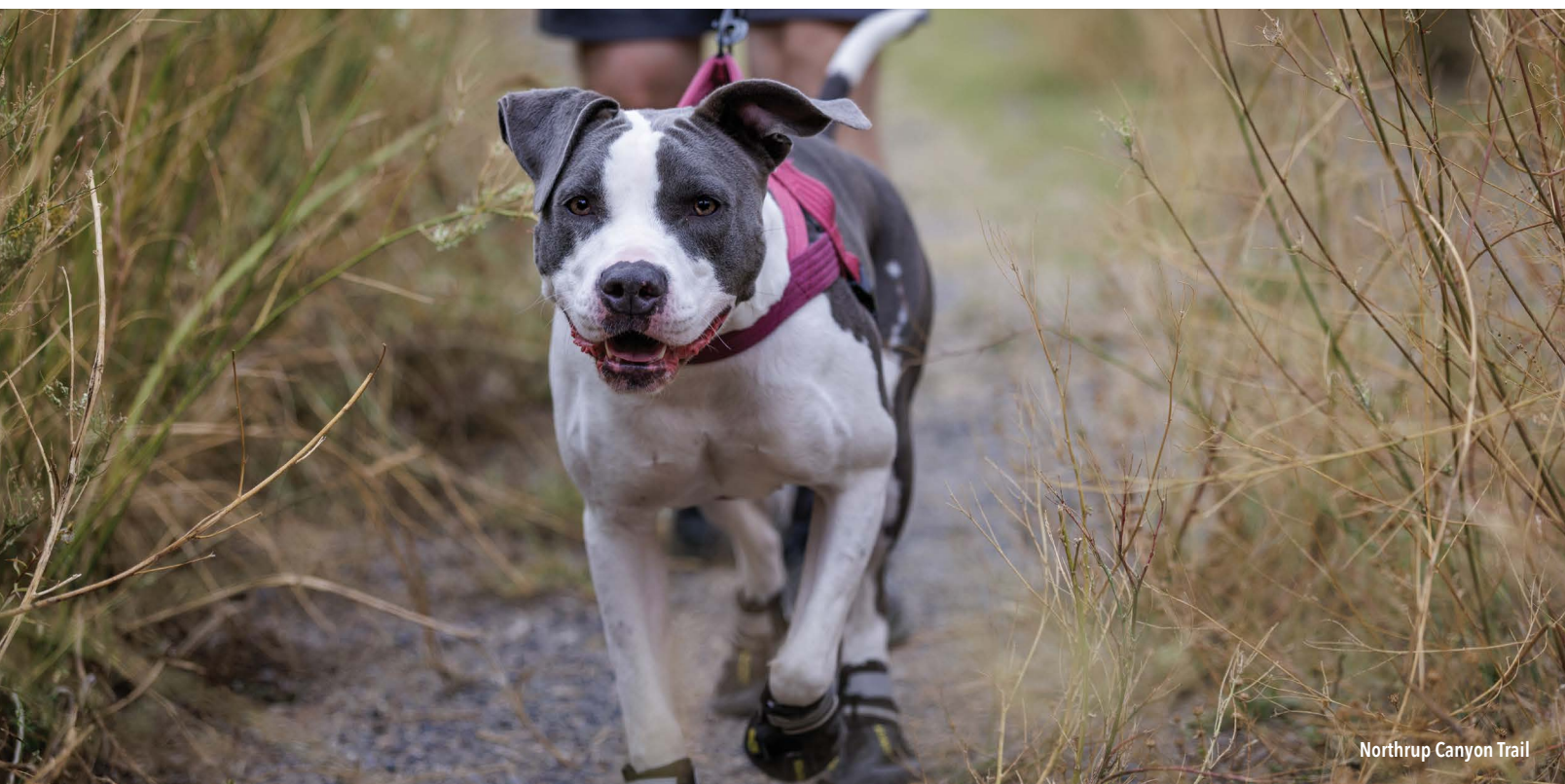
For families and easier routes

At Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park, the Park Lake Trail follows a paved, accessible shoreline beneath vertical basalt cliffs. Interpretive panels explain the immense floods that once thundered across the basin at Lake Lenore Caves. The nearby Lakeside Discovery Trail features an ADA-accessible trail that tells the story of the Native American tribes who once lived in the Grand Coulee at Lake Lenore.

Near Electric City at Northrup Canyon, the Old Wagon Road Trail traces historic wagon ruts across open desert. The grade



Ancient Lake Trail



Northrup Canyon Trail

is gentle and the views stretch wide, connecting past and present in a landscape that has always demanded resilience.

Just west of Ephrata, the Beezley Hill Recreation Area offers more than a dozen trails for hiking and mountain biking across open desert terrain. Routes range from easy loops to challenging climbs with elevation gains over 1,000 feet. The trails are bare and exposed (pack water and sun protection), but views from the ridgetops stretch across the Columbia Basin. Spring wildflowers brighten the sagebrush, and California quail dart through the brush. Multiple trailheads provide access, with the most popular starting at the end of Abel Road.

Within Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, sandy paths and gravel roads wind past wetlands, pothole lakes and basalt bluffs. Trails near Morgan Lake and through the Crab Creek corridor offer accessible options for families and wildlife watchers alike. Spring migration transforms the refuge into one of the Pacific Northwest's most dynamic natural spectacles.

