

CAMP FONTANA

Monday August 12 – Sunday August 18, 2024



Obsidian Summer Camp

Silver Lake Group Campground

Mt. Baker Wilderness, WA

Adapted from the Chemeketa's 1999 booklet for the Obsidians by Wayne Deeter (2004), edited by Pat Soussan (2012) and updated by Holger Krentz (2024)



2024 SUMMER CAMP GUIDE
Mt. Baker Wilderness, WASHINGTON

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INTRODUCTION

Historical Obsidian Perspective

The Obsidians camped near Mt Baker at Twin Lakes in 1962 and at the Excelsior Group Camp in 2004 and 2012 which was unfortunately decommissioned due to a change in the river channel which consumed the access road.

The Mt Baker Area

The topography is steep, the mountains rugged, and the scenery spectacular. Mt. Baker, the northern-most Cascade volcano in the U.S., and Mt. Shuksan dominate the area. Because these mountains are on the storm side of the North Cascade Range, glaciers and late summer snowfields are everywhere at the higher elevations. Swift rivers, rock, ice, and a variety of vegetation, from large old trees to delicate meadow flowers, characterize the area.

Geologically, the Cascade Mountains were created from the uplifting of the North American plate by the subduction of the Pacific plate. Active volcanoes, such as Mt. Baker and Glacier Peak, occur in the subduction zone which extends along the western edge of the continent. The North Cascades are geologically different from the southern part of the range. They constitute large formations of granite which are more resistant to erosion than the basalt of the southern Cascades and, therefore, are much more jagged.

The forests of the area consist primarily of conifers, which include Douglas firs, western and mountain hemlocks, western red and Alaska yellow cedars, and a variety of true fir species. Hardwoods include big leaf maple, red alder, and vine maple. In the lower elevations where soils are deep, these trees achieve an impressive size, as may be seen in the North Fork Nooksack Natural Area.

The first inhabitants in the area were Native Americans who followed the retreat of the Pleistocene glaciers about 8,400 years ago. The Skagit and Nooksack peoples were common in the western valleys and depended heavily on salmon. Alexander Ross, of the Hudson's Bay Company, was the first white person to explore the area in search of fur. The swift rivers and lack of willows are not favored beaver habitat so the pursuit of fur was soon abandoned. A brief rush of gold prospectors occurred between 1880 and 1900. A few mining claims still remain. Ultimately, timber harvesting became the primary resource use for the area. However, due to the rugged topography, rock, and shallow soils, much of the area has never been accessed for timber harvesting. What remains is the most scenic portion of the region. Currently, tourism and outdoor sports comprise the primary land use.

Getting there

There are a couple of routes to camp this year. In the interests of conserving gas and costs, we encourage campers to carpool to camp.

From Eugene/Springfield, drive I-5 north 370 miles to Bellingham, Washington. Turn right on State Highway 542 (Exit 255: E. Sunset Drive/Mt. Baker Highway) and follow it 26 miles to Maple Falls and at the intersection, turn left onto Silver Lake Road. Continue north for 3 miles to Silver Lake Park group campground, turn right. Another option: north on I-5 to Exit 236. Turn right (east) on Bow Hill Rd. At the stop sign, cross the road and continue on what is now Prairie Road. Continue and turn left (north) at HWY 9 and then HWY 542 to Maple Falls. At the intersection, turn left onto Silver Lake Road. Continue north for 3 miles to Silver Lake Park group campground, turn right. Look for the Obsidian sign. The total driving distance is ~400 miles which should take about seven hours of driving time, depending on traffic through Portland and Seattle. It's exactly 3 Miles from the

turn in Maple Falls to the GROUP campground. If you arrive at the general entrance, you've gone too far. See page 47 for a map.

Campers should not arrive at camp before 3pm on Monday, August 12th.

Note: Maple Falls is the closest cell phone coverage.

The Campsite

Located at the south end of the park adjacent to Maple Creek Campground. There are 33 RV campsites with water and electric hookups. A 75 person picnic shelter with fireplace, electricity, sink, serving counters and picnic tables. Large graveled parking area. Vault toilets. Flush toilets can be found nearby.

The Silver Lake Park Office has firewood and snacks available for purchase during office hours. The nearest stores, restaurants and gas are in Maple Falls, three miles south of the park.

Canoes, rowboats, 1 & 4 person pedal boats, 2 seat kayaks and stand up paddle boards are available for rent or bring your own.

Showers

Showers are available at the Silver Lake County Park. One at the Red Mountain campground and the other at the Maple Creek campground, which are a short walk from our group site. The facilities are available 24 hours a day during camping season at no additional cost, per their website. We will set up our four-stall camp shower at camp. Two of the stalls will have hot water provided by our water heater. Bringing your own solar shower is optional.

Meals

The first meal will be dinner served the evening of Monday, August 12th. The last will be a continental breakfast on Sunday, August 18th. Three meals a day will be provided for the remaining 5 days. Vegetarian options will be available; however, no accommodation can be made for special dietary needs such as lactose, gluten or glucose intolerant.

Breakfasts will be continental and include oatmeal, cold cereal, fruit, yogurt, hard boiled eggs, coffee and tea. Participants will make their own lunches; the fixings will include lunch meat, cheese, tuna, tofu pate, fruit and cookies. Dinners will be catered. Participants will need to bring their own dishes, cups and utensils for breakfast and dinner. Participants will wash their own dishes after meals and put them in their ditty bag to store/dry them

Meal times are as follows:

- Coffee/Tea/Cocoa 6:30 AM
- Breakfast 7AM – 7:45 AM
- Lunch Preparation 7AM – 7:45 AM
- Dinner 6:30 PM

Hands must be thoroughly washed with soap and water prior to each meal, especially when making lunch at the communal tables. Hand sanitizer will also be provided.

Please wear your nametag at dinner.

Duties

Each camper will be randomly assigned 1-2 duties during the week. Work schedules will be posted on the bulletin board. Mark the day and time of your duties on the back of your nametag. A lead person will supervise and provide

written instructions for table set-up, serving, table clearing, dishwashing, lunch prep, lunch clean-up, and camp clean-up. Campers are responsible for finding replacements if unable to perform at their assigned times.

Campers are asked to help dismantle camp and load the truck on the last day.

