

Washington Wine Country | Yakima, Columbia & Walla Walla Valleys

Holiday Duration: 8 Nights



Overview

Washington Wine Country

Explore this amazing area of Washington on your fly drive holiday. Visit the best wineries and eat amazing food.

Best take a designated driver with you!

This itinerary is flexible and can be tailor-made to suit you; if you want to add extra days in one area, extend the holiday or maybe change the direction of travel. Talk to one of our experts about how to make this holiday the perfect one for you.

Here's a day-by-day guide to your itinerary. Feel free to ask us to add other days or ideas and excursions by contacting us directly, so we can give you the best price.

Day 1



Seattle

Arrive into Seattle and head to your downtown hotel for 1 night or more before collecting your rental car.

1 night Seattle

Days 2-3



Seattle to Prosser

Leave Seattle early for the 30 minute drive to the Salish Lodge and Spa (where you can also stay if you wish) for a scrumptious breakfast made from organic, fresh and local ingredients, and enjoy spectacular views of Snoqualmie Falls. The Falls are one of Washington's most popular attractions: you can enjoy the 2-acre park, hiking trail, observation deck, gift shop, and the famous 270-foot waterfall.

You will then drive over the Snoqualmie Pass towards Prosser pausing at the Thorp Fruit Stand (outside Cle Elum): Shop or simply sample fresh, organic fruit and vegetables in this historic barn-turned-market. Check out their large selection of wine, desserts, and preserves.

The Yakima Valley cultivates some 17,000 acres of vines, the biggest in the Northwest. You will soon discover that the Washington wines compare very favourably to the French much better-known names. The Valley is blessed with well-drained, loamy and silty volcanic soil, long hot sunny days and cool nights which support many varieties. You will find Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc, as well as some delicious Cabernet Francs, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon amongst others. Some of Yakima Valley's best wines can be tasted in the many downtown tasting rooms that are in each town. One of the bonuses of wine tasting in this part of the world is the friendliness of the vintners and their willingness to take the time to chat with you. Prosser is known as the "birthplace of the Washington Wine Industry" so is a good place to start. The Prosser Wine and Food Park, a vast agricultural and vintner site alongside the Columbia River, is well worth a visit as is the Vintners Village.

2 nights in Prosser

Day 4



Prosser to Kennewick

Washington's smallest, and most premium wine-growing region, Red Mountain is receiving worldwide acclaim for its special territory. Red Mountain grapes command more dollars per ton than any other wine region in the state. Don't miss the spectacular views and exceptional wines at some of the top estate wineries including Kiona Vineyards, Terra Blanca, and Hedges Family Estate.

You might like to stop at Richland, at the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia River for lunch; there are a variety of restaurant options from brewpubs, park side bistros and wine bars, to Greek, Italian, Mexican, Asian, and more!

After lunch, wander Tulip Lane, where you won't want to miss the award-winning winery trio of Barnard Griffin, J. Bookwalter, and Tagaris Winery. You could also stop at Country Mercantile, a local family owned shop in Pasco offering local gourmet food.

As a break from the wine and food, there are golf courses and some great hikes to be enjoyed.

You could stay in Kennewick, but we would highly recommend driving on to Touchet where there is an exceptional inn called Cameo Heights. You could use this as your base for both Kennewick and Walla Walla as they offer wine tours from the Inn. Not only is it very pretty and in a lovely position but the food is excellent.

1 night Kennewick

Days 5-6



Kennewick to Walla Walla

As you make your way to Walla Walla, taste what the wine world is talking about at the Big 3: L'Ecole No. 41, Three Rivers Winery, and Reininger, all of which are eager to welcome you to the valley. When you get to town, you can stop in any one of a number of downtown wineries that are within blocks of each other.

Just south of the city, don't miss tours of the world-renowned estate wineries: Northstar, Pepper Bridge Winery, and Basel Cellars. Back in town, a visit to the Fort Walla Walla Museum is worth while and when you can walk no further take a pedicab who will take you to Pioneer Park and Aviary. Best of all hop into a hot air balloon for a bird's eye view of the valley. The historic hotel in town is the Marcus Whitman, but you can also stay at Eritage Resort a few miles outside the town set in beautiful countryside.

2 nights Walla Walla

Days 7-8



Walla Walla to Yakima

Start heading back toward Seattle with a last stop in Yakima, the birthplace of Jimi Hendrix. Yakima was founded in 1883 and was named after the river that flows through it. It is now known for its wineries, breweries and fruit orchards: you can see some of its history in the Yakima Valley Museum. We suggest visits to Sagelands, Sheridan Vineyards, Bonair Winery, Porteus Winery, and Windy Point Vineyards, for some of the best wines in the valley. Delightfully, many of the vineyards also have either food trucks or small restaurants as well as beautiful views over the countryside.

2 nights in Yakima

Day 9



Yakima to Seattle

We suggest that you detour on the way back to Seattle taking the Yakima River Scenic Byway, State Route 821 following the Yakima River. It is only 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours drive to SEATAC airport, so there is plenty of time to enjoy your last day.

If you are interested in a holiday to America please contact us on 020 8776 8709 to discuss your plans with a USA expert, or send an email to america@frontier-travel.co.uk with your requirements and we will put together your ideal itinerary and quotation. Let us take you there.