Trail runners

Early mornings and cooler seasons bring runners to these same trails. Steamboat Rock's summit climb, Park Lake's paved loop, Ancient Lakes, Beezley Hills and Columbia National Wildlife Refuge roads all see regular use. Spring and fall offer the best conditions before summer heat peaks.



Lake Lenore Caves



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

The Columbia National Wildlife Refuge anchors wildlife viewing in Grant County. More than 200 bird species use this landscape of lakes, marshes and canyons. Each spring, tens of thousands of sandhill cranes funnel through during migration, their calls echoing across the desert in one of the Pacific Northwest's most dramatic wildlife spectacles.

The Corfu area offers concentrated crane viewing from March through early April. Arrive at dawn and watch waves of cranes lift from wetlands, filling the sky with prehistoric silhouettes. Royal Lake draws trumpeter swans, Canada geese and dozens of duck species through fall and winter. Portions of the refuge close seasonally to protect habitat; check current access before visiting.

Wildlife encounters define the Grant County experience. Mule deer graze near water sources at dawn and dusk. Coyotes hunt across open sagebrush in early morning light. Cliff swallows build mud nests beneath basalt overhangs across the basin. Along Banks Lake, bald eagles nest on Steamboat Rock's northeast face (scan the cliffs with binoculars) while osprey dive dramatically from platforms dotting the shoreline.

When wildflowers bloom from April to June, the scablands transform. Balsamroot colors the hillsides yellow, lupine adds purple and Indian paintbrush explodes in red amidst the sagebrush. Butterflies and hummingbirds follow.

The Columbia Basin Wildlife Area protects high desert habitat where pheasants, quail, hawks and songbirds thrive. Around Potholes Reservoir, islands and channels create nursery habitat for herons, pelicans and waterfowl. Bring binoculars and plenty of patience.

Here, wildlife is not incidental. It is part of the ancient rhythm of the basin.



Columbia Basin Wildlife Area



RIDE THE SCABLANDS



Views from Highway 155

Grant County's open roads and desert trails invite cyclists to explore a landscape carved by ancient floods.

Highway 155 traces Banks Lake's eastern shoreline for 27 miles between Electric City and Coulee City. Wide shoulders, minimal traffic and dramatic views make this a signature ride. Steamboat Rock rises from the water mid-route, and pullouts provide panoramic rest stops.

Around Moses Lake, paved city trails connect Blue Heron Park, Cascade Park and the downtown waterfront via flat, accessible paths ideal for families and casual riders.

Gravel riders seeking something iconic can cross the Beverly Railroad Bridge, a

historic steel span that carries cyclists and pedestrians high above the Columbia River. Part of the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail, the bridge links the scablands to the river corridor in one exposed, unforgettable crossing. Bring water, expect wind and plan for a gravel surface.

Quiet farm roads near Ephrata and Quincy roll through wheat country under vast skies. Highway 281 and surrounding county roads offer long, scenic loops with light traffic and wide shoulders.

Mountain bikers head to Ancient Lakes area trails and Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park for desert single-track through sagebrush and basalt. The terrain is technical with loose sand and rock.

Beezley Hills, west of Ephrata, offers exposed ridge riding with elevation gains over 1,000 feet. Spring and fall provide the best conditions before summer heat peaks.

BEFORE YOU RIDE



Gravel tires are recommended for Beverly and many desert routes



Limited shade – carry more water than you think you need



Winds can pick up in the afternoon



Cell service is inconsistent outside town centers



EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE

In Grant County, the same forces that carved canyons and cliffs also created vast horizons. By day, overlooks reveal the scale of Ice Age floods. By night, those open expanses turn into some of Central Washington's clearest skies.

At Dry Falls, stand on the rim of what was once among the largest waterfalls on Earth. The cliff stretches for miles, dropping roughly 400 feet to the basin below. The nearby visitor center at Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park provides context for the cataclysmic floods that shaped this landscape. Arrive near sunset to watch light move across layered basalt, then stay as darkness settles. With limited nearby development, stars emerge quickly on clear nights.

Along Banks Lake, pullouts on Highway 155 and shoreline access within Steamboat Rock State Park offer expansive views over water framed by rimrock. Campsites provide convenient overnight access for stargazing, while day-use areas allow easy shoreline walks after dusk. The Milky Way becomes visible on moonless nights.

Farther south near Vantage, Frenchman Coulee rises in dramatic columns above the Columbia River corridor. Known for its striking basalt formations, it also delivers sweeping sunset views and broad skies. Nearby, the overlook at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park looks west across the river, where fading light silhouettes cliffs and

distant ridgelines. Proximity to Interstate 90 means slightly more ambient light than Dry Falls, but the scale remains impressive.

In the Quincy area, the basin surrounding Ancient Lakes forms a natural amphitheater. Horseshoe-shaped basalt walls block much of the lateral light from surrounding towns, creating excellent conditions for night photography. The hike in requires preparation and a headlamp for the return. Summer evenings are warm, but temperatures drop quickly after dark.

