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Spring at Semiahmoo Resort

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Semiahmoo Resort on Semiahmoo Bay

This past week I took my four boys and my mom to Semiahmoo Golf and Spa Resort for Mother's Day week. Only a few hours north of Seattle and close to the Canadian border, Semiahmoo sits on the point of Semiahmoo Bay near Drayton Harbor and across from White Rock, Canada. As you drive down the spit towards the Resort, you feel an overwhelming sense of excitement and relaxation flood over you. Beauty, water, and beach surround you and you can see the marina come into view as you near your destination. Semiahmoo's coastal lodge greets you with its happy yellow color, beautiful wood work, full baskets of spring flowers and their sparkling outdoor pool.

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Front drive of Semiahmoo Resort

Spring is my favorite season, but being from Seattle its always that time of year where families start to get restless with the weather and need to get away. Semiahmoo's 300-acre resort is breathtaking and charming inside and out. It is the ideal Pacific Northwest getaway because you feel the comfort of its rustic feel, and are charmed by the coastal details and the seashell covered beaches surrounding the property. There are so many places to explore and enjoy, either as a family, a couple, with your friends, or as a solo "staycation." Semiahmoo has found its way into the heart of many families, and this Spring welcomed our family to share some of its treasured secrets with you.

Play Outside

I was thrilled and grateful for all the amenities Semiahmoo had that were intended for a fun family vacation. They have everything you need right at the resort so you don't feel like you have to over pack or be under prepared! In the Spring, the resort has lawn games ready right out the back door. Giant sized Chess, Jenga, and Yahtzee were a few of my boy's favorite games to play on the grounds. They also had cornhole, volleyball, horseshoes, badminton and a sandbox right on the beach ready to go with buckets and sand toys set up for the little ones.



If games are not your thing, there are miles of beach and sand to explore. Logs washed up on the shore make for a fun maze and balancing act for the kids to follow down the point. We spent much of our time searching for tiny seashells and uncovering crabs from rocks washed up near the resort. While we were there, the tide went out around early afternoon. This lended us a fun opportunity to search for what was uncovered after the water had been pushed away.



Sandbox looking over Semishmoo Bay

Discover

At Semiahmoo, their Health Club and Spa acts as the activity center in the Spring. At the desk, you can rent bikes and helmets (for free one hour per day!), or tennis rackets and balls and utilize their indoor and outdoor tennis courts, or snag some towels and treat yourself to an afternoon by the pool. We spent on average at least an hour on one of their courts per day- it was a great activity and energy burner for the kids! We cooled off by the outdoor pool afterwards. I brought my own life jacket for our youngest guy, but the resort has life jackets, pool noodles, and toys that might simplify your packing needs. The pool is heated to a warm 84 degrees year round, and has a cool urban indoor/outdoor feel. Large garage doors open and welcome you to share the space in between the outdoor pool and lounge areas (seating for well over 50,) and the covered hot tub, ping-pong table, and indoor seating for families.



Located next to their Spa, the Health Club also offers fitness classes (included in your stay), a full weight room, indoor track, sauna and steam room on top of everything else. They have a fun line dancing class in the morning time that welcomes kids too, that would be a fun way to get your mornings started!



Indoor/outdoor pool

On Saturday afternoons, the you can join Semiahmoo's resident birder, Phil, on a guided tour around the spit to learn about the local birds that call Semiahmoo their home! Phil told us that on average you can catch between 15-30 different species of birds on a daily guided tour. With our luck, the boys also caught sight of well over 100 seals sunbathing near the marina! They each got to carry their own set of binoculars, and were welcome to take a closer look through the guide's scope whenever they wanted to. The bird watching tour was a bit of a history lesson too! Phil was very thorough in telling us secrets about the grounds and history of the resort while we walked the property. It was informal- but very informational. Did you know Semiahmoo used to be a full service cannery? We didn't either until we took the tour!



Bird watching tours available every Saturday at 2pm

Relax

From romantic escapes to serene spa days, Semiahmoo is right when they say they have it all. Semiahmoo's Spa is open all week long and offers a variety of massages, specialized skin care, body treatments, body wraps, and even special treatments for men too- (hello Father's Day!) If you're wondering what to do with the kids while you kick back, the resort has a Kids Club (all the moms scream hooray!) that offers 2-hour kid explorations that feature arts and crafts and a range of unique activities. This special treat is on Saturday afternoons starting in June.