Bulletin Board

Campers should check the bulletin board to:

- Post and/or sign up for hikes
- View maps and spreadsheet summary of hikes
- Get work schedule and job descriptions
- Post any changes to work schedule
- Read notices

What to Bring

- Camping and hiking gear
- Binoculars and spotting scopes
- Clothes for warm, cold, and wet weather, including swimsuit
- Clothesline and pins
- Solar shower
- Towel
- Water bottle
- Ditty bag and carabineer
- Unbreakable plate, cereal bowl, mug, utensils
- 2 hard-plastic containers suitable to pack lunches
- Cloth lunch sack and napkin
- Camp chair
- Mosquito repellent
- Water shoes for creek crossings
- Biodegradable soap
- Playing cards and board games
- Hiking poles
- Bear spray: optional

- Passport if you want to travel to nearby Canada
- America the Beautiful Pass or Senior (Golden Age) Pass or NW Forest Pass
- Ten Essentials to carry when away from camp:
 1. First-aid kit
 2. Compass (and know how to use it)
 3. Map(s) of the area where you will be
 4. Small functional pocket knife
 5. Flashlight with good batteries (extras & bulb)
 6. Rain gear: parka and pants
 7. Sunscreen
 8. Extra food and water
 9. Fire kit: waterproof matches, candle,
 10. Whistle

Pets, firearms and illegal drugs are not allowed on trips or in camp. Alcohol is not permitted on official Obsidian outings, but is allowed in camp.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

At camp we will strive to be eco-friendly. You can help by bringing two hard-plastic containers in which to pack your lunches -- one for a sandwich or dinner leftovers, the other for veggies, fruit, or cookies – as well as a cloth lunch sack and napkin. *Please take your personal beverage containers home.*

Campfire

There will be a gathering of camp attendees at the campfire every evening at 8pm. Camp announcements and trip reports will be discussed.

SAFETY

Hand Washing

Green buckets of water along with antibacterial liquid soap on green tables will be placed strategically throughout the site near the toilets and the dining area. Frequent hand washing is our best defense against illness. You **must** wash your hands prior to handling any food at communal tables (breakfast, lunch & dinner).

Hikes

Anyone planning, or likely to, lead a hike at Summer Camp should be familiar with the Obsidian Safety Manual (available online in the Members Only – Documents section), and specifically, the section related to Summer Trips Guide, as this will be the standard procedure to be followed for day hikes while at Summer Camp.

Climbs

A climb of either Mt. Baker or Mt. Shuksan may be included in the week's activities, if there is an experienced person willing to lead the climb, and if those wishing to participate have the technical skills needed for a glacier climb in a heavily crevassed area. People who wish to participate in a climb will be required to be properly equipped for glacier travel as for any Obsidian climb. Anyone planning to lead a climb should be familiar with the Obsidian Safety Manual.

Health Care Services

Regional Hospital

St. Joseph Hospital
2901 Squalicum Way
Bellingham, WA
360-734-5400

Emergency Medical

911

Other data will be posted on the Camp Bulletin Board

US Forest Service

Glacier Public Service Center
10091 Mt Baker Hwy
Glacier, WA 98244
360-599-9572

References

Following are some publications featuring hikes, historical, and general information of the Mt. Baker area:

- A. Spring, I., and Manning, H, 2000, 100 Hikes in Washington's North Cascades National Park Region, The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA.
- B. Romano, Craig, 2020, Day Hiking North Cascades, 2nd Edition, The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA.
- C. Wilcox, Ken, 2000, Hiking Whatcom County, Northwest Wild Books, Bellingham, WA.

Maps available for purchase online:

Green Trails Mount Baker Wilderness

National Geographic Mt Baker Wilderness Area

The Mt Baker Visitor's Center in Maple Falls is also a good source of information.

Other Things to See and Do

There are many things to see and do in the area. Advanced planning will help you prioritize your options. A sampling of activities are listed and described below. These include scenic tours, bicycling, water activities, backpacks, hikes, and other points of interest. Hopefully, this guide will provide you with tips and directions to get started.

SCENIC TOURS

We have proposed several auto tour possibilities which may be of interest to some.

1. Mt. Baker Vista (42 Miles RT)

Glacier Creek Road provides great views of Mt. Baker along the way to the rewarding viewpoint at the road's end. From camp: left on Silver Lake Road, 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east 8.5 miles and turn right to Glacier Creek Road (NR 39) and continue 9 miles to the viewpoint.

2. Mt. Baker Scenic Byway (64 Miles RT)

From camp: left on Silver Lake Road, 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Take Hwy 542 to its end at Artist Point. Most folks will be driving this route to the many trailheads in the Heather Meadows area.

3. Mt. Shuksan Viewpoints (30 Miles)

Three forest roads in the Silver Fir Campground area will take you to great views of Mt. Shuksan. The shortest of these is on Hannegan Road, Forest Road 32, about a quarter mile after leaving the paved highway. A second grand view is available at the end of Forest Road 3400 which forks to the right from Forest Road 32 in less than two miles. The third viewpoint is from the first switchback in Forest Road 3075. Here, you can look up White Salmon Creek to the 700-foot high end of Hanging Glacier. Drive Highway 542 about five miles past Silver Fir Campground. At a sharp switchback in the highway, turn left on Road 3075 and continue less than a mile to the viewpoint.

4. Nooksack Country Loop (~60 Miles)

This loop tour will acquaint you with the pastoral countryside of the "lowlands" along the lower Nooksack River. Drive north from camp toward Canada. Road changes name to S

Pass Road. Continue until it meets highway 547 (Kendall Road). Turn right (north). Follow the road, now Reese Hill Road until reaching Sumas. Turn left on highway 9, head south. Follow HWY 9 until Nugents Corner. Use the roundabout to head east (left), now on HWY 542: Mt Baker Highway. Continue until Maple Falls. Turn left (north) to return to camp.

WATER ACTIVITIES

Swimming

Typically, the rivers are swift and the lakes cold so swimming opportunities are minimal, but the hardy might give it a try.

Canoeing

Silver Lake has several boat ramps and has a variety of watercraft to rent.

Fishing

Most of the high lakes have been stocked with trout. A few contain arctic grayling or Sierra golden trout. Streams and rivers will have fish but around camp they are swift and not easily fished. Stream fishing may be best nearer tidewater where their velocity wanes.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Fossilized Leaves

Fossilized plants may be easily found alongside Canyon Creek Road (Forest Road 31) and Forest Road 3120. From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 10 miles to Road 31. Just past the Douglas Fir Campground, turn left and drive to the four-mile marker on the right. Watch for layered, vertical formations in the road cuts in the area where the fossils

occur. Leaf imprints may also be found off Road 3120, which forks north off Road 31 about 2.5 miles from Highway 542. Look for the fossils in a cliff about 300 feet short of a junction in the road.

Nooksack Falls

This impressive 170-foot thundering cascade is one of the largest volume waterfalls in northwestern Washington. Look for the sign on Highway 542. From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 15.5 miles Take a right onto Road 33 to the bridge. Note this road was in very poor condition in Oct. 2023. Unless driving a high clearance vehicle, park near the highway and walk ~0.5 miles to the falls.

DAY HIKES

Difficulty Ratings

Easy: up to 5 miles round trip and 1,000 feet of elevation gain.

Moderate: up to 10 miles round trip and 2,000 feet of elevation gain

Difficult: up to 15 miles round trip and 3,000 feet of elevation gain.

Strenuous: over 15 miles and over 3,000 feet of elevation gain.

Note: Hiking distances and elevation gains were determined by information obtained from the previously mentioned publications. Please be aware that the information provided in these documents often varied (sometimes greatly) and therefore the actual distances and elevations may vary from what is presented below.

