

The City at the Center of It All!

Kelso

Washington



Founded 1884

Peter Crawford, Kelso, Scotland

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument



Rister Stadium - Tam O' Shanter Park



Highlander Festival



Pacific Ocean Beaches



Kelso is known as The City of Friendly People. The city's history traces back to 1884 when surveyor Peter Crawford, who platted the city, named Kelso after his home in Kelso, Scotland.

The Buchanan Tartan (above) is the official tartan of Kelso. Ancient Scottish Clans developed tartans with their colorful geometrically patterned weaves as a means of identification.



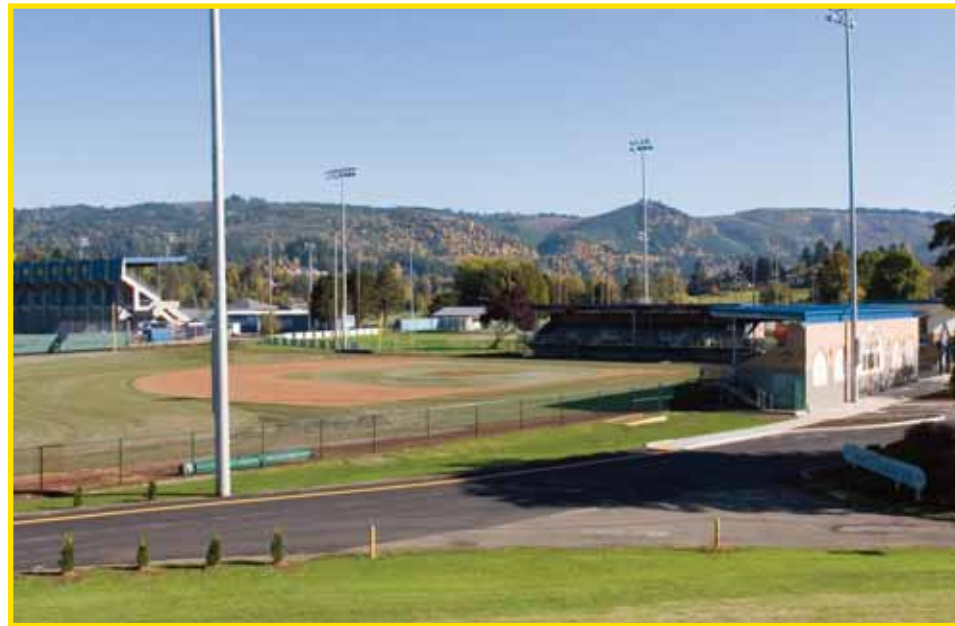
Highlander Festival

Each September, Kelso honors its roots with the Highlander Festival, a weekend of Scottish and Celtic culture, clan displays, games and events.

Cowlitz County Historical Museum

Learn more about Kelso's history at the Cowlitz County Historical Museum - a fact filled repository of

early life in Southwest Washington. On display through the summer of 2009, *Rivers on the Rampage: The Great Flood of 1933*, explores the impact of the devastating floods. Future featured displays include Women at Work, Cowlitz County Immigration and Food Traditions, which will run concurrent with a traveling display on loan from the Smithsonian.



Tam O'Shanter Park

An expansive oasis of recreational opportunities featuring nearly 40 acres of playgrounds, picnic areas, hiking paths and multiple baseball, softball, and soccer facilities.

Kelso has gained regional and national notoriety as a destination for tournament team sports. Each year, thousands of athletes compete at the city's baseball, softball and soccer complexes. In 2006, Kelso celebrated the completion of the Stan Rister Stadium. This spectacular new baseball venue was created by the generous donations of the McCaw family and thousands of volunteer hours and donations from the local community. Look for Kelso to be on the short list for hosting a future youth World Series event.

Three Rivers Golf Course

Built with the volcanic remains of the 1980 eruption, Three Rivers Golf Course is recognized as the driest course in the Pacific Northwest. Playable year-round, this 18-hole par 72 championship course is open to the public and features a pro shop, restaurant and range. Reservations 360-423-4653



Kelso Theater Pub

No stay in Kelso is complete without a visit to the unique Kelso Theater Pub. Take in a first run movie while enjoying delicious artisan pizza and select handcrafted Northwest microbrews and wines. www.ktpub.com; 360-414-9451



Centrally located on the Interstate 5 between Portland and Seattle, Kelso is at the center of many popular Northwest attractions and activities

Visitors from around the world make Kelso their base camp for adventures into the **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument**.

The Spirit Lake Memorial Highway just north of Kelso features world-class visitor centers, interpretive displays and awe-inspiring views of America's Volcano. Take the 65-mile drive to Johnston Ridge Observatory for a look into the crater.

See elk, deer, and other resident wildlife along the route. Stop by the 19-mile house restaurant on your return trip for hearty burgers and world-famous fruit cobbler.



North to Seattle – 90 min.
West to Ocean Beaches – 75 min.
East to Mount St. Helens – 85 min.
South to Portland – 50 min.



Pristine **Pacific Ocean Beaches** are an easy 2-hour drive west via Highway 4. A popular day trip from Kelso follows the scenic drive loop along the banks of the Columbia River to its confluence. The drive passes through many historical sites from the Lewis and Clark

expedition. A variety of lovely shops will tempt you with wonderful selections of fashions, styles and tastes. Also, be sure to pick up your favorite flavors of salt water taffy for the trip home. For more vistas of the lower Columbia region, plan the return trip to Kelso through Astoria via the Astoria-Megler Bridge and east on Highway 30.



Kelso Visitors Center

Whether your stay in Kelso is just for the night or extends for several days or more, the Kelso Visitor Center located at I-5 exit 39 is a valuable resource for travelers. The Center is staffed 7-days a week with friendly, knowledgeable hosts. Stop by for detailed maps and information on all of Kelso and see what its surrounding region has to offer. 360-577-8058





Accommodations

Kelso offers visitors a wide variety of lodging options. Pictured above, the Red Lion Hotel and Conference features 161 newly renovated rooms, a full service restaurant and lounge, banquet and catering services and meeting rooms.

See below for a complete list of Kelso lodging options and contact information:



Comfort Inn
440 Three Rivers Dr.

360-425-4600



EconoLodge
505 N. Pacific Ave.

360-636-4610



Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center
510 Kelso Dr.

360-636-4400



Motel 6
106 N. Minor Rd.

360-425-3229



Super 8 Motel
250 Kelso Dr.

360-423-8880



Guest House Inn & Suites
501 Three Rivers Dr.

360-414-5953



Best Western Aladdin Motor Inn
310 Long Ave.

360-425-9660