For a more remote experience, stretches of shoreline around Potholes Reservoir and gravel roads within Columbia National Wildlife Refuge provide deep quiet and wide-open sky. Visitors should note that portions of the refuge close seasonally, and gates may be locked after dark in some areas. Always confirm access hours before planning nighttime visits.

Elevated terrain along the Saddle Mountains on the southern edge of the county offers commanding sunrise and sunset views across the Columbia Basin. Roads can be rough and may require high-clearance vehicles. Conditions vary with weather, and cell service is limited.

The Milky Way becomes visible on moonless nights.

Visitor Tips for Dark-Sky Viewing



- Check moon phases. New moon periods provide the darkest skies.
- Arrive before sunset to scout terrain and avoid navigating unfamiliar ground in full darkness.
- Bring layered clothing. Even summer nights cool quickly in the high desert.
- Carry water, a flashlight or headlamp with a red-light setting and fully charged devices.
- Watch for uneven ground, wildlife and, in warmer months, rattlesnakes.
- Respect private property and posted closures.

Grant County's night skies are not formally designated dark-sky preserves, but their openness and distance from major metropolitan areas create exceptional viewing conditions.





FROM FIELD TO FORK

Grant County grows more than 60 crops across over a half a million irrigated acres. The Columbia Basin Project transformed this high desert into one of Washington's most productive agricultural regions — and today, you can taste that bounty straight from the source.



Pick, Shop, Taste

Tonnemaker Hill Farm in Royal City grows more than 600 varieties of certified organic fruit and vegetables on a 126-acre orchard located on the north slope of the Frenchman Hills. Typically mid-July through early September, visitors can pick peaches and nectarines or shop the farm stand for fresh fruit, preserves and local honey.

Tip: Go in the morning before the heat and bring cash.

Palmer's Adventure Farm in Moses Lake offers a seasonal, family-friendly way to experience local agriculture, with u-pick opportunities and harvest-time activities that celebrate the region's farming roots.

Cloudview Farm in Ephrata supplies fresh, locally grown ingredients and reflects the small-scale, sustainable side of Grant County agriculture.

Seed Cupboard Nursery in Royal City offers plants, seeds and gardening supplies rooted in the region's agricultural heritage. Whether you're a seasoned grower or just starting out, it's a natural stop for anyone inspired by Grant County's farming legacy.

The Moses Lake Farmers Market runs Saturdays, May through October, at McCosh Park. Expect seasonal produce, baked goods and ready-to-eat foods. Pair it with a waterfront stroll nearby.



Pumpkin Patch, Moses Lake



Smaller seasonal markets operate in Ephrata and Quincy — check local listings for current dates.

Roadside Harvest

Late summer is prime time along Highway 281 and through the Quincy Valley, where hand-painted signs signal sweet corn, melons, tomatoes and peppers. Many stands operate on the honor system — bring small bills.

What You'll See by Season



Spring: Emerald wheat fields and freshly planted rows – ideal for photography, especially at golden hour.



Summer: Corn, melons, tomatoes and stone fruit at roadside stands.



Fall: Harvest equipment in action and fields turning gold.



Winter: Quiet farmland landscapes and wide-open skies – dramatic but sparse for produce.





What Grows Here FLOWS HERE

Grapes thrive in Grant County's high desert climate. Long, sunny days, cool nights and mineral-rich soils shaped by ancient floods create structure, balance and intensity in the glass. What you're tasting reflects the land — and the water that made it farmable.



Wineries and Tasting Rooms

Ancient floods deposited mineral-rich soils perfect for wine grapes. Add 300 days of sunshine and cool desert nights, and the result is an emerging wine region with serious credentials.

Cave B Estate Winery (Quincy) perches on cliffs above the Columbia River near the Gorge Amphitheatre. Winemaker

Alfredo "Freddy" Arredondo earned 2023 Winemaker of the Year. Estate wines, stunning views and an adjacent inn and spa. Concert shuttle service available during Gorge shows.

Gård Estate Wines (Royal City) operates within Gård Public House Restaurant & Inn, pouring estate wines alongside farm-to-table cuisine. The vineyard surrounds the property, making this a true estate experience.

Jones of Washington (Quincy) earned Most Valuable Producer at the 2023 Washington Wine Competition. The tasting room pours estate wines from vineyards planted in 1997. Expect bold reds — Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah — and crisp whites including Riesling and Chardonnay. Open weekends or by appointment.



Ginkgo Estate Winery



Ginkgo Estate Winery

More Places to Sip

- **Beaumont Cellars (Quincy)**
- **Burke Vineyard (Royal City)**
- **Camas Cove Cellars (Moses Lake)**
- **Cascade Cellars (Moses Lake)**
- **Chris Daniel Winery (Quincy)**
- **Errant Cellars (Quincy)**
- **Ginkgo Forest Winery (Mattawa)**
- **Millie's Wine Bar (Ephrata)**
- **SageCliff Resort (Gorge)**
- **Tendrils Restaurant (Gorge)**
- **UpWest Tasting Room (Mattawa)**
- **Viento Ridge (Moses Lake)**
- **White Heron Cellars (Quincy)**
- **Winchester Estate Winery (Ephrata)**

Hours and tasting availability vary seasonally. Appointments are recommended, especially during concert weekends.