Unless otherwise stated, all hike distances are out and back from the trailhead.

GPS coordinates: When using a GPS, make sure to set it to navigate with WGS84 datum.

On the route to many hikes, public restrooms are available at the Glacier Public Service Center about 11 miles east of camp on HWY 542. There are also vault toilets at the Excelsior Pass and Artist Point trailheads.

2024 Trail Parking Passes

Trails on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest require an America the Beautiful Pass (or Golden Age Pass) or NW Forest Pass.

Tips and Reminders

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Service regulations limit hiking parties to no more than 12 people. It is good Obsidian etiquette for leaders to strive for parties of 8 or less.

This is glacier and snow country. There will possibly be numerous snow banks, even this late in the summer. Some of these will probably obstruct trails and frustrate our ambitions to see the high country. Please do not attempt to cross steep snow banks. Carry and use ice spikes when necessary.

A stream that is easily forded in the morning can become a raging torrent by afternoon. **Use extreme caution; poles are highly recommended.**

It is always wise to carry plenty of water. Of course, all native water should be treated or filtered.

Please fill out trail register cards at the trailheads. This provides important information to the Forest Service for wise

management of our National Forests. It also helps us find you should you have problems.

List of Hikes

All distances are round trip miles

	Hike	Driving	Hiking	Page #
E A S Y	Horseshoe Bend	26	3.0	23
	Picture Lake	59	0.4	35
	Bagley Lakes	59	2.0	35
	Panorama Dome	59	3 - 4	36
	Fire & Ice	60	0.6	37
	Upper Wild Goose	59	1.4	37
	Artist Point	64	1.0	38
	Iceberg Lake	64	5.0	42
	Table Mountain	64	2.6	43
M O D E R N	Canyon Ridge	28	6 - 9	18
	Excelsior Mountain	28	6	19
	Heliotrope Ridge	20	6.0	19
	Skyline Divide	20	9.0	20
	Gold Run Pass	56	4 - 9	25
	Twin Lakes	56	5	26
	Nooksack Cirque	60	8 - 12	31
	Lake Ann, Curtis Glacier	61	8.2 - 10	39
	Ptarmigan Ridge	64	11	40
	Chain Lakes Loop	64	7.3	41
M O D E R N I F	Winchester Mountain	56	3.4 - 8	28
	High Pass	56	5.2 - 10	29
	Elbow Lake	57	7 - 13.5	43
D I F F I C U L T	Church Mountain	36	8.4	22
	Welcome Pass	49	7.8	23
	Yellow Aster Butte	56	7.6	24
	Silesia Creek	56	7 - 12	30
	Goat Mountain	60	10	32
	Hannegan Pass	63	10	34
	Park Butte Lookout	59	9.6	45

1. Canyon Ridge (Option: Cowap Peak) Trail 689

Difficulty:	Moderate
Driving Distance:	28 miles
Hiking Distance:	6-9 miles
Elevation Gain:	1,122'
Elevation Range:	4272'–5394'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°57.540' W121°48.419'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

This less-traveled trail features large wildflower meadows, wonderful forests, and views into Canada. Trail open to horses, mountain bikes & motorcycles. There are two hiking options here, both with equal hiking distances and about the same elevation gain. Some folks may want to do both for a 10-mile round trip. To ascend the Canyon Ridge viewpoint, start on Damfino Trail No. 625 and gradually climb a little more than a half mile through forest to the junction of Canyon Ridge Trail No. 689. Go left on trail 689 less than a half mile to another trail junction with the Boundary Way Trail No. 688. Keep left on trail 689, going through a large, steep meadow. In about two miles the trail crosses to the north side of the ridge and climbs to a shoulder of a 5,400 hill for your views. You will be about 1.5 miles from Canada. You can turn around here. To ascend Cowap Peak, take trail 688 (go left if you're coming back) and proceed through a damp crevice to forest and a large meadow beyond. In about a mile and a half, you will top a 5,050' ridge with great views of Tomyhoi Creek. At this point, go left on a side path to the summit of the ridge for a complete vista.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Go for about 9.7 miles and turn north (left) on Canyon Creek Road (FS 31). Continue on FS 31 for 14.6 miles to the trailhead.

2. Excelsior Mountain Trail 625

Difficulty:	Moderate
Driving Distance:	28 miles
Hiking Distance:	6 miles
Elevation Gain:	1500'
Elevation Range:	4272'–5699'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°57.540' W121°48.419'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

Excelsior Mountain, a former lookout site, lies atop a high meadow. Naturally, the views of Mt. Shuksan, Mt. Baker, the Border Peaks and many high meadows are outstanding. There are several routes to this site but we will describe the easiest and most scenic. Begin on Damfino Trail No. 625 and gradually climb a little more than a half mile through forest to the junction of Canyon Ridge Trail No. 689. Go right on trail 689 a short distance to Damfino Lakes, surrounded by blueberries. Continue a mile through forest, then up a draw to meadows. You will cross a notch, more forest, then enter a meadow a half mile below 5,400' Excelsior Pass. The trail passes beneath the peak before turning left ¼ mile to the summit. Caution: bees/wasp nests have been reported on trail.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Go for about 9.7miles and turn north (left) on Canyon Creek Road (FS 31). Continue on FS 31 for 14.6 miles to the Damfino Lakes trailhead.

3. Heliotrope Ridge Trail 677

Difficulty:	Moderate
Driving Distance:	20 miles
Hiking Distance:	6 miles
Elevation Gain:	1850'

Elevation Range: 4272'–5699'
Trailhead GPS: N48°48.125' W121°53.740'
Pit Toilet: Yes

This is a heavily used trail, and justifiably so. The views of Mt. Baker and its massive glaciers are very impressive. This trail may be less crowded during mid-week. Bring your binoculars to look for goats on Bastille Ridge and observe climbers scaling the peak. This trail is the most popular access for climbing the mountain. The trail rises gradually in a fully stocked forest. At almost 1.5 miles you will find a dramatic mossy cliff to the right. **A very difficult crossing of Kulshan Creek lies just beyond. Be cautious here.** About a half mile later look for a waterfall on the right. At two miles from the trailhead you will come to the 4,700' Kulshan Cabin site. The trail continues upward, crossing several streams and two moraines to a precipice overlooking Coleman Glacier. About ½ mile from the cabin site you should find a junction in the trail. The steep right fork is used by climbers to ascend Heliotrope Ridge to Coleman Glacier at about 6,000', making a great diversion for the sure-footed. The left fork leads to the edge of a lateral moraine overlooking Coleman Glacier. Be careful here as the footing is unstable.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left: 8.5 miles to Glacier Creek Road (FS 39) on the right. Follow this road about 8 miles to a large parking lot with a sign indicating Heliotrope Ridge Trail. Parking may be difficult to find, especially on weekends. Caution: Forest Road 39 is heavily used and narrow.

