

LONGVIEW

The Birthplace of Washington State, conveniently located off I-5 at Exit 36.

Although separated by the Cowlitz River, the sister communities of Longview and Kelso are equally hospitable and eager to serve you with great service at some of the best lodging facilities in the area.

- **BW Aladdin Motor Inn** (360) 425-9660
- **Quality Inn & Suites** (360) 414-1000
- **Comfort Inn** (360) 425-4600
- **Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center** (360) 636-4400
- **Econo Lodge** (360) 636-4610
- **Rodeway Inn** (360) 423-6980
- **Guesthouse Inn & Suites** (360) 414-5953
- **Rutherglen Mansion** (360) 425-5816
- **Hudson Manor Inn** (360) 425-1100
- **Super 8** (360) 423-8880
- **Monticello Hotel** (360) 425-9900
- **Town Chalet** (360) 423-2020
- **Motel 6** (360) 425-3229
- **Town House Motel** (360) 423-7200
- **Travel Lodge** (360) 423-6460

“LONGVIEW has some of Washington State’s best hidden gems.” - Roger Brooks, CEO of Seattle’s Destination Development, Inc.

9- The Heart of Longview

‘Thank you Mr. Long’

History practically comes to life at Commerce Avenue and Broadway in the heart of downtown Longview. A bronze statue of founder R.A. Long in his traditional straw hat is receiving a ‘thank you’ bouquet from a young girl. Read the headline in the newspaper he’s holding, and learn about the history of how Longview was started on the panel nearby. Across the street, Chief Lelooska’s totem pole welcomes visitors. Be sure to read the meaning of its Native American symbols on the interpretive panel.



10- Downtown Longview



History Comes to Life

Also at the intersection of Commerce and Broadway is the Merk Building, once the Long-Bell company store and R.A. Long’s corporate offices. Inside the Merk today is the Long Bell Reading Room filled with historical pictures, newspapers and personal archives of the people and events that have shaped the culture of Cowlitz County. Downtown’s signature clock is mid-block, and across the street is ‘Big Ben,’ the original steam whistle for the Long-Bell Mill. Take note of the life-sized murals of R.A. Long, Longview’s first mayor, and first police chief. Many buildings still retain their original architectural and historic character from the early twenties.

11- Columbia Theatre

A Classic Beauty

The Columbia Theatre in downtown Longview was dubbed the “Crown Jewel of Southwest Washington” when it was built in 1925. In 2009 it underwent an \$11.6 million restoration completing a thirty year long journey from the shadow of the wrecking ball to an acoustically bright, 800-seat, state-of-the-art performance space. With roomy, comfortable seating, the Columbia presents a season of national, international, and regional artists and is home to many community arts partners. It has recently received the State of Washington Historical Preservation Officer’s Award for outstanding achievement in historic preservation. Now, nearly 90 years old, the Columbia has been transformed into a “theatre for the next generations.”



ago. Long Beach and the Pacific Ocean are just 70 miles from Longview!

12- Three Scenic Courses

Golfers’ Slice of Heaven

In Longview, the Mint Valley Golf Course is a par 71 championship course that features scenic fairways, practice putting greens and a covered driving range. Nearby is the Longview Country Club, a private hillside golf course lined with tall evergreens and a scenic landscape. You’re walking on the remnants of Mount St. Helens when you play the Three Rivers Golf Course in Kelso. After the eruption of Mount St. Helens, volcanic silt was dredged from the nearby Cowlitz River. The silt serves as a 60-foot base underneath the grass to help irrigate the land and keep the venue running year-round.



13- Gateway to the Pacific

Roadside Lessons in History

Go West on Ocean Beach Highway (SR-4) and follow the beautiful Columbia River to the quaint and historic town of Cathlamet. West of Cathlamet, stop at the Julia Butler Hansen Wildlife Refuge to see Columbia white-tailed deer, an endangered species in the area. Historic sites along the way highlight the Lewis and Clark Expedition that came through southwest Washington over 200 years ago. Long Beach and the Pacific Ocean are just 70 miles from Longview!