Find more information about reservations, hours, local recreation and lodging on the **Tour Grant County App**.

CRAFT BEER AND CIDER

From basalt-born barley to Washington apples, these local breweries and cider houses tap into the same fertile soils that sculpted this land.

Discovery Cider Company (Ephrata) produces hard cider from Washington apples at the Basin Street tasting room. Open weekends with live music, food trucks and guest beers and wines. Family-friendly, one-stop tasting experience.

Moore Brewing Co. (Moses Lake) sits lakefront downtown with an expansive deck. Nine house-brewed beers rotate seasonally. Family-friendly until 7pm, adult vibe after. Craft beer and sunset views

Moses Lake Taproom (Moses Lake) doesn't brew on-site but curates an exceptional rotating selection of regional craft beers you won't find elsewhere in Grant County, as well as Washington wines, ciders and spirits. Dog-friendly, with two patios, games, and regular events like trivia nights. Outside food is welcome.

Ten Pin Taphouse and Restaurant (Moses Lake) sits within Ten Pin Territory, a massive entertainment destination. The state-of-the-art nano brewery operates inside the restaurant, letting you watch the brewing process while you eat. House beers, pub food, bowling lanes and arcade games under one roof.



Beer Flights



EAT LIKE YOU LIVE HERE

Cloudview Kitchen (Soap Lake)

This family-run bakery, café and bar operates Thursday through Sunday in downtown Soap Lake. Owners source ingredients from Cloudview Farm in Ephrata, plus Gordon's Farms, Wilcox Eggs and other local producers.

The menu changes with what's available, but expect fresh-baked pastries, gourmet coffee, scratch-made lunch items and evening small plates. The bar pours local wines and craft cocktails. It's the kind of place where the cook knows the farmer who grew the tomatoes.

Small space, big flavor, genuine hospitality. Reservations are recommended for dinner.

Tendrils Restaurant (Gorge)

Perched on cliffs above the Columbia River at Sagecliff Resort & Spa, Tendrils delivers farm-to-table dining with panoramic gorge views. Everything from dressings to pastries is made in-house and sourced directly from local farmers and growers.

The menu showcases contemporary American fare, including house-made pastas, stone-fired pizzas and premium

steaks. Ricotta gnocchi arrives tossed with mushrooms and asparagus in lemon-thyme beurre blanc. Dry-aged Snake River Farms tenderloin pairs with Cave B estate wines.

Indoor and outdoor seating both offer stunning river views. Time your dinner for sunset on the patio — you won't be disappointed. The atmosphere balances casual elegance with approachable comfort - equally fitting for a special occasion or family evening.

Open seven days a week for breakfast and dinner. Reservations are highly encouraged. Located adjacent to the Gorge Amphitheatre.



Cloudview Kitchen

Gård Public House (Royal City)

A farm-to-table kitchen sourcing from local sources, including Big Sage Organics, Tonnemaker Hill Farm, Pure Country Pork, Huntzinger Beef, the property's own vineyard and more. The menu changes seasonally but remains committed to Central Washington ingredients, prepared with technique and care.

Gård Estate Wines pair with dishes that highlight local terroir. The dining room feels refined without being stuffy — white tablecloths, exposed brick, vineyard views through the windows. Seven onsite suites make this a destination for overnight visits as well.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations are suggested but not required.



Gård Public House

Michael's on the Lake (Moses Lake)

Family-owned Michael's occupies prime lakefront real estate with an outdoor patio overlooking Moses Lake. The menu focuses on Pacific Northwest seafood and Certified Angus Beef steaks, executed with consistency that has made this Moses Lake's special occasion restaurant. This is where locals celebrate anniversaries and birthdays. The view, the service and the food all deliver.

The prime rib dip draws regulars. Seafood fettuccine and bacon-wrapped stuffed chicken remain popular. The Washington wine list includes local producers like Jones of Washington alongside broader Northwest selections.

Open six days a week for lunch and dinner. Reservations are suggested, especially for waterfront patio seating.

Be Mai Thai (Ephrata)

Authentic Thai and Asian fusion cuisine in the heart of Ephrata, brought to life by traditional and bold flavors. The menu ranges from aromatic Vietnamese pho noodle soup and fragrant curries to classic Pad Thai and spicy basil dishes, all prepared with fresh ingredients.

Family-friendly with generous portions that won't break the budget. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available. Menu highlights include Pad See Ew, mango sweet rice and Thai iced tea.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Takeout and online ordering available.

La Presa Mexican Restaurant (Grand Coulee)

Locally owned La Presa serves authentic Mexican cuisine via family recipes. La Presa, translates to "the dam" — a direct nod to the Grand Coulee Dam. The kitchen delivers bold flavors with perfectly seasoned beef, chicken and seafood across a menu of enchiladas, fajitas, chimichangas and more.

Customer favorites include Chunky's Chicken, wine-braised chicken with fresh vegetables and spices over rice, and Pollo al Cilantro, a creamier variation. Pair it with a mango margarita rimmed with Chamoy and Tajín and add mango puree for even more flavor.