4. Skyline Divide [**not accessible**]

Difficulty: Moderate
Driving Distance: 20 miles
Hiking Distance: 9 miles

Elevation Gain: 2210'
Elevation Range: 4350'- 6563'
Trailhead GPS: N48°52.49' W121°51.740'
Pit Toilet: No

This is simply a gorgeous hike with great views from a large alpine meadow atop a broad ridge. We won't list the many peaks visible from this hike but they include Vancouver Island mountains on a clear day. It is one of those crowded trails, so week days are probably best. The trail begins in a mountain hemlock forest, switchbacking upward two miles to the divide where the trees fade to a broad meadow and great views. The trail follows the divide, gently at first, then steepening to a knoll dotted with subalpine trees. Beyond is a second knoll with a "social" trail to its summit. You may want to go to the top if you have the time and energy. Continue on the main trail about 1.5 miles to a low saddle where the path forks. The left (lower) fork leads about a mile through heather and huckleberry bowls to Chowder Basin. The right fork climbs steeply along the divide about 2.3 miles to the base of Chowder Ridge, which at this point appears as a wall.

Driving Directions: NOTE: as of this writing forest road 37 (Deadhorse Road) is closed 3.1 miles from Mt Baker Hwy due to a washed-out section of the road. From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left: Go 8.5 miles and turn right onto Glacier Creek Road (FS 39). Then immediately turn left onto Deadhorse Road (NR37) Drive Road 37, which follows the North Fork Nooksack River, about 4 miles before climbing steeply. In another 3.5 miles, stop to admire a pretty water fall. The trailhead is at the upper end of the parking lot, 13 miles from Hwy 542.

5. Church Mountain Trail 671

Difficulty:	Difficult
Driving Distance:	36 miles
Hiking Distance:	8.4 miles
Elevation Gain:	3700'
Elevation Range:	2300'–6000'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°54.738' W121°51.468'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

This former lookout site entices the adventuresome. It provides tremendous views for those who are willing to endure a strenuous climb. There is probably room at the top for a party of 8, but not many more. Huckleberries rim the high meadow beneath the peak. Kidney lakes lie just beneath the peak on the northeast side. For experienced overlanders, this mountain may be climbed from Excelsior Pass. We will describe the more difficult, but traditional route. The trail begins in a regenerated harvest area and climbs incessantly through forest for much of the way. After about 2.5 miles the trail begins to emerge from the timber into a bowl with numerous streams and stringers of subalpine trees. You will enter a basin dominated by the projecting Church Mountain and continue, on switchbacks, to a series of spur ridges where the panoramas begin. Ultimately the trail leads up a steep rocky pinnacle to the former lookout platform.

Driving Directions: **High clearance vehicle recommended.** From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 12.2 to Church Mountain Road (Forest Road 3040). Turn left and continue about 2 miles to a ford across Fossil Creek. If you have difficulty crossing the creek, it is only another half mile and two more switchbacks to the end where you will find the trailhead.

6. Horseshoe Bend Trail 687

Difficulty:	Easy
Driving Distance:	26 miles
Hiking Distance:	3 miles
Elevation Gain:	300'
Elevation Range:	900'–1200'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°54.135' W121°54.705'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

This is a short but very pleasant stroll on an interpretive trail along the North Fork Nooksack River. This trail forsakes landscape views for a study of micro environments, primarily old growth forests. It is a great trip for an overcast day. The trail wanders through a lush river bottom, past a seat carved from an old stump, over a bridge and up a stairway. Don't be surprised if you see kayakers shooting through the rapids.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 9.5 miles. Park along the side of the highway across from the Douglas Fir Campground. The trail begins at the northeast corner of the concrete bridge over the North Fork Nooksack.

7. Welcome Pass & High Divide Trail 630

Difficulty:	Difficult
Driving Distance:	49 miles
Hiking Distance:	7.8 miles
Elevation Gain:	2740'
Elevation Range:	2450'-5190'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°54.813' W121°42.038
Pit Toilet:	No

Welcome Pass provides terrific views in a relatively short, but arduous hike. The trail begins near the valley bottom, taking hikers through a changing ecosystem to lush

meadows at the pass. The literature describes this route as an old-fashioned trail with 67 switchbacks, which means there probably won't be a lot of trail traffic. Once at the top, hikers may explore a ¾ mile "social" trail northeast to a 5,743 peak for 360 degree views. Overlanders may want to continue on this social trail to explore a route toward the multi-lake basin west of Yellow Aster Butte, connecting with the Keep Kool Trail (Hike 10, Yellow Aster Butte), for a car shuttle. Or combine this hike with Hike 3 (Excelsior Mountain) in a key exchange or car shuttle for the 11.3-mile Grand Traverse of Excelsior Ridge, certainly a premier experience. The trail begins on an old logging road and soon enters an old stand of trees and begins switchbacking upward. After the 60th switchback you will emerge from the forest to views southward.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 20 miles. This road is between mileposts 45 and 46. Turn left onto road 3060 (Welcome Pass road) and about 0.7 miles to a parking area where you should find the trailhead. Road 3060 is very rough, and drivers of low clearance vehicles may want to park short of the parking area.

8. Yellow Aster Butte Trail 686

Difficulty:	Difficult
Driving Distance:	56miles
Hiking Distance:	7.6 miles
Elevation Gain:	2490'
Elevation Range:	3660'-6150'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°56.611' W121°39.747'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

Trail 686 offers terrific views, especially northward into Canada, a basin of many lakes and tarns, "glory holes," and other mining remnants. This hike is a top choice. There are

numerous “social trails” on the divide leading in all directions. Or just pause to enjoy the views. The begins at the Yellow Aster/Tomyhoi trailhead. The route should provide spectacular views. After about 1.7 miles, you should come to the Yellow Aster Butte trail on the left (Trail 686.1). This fork heads westerly, contouring beneath the butte in steep open meadows with super southern views of Mt Baker and Mt Shuksan. Continue for 1.7 miles to a junction. Turn right to head up to Yellow Aster Butte for 0.6 miles. There is an optional rock scramble to the top. Return the same route.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 24 miles. Just past the WSDOT Shuksan Maintenance Shed turn left on NF 3065 (Twins Lake Road). Drive a rough 4.3 miles to trailhead at a sharp switchback with tight parking along side the road. Road is narrow and can be busy.

9. Gold Run Pass, Tomyhoi Lake

- Difficulty: Moderate
- Driving Distance: 56miles
- Hiking Distance: 4 miles (to pass);
9 miles (to lake)
- Elevation Gain: 700' (to pass); +/- 2400' (to lake)
- Elevation Range: 3660'- 5407'
- Trailhead GPS: N48°56.611' W121°39.747'
- Pit Toilet: Yes

The Moderate option takes you to the pass while the difficult option takes you to Tomyhoi Lake and back. Begin at the Tomyhoi trailhead. At about 1.7 mile you will come to the Yellow Aster Butte trail junction and the end of the trees. Stay right (Trail 686) as you enter the high meadows, full of wildflowers for your delight. From the intersection the trail switchbacks up, alternating between trees and meadows.