14- Willow Grove Park

Playing & Fishing on the Columbia River

Enjoy a day at the beach on the Columbia River at Willow Grove Park, just five miles west of Longview. This is a popular location to enjoy a number of water sports including wind surfing, kite boarding, sailing, boating, and swimming. With many abundant fish-runs in nearby rivers, Willow Grove Park has a popular boat launch. The park also features a walking trail and includes picnic areas with barbecue pits, beach volleyball, a playground and plenty of free parking. With an emphasis on safety, the park maintains a “life jacket loaner” program.



15- Lewis & Clark Bridge

A Spectacular View from Oregon’s Rainier Hill

As you gain elevation over the massive Lewis & Clark Bridge, opened in 1930, look at the hustle and bustle of shipping along the docks. Turn right coming off of the bridge into Oregon and go up the hill for a panorama of Longview and its waterfront industries. On a clear day, catch a glimpse of Mount St. Helens peaking up from the distance. Continue west along the beautiful US-30 to Astoria and the Oregon beaches that are about an hour away. Or, head east and enjoy historic Rainier.



16- Cowlitz County Museum

Visit our Historic Possessions

Supported by local governments and volunteers of the Cowlitz County Historical Society, the museum contains many artifacts of early pioneer life and depicts important events affecting county residents. Through generous donations, the society has acquired hundreds of historic photos of the area and is currently digitizing them for easy public access. In addition to maintaining a permanent display, the museum staff presents interpretive programs, develops ever-changing displays including ones from the Smithsonian Institute. The museum also hosts school tours, sponsors a log cabin exhibit at the county fair, and operates a gift store.

17- Kelso’s Hidden Gems

Arrive by Train and Play at the Park

Travel off the beaten path and experience the Pacific Northwest by rail on the Amtrak Cascades. The only station in the Mount St. Helens region, the Kelso Train Depot is visited daily by Amtrak with round trips to Portland, Seattle and British Columbia. Proud of founder Peter Crawford’s Scottish heritage, Kelso’s Tam O’ Shanter Park is 40 acres of playgrounds, picnic areas, hiking paths and sports fields. In the summer, hear the sounds of roaring crowds at the ball fields. In the fall enjoy the annual Highlander Festival, a celebration of the town’s heritage.



18- Gateway to Mt. St. Helens

Find Your Adventurous Side

Begin your Mount St. Helens adventure at the Kelso Information Center at Exit 39 off I-5. Then head 10 minutes north on I-5, take Castle Rock Exit 49, and turn east onto SR-504/Spirit Lake Highway. Four world-class visitor centers and many recreational opportunities are located along the way to the volcano. At the visitor centers, look at historical pictures of the mountain before and after the eruption of 1980, watch videos, view herds of elk, and see how the landscape is recovering. Take a hike and enjoy the lake at the Coldwater Lake Recreation Area. All of this is just minutes away from Longview and Kelso!



19- Gerhart Gardens

Where Boaters and Dogs Can Play



Gerhart Gardens Park is located only a mile off I-5 (Exit 36), the first turn-off after crossing the Cowlitz River. Surrounded by trees, it’s a scenic location to spend some time or stretch your legs. A popular new dog park is located here where dogs of all sizes, shapes, colors and breeds are welcome. Put your fishing boat, Jet Ski or canoe into the Cowlitz River and explore the area. Another boat launch is located at Willow Grove Park on the Columbia River. Don’t have a boat? Spend a day picnicking or fishing from the river bank.