After you've visited the Spa, Semiahmoo has made a point of having comfortable seating scattered along the property. You can kick back with a book on their expansive deck overlooking the bay. Or even better, lounge on one of their comfortable outdoor sofas and take a nap. One of my favorite parts of the entire trip was snuggling up into one of these spaces with my four boys while soaking in the view and smelling the fresh sea breeze blow by.



Semishmo's back deck with lounge areas

Eat



Full kids meals at Peckers Kitchen and Bar

Getting hungry after a long day or need a mid afternoon adult beverage? Packers Kitchen and Bar is a casual seaside experience that welcomes all ages. This classic Northwest eatery serves all types of foods. You can enjoy omelets, eggs benedict and pancakes in the morning, or oysters fish and chips, and woodstone pizzas in the evening. We wine and dined our first day after a long day of play and enjoyed Washington wines and “The Salish Sea Cioppino” that was recommended by our server as a Semiahmoo Favorite. It was packed full of sea food deliciousness which felt rightfully ordered sitting directly on the water looking out to the bay! Packers is a local hot spot for lunch, happy hour, dinner, or a late-night get together. But as guests at the hotel, it is only steps from the resort and actually sits right next to Semiahmoo’s giant chess board, which is the perfect activity for kids while waiting on their food. If you don’t feel like having them roam, Packers Kitchen and Bar has crayons and coastal coloring sheets for the kids, and a FULL (inexpensive but filling!) kids menu- and kids 5 and under eat free!



Salish Sea Cioppino at Packers Kitchen and Bar

Semiahmoo's Seaview Cafe is also a simple stop to grab a snack or a Starbucks cup of coffee. It is located in Semiahmoo's hotel downstairs lobby and living area and is directly across from the library. Their hours are primarily early in the day to welcome you with coffee and pastries as the sun comes up, while your kids play in the library that is full of board games, books, puzzles and toys.



Semiahmoo's lobby library

Wind Down

Everyday at dusk, the staff at Semiahmoo lights bonfires on the beach and brings out baskets of graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate to build the perfect seaside s'more. This was so much fun because it brought the family together after a long day. Watching the kids play by the water and toast their own s'mores in the comfort of our resort was ideal. The kids laughed and played and loved that even though it was getting close to bedtime, they were allowed to fully indulge in a sweet treat, because whats vacation without letting go a bit!



S'mores every night at Semiahmoo Resort

If you're a night owl, or enjoy snuggling up to a family movie, Semiahmoo has a 154" projector and Discovery Theater perfect for movie nights. It is available in three hour blocks upon request that you can reserve for yourselves, or jump in to a movie another guest has already popped in! There are leather loungers for up to 50 resort guests- so the more the merrier! They have a collection of over 400 movies to choose from (including new releases!) or you can bring a DVD of your own to watch on the big screen.



Discovery Movie Theater

Sleep

Sleep? (Who has time for sleep with all of this going on!) Before I get to sleeping arrangements let me just say that it was a gift to lay my head on a plush pillow and luxury linens after a full day. Semiahmoo has nearly 200 guest rooms and suites with everything you need for a luxurious Northwest getaway. Many of their rooms offer water views and fireplaces. Their beds feel like “pillows from heaven” like my kids imagined, and they even have wood cribs (or pack and plays) upon your request. On the third floor, the Northern Light Parlor sits directly above the back patio, and like many of their other suite styled rooms, and has over sized living and dining areas to accommodate for larger groups, family get togethers, or wedding parties! (They host weddings here too!) Dogs are welcome too (the perks just keep on coming!) depending on availability throughout the year. It was comfortable for our family of six traveling to Semiahmoo this week- which is something you can’t always brag about while traveling! There was plenty of room for everyone and we didn’t have to trade in any level of comfort for simpler accommodations.



Northern Light Parlor Room

Enjoy

Semiahmoo in the Spring is especially special. It is quiet and quaint. Most people have no idea how much is in store once you reach the edge of the bay where the resort sits. Our waiter actually told me, "Don't tell everybody all our secrets!", because it still is a bit of a secret gem near the Canadian border.

Nevertheless, their hotel staff treat their guests like family and makes sure everyone feels comfortable and relaxed to fully enjoy their stay. Only a few hours from the hustle of Seattle, Semiahmoo is the perfect vacation you could almost classify as a staycation because it is so close to our PNW wonderland. The best part is, you get that resort type feel but for a sliver of the price that you would expect with all the amenities included for a family vacation. Pack it up, get on out, and I hope you enjoy Semiahmoo Resort as much as we did!



Until next time, Semiahmoo!