Gold Run Pass, on a narrow ridge, provides great views of Tomyhoi Lake and beyond into Canada, as well as many surrounding peaks. Now the difficult part: To get to the lake, the trail drops an insanely steep 1700 feet. It's a grueling return.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 24 miles. Just past the WSDOT Shuksan Maintenance Shed turn left on NF 3065 (Twins Lake Road). Drive a rough 4.3 miles to trailhead at a sharp switchback with tight parking along side the road. Road is narrow and can be busy.

10. Twin Lakes

Difficulty:	Moderate
Driving Distance:	56miles
Hiking Distance:	5 miles
Elevation Gain:	1600' from Tomyhoi trailhead
Elevation Range:	3660'-5220'
Pit Toilet:	Yes, near lakes, not well maintained (per comments on AllTrails)

The sapphire waters of Twin Lakes are a popular draw for hikers. Steep peaks tower above two sides of the lake and Skagway Pass lies at the head of the upper lake. From the head of Upper Twin Lake, follow a fisherman's path leading around the north shore, past an interesting mine tunnel. Follow the road through Skagway Pass and onto a ridgetop beyond where you will find a lot of old mining evidence and great reflections of Mt. Larrabee and the Pleiades in meadow ponds. The trail is actually a very rough mining road which may be negotiated with a 4X4, but not everyone wants to jolt their kidneys to enjoy these pretty lakes. There is a campground at the lake and picnic tables are available.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 24 miles. Just past the WSDOT Shuksan Maintenance Shed turn left on NF 3065 (Twins Lake Road). Drive a rough 4.3 miles to Yellow Aster Butte/Tomyhoi trailhead at a sharp switchback with tight parking along side the road. Road is narrow and can be busy. Park here and hike 2.4 miles up the road to the Twin Lakes.

If you are feeling adventurous, continue for 2.4 miles on the extremely steep, narrow and rough road switchbacking up the mountainside to the lakes. Road is suitable only for high clearance or 4WD vehicles. Plenty of parking available.

11. Winchester Mountain

Trail 685

Difficulty:	Moderate-Difficult
Driving Distance:	56miles
Hiking Distance:	3.4 miles (+5 mi. from TH)
Elevation Gain:	1320' from lakes + 1600' from Tomyhoi trailhead
Elevation Range:	3660'-6520'
Pit Toilet:	Yes, near lakes, not well maintained (per comments on AllTrails)

This a short hike to a lookout site which still stands. The views of Twin Lakes, the Skagit Range across Silesia Creek, Mt. Shuksan, Goat Mountain, Mt. Baker, Tomyhoi Peak, Mt. Larrabee, and the jagged Pleiades are outstanding. The trail starts between the lakes and begins switchbacking through steep meadows. At 0.2 mile you will come to the junction of the High Pass trail (No.676). Stay left and continue upward through terraced meadows where the trail eventually contours west. It pitches up again on the western spur of the mountain. Near the top you will be confronted with a scramble over an exposed rock buttress.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 24 miles. Just past the WSDOT Shuksan Maintenance Shed turn left on NF 3065 (Twins Lake Road). Drive a rough 4.3 miles to Yellow Aster Butte/Tomyhoi trailhead at a sharp switchback with tight parking along side the road. Road is narrow and can be busy. Park here and hike 2.4 miles up the road to the Twin Lakes.

If you are feeling adventurous, continue for 2.4 miles on the extremely steep, narrow and rough road switchbacking up the mountainside to the lakes. Road is suitable only for high clearance or 4WD vehicles. Plenty of parking available by lakes.

12. High Pass, Gargett Mine Trail 686

Difficulty:	Moderate-Difficult
Driving Distance:	56miles
Hiking Distance:	5.2 miles (+5 mi. from TH)
Elevation Gain:	1850' from lakes + 1600' from Tomyhoi trailhead
Elevation Range:	3660'-6750'
Pit Toilet:	Yes, near lakes, not well maintained (per comments on AllTrails)

If there is not too much lingering snow, this trip offers adventure for mining buffs, in addition to great views, particularly of Mt. Larrabee and the dramatic Pleiades. The trailhead is the same as Winchester Mountain (Hike 13). At 0.2 mile, take the right fork through flowered meadows and subalpine trees. The trail may be blocked by a steep wall of snow below Low Pass. It may be possible to work your way through at the upper end of the snowbank, between rocks and receding snow. Note: Please don't attempt to traverse this or any other steep snowbank. There are two options from scenic High Pass. The first is to continue up the south arm of Mt. Larrabee for a close-up view of the Pleiades. The other is to explore the Gargett Mine. Naturally, some folks will want to do both. Again, this hike is described from Twin Lakes, so if you don't ride a four-legged iron horse, you should count on hiking an additional 5 miles RT and 1,600' in elevation gain. Near low pass, the trail switchbacks up a bowl and tops out for the first great views. Once here, you should be able to complete the rest of the adventure. After a short but steep ascent, you will reach High Pass. Here is where the route splits. The left drops 0.3 mile to Gargett Mine, which was operated in the early 1900s. The right fork gets rougher and steeper as it works up Mt. Larrabee's south shoulder. Once you top out here, you will have the best of views. And you can explore down the ridge for additional

perspectives. This may be the only place to gain an unobstructed view of the precipitous Pleiades.

Driving Directions: see directions for Winchester Mt. Trail

13. Silesia Creek

Difficulty:	Difficult
Driving Distance:	56 miles
Hiking Distance:	7 - 9 miles (+5 mi. from TH)
Elevation Gain:	2520' down and back to creek + 1600' from Tomyhoi trailhead
Elevation Range:	3660'-5200'
Pit Toilet:	Yes, near lakes, not well maintained (per comments on AllTrails)

The Silesia (pronounced suh-LEE-see) Creek trail is quite different than most of the other hikes in the area and you probably won't meet anyone else on the trail. It goes downhill through old forests and a broad meadow. There are few vistas other than of grand trees and lush meadows. At the end of the trail sets a shelter and just beyond, a delightful waterfall of the West Fork Silesia Creek. From the parking area at Twin Lakes, locate a gated gravel road heading east. Follow the road through Skagway Pass and onto a ridgetop beyond where you will find a lot of old mining evidence and great reflections of Mt. Larrabee and the Pleiades in meadow ponds. Continue on this old road until it drops into the valley below. Turn right at an intersection and follow an old trail down the ridge which returns to the road again. The road descends southwesterly to the edge of a meadow fringed with talus. The trail leaves the road on the left where the road enters the talus. The trail switchbacks down through the timber, an open snow chute, and back into the trees again heading north. It then begins a series of switchbacks down a ridge to Winchester Creek and crosses on a foot log.

