



City of Gig Harbor

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FACT SHEET
CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON
www.gigharborguide.com

Location

Gig Harbor is an easy destination to get to. The city is located 45 minutes south of Seattle and a 40 minute drive to Sea-Tacoma International Airport. The city of Tacoma is less than 15 minutes away via the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, one of the longest suspension bridges in the world.

History

Incorporated in 1946, the City of Gig Harbor totals 6.13 square miles. The altitude is sea level to 440 feet. Nestled at the south end of Puget Sound is the quiet waterfront village of Gig Harbor. This picturesque destination is a community rich in maritime history, scenery, quaint shops and unparalleled recreation. The Gig Harbor Peninsula area is a haven for scenery lovers and those seeking an escape from the ordinary. The awesome view of Mount Rainier from Gig Harbor adorns calendars and travel books around the world. Gig Harbor is the perfect place to relax, refresh and rejuvenate.

With miles of shoreline and deep water bays, spectacular golf courses and summer camps, bird watching and cycling, Gig Harbor is the Peninsula's playground. Sailing and pleasure boats line the many marinas in Gig Harbor. Sail into Gig Harbor on one of the many coves and inlets; explore the water by boat or kayak. Join a regatta downtown during the summer. A public boat dock is located downtown with three boat launches close by. Wind surfers will want to visit Henderson Bay. Here the "spit" serves as a launch point for the bright colored sails, jet skis, sun bathing and swimming. The muddy waters beneath the Narrows Bridge are a destination for scuba divers, yielding some of the world's largest octopi. Clamming and shell collecting are favorite beach time activities.

Cyclists will enjoy the Gig Harbor waterfront, as well as the winding country roads of the Crescent Valley. The newly completed Cushman Trail is a perfect walking and cycling trail.

Golf anyone? Three public courses and one private course as well as a double deck driving range and miniature golf facility offer something for beginning to expert golfers.

Seeking a more relaxed playtime? Gig Harbor City Park at Crescent Creek on Vernhardsen Street offers a quiet retreat close to town with a children's playground, covered cooking facility and creek access. Space at City Park may be reserved by calling (253) 851-8136. Jerisich Dock at Skansie Brothers Park has convenient public restrooms and picnic tables. Summer concerts and a plethora of events take place at Skansie Brothers Park most weekends year round. Three state parks and one RV park offer campers a variety of options as well as day use facilities, beach access and hiking and biking opportunities. Birding is also popular at the state parks and other waterfront locations around the area. Employees at several nature shops in Gig Harbor are more than happy to assist

Gig Harbor boasts a number of bed and breakfasts, three beautifully appointed inns and one comfortable family motel, all locally owned. Whether looking for a weekend accommodations, a romantic get-away, a family vacation, or a site for a meeting, convention or special event, the right place can be found in Gig Harbor. The destination offers a variety of options to choose from:

Best Western Wesley Inn www.wesleyinn.com
1-888-462-0002

The Inn at Gig Harbor www.innatgigharbor.com
1-800-795-9980



The Maritime Inn www.maritimeinn.com
1-253-858-1818

Bed & breakfasts and vacation rentals information at
www.gigharborguide.com

Dining

One-of-a-kind, delicious dining choices are scattered throughout Gig Harbor. From the world famous Tides Tavern to the quaint and quiet JW's which features creative comfort cuisine, Gig Harbor has the place for you. Local produce, seafood, organic beef and baked goods--as well as many wonderful ethnic foods--are featured in area restaurants. You will find all dining options at www.gigharborguide.com

Weather

Temperatures in Gig Harbor are moderate. During the spring months, the average temperature is 55-65 degrees Fahrenheit. The area's peak tourism season is the summer, with seasonal temperatures from 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit. Fall temperatures range from 55-65 degrees Fahrenheit. Throughout winter, it drops to 40-50 degrees Fahrenheit. The rainfall averages 37 inches a year, less than New York or Houston. The heaviest rains occur from October through March, which account for 75% of all rainfall. The driest month is July while the wettest month is December.

Population and Activities

With a city population of 7,800 and growing, Gig Harbor boasts a vibrant economy with inviting accommodations, interesting shopping, wonderful dining experiences, colorful cultural arts, playful recreation, and diverse professional and personal services. Gig Harbor is a part of Pierce County, which has a population of 674,000. The Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula region has a population of 76,000.

Language

English is the official language.

Currency

U.S. currency. Credit cards and traveler's checks are accepted by local hotels, restaurants, activity vendors and shops.

People

The median age is 37. Approximately 50% of the area's residents completed four-year college or higher (over age 25).

Recreation

State parks – 3

City parks – 2

Swimming pools – 2

Public golf courses – 3

Soccer and ball fields, tennis courts, skateboard, park, sailing club

Water sports – scuba diving, sailing, kayaking, power boating, jet skiing, windsurfing, water skiing

Distances from Gig Harbor

Tacoma – 11 miles

Bremerton – 30 miles

Sea-Tac International Airport – 33 miles

Olympia – 45 miles

Seattle – 49 miles

Olympic National Park (Staircase Rapids area) – 65 miles

Mount Rainier (Paradise area) – 83 miles

Mount St. Helen's (Johnstons Ridge area) – 141 miles

Spokane (airport) – 302 miles



Portland, Oregon – 146 miles

Vancouver, British Columbia (airport) – 180 miles

How to Get to Downtown Gig Harbor (Waterfront)

From Sea-Tac International Airport, take I-5 south towards Portland for approximately 18 miles. Take the So. 38th St/WA-16 West exit towards Bremerton/Gig Harbor, exit #132, for 9.5 miles. Take the Pioneer Way exit towards City Center/Gig Harbor. Turn right and head towards the water for .6 miles to downtown Gig Harbor.

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