



# Port Townsend, WA



Port Townsend, Washington, is located along the Strait of Juan de Fuca that separates northwest Washington and Vancouver Island, Canada. British Captain George Vancouver, who explored the Strait of Juan de Fuca in 1792, identified Port Townsend, which he named for his friend the Marquis of Townshend, as a safe harbor on the northeast tip of the Olympic Peninsula. S'Hal-ak, leader of the Klallam Native Americans, granted permission for the official settlement on Klallam lands in 1851.

The Jefferson County Historical Society operates three museums. Exhibits at the Jefferson Museum of Art & History focus on the Victorian era, Native American, Chinese, military, and maritime memorabilia. The Commanding Officer's Quarters located in Fort Worden State Park contain late Victorian and Edwardian furnishings that provide a glimpse into the life of a senior U.S. Army officer and his family in the first decade of the 20th century. The 1868 Greek Revival-style Rothschild House located in uptown Port Townsend features original furnishing and decor and is virtually unchanged from a hundred years ago.

The Port Townsend Marine Science promotes the scientific study of Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits with interactive live exhibits and is located in Fort Worden State Park.

Other museums in Port Townsend include the Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum, which focuses on the Harbor Defenses of Puget Sound as they existed and functioned from the late 1800s to the end of World War II; Fort Flagler State Park Military Museum; Art Deco Light Museum, which displays lights and fixtures from 1928 through 1938; and Port Townsend Aero Museum, which exhibits vintage aircraft and aviation art.

Port Townsend provides many opportunities for enjoying performing arts. Theatrical performances are available at Key City Public Theatre, which offers a year-round season that includes classics, contemporary plays, musicals, Shakespeare in the Park, Playwrights' Festival, WordPlay reading series, and PT Shorts. Shows are hosted throughout the year at The Chameleon Theater. The Mandala Center is home to the multigenerational Poetic Justice Theatre Ensemble and Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed. Northwinds Arts Center is a hub of visual arts and literary activity.

Port Townsend Community Orchestra, Port Townsend Summer Band, Community Chorus of Port Townsend & East Jefferson County, Peninsula Singers, PT Songlines Choir, Rainshadow, and Wild Rose Chorale perform concerts at various locations. The Wheeler Theater features chamber music performances in the summer. The Olympic Music Festival presents a summer season of concerts in partnership with Centrum at Fort Worden State Park.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Port Townsend is recognized as one of only three Victorian Seaports on the National Register of Historic Places. The entire downtown core is a National Historic District. Condominiums are available in historic buildings above ground floor restaurants, galleries, and shops.

Up the hill above downtown, the Uptown and Morgan Hill neighborhoods feature large historic Victorian homes as well as 1940s cottages and luxury homes built in the 2000s. Many homes have views of the Olympic and Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound.

The North Beach section of northwest Port Townsend is known for smaller beach houses, many with eccentric style and artistic personality, and the beach.

Another northwest neighborhood, Fowler's Park, consists of Craftsman-style homes that were built beginning in 1994, with lots for new construction available. This neighborhood offers a mix of open landscapes and beautifully treed properties with green belts maintaining the privacy between cedar-sided homes.

On western side of Kai Tai Lagoon, the Castle Hill neighborhood surrounds Manresa Castle and Jefferson Healthcare and provides views of the Port Townsend historical skyline. Historical Victorian homes, modern Northwest homes, and tract housing are available in this neighborhood.

Dundee Hill in the center of the city has both rural countryside homes on acreage and houses on city lots. Houses vary in age and style and include small planned housing developments, such as Hamilton Heights.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Port Townsend has 19 city and county parks and a recreation center.

Fort Worden State Park is located on the site of an early-20th century U.S. Army base located 2 miles from Port Townsend's downtown. The fort had been the headquarters for the Puget Sound Harbor Defenses and was constructed to protect the entrance to the Puget Sound and a naval shipyard at Bremerton. Converted to a state park in 1973, the fort features 100 historic structures, 3 museums, performance venues, a community college, and 2 miles of saltwater shoreline with views of the Olympic and Cascade Mountains and the San Juan Islands.

The 5-acre Chetzemoka Park is located between downtown and Fort Worden on the hillside overlooking Admiralty Inlet and offers a commanding view of the Cascade Mountains and Whidbey Island. The Park has flower gardens, picnic areas, play equipment, and a bandstand modeled after the Victorian original, as well as access to the beach and tidelands.

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park encompasses 25 acres of open water, 15 acres of wetlands, and 40 acres of uplands. This brackish wetland on the Pacific Flyway is preserved for waterfowl nesting, resting, and feeding.

The 4.9-acre Memorial Field has bleachers, restrooms, and lighted multiple use playfields for soccer, football, and baseball. Several events are staged here throughout the year, including the Classic Car Show and the Rhododendron Festival Carnival.

An informal playground, tennis court, and basketball court provide recreational facilities at Courthouse Park, which also offers views of the Port Townsend Bay and the Olympic Mountains.

At 1.2 acres, Pope Marine Park is a popular public waterfront facility and is comprised of City Dock, Pope Marine Visual Arts Center, a picnic area, lawn, and playground with a climbing tower and swings. The park also features a concrete sculpture referred to as the "Tidal Clock."

Olympic National Park is located approximately 50 miles from Port Townsend. The park showcases Pacific Ocean beaches, rain forest valleys, glacier-capped peaks, and a stunning variety of plants and animals. Roads provide access to the outer edges of the park, but the heart of the Park Olympic is wilderness.

## EDUCATION

Port Townsend School District educates approximately 1,100 students in a pre-school through grade 3 school, a grade 4 through grade 8 school, and a high school.

Higher education is available at Peninsula College at Port Townsend, which is a comprehensive community college that offers associate's degrees that transfer directly to 4-year institutions. Washington State University Jefferson County Extension provides a several outreach and educational resources.

## HEALTH CARE

Port Townsend is served by Jefferson Healthcare with 42 licensed beds.

### CITY STATS

**2016**

City Population	9,527
County Population	31,139
Per Capita Personal Income, Jefferson County, Washington	\$48,625