The trail continues two more miles down Winchester Creek, then the West Fork Silesia Creek, which cut a new channel during the 1995–96 flood, to the shelter. Paths on both sides of the river lead from the shelter to the rocky amphitheater of Silesia Falls. It is difficult and dangerous getting an unobstructed view of the cataract, so watch your footing.

Driving Directions: see directions for Winchester Mt. Trail

14. Nooksack Cirque

Difficulty:	Moderate
Driving Distance:	60 miles
Hiking Distance:	8 - 12miles
Elevation Gain:	600'
Elevation Range:	2130'-2730'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°53.634' W121°39.144'
Pit Toilet:	No

Explore one of the most dramatic places of the North Cascades in this steep-walled basin of glacial action. See waterfalls, moraines, the Nooksack Tower, and the northeast wall of Mt. Shuksan. To begin this hike, you must ford Ruth Creek which may be high and treacherous. Then follow an old logging road through a harvest area to the Wilderness boundary where a “real” trail begins. Much of the route is via the cobbly glacial sediment along the headwaters of the North Fork Nooksack River. It extends a mile through large old trees and ends by the river. Cross a large tributary on the left, hopefully by finding a foot log. For the next $\frac{3}{4}$ mile there are two interlacing paths; one along the gravel bars and the other through timber and brush for use when the bars are not yet exposed. Look for a cairn which marks the woods route. At the end of this section you will be in or near the North Cascades National Park where gravel bars or brushy riverbank constitute the primary route, depending on how high the river is. The large trees peter out in the next mile and the going gets easier as you also emerge from the brush. You will probably only be able to go another $\frac{3}{4}$ mile before being confronted by dense alder and an end to the gravel bars. Bring along water shoes for potential water crossings.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 24 miles. About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile past the WSDOT Shuksan Maintenance Shed turn left at the Nooksack River Road (Hannegan Pass road/Forest Road 32) just before the Nooksack River bridge. Follow Road 32 about 1.3 miles and turn right on Forest Road 34. Drive another mile on Road 34 to the footings of a bridge which once crossed Ruth Creek, and park.

15. Goat Mountain Trail 673

Difficulty: Difficult
Driving Distance: 60 miles

Hiking Distance: 10 miles
Elevation Gain: 4160'
Elevation Range: 2480'-6640'
Trailhead GPS: N48°53.857' W121°38.761'
Pit Toilet: Yes

Here is yet another lookout site where grand views are guaranteed. The less traveled trail continues to a higher meadow and terrific views of Mt. Shuksan with its northern glaciers and the North Fork Nooksack River, as well as Mt. Baker and Heather Meadows. The trail begins switchbacking up through a dense stand of hemlock. One of nature's clear cuts, a wildfire, swept the southern slopes of Goat Mountain in 1958, taking the lookout structure with it. At almost two miles, inside the wilderness boundary, a right fork in the trail leads to the lookout site. This trail, however, is now too overgrown to be easily passable. The main trail continues winding upward to a spur on the left which overlooks a noisy side stream. Leading eastward, the trail climbs through thinning alder to more open areas and a basin where it meanders up to the top of a rocky ridge. Another short side path leads to rocky viewpoint of the Nooksack. A steep but primitive trail leads up a ridge line then zigzags up toward the west summit of Goat Mountain. Eventually, this path fades several hundred feet below the summit. At this point, the views are at their best. Some folks may even want to climb another 845 vertical feet up the steep meadow to the top.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 24 miles. About ¼ mile past the WSDOT Shuksan Maintenance Shed turn left at the Nooksack River Road (Hannegan Pass road/Forest Road 32) just before the Nooksack River bridge. Follow Road 32 about 1.3 miles and stay left on Forest Road 32. Drive another mile to the trailhead on the left. More parking available just beyond the trailhead.

16. Hannegan Pass

Difficulty:	Difficult
Driving Distance:	63 miles
Hiking Distance:	10 miles
Elevation Gain:	3100'
Elevation Range:	3100'-6190'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°54.608' W121°35.502'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

This well-traveled route is the gateway to the Picket and Chilliwack areas of the North Cascades National Park. The views of Granite Mountain, Ruth Mountain, Nooksack Ridge, and Mt. Sefrit make an exhilarating ascent to the pass. The views at the pass, however, are obstructed by scattered trees. A side trail up Hannegan Peak to the north provides the climactic views. The trail begins gently through forests and avalanche chutes. After a mile the trail begins climbing above the valley floor. At about 3.4 miles you will come to an open basin and creek with a social trail leading southward to a camping area with great views of the surrounding peaks. The main trail switchbacks another half mile to the pass. Two social trails follow the ridge line from the pass. We recommend the one to Hannegan peak on the north. It provides the best views, by far. It soon rises to steep meadows full of wildflowers and shifts to an eastern aspect for views of the Picket Range and Mineral Mountain. The path then switchbacks to the top of a spur and follows it steeply to the 6,187' top of Hannegan Peak for the climactic panorama.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 24 miles. About ¼ mile past the WSDOT Shuksan Maintenance Shed turn left at the Nooksack River Road (Hannegan Pass

road/Forest Road 32) just before the Nooksack River bridge. Follow Road 32 about 4 miles to the trailhead.

SHORT HIKES IN THE HEATHER MEADOWS AREA

Hikes 19 through 24 are all located in the very popular area near the end of Hwy 542. Many or perhaps all of these easy hikes may be done in a single day. The roundtrip driving distance is 60 to 72 miles from camp. Please note that late snows may block Hwy 542 beyond the visitor center and also some of the trails. Parking may be an issue in this area as there are so many popular trailheads to be found here.

17. Picture Lake Path

Difficulty:	Easy
Driving Distance:	59 miles
Hiking Distance:	0.4 mile loop
Elevation Gain:	6'
Elevation Range:	4130'
Pit Toilet:	at Bagley Lakes trailhead

Put this one on your list of trips for the day in the Heather Meadows area. 'Twon't take long and the photo reflections will compliment your pictorial essay of the outing. There is negligible elevation gain on this short walk, making it ideal for the sprouting hikers.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29 miles to Mt Baker ski area. Turn right into the large parking lot at the trailhead.

18. Bagley Lakes/Lower Wild Goose Loop

Difficulty:	Easy
Driving Distance:	59 miles
Hiking Distance:	2 miles

Elevation Gain: 250'
Elevation Range: 4240'
Pit Toilet: Yes

This hike provides good views of Table Mountain, a close-up of Bagley Creek, Bagley Lake, and basalt columns. Begin on the right fork of the trail near the parking lot and hike down toward Lower Bagley Lake. Turn left before crossing the dam and follow the lake shore southerly, passing the basalt columns along the way. The trail continues up Bagley Creek to a junction at Upper Bagley Lake. There are two options at this point: (1) Cross the Twin Arch Bridge over Bagley Creek and hike to the east end of Bagley Lake. Cross the dam and return to the parking lot. (2) Hike up the right fork of the Lower Wild Goose Trail to another junction. The right fork climbs to the visitor's center. The left fork will connect you with the Upper Wild Goose Trail which leads to the first Austin Pass parking lot. Note more basalt columns as you descend to the parking lot.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29 miles to Mt Baker ski area. Turn right into the large parking lot at the trailhead.