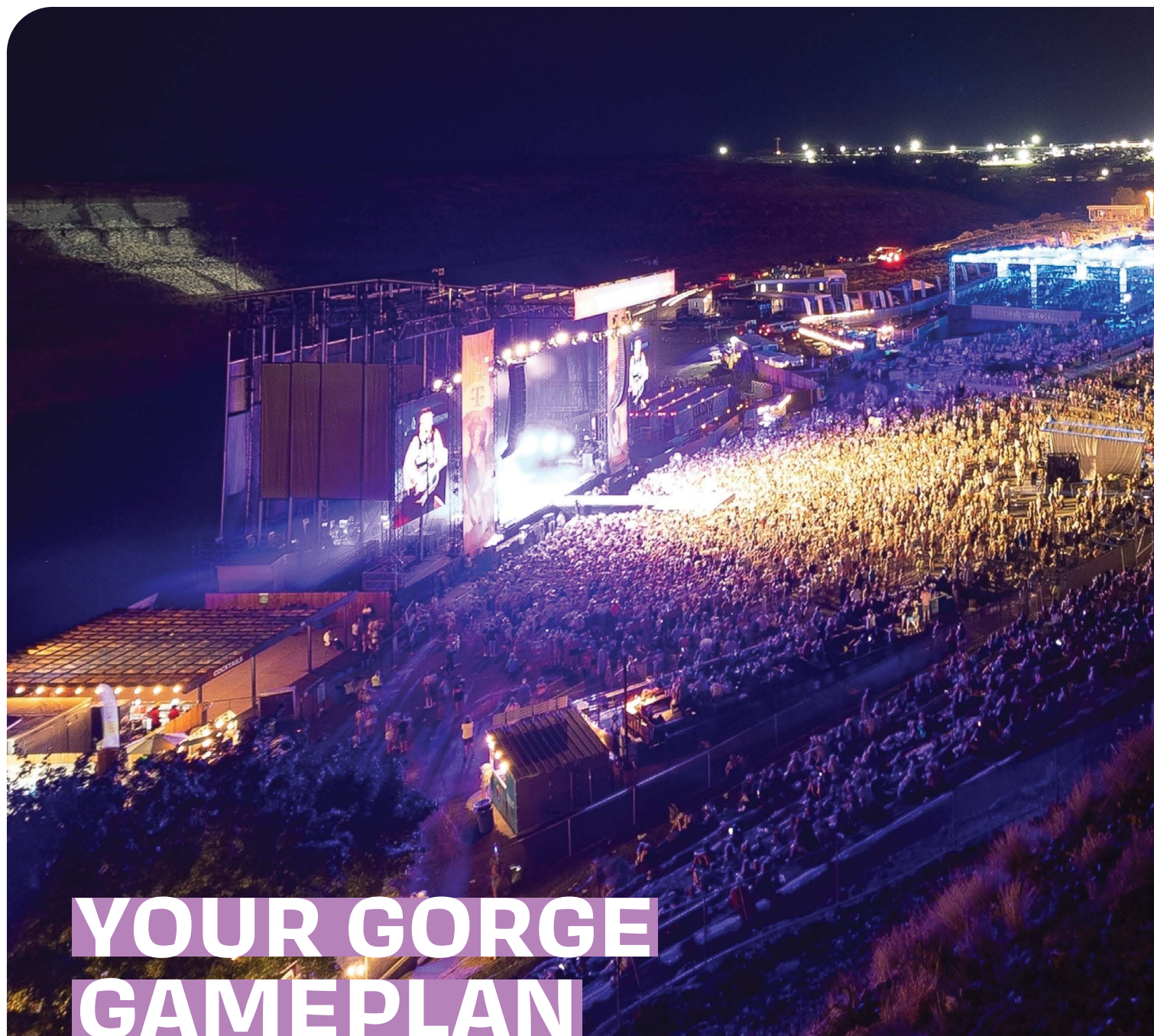
Generous portions at reasonable prices make this a local favorite. First-come, first-served seating. Open daily for lunch and dinner.



Michael's on the Lake



Find more flavor on the Grant County Tourism app!



YOUR GORGE GAMEPLAN

The Gorge Amphitheatre sits on basalt cliffs above the Columbia River near George. With 26,500 seats and a view that competes with the performances, it's consistently ranked among the world's most scenic concert venues. If you're coming for a show, here's what you need to know.