20- Birthplace of Washington State

Monticello Convention Site

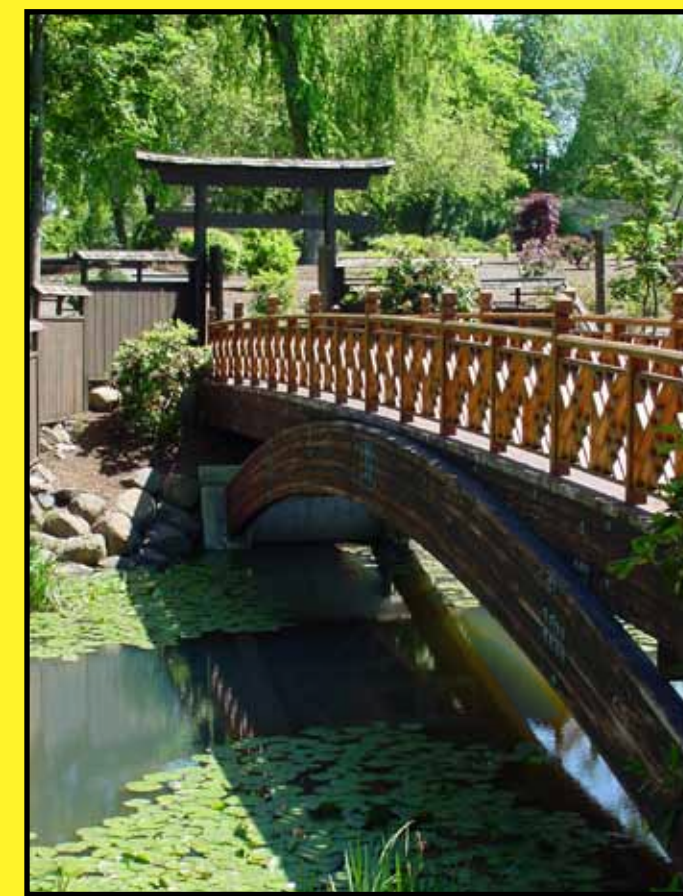
About a mile west of Gerhart Gardens, you’ll see a grand old Black Walnut tree and sign marking the National Historic Register, site of the Monticello Convention. Hosted by pioneers Darby Huntington and Seth Catlin in 1852, settlers came from as far away as Port Townsend and Seattle to petition Congress to separate from Oregon at the Columbia, Congress agreed. On March 2, 1853, President Fillmore signed the bill creating Washington Territory, named for our first president.



Birthplace of Washington State

LONGVIEW

Come and enjoy our Hidden Treasures



20 Surprises to discover in and around Longview, Washington

This brochure is made possible by the City of Longview hotel-motel tax, Longview volunteers Bill Kasch and Dennis Weber, with contributions from the Cowlitz County Tourism Bureau and Saskia Graphic Design.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Gateway to the Pacific where you can truly appreciate the beauty and splendor of the Pacific Northwest. You're starting in Longview, a small city of 36,000 that has a reputation for making visitors feel right at home with its quaint local shops and a native history dating back to the days before Lewis and Clark.

Over 200 years ago, famed travelers Lewis and Clark led their expedition along the mighty Columbia River that runs along Longview's southern shore. Following their travels, settlers flooded into Oregon Country. Then in 1852,

pioneers met nearby to petition Congress to create a separate territory north of the Columbia.

Nearly a century ago, Kansas City timber baron Robert A. Long began planning for the world's largest lumber mill. Almost immediately he approved a modern city for his employees, the first truly planned city of the 20th century. Mr. Long's company is no longer here, but his legacy remains and includes his gifts of a library, high school and a civic center.

In the middle of town, giant trees surround picturesque Lake Sacajawea, a local favorite

where year-round residents can walk, bike, run and play. The smell of rose bushes kiss the air outside the Longview Public Library, and the sounds of bustling shoppers can be heard in the shops of the historic downtown area.



Longview celebrates culture through the arts at the classic Columbia Theatre and welcomes diversity with inspiration from its sister city in Japan with Japanese Island at Lake Sacajawea. Play outside as you try your hand at a round of golf or take part in a number of water sports in the Columbia River. The beaches and mountains are right in Longview's backyard, with Mount St. Helens only an hour away and the ocean beaches nearby to the west. Come and visit beautiful Longview, voted 'Tree City USA' for 26 years in a row!

Whether you're staying another day or passing through, we invite you to discover twenty surprises. We'll provide the map, you provide the memories!



1- Lake Sacajawea

Longview's Crown Jewel



You'll find a main entrance to the lake by the big log arch at Kessler Boulevard and Hemlock Street. Depending on the time of year, you might encounter cross-country meets, concerts in the park, fishing derbies, family picnics, and even weddings as you walk along Kessler toward the Plaza. But come here on the Fourth of July and it's our own version of Times Square, with live music and food booths serving international cuisine and fair favorites. Watch for the cardboard boat races, too!