19. Panorama Dome

Difficulty: Easy
Driving Distance: 59 miles
Hiking Distance: 3-4 miles
Elevation Gain: 800'
Elevation Range: 4380'-4954'
Pit Toilet: at Bagley Lakes trailhead

This hike offers views overlooking Heather Meadows, Mt. Herman, and peaks to the north. Note: Panorama Dome may provide a starting point for a dramatic cross country

venture up Shuksan Arm, where terrific views are assured, or even a loop hike when combined with Hike 26 (Lake Ann).

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29 miles to Mt Baker ski area. The trailhead is marked by a ski pylon between the Bagley and Austin Pass parking lots. There is no parking at the trailhead but you should be able to park on the other side of the road about 500' below the trailhead. One alternative is to park at the Wild Goose parking area (Hike 20) and hike the Wild Goose Trail about 0.4 mile where it nears the road. Cross the road and look for the Panorama Dome trailhead sign.

20. Fire & Ice

Difficulty:	Easy
Driving Distance:	60 miles
Hiking Distance:	0.6 miles
Elevation Gain:	65'
Elevation Range:	4440'-4505'
Pit Toilet:	Austin Pass picnic area

The very young should enjoy this loop, along with the eldest of us. It is a partly paved path with interpretive signs, basalt columns, and a tarn. The trail begins near the visitors center, located at the second parking lot in the Austin Pass area.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29 miles to Mt Baker ski area. Continue up to the Heather Visitors Center and park.

21. Upper Wild Goose

Difficulty:	Easy
Driving Distance:	59 miles
Hiking Distance:	1.4 miles

Elevation Gain: 500'
Elevation Range: 4450'-5050'
Pit Toilet: at Bagley Lakes trailhead

This might seem like a wild goose chase but we'll include it since folks may want to use it as a return route or part of a loop. It begins at the Austin Pass parking lot and heads rather steeply upward to the lower overflow parking lot, then on to the Artist Point parking lot. It is mostly used as a return route for hikers doing the Chain Lakes loop from Artist Point.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29 miles to Mt Baker ski area. Turn right into the large parking lot at the trailhead.

22. Artist Point

Difficulty: Easy
Driving Distance: 64 miles
Hiking Distance: 1.0 miles
Elevation Gain: 300'
Elevation Range: 4947'-5247'
Pit Toilet: Yes

Undeniably the best of the short hikes, Artist Point is also probably the most impacted by people. Parking in this small lot in a very popular area is an issue. Early arrival is suggested, otherwise plan on parking in one of the small unpaved areas on the road. There are several other hikes that depart from this same area, adding parking issues to all of them. The views of Mt. Shuksan, Mt. Baker, and peaks to the north are spectacular. The trail is paved 500–600 feet to the first viewpoint and interpretive signs. It is surfaced with gravel the remaining way and more interpretive signs are located along the path, as are several tarns. Allow about an hour to absorb the scenery and interpretive signs.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29 miles to Mt Baker ski area. Continue until the end of the road.

23. Lake Ann, Curtis Glacier: Trail 600

Difficulty:	Moderate
Driving Distance:	61 miles
Hiking Distance:	8.2 miles to lake, +2.2 to glacier
Elevation Gain:	2010'
Elevation Range:	4757'-6804'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°51.018' W121°41.143'
Pit Toilet:	Austin Pass picnic area

Lake Ann lies in an awe inspiring basin dominated by Mt. Shuksan. Understandably, this is one of those very popular trails. The trail begins by descending to an attractive basin at the head of Swift Creek and continues downward through a mix of subalpine tree clumps and meadows, crossing the head of Swift Creek along the way. Trail can be muddy. At about 2.2 miles you will come to the intersection of the unmaintained Swift Creek Trail (No. 607) on the right. Trail 600 now begins to climb steeply up through heather meadows another mile to a pass between Swift Creek and Shuksan Creek. Views of Mt. Baker from this pass are terrific. The trail makes a short descent to Lake Ann where you will be struck by the views of Mt. Shuksan. For those going on to a close-up of Curtis Glacier, follow a climbers' trail around the north head wall of Shuksan Creek. At a rocky canyon, the route switchbacks steeply upward 1.1 miles to a promontory very near the edge of Lower Curtis Glacier.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29

miles to Mt Baker ski area. Continue ~1.5 miles to the parking lot on the left at the trailhead.

24. Ptarmigan Ridge, Sholes Glacier: Trail 682.1

Difficulty:	Moderate
Driving Distance:	64 miles
Hiking Distance:	11 miles
Elevation Gain:	1735'
Elevation Range:	4765'-6500'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°50.798' W121°41.604'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

Rugged rock and persistent snow may stay late into the summer (bring micro-spikes) make this primarily a climbers route, thus the intrigue. It is an exhilarating high mountain traverse along a desolate ridge with dramatic vistas all the way. Naturally, it is a heavily used trail. Though seemingly barren, nature is tenacious and pockets of wildflowers support pikas, marmots, and goats, even in this extreme environment. Note: hiking this trail in inclement weather is not recommended due to extreme exposure to the elements. Fog can easily disorient even the experienced here. Begin the hike on the gentle Chain Lakes Trail (No. 682), which traverses the southern flank of Table Mountain for 1.2 miles to the junction of Ptarmigan Ridge Trail (No. 682.1) in a saddle. Turn left on Trail 682.1 and descend to a rocky basin, crossing its alluvial undulations, then climb to a saddle on Ptarmigan Ridge. Here, the trail traverses the steep south side of the ridge with vegetative copses and meadows. At about 4.3 miles you will come to an outstanding viewpoint on the south arm of Coleman Pinnacle with a vista of Rainbow Glacier, extending to the top of Mt. Baker, and an unnamed lake just below Coleman Pinnacle. Shortly beyond is Camp Kaiser where climbers bivouac. For those wanting to visit Sholes Glacier, a climbers' trail continues north across meadows to a saddle on the northwest side of Coleman

Pinnacle and descends through distorted trees. After crossing a small stream, it traverses around the head of a basin and climbs westward toward a dark ridge of rhyolite and Sholes Glacier.

Driving Directions From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29 miles to Mt Baker ski area. Continue until the end of the road.