Getting There

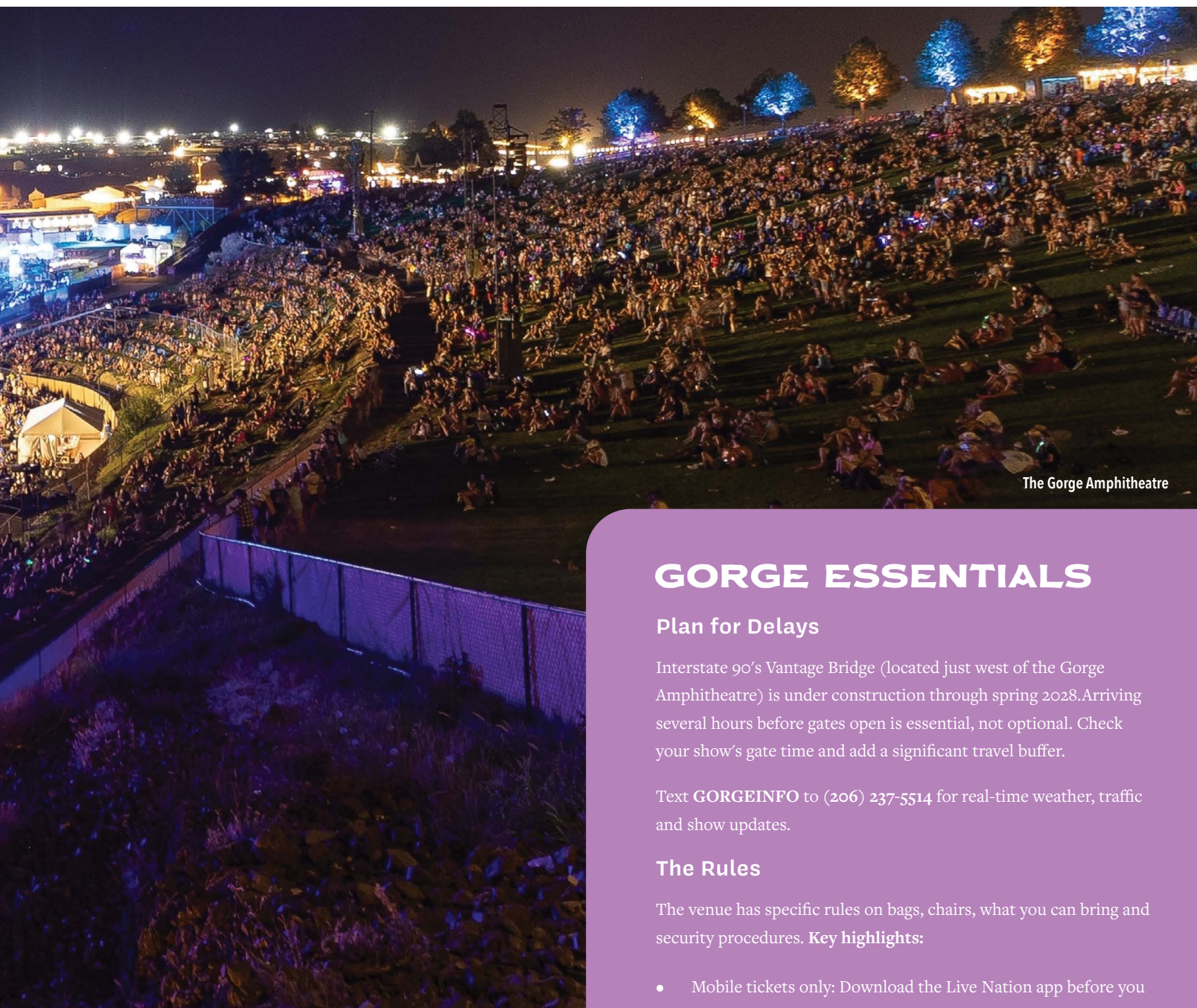
Three hours from Seattle or Spokane via Interstate 90. Exit at George (143 or 149) and follow the signs. Parking opens roughly two hours before the gates. Expect traffic and plan accordingly — arriving early beats sitting in line.

Parking and Camping

Camping tiers range from Standard to Premier, Terrace and Oasis, each with different amenities and access. Book early for popular shows.

The Experience

Reserved seating fills the bottom of the amphitheater bowl. General admission lawn spreads behind with first-come seating (remember: chair rentals only, no personal chairs). The sound rocks no matter where you sit. Food, drinks, merch and restrooms are available throughout. Gates typically open 90 minutes before showtime.



The Gorge Amphitheatre

GORGE ESSENTIALS

Plan for Delays

Interstate 90's Vantage Bridge (located just west of the Gorge Amphitheatre) is under construction through spring 2028. Arriving several hours before gates open is essential, not optional. Check your show's gate time and add a significant travel buffer.

Text **GORGEINFO** to (206) 237-5514 for real-time weather, traffic and show updates.

The Rules

The venue has specific rules on bags, chairs, what you can bring and security procedures. **Key highlights:**

- Mobile tickets only: Download the Live Nation app before you arrive
- Cashless venue: Cards only (cash exchange booths available)
- NEW 2025: No personal lawn chairs — rent one in advance or day-of (limited supply)
- Bags: Small clutches, fanny packs or clear plastic bags only (specific size limits apply)
- Water: Empty bottles or factory-sealed water up to one gallon permitted
- Free water refill stations throughout the venue



For the complete list of permitted and prohibited items, bag size requirements, accessibility services and other policies, visit **GorgeAmphitheatre.com**.

Weather

Shows happen rain or shine unless winds or lightning force delays. Summer days reach 100°F, nights drop 40+ degrees. Spring and fall evenings turn cold fast. Layer up, wear sunscreen and bring a hat.

Local Tip

Sagecliff Resort & Spa sits next to the amphitheater and runs shuttles for resort guests. Book a spa treatment for the day after — you'll need it.

BEYOND THE ENCORE

Most concertgoers drive in, see the show, and drive out. But Grant County offers enough to turn a concert into an entire weekend.



