



The Great American Hatchery Road Trip!

PNW Edition



WELCOME TO Washington

There's nothing like cruising down the interstate, a fresh summer breeze blowing through the windows, the stereo blasting, and the anticipation of adventures ahead! The hardest part? Picking a destination! Don't worry, we've got you covered.

The National Fish Hatchery System has been improving recreational fishing and restoring aquatic species since 1872, so what better way to explore these cool sites than by starting with ones over 100 years old! Fish hatcheries have something for everyone in your group, so buckle those seatbelts and let's hit the road!



Quilcene National Fish Hatchery

Operational since 1911, the Quilcene National Fish Hatchery rears and releases coho salmon to fulfill Tribal Trust responsibilities and to enhance local recreational & commercial fishing. The hatchery lies in Washington's GORGEOUS Olympic Peninsula and is co-managed by the Port Gamble S' Klallam, Jamestown S, Klallam, Skokomish, Lower Elwha Klallam, and Suquamish Tribes.



This hatchery's featured song comes to you from one of our very own USFWS employees! Get ready to sing the blues with the dulcet tones of Information & Education Specialist Dan Spencer's "Deep River Blues."



A trail from the hatchery allows anglers fishing access to the Big Quilcene River where you can catch coho salmon, chum salmon, or cutthroat trout!



The awesome thing about Quilcene is that it gives visitors a chance to see some cool hatchery features! Be sure to check out their fish ponds, fish ladder, and fish weir (fancy name for an obstruction that channels the fish).



The Big Quilcene River provides opportunities to spot stunning kingfishers and the adorably aquatic American dipper through most of the year. If you want to spot majestic bald eagles, plan your trip sometime between August and November!



Anyone interested in the history of the hatchery or their operations should make a pit stop at the hatchery's visitor center. Guided tours of the hatchery facilities can even be arranged ahead of time, depending on staff availability.



The views at Quilcene are epic! We recommend channeling your inner Bob Ross and painting some of the happy little trees and mountain vistas!



MAP LEGEND

- The Angler
- The Explorer
- The Animal Lover
- The Historian
- The Artist



If you're passing through Quilcene on your way to the hatchery, be sure to check out "Pearl of the Peninsula Art Park" with its collection of statues made from old buoys, propane tanks, and scrap metal. If weird scrap art isn't your thing, you should head west to spend some time at Olympic National Park or head just upriver from the hatchery to the Falls View Canyon Trail in Olympic National Forest!



Before you hit the road, be sure to check the hatchery's web page for additional activities and call ahead to check opening status.

Next Exit: More Hatchery Fun!

OTHER HATCHERIES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SERIES

- ➡ Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery - Washington
- ➡ Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery - Washington