

BE A FRIEND
 Friends of Moran is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Their mission is to raise funds and coordinate volunteer efforts throughout the year for projects within this 5,252-acre state park. They assist the Moran State Park rangers with trail and campground maintenance, clean up and preservation. They also support educational and interpretive programs for thousands of visitors. Friends of Moran State Park, P.O. Box 1961 Eastsound, WA 98245 (360) 376-3111 or (888) 226-7688



Please note: Trail designations are subject to change. Please check park bulletin boards or call the park for the most current information.

WILDERNESS ADVENTURES: TRAILS OF MORAN STATE PARK

MORAN STATE PARK has more than 38 miles of foot trails, most built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. They range from a fairly level 2.7-mile walk around Cascade Lake to the more demanding climb from Cascade Lake, at 351 feet, to the summit of Mount Constitution, at 2,409 feet – a gain of 2,058 feet in 4.3 miles.

Following are brief descriptions of some of the park's more popular trails. Trail mileages are one-way unless the trail is designated as a loop. Trail ratings for hikers and bicyclists are as follows: easy (flat terrain, gentle hills); challenging (moderate to strenuous); and difficult (dramatic elevation gains). The ratings are based on overall trail conditions, and some sections may be more difficult than others. Hikers may enjoy all trails with a minimum of equipment: sturdy shoes, a jacket for that unexpected shower, snacks and water. Caution: Creek and lake water may contain harmful bacteria.

Hikers, note: Hikers are advised to carry plenty of drinking water because there is no potable water at most trailheads. Water is available at the park office year round and in campgrounds during summer.

Bikers, note: Bicycle use is restricted on some park trails. Please see the map in this brochure and park bulletin boards to learn where and when bikes are permitted. Bikers may not push or carry bicycles on trails listed as closed to bicycles.

Equestrians, note: Horseback riding is restricted on most park trails. Please see the map in this brochure and park bulletin boards to learn where and when horses are permitted. Parking for horse trailers is limited to an area near the ELC beach. Owners must clean up after their horses in parking areas, on roads and at trailheads. Please check for current information at the park office. Horses are not permitted in any camping or day-use areas. Please keep them out of lakes and streams.

1. WEST BOUNDARY LOOP

Difficult, 5.6 miles, 1,620 feet elevation gain
 The trail begins to the left of the picnic shelter across from the road from the Cascade Lake day-use area. After .5 mile at a sharp switchback go left on the West Boundary Trail. Climb up the short, steep trail to a service road and go right. This road climbs steeply under power lines for 1.7 miles to the junction with the North Boundary Loop trail. Turn right and hike one mile through the dense Lodgepole Pine forest to the junction with the Cold Springs Trail. Turn right and descend 2.4 miles back to Cascade Lake.

Hikers should use caution on the steep uphill West Boundary portion of the trail as it is heavily used by downhill, free-ride bicyclists.

2. CASCADE LAKE LOOP

Easy, 2.7 miles, slight elevation gain and loss
 Start at the Cascade Lake day-use area, and follow the trail counterclockwise. After about .75 mile cross over the bridge that spans Cascade Lagoon. Continue left along the lake another .75 mile to the South End Campground. Follow the road through the campground and pick up the trail again near campsite #1. Cross the road above the Camp Moran beach following the Cascade Lake Loop sign. You will cross Olga Road, go uphill, and turn left at the Cascade Lake sign to reach the Day Use Area.

3. COLD SPRINGS TRAIL (CASCADE LAKE TO MOUNT CONSTITUTION)

Difficult, 4.3 miles, 2058 feet elevation gain
 Start at Cascade Lake, across the county road from the day-use area. Take the trailhead to the left of the picnic shelter, passing by an interpretive exhibit that describes the powerful windstorm that hit the park in 1972. The trail switches back up steep slopes toward Cold Springs. At the top of the switchbacks (approximately 2.3 miles) you come to the junction with the North Boundary Loop trail; continue straight ahead to the Cold Springs shelter. From the Cold Springs shelter, cross Mount Constitution Road and follow the trail .3 mile to the intersection with the Little Summit Trail. Turn left and continue one mile to the stone tower at the summit of Mount Constitution.