Before the Show

Arrive a day early and explore. Hike Ancient Lakes in the morning while temperatures stay moderate. It's a 4.6-mile round trip to twin blue lakes beneath basalt cliffs. Get lunch at Monkey N' Around Pizza in Quincy, then spend the afternoon at your campsite or hotel before heading to the venue refreshed.

Alternatively, explore Moses Lake. Rent kayaks or paddleboards from Lakeshore Water Sports and paddle the sheltered bays. Stop by the Moses Lake Museum & Art Center to see regional history exhibits and rotating art shows, then grab dinner at Paradise Lake Front Restaurant and Lounge for waterfront views before heading back for the show.

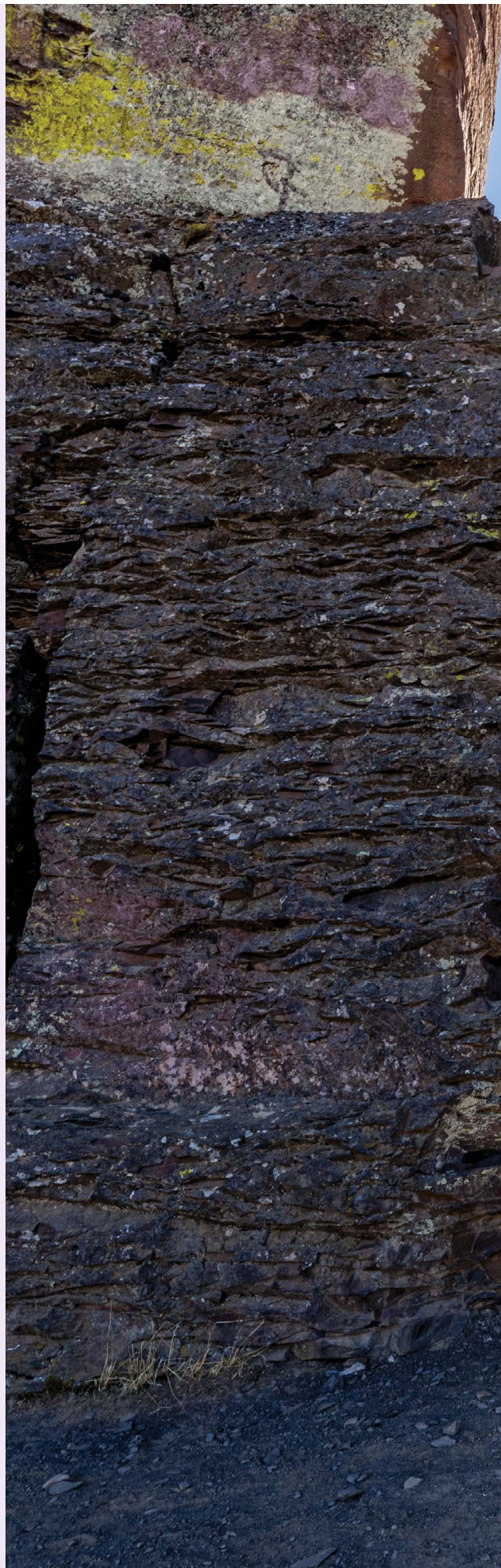
After the Show

If you're camping, Sunday morning means a leisurely pack-up and breakfast. Stop at Soap Lake on the way out to float in the mineral-rich waters — they're strangely buoyant and locals swear it cures hangovers. Scalehouse Cafe in George serves breakfast and classic diner fare. If you prefer coffee and pastries on the go, stop by Murphy's Corner Coffee Co. in Quincy.

For a longer visit, combine your concert weekend with outdoor adventure. Banks Lake and Steamboat Rock State Park sit an hour north — camp, fish, paddle or hike before or after your show. Blue Lake and Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park offer protected swimming and dramatic coulee scenery about 45 minutes northeast. Potholes Reservoir to the south provides similar options with a more remote feel.

One Last Note

The Gorge Amphitheatre draws crowds from across the Northwest, but most treat it as an isolated destination. Pair live music with local food, ancient geology and wide-open spaces. You came for the concert — stay for the county.





Pair live music with local food,
ancient geology and
wide-open spaces.



Day 1: Arrival and First Impressions

Start at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park near Vantage. The Interpretive Center showcases 15-million-year-old petrified trees and explains how volcanic ash preserved what was once a lush forest. Walk outside for Columbia River views carved by Ice Age floods.

Drive to Wild Horses Monument. A short, steep climb brings you face to face with 15 life-size steel horses frozen mid-gallop on a ridge above the Columbia River. The sculpture honors wild horses that once roamed these hills. Time it for late afternoon light.

Continue to Moses Lake and check in. Dinner at Ten Pin Taphouse and Restaurant inside Ten Pin Territory. Enjoy house-brewed beers, pub food, bowling lanes and arcade games. It's casual, fun and family-friendly.





Day 3: Stone and Water

Wake early and drive north to Dry Falls. Stand on the rim of what was once among the world's most powerful waterfalls - a 400-foot cliff stretching for miles. The visitor center explains the cataclysmic floods. Hike the Park Lake Trail below for views framed by vertical basalt walls.

Drive to Steamboat Rock State Park. The massive butte rises 800 feet from Banks Lake. If you're ambitious, hike to the summit (steep, rocky and very rewarding). If not, walk the shoreline, go for a swim or simply take in the scale of coulee country.