Mr. Long, founder of the city of Longview, used some of his personal fortune to create Lake Sacajawea by landscaping its banks into this magnificent park. With 3.5 miles of trails, two spectacular fountains and three playgrounds, they're a favorite for visitors of all ages. The lake was named for the Shoshone woman who accompanied the Lewis and Clark Expedition through the area over 200 years ago. Look for the bronze statue of Sacajawea with her son Pomp just across the metal walking bridge. On the West side of the statue, look for R.A. Long High School with its unique, historic brick architecture.



2- Lions Island

Community Service Shines

Take the Washington Way Bridge across Lake Sacajawea and you'll see Lion's Island, a well-lit winter wonderland in December and command central for the July 4th fireworks display. From the picnic structure on the island, one can look across to Martin's Dock and the walking bridge. The island is named after the Lions Club, a service organization who sponsors the 'Winter Lights' display every year for the holiday season. Walk to the end of the island and admire the tall totem pole, carved by Rex and Rose Losey of Kelso.



3- Japanese Island

Inspiration across the Pacific

Near the north end of the lake, you'll find our Japanese Island with an array of Asian-inspired art and landscaping donated by local citizens. The Weyerhaeuser Foundation funded the ornate wooden bridge at the island's entrance. Serenity and beauty are found year-round, with blossoms in the spring and warm colors in fall. Inspired by Longview's long relationship with Japan, this island is a tribute to our sister city of Wako, located near Tokyo. Don't forget to give a smile to the sleeping Buddha at the entrance.



4 - Old West Side

A History of Homes

From Kessler Boulevard to the Hotel Monticello lies the Old West Side neighborhood. This area consists of a variety of homes, some built by world-renowned architects, others were mail-order kits from Sears, Roebuck & Co. and several were even high school woodshop projects! Originally, the area was built for the city's professional and managerial leaders. A white mansion at 21st and Larch near Vandercook Park was the home of Wesley Vandercook, the original city engineer who convinced Mr. Long to build Longview.



5- Community Church

Gargoyles and Stained Glass Windows

Under the tree canopy at Kessler and Washington Way, you'll find the beautiful Longview Community Church built in 1926. The church has a Gothic Revival castle appearance that suggests 'spiritual warfare,' with a bell tower featuring dramatic gargoyles at each corner. The beautiful avant-garde stained glass windows tell stories from the Bible. Separate from the church, the Gebert Chapel is named after the church's first pastor Ed Gebert.



6- R.A. Long Park & Civic Circle

Honoring R.A. Long and Pioneers

Originally named Jefferson Square, the park was planned to be the geographical center of Longview with roads extending out from the circle designed after Greek and Roman cities. Now a tribute to R.A. Long, it also includes stone monuments dedicated to local pioneers. You will even discover a piece of Plymouth Rock! Note the 1933 classic deco-style post office just across the street. When you cross the street to the library, look up at Longview's famous 'Nuttty Narrows' squirrel bridge on your right.



7- Hotel Monticello

A Showcase for a 'Planned City'

This classic building was Longview's first and named after the pioneer hotel at the nearby town of Monticello. Meant to be a showcase for Mr. Long's vision, it quickly became the focal point of community and social functions and remains so still to this day. From the front steps, city planners could visualize the City Beautiful Movement's goals of broad vistas, city parks, and tree-lined streets. Inside the lobby, famed artist Joe Knowles painted historical events and portraits of people and places around the Pacific Northwest.



8- Longview Library

More Than a Reading Room

The Longview Public Library, with its classic architecture and cupola, is another private gift from Mr. Long. The main floor has reading rooms that feature portraits of Mr. Long and his wife Ella. Take the elevator to the 3rd floor mezzanine to find the Longview Room's unique collection of historic photos and documents. The Koth Gallery on the ground floor features art exhibits from local artists. Don't forget to look for another one of the city's many public art pieces, a bronze statue of a youngster reading to her cat in front of the library.