4. CASCADE LAKE TO CASCADE FALLS

Easy, 1.5 miles, 200 feet elevation gain
 The trailhead starts to the right of the restrooms across the road from the swim beach at the Cascade Lake day-use area. Follow the trail to the service road above Midway campground and turn right on the road. Take the next trail to the left and continue on, passing the primitive camp area on your right (restrooms available here). Cross Mount Constitution Road to the Cascade Falls parking area and follow the signs downhill to the falls.

5. CASCADE CREEK TRAIL

Easy to challenging, Cascade Lake to Cascade Falls 1.1 miles, 150 feet elevation gain; Cascade Falls to Mountain Lake picnic shelter, 1.9 miles, 420 feet elevation gain
 Follow signs toward the South End Campground and park on the right across from the horse trailer parking. Walk the paved road and find the trailhead just past the campground restrooms. Start uphill and at the first intersection, follow the sign left to Cascade Falls. This trail passes through old growth forest along the south boundary of the park. At the paved county road, make a jog to the right and cross the county road just before the concrete bridge and arch. From here it is a short hike up to Cascade Falls, most impressive at times of high water. A hiker

only trail passes several smaller falls as it continues upstream. When the trail joins the service road to Mount Pickett, turn right following the road to the top of the next hill. The creek trail crosses left over Hidden Falls on a log foot bridge. Follow the trail upstream until you reach Mountain Lake Dam. Cross left over the stream on the bridge below the dam. Follow the shoreline for about .5 miles to the Mountain Lake Cabin and parking area.

6. SUNRISE ROCK

Challenging, .7 miles, 300 feet elevation gain
 Follow the signs to the South End Campground and park on the right across from the horse trailer parking. Walk the paved road and find the trailhead just past the campground restrooms. Start uphill and at the first intersection follow the sign left to Cascade Falls. Turn right at the next junction to climb the short but steep Sunrise Rock trail. The breathtaking view from Sunrise Rock includes Cascade Lake and its surrounding scenery.

7. SOUTHEAST BOUNDARY LOOP TRAILS

Easy to challenging, 4-8 miles, most trails open to mountain bikes year-round
 Access the southeast boundary trail from the trailhead on Olga Road, just outside the south arch. Follow the South boundary trail until it intersects with the Mount Pickett service road. The service road continues 2.3 miles to a gate and kiosk. Beyond this point the road is closed to bicycles May 15-September 15. To reach the summit of Mt. Pickett continue another .75 mile. All trails to the right of the service road descend to the southeast boundary trails. From the southeast boundary trails, all trails on your right return to the service road.

8. CASCADE FALLS TRAIL

Easy, .25 mile, 130 feet elevation loss
 Drive up Mount Constitution Road about .4 mile to the Cascade Falls parking area and trailhead on the right. The trailhead divides into two trails. The steeper and more rugged left trail goes down to Rustic Falls where you can then turn right and continue to Cascade Falls. The right trail takes you to the Cascade Falls viewpoint and is a more gentle descent. The falls are most spectacular in spring and early summer.

9. CASCADE FALLS TO MOUNTAIN LAKE DAM

Challenging, 1.8 miles, 420 feet elevation gain
 Drive up Mount Constitution Road .4 mile to the Cascade Falls trailhead parking on the right. Follow the service road behind the gate. This road is closed to vehicles but is good for beginning bikers. You will notice numerous trails intersecting the road. After 1.6 miles, the road forks. Take the left fork .2 mile to Mountain Lake Dam. [An alternate return route is down the Cascade Creek Trail to the service road].

10. MOUNTAIN LAKE LOOP

Easy, 3.9 miles with slight elevation gain and loss
 Drive up Mount Constitution Road 1 mile to the Mountain Lake turnoff and parking area. Start at the trailhead across from the log cabin. Follow the trail to the south end of the lake and cross the bridge below the dam and turn left. Take the next trail to your left to continue around the lake to the junction with the Twin Lakes trail. Turn left and cross the footbridge and continue to the boat launch. Walk the road back to the parking area and log cabin. As you hike around the lake, view the broad summit ridge of Mount Constitution. Trout in this lake attract Kingfishers, Bald Eagles, and Osprey.

