

# 425

## Eastside Intrigue



### Embrace

the chill with scenic hikes  
full of changing leaves

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### Retreat

to secluded lodges, like the  
one featured in *The Shining*

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### Indulge

in strange and  
dramatic cocktails

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# It's Cozy Lodge Season



Oregon's  
Timberline Lodge



**THE LEAVES ARE CHANGING COLORS, AND THE WEATHER IS GETTING CHILLY. IT'S TIME TO UNEARTH THE SWEATERS AND BOOTS, GRAB A LARGE CUP OF COFFEE, AND RELAX IN FRONT OF A CRACKLING FIRE IN A BEAUTIFUL LODGE TO SOAK UP THE SEASON. LUCKY FOR US, THERE ARE PLENTY OF LODGES CLOSE BY FOR A QUICK TRIP.**

BY JULIE ARNAN

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# Semiahmoo Resort

**L**ocated at the tip of the mile-plus Semiahmoo Spit, the V-shaped sunny yellow lodge overlooks Semiahmoo Bay with beautiful sunset views to the west and the Canadian town of White Rock to the north. The spit is just over a mile long and at its narrowest around 200 feet wide. Rocky beaches strewn with driftwood in places line its perimeter. Parents can relax in an Adirondack chair on the resort's expansive lawn while the kids hunt for colorful rock treasures. Patio games, like giant Jenga, will help you wind down with a nightly bonfire, complete with s'mores materials.

The lodge features a library stocked with board games, an indoor hot tub, indoor/outdoor pool, pickleball courts, a fantastic fitness center, and a spa offering massages and other pampering services. Work on your golf game with the onsite golf simulator — it can accommodate up to six people at one time. On weekend nights, catch a kid-friendly movie on the "big screen" in the theater room. Guest rooms are simple and comfortable; many have balconies overlooking the bay.

Watching my teens navigate a tandem bike was almost as much fun as the guided bike tour along the spit. Bikes, kayaks, and SUP boards are available for rent at the Beach Activity Center, along with lessons and tours.

Dining options are few and far between outside of the resort, so stick around and enjoy a bite with a view at Packers Kitchen & Bar, featuring fresh seafood like oysters on the half shell, locally sourced produce, charcuterie boards, pub favorites, and elegant entrees (breakfast and lunch are also available). The bar has a casual seaside vibe and a seasonal outdoor patio.



## More to do

### AN APPLE-FUELED EXCURSION

**Bellewood Acres**, in the nearby town of Lynden, boasts a whopping 25,000-tree orchard. Hop on board the "Apple Bin Express" train to explore the orchard and pick fresh apples along the way. You can continue your ride on into the pumpkin patch and admire the scenic views of Mount Baker in the background. The farm has its own market, café, and distillery with farm-fresh meals and spirits distilled from its own fruits and grains. Bellewood Acres is open daily through the month of October.

### BELLINGHAM PUMPKIN ALES

The city of Bellingham, just south of Semiahmoo, is home to numerous local craft breweries. During your fall excursion, we suggest you tour the local beer scene and compare the various pumpkin ales to choose

from. Our favorite is the **Horseman's Head from Kulshan Brewing Co.**, but we'll let you be the judge. You can visit the breweries individually or attend Bellingham's annual Oktoberfest event on Oct. 6 at Bellingham Technical College.

### SCENIC DRIVE ALONG CHUCKANUT

One of our favorite autumn activities is simply taking in all the changing colors. We suggest driving down the famous **Chuckanut Drive** for unbeatable scenery, especially during this time of year. Take Chuckanut, or state Highway 11, into Whatcom County on your way up to Semiahmoo. The road weaves through ancient forests and along the beautiful Bellingham Bay, unveiling nonstop picturesque scenery along the way. Instead of simply passing through **Larrabee State Park**, park the car and take one of the many

hiking trails to really get face-to-face with all those reds and oranges we can't get enough of.

### THE SWEET SIDE OF FALL FLAVORS

Is it really even fall if you aren't shoveling pumpkin pie into your mouth? **Barb's Pies and Pastries** in the town of Ferndale is a vacation indulgence you can't pass up. If you're not a fan of pumpkin (crazy, in our opinion), there are plenty of other options to choose from, including blackberry, peach, pecan, and raspberry rhubarb. If you call ahead, you can have Barb make your pie gluten-free for only a couple extra dollars. This family-owned bakery uses fresh, local ingredients in every bite, and you can tell the recipes have been passed down for generations. — MELISSA MCCARTHY ■