

The Telegraph



Semiahmoo Resort Blaine, Washington State, United States [View on a map](#)



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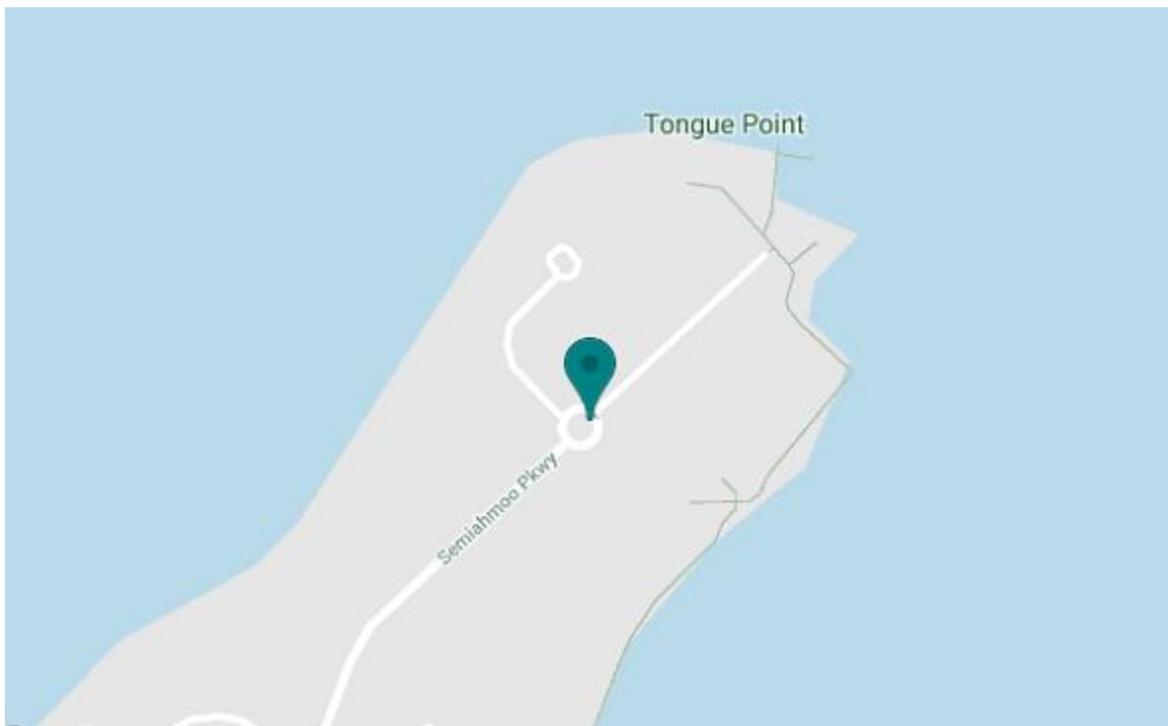
Telegraph expert
rating

" This beloved family resort sits on a mile-long spit just south of the border, a 90-minute drive from Vancouver, BC, and two hours from Seattle. The Audubon Society considers its dreamy landscape – a stopover along the Pacific Flyway – one of the state's best bird-watching destinations. "

10/10

Location

Hérons and bald eagles often swoop overhead, as hermit crabs scuttle along the sound's edge. This spectacular peninsula gazes at the International Peach Arch memorial on the Washington and British Columbia border. A free museum displays artefacts from the Alaska Packers Association Cannery, which processed salmon here for nearly 80 years. The same non-profit operates the tiny 1944 Plover ferry, shuttling to the Blaine marina.



9/10

Style & character

The quintessential Northwest lodge unfurls views of the sea, mountains and gentle farmland. Semiahmoo maintains architectural elements from its cannery era like the weathered water tower. Throughout the property, light woods compliment the golds, greys, and blues of the décor, honours the area's history without descending into nautical kitsch. Its name — pronounced "seh-mee-AH-moo" — harks back to a band of Native Americans.



10/10

Service & facilities

The mellow staff members are sweet as molasses and brimming with small-town charm. Guests can hit the extensive gym, but more often kayak, paddleboard, hike and bike outside. Golfers appreciate the two semi-private championship courses: the Arnold Palmer-designed Semiahmoo Club and Loomis Trail, considered one of the nation's top public picks. Decompress at the spa with a seaweed wrap or beach-stone massage, or simply lounge in the sauna, steam room, hot tub or pool. Other amenities include art classes, a 50-seat movie theatre and a cosy library stocked with games.

- ✓ Bar
- ✓ Fitness centre
- ✓ Kids' club
- ✓ Beach
- ✓ Golf course
- ✓ Laundry

- ✓ Parking
- ✓ Restaurant
- ✓ Sauna
- ✓ Steam room/hammam
- ✓ Pool
- ✓ Room service
- ✓ Spa
- ✓ Tennis court
- ✓ Wi-Fi

8/10

Rooms

Many of the 198 rooms and suites overlook the water. All have luxury linens and plush pillow-top mattresses, as well as Keurigs. The bathrooms are straightforward with marble counters and vegan, cruelty-free William Roam amenities, incorporating mineral-rich Hawaiian deep sea water. Nice touches include leather shoe benches, marble-topped desks and gilt-framed reproductions of Semiahmoo cannery labels. Some rooms have patios, balconies, and living areas with gas fireplaces.

8/10

Food & drink

Start the day in the airy Pierside Kitchen, which spills onto the patio in warmer weather. Breakfast is all about staples, such as omelettes and lemon pancakes, executed with local and seasonal ingredients. The menu blossoms later with cioppino, bison burgers and smoked oyster salad.

The resort's other restaurant, Packers, has floor-to-ceiling views of the bay. Oysters and steamed clams take centre stage, along with innovative touches like tuna poké and barrel-aged hot sauce. For dessert, expect great things: executive chef Bruno Feldeisen ranks among the nation's top pastry maestros, according to the James Beard Awards and the American Culinary Federation.

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Value for money

A standard double starts at \$142 (£109) in low season and from \$189 (£144) in high. It offers bed-and-breakfast packages, but most guests go à la carte. Breakfast \$9-\$15 (£7-£11). Free Wi-Fi. Semiahmoo is a steal, considering its beautiful location and array of complimentary activities.

Access for guests with disabilities?

The resort has ramps and elevators, plus a hot tub lift. ADA rooms feature roll-in showers and lowered handles to aid visitors in wheelchairs.

Family-friendly?

A wonderland for little ones, Semiahmoo runs a kids' club every Saturday for \$35 (£27). It also has 'kid-cation' packages with kites, buckets, spades, cinema snack packs, and gear rentals. The resort also welcomes dogs with beds, bowls, treats, toys, and souvenir bandanas (\$50 [£38] per night).

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