11. MOUNT CONSTITUTION LOOP

Difficult, 6.7 miles, 1,490 feet elevation gain and loss
 This hike starts to the left of the picnic shelter at Mountain Lake. Hike a short but steep trail that began as a pathway for phone lines during the time crank telephones were used. Heavily forested, the trail passes through Western Hemlock and Douglas Fir. After 1.2 miles, you will reach the junction with the Little Summit trail. If you wish to see the view from Little Summit, turn left and hike .3 mile. To reach the summit of Mount Constitution directly, turn right and follow the signs 2 miles to the tower. Climb the tower stairs for a spectacular view. To continue the loop, cross the parking lot to the Twin Lakes trailhead. Descend 1.5 miles to Twin Lakes, then turn right toward Mountain Lake. Take the hikers only trail on the right to reach the Mountain Lake picnic shelter (1.2 miles) completing the loop.

12. MOUNT PICKETT LOOP

Easy to difficult, 7 miles, 900 feet elevation gain and loss
 Drive up Mount Constitution Road 1 mile to the Mountain Lake turnoff and parking area. Walk the road to the boat launch. Take the Mountain Lake trail 1.2 miles until it crosses over the creek on a footbridge. Turn left at the Twin Lakes trail sign and follow the creek uphill for .8 mile. The trail levels off then opens onto Big Twin Lake. Optional loop trails lead you around Big (.6) and Little (.4) Twin Lakes. From Little Twin Lake take the Mt. Pickett trail and ascend 900 feet (1.5 miles) to the Mt. Pickett summit. Continue downhill on the road 2 miles passing four trails on your left to an intersection. Turn right and follow the road to Mountain Lake Dam. Cross the footbridge below the dam and hike .5 mile along the lake to complete the loop.

13. NORTH BOUNDARY LOOP

Challenging, 5 miles, 1200 ft. elevation gain
 Drive up Mount Constitution Road 3.5 miles to the Cold Springs parking area on the left. Hike .5 mile on the Cold Springs Trail, passing the shelter and the Cold Springs well to the intersection with the North Boundary trail. Turn right. Hike one mile through the dense Lodgepole Pine forest to the intersection with the West Boundary Trail. Cross under the power lines and further on, across an old road. Continue through dense mixed stands of Douglas Fir, Red Cedar and Hemlock to the junction with the Mount Constitution Loop trail. Turn right and ascend 1.5 miles to the Mount Constitution summit. From the summit, hike the ridgeline down 1.3 miles turning right at the trail intersection to Cold Springs.

14. LITTLE SUMMIT TRAIL

Difficult, 2.2 miles, 430 feet elevation gain/loss
 Drive up Mount Constitution road 3 miles to the Little Summit parking area on your right. If you wish to see the view from Little Summit, turn right off the trail and hike .1 mile to Little Summit. There are spectacular easterly views of Mount Baker and Mount Rainier in the Cascade Range, as well as several snowy peaks of the Olympic Mountains to the southwest. To reach the summit of Mount Constitution directly, follow the signs 2.2 miles to the tower. The last part of the trail goes along .5 mile of open ridgeline with excellent views of the Cascade Range to the east. The Little Summit trail winds through one of the largest Lodgepole Pine forests in Western Washington.

15. OBSTRUCTION PASS STATE PARK

Easy, 1.5 miles, 200 feet elevation loss/gain
 Follow the county road through Moran State Park toward Olga. It is about four miles to Obstruction Pass State Park. Signs at each intersection direct visitors toward the park. This 80-acre park contains the largest public beach on Orcas Island (.6 mile from the parking area). The park also includes a small trail system and interpretive panels describing many of the park's features. The park is open year-round and has 10 primitive walk-in campsites available on a first come, first served basis. Restrooms are available at the parking area and campground.