25. Chain Lakes Loop: Trail 682

Difficulty:	Moderate
Driving Distance:	64 miles
Hiking Distance:	7.3 miles
Elevation Gain:	1600'
Elevation Range:	4228'-5435'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°51.830' W121°40.780'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

Numerous lakes, meadows, wildlife species, and views of the two dominant mountains, Baker and Shuksan, from varied perspectives make this one of the most diverse hikes in the area. It is also one of the most popular! The trail begins at Artist Point and traverses the southern flank of Table Mountain for 1.2 miles to the junction of Ptarmigan Ridge Trail (No. 683) at a saddle. Take the right fork (Trail 682) which descends about 0.3 mile to a side trail to the north. Continue the descent on the main trail to reach Mazama Lake, the first of four Chain Lakes. Next is Iceberg Lake, which may still have a partial snow cover. At the north end of Iceberg Lake a social trail leads left to campsites and another perspective from Hayes and Arbuthnot Lakes. The main trail passes between Iceberg and Hayes Lakes and climbs about a mile to Herman Saddle, between Mazama Dome to the north and Table Mountain to the south. The views here are framed by the cliffs of the narrow saddle. The

trail continues climbing for a ways before a long descent to the basin of Bagley Creek. But before heading down, look for a saddle northeast of Mazama Dome. A short cross-country climb to this saddle to the west should reveal yet another lake at the head of Anderson Creek. The basin on the main trail below is lush with flowers and possibly their friends, the hummingbirds. Below Upper Bagley Lake, cross the creek on a stone bridge and climb up to the visitors center. This hike may be done as a 6.5-mile car shuttle or a 7.7-mile loop from Artist Point. Because of the elevation difference, it will be easier to hike clockwise.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29 miles to Mt Baker ski area. Continue until the end of the road.

26. Iceberg Lake Trail 682

Difficulty:	Easy
Driving Distance:	64 miles
Hiking Distance:	5+ miles
Elevation Gain:	580'
Elevation Range:	4228'-5435'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°51.830' W121°40.780'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

Essentially, this is the upper portion of Hike 26 (Chain Lakes Loop) without the loop. A majority of the views found on the loop hike will be available on this easier option, especially if you go as far as Herman Saddle or scramble to view the unnamed lake from the saddle northeast of Mazama Dome. There are a number of social trails to explore in the area, too. Refer to Hike 27 for details and hiking directions. Turn around whenever you've experienced enough (or at least in time to get dinner back in camp).

27. Table Mountain Trail 681

Difficulty:	Easy
Driving Distance:	64 miles
Hiking Distance:	2.6 miles
Elevation Gain:	700'
Elevation Range:	5078'-5735'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°50.780' W121°41.560'
Pit Toilet:	Yes

Views are superlative from any point atop this high basalt plateau. The hike is short, steep, and well worth the effort. This hike can be dangerous if it is snow covered. Sections are steep and somewhat exposed. If the route looks unnerving, turn around. The trail affords a good outing warm-up trip. Begin at Artist Point on Trail 682 and continue 0.2 mile to the junction of the Table Mountain Trail (No. 681) on the right. From the junction begin a sharp 0.3-mile ascent to the top. Once on top, the trail moderates significantly and continues 0.7 mile to the west end of the plateau where you should find two tarns. Please do not attempt to traverse steep snow banks. It is dangerous for even those who have both the experience and equipment.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn left. Drive east about 29 miles to Mt Baker ski area. Continue until the end of the road.

28. Elbow Lake, Bell Pass Trail 697

Difficulty:	Moderate-Difficult
Driving Distance:	57 miles
Hiking Distance:	7-13.5 miles
Elevation Gain:	1500'-2100'
Elevation Range:	2130'-4000'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°44.087' W121°55.575'

Pit Toilet: No

Though largely forested, this forgotten trail does offer brief but great views of the middle Twin Sisters peaks and Green Creek Glacier on the way to Elbow Lake and Lake Doreen. A lengthy hike beyond Lake Doreen yields Bell Pass which, according to our Forest Service contact, provides obstructed views due to surrounding trees. The trail begins by descending to the Middle Fork Nooksack River and crossing it on a horse bridge (*found comments online [AllTrails from 2022] that imply the bridge is out. May require a potentially hazardous crossing of the South Fork Nooksack River depending on the flow.*) It then begins climbing steadily, following Green Creek then Hildebrand Creek. At about 2.3 miles are views of the Twin Sisters and Green Creek Glacier. At about 3 miles you will come to Hildebrand Divide and Lake (actually a bog) followed by Elbow Lake at 3.5 miles and Lake Doreen just beyond. Bug spray is recommended to ward off mosquitoes in this area. These lakes are actually at the very head of the South Fork Nooksack River. For those going on to Bell Pass, continue about 1.3 miles, looking for the Bell Pass trail to the east (left). It is about two miles from this junction to the pass.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn right on Hwy 542 and continue 3 miles to a roundabout in Kendall. Go south (left) and drive 6 miles to Welcome. Turn left after the Welcome Grocery store onto Mosquito Lake Road. Follow Mosquito Lake Road about 4.6 miles to FS 38 and turn left again. Drive Road 38 about Drive 11.4 miles to the trailhead, a parking lot on the left side of the road. Cross the road to the trailhead.

29. Park Butte Lookout via Ridley Creek Trail 696

Difficulty:	Difficult
Driving Distance:	59 miles
Hiking Distance:	9.6 miles
Elevation Gain:	2800'
Elevation Range:	2559'-5450'
Trailhead GPS:	N48°43.571' W121°54.099'
Pit Toilet:	No

This is perhaps one of the prettiest areas in all the periphery of Mount Baker. Meadows, moraines, crags, stunted trees, waterfalls, lakes, and wildlife, including mountain goats, provide innumerable visual delights. Views of Mount Baker and the Twin Sisters Range from the Park Butte Lookout are superb. Unfortunately, this area is also one of the most popular for man and his beasts of burden. Nevertheless, it certainly merits a visit. Our tour begins from the Middle Fork Nooksack River. A bridge may be in place over the river, otherwise a potentially difficult crossing may be required to continue. The trail begins climbing gently along Ridley Creek for less than a mile before switchbacking upward. After a mile or more of steep ascent, the grade moderates as you begin to enter the beautiful Mazama Park. A wonderful side trail forks right, traveling through the park, past a shelter, and eventually connecting with Bell Pass (Hike 30). At the junction, head left and continue about a mile from Mazama Park, around the north side of Cathedral Crag, to 4,962' Baker Pass. Descend about 0.3 mile to the Park Butte trail and turn west (right). It is a little over a mile to the lookout panorama. For the return trip, head down the trail and turn left at the junction and switchback down the talus slope on the west side of Cathedral Crag. Turn right on the Bell Pass trail and then left on the Ridley Creek trail back to the trailhead.

Driving Directions: From camp: left on Silver Lake Road. 3 miles to Mt Baker Hwy (542). Turn right on Hwy 542 and

continue 3 miles to a roundabout in Kendall. Go south (left) and drive 6 miles to Welcome. Turn left after the Welcome Grocery store onto Mosquito Lake Road. Follow Mosquito Lake Road about 4.6 miles to FS 38 and turn left again. Drive Road 38 about 12 miles to a junction on a sharp switchback. Just before the switchback, turn right on Ridley Creek FS road down to the trailhead.

Location of camp off Silver Lake road:



Note: the distance to Maple Fall is actually 3 miles.