Return to Moses Lake for dinner at ENZO Italian Restaurant with homemade pasta and family-style portions meant for sharing. Start with one of their specialty cocktails (the LaVish Lori is *deliziosa*!) or with their extensive mocktail selection.

You came for a weekend. You leave with perspective.

Day 2: Farms and Flavor

Morning drive to Trinity Gardens Lavender Farm near Quincy (open Tuesday-Saturday, April-September). Wander rows of blooming lavender, browse small-batch goods and take in the quiet rhythm of the farm.

Continue to Verhey's Peaches in Royal City if visiting mid-July through early September. Pick your own peaches and nectarines or stop at the farm stand for fresh fruit and preserves.

Lunch in Quincy at Idle Hour Eatery & Spirits, known for large, juicy burgers and fried chicken, or at Andaluz Family Mexican Restaurant for authentic, traditional dishes and flavors. Afternoon wine tasting in Quincy continues the thread of local flavor, with relaxed pours and wide-open views of vineyard country.

Dinner in Soap Lake at Mi Cocinita. A casual, locally loved spot serving traditional Mexican dishes with bold flavor and generous portions.





ONE PERFECT DAY

Start south of Moses Lake at Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. Drive the scenic loop starting at Morgan Lake Road. Stop to watch sandhill cranes (spring), walk short trails through basalt bluffs and scan wetlands for herons, pelicans and raptors. Bring binoculars.

Lunch at Moore Brewing Co. in Moses Lake. Lakefront location with nine house-brewed beers and an expansive deck. Family-friendly until 7 p.m.

Afternoon at Beezley Hill Recreation Area, west of Ephrata. Hike desert trails with elevation gains and ridgetop views across the Columbia Basin. Spring wildflowers soften the sagebrush. Bring water, sunblock and hats.

Refuel at Discovery Cider Company in Ephrata (open Friday-Sunday). Hard cider from Washington apples, live music and food trucks. Family-friendly with guest beers and wines.

As the day unfolds, consider a short excursion if you feel like exploring farther. Head toward Wilson Creek for the Harvest Moon Saloon or Harrington for vintage shopping and small-town discoveries. Or stay closer to the region's signature landscapes with Dry Falls or Potholes Reservoir.

As evening settles, dinner at Michael's on the Lake. Waterfront patio, Pacific Northwest seafood, sunset over Moses Lake. This is where locals celebrate special occasions.

One perfect day. And a reason to come back.



GETTING HERE, BEING HERE



Vantage Bridge

Grant County sits in the heart of Central Washington. Interstate 90 connects the region to Seattle (150 miles west) and Spokane (100 miles east) in roughly three hours. U.S. Highway 2 and State Routes 17, 26 and 281 link smaller communities across open country.

The closest commercial airport is in Pasco, with regional options in Spokane and Seattle. Grant Transit Authority provides free public bus service connecting Moses Lake, Ephrata, Quincy, Warden and other communities, but a rental car offers the most flexibility for exploring remote areas, scenic overlooks and roadside farm stands. Distances are wide, traffic is light and the best views often wait at the end of a rural road.

Cell service can be limited in remote areas. Fuel up before long scenic drives and download maps in advance.

Download the Grant County Tourism app before you arrive. It works offline and includes maps, attractions and dining options when cell service drops.

Once here, slow down. This is not a dense urban destination. It is a landscape meant to be experienced in stretches of space and time.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Rattlesnakes are present from April to October in desert areas. Stay on trails and watch where you step.
- Discover Pass required for state park parking (\$10/day or \$45/year). Purchase ahead at **DiscoverPass.WA.gov**.
- Most businesses accept cards but bring cash for farm stands and small-town cafés.
- Dress in layers year-round. Desert temperatures swing 40+ degrees between day and night.
- Tap water is safe throughout the county. Pack plenty of water before your hike.



GET YOUR DISCOVER PASS

Purchase online at DiscoverPass.WA.gov or at retailers throughout the county.

READING THE SEASONS

Four Seasons fill the measure of the year; There are four seasons in the mind of man. - John Keats



Old Barn Near Hartline, Washington

Grant County lives in rhythm with sun, wind and water.

Spring brings green wheat fields and rushing irrigation canals. Wildflowers appear along coulee walls — balsamroot, lupine and Indian paintbrush paint the scablands yellow, purple and red. Days are mild, evenings cool.

Summer delivers long daylight hours and temperatures that often reach the 90s and beyond. Lakes, concerts and farm stands define the season. Sun protection and hydration are essential.

Fall softens the heat. Vineyards turn gold, harvest begins and hiking conditions are ideal.

Winter is quiet and expansive. Skies stretch wide over frosted fields. While some services operate on reduced hours, many trails, scenic drives and open landscapes remain accessible, offering rare winter solitude for hiking, photography and off-road exploration when other regions are snowbound.

Unlike many destinations, Grant County's low elevation desert terrain means year-round access to outdoor experiences across coulees, lakeshores and high desert routes.





**Ice Age floods tore through the land,
carving coulees and cliffs. Lava cooled
into columns of basalt. Rivers claimed
their paths and held strong. What
remains is a landscape written in layers.**

