



**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. Hiking off trail is not permitted anywhere in the park.

**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 TRAIL

*Difficult, 2.5 miles, 1,620 feet elevation gain*

Start at Cascade Lake, across the county road from the swimming area, as if you were beginning the Cold Spring Trail (No. 3). At the first trail intersection, follow the power line north, up the mountainside. Watch your footing; there are no switchbacks to ease the grade. After 2.5 miles, this trail intersects with the North Trail (No. 13). At this point you may turn left onto the North Trail to Twin Lakes (2.2 miles) or turn right toward Cold Springs, then go down Cold Springs Trail (No. 3) to end back at the Cascade Lake picnic area for a round trip of 5.8 miles.

#### 2. CASCADE LAKE LOOP

*Easy, 2.7 miles, slight elevation gain and loss*

Hiking counterclockwise, start at the Cascade Lake picnic area by the kitchen shelter. Following the signs to the South End Campground, the trail passes by a picturesque Douglas-fir hanging over the water. Soon the trail crosses a bridge that spans Rosario Lagoon, where fishing is sometimes good. After another .75 mile, you will arrive at the South End Campground. From here, follow the road and pick up the trail again near campsite #1. Follow the lake until you emerge on the park road. Continue across the road following the signs until the trail meets the main county road. Cross the road and follow the signs back to the Cascade Lake picnic area.

#### 3. COLD SPRINGS TRAIL

*Difficult, 4.3 miles, 2,058 feet elevation gain*

Start at Cascade Lake, across the county road from the swimming area. The trail passes 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 Trail (No. 13); continue straight ahead to the Cold Springs shelter. From the shelter at Cold Springs, cross Mount Constitution Road. Follow the trail until it intersects the Little Summit Trail (No. 14). Turn left, then hike one mile to the stone tower on the top of Mount Constitution.

#### 4. PICNIC AREA TO CASCADE FALLS

*Easy, 1.5 miles to falls, 200 feet elevation gain*

Starting across the county road from the swim beach at Cascade Lake, this is the last part of the Cascade Lake Loop trail (No. 2). Follow the trail to the service road above Midway Campground and turn right on the road. Take the next trail to the left. Continue straight ahead at the next trail intersection (Cascade Lake Loop). You soon will pass behind the primitive camp area (restrooms and water are available here) and come to the paved Mount Constitution Road. Cross the road into the Cascade Falls parking area and follow signs downhill to the falls (No. 8).

#### 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*

Park in the marked spaces just outside South End Campground (no vehicle parking in the camp area), and walk the paved road into the campground and campsite 17. From here, follow signs toward Cascade Falls. At the paved county road, make a jog to your right and cross the road just before the concrete bridge. From here, it's a short hike up to Cascade Falls, spectacular at times of high water. The trail passes several smaller falls as it continues upstream. When the trail joins the service road to Mount Pickett (No. 9), turn right, following the road to the top of the next hill. At the top of the hill, the creek trail crosses over hidden falls on a log footbridge. Continue upstream until you reach Mountain Lake Dam, crossing over the stream just below the dam. Follow the shoreline clockwise for about .5 mile to the Mountain Lake cabin and parking area.

#### 6. SUNRISE ROCK

*Challenging, .7 mile, 300 feet elevation gain*

Park in the marked spaces just outside South End Campground (no vehicle parking in the camp area), and walk the paved road into the campground and campsite 17. From here, take the Cascade Creek Trail (No. 5) a short distance to the junction with Sunrise Rock Trail; turn right. Sunrise Rock acquired its name because the view from the top of the rock is spectacular and includes Cascade Lake and its surrounding scenery.

#### 7. SOUTHEAST BOUNDARY TRAIL TO TOP OF MOUNT PICKETT

*Difficult, 5.8 miles, 1,270 feet elevation gain*

Since no parking is available at the actual trailhead on the county road, you may start your hike at the parking area just outside of South End Campground. Follow the road into the campground until you reach campsite 17. Then head up the Cascade Creek Trail (No. 5) and follow this trail to the county road. Turn right on the road and cross over the concrete bridge. Turn left at the trailhead sign for the Southeast Boundary Trail. The trail leads to the Mount Pickett service road (No. 9). Turn right on the road, follow the road about .4 mile, then turn right onto the trail. Follow this trail (staying to the right at junctions) until it intersects the service road near the top of Mount Pickett.

#### 8. CASCADE FALLS TRAIL

*Easy, .25 mile, 130 feet elevation loss*

Drive up Mount Constitution Road about .25 mile to the Cascade Falls trailhead parking lot on the right side of the road. Follow the trail down to 75-foot-high Cascade Falls, about a 10-minute walk. The falls are most spectacular in spring and early summer.

#### 9. MOUNT PICKETT SERVICE ROAD AND TRAIL

*Challenging, 4.7 miles, 1,110 feet elevation gain to Mount Pickett*

Drive up Mount Constitution Road about .25 mile to the Cascade Falls trailhead (No. 8) and start here. Follow the road behind the white pole gate. As you go, you will

notice numerous trails intersecting the road. After 1.6 miles, the road forks. If you take the left fork, you will end up on the Mountain Lake trail just to the east of the dam. From there you may cross the creek to Mountain Lake landing or follow the Cascade Creek Trail (No. 5) back to your starting point. If you take the right fork, you will continue on to Mount Pickett. From here on, you are traveling on the east side of the Mount Pickett Natural Area Preserve (left side of the road – see map). Please stay on the developed trails. As you walk this road toward Mount Pickett and Twin Lakes, all trails on your right connect to the Southeast Boundary Trail (No. 7). After 1.2 miles, you will see a large swamp and bulletin board on your left. The gate here is closed May 16 to Sept. 14; during this period, only hikers may go beyond this point. Bicycles are permitted past this point only Sept. 15 to May 15. From the gate it is .75 mile to the top of Mount Pickett, 1.8 miles to the end of the service road and 2.2 miles to Twin Lakes. The last three-plus miles of this trail take you through part of the largest contiguous tract of naturally propagated, unlogged old-growth forest remaining at the lower elevations of the Puget Sound Trough.

#### 10. MOUNTAIN LAKE LOOP

*Easy, 3.9 miles, slight elevation gain and loss*

Start from the log cabin near the Mountain Lake Campground (travel counterclockwise – see map). At the south end of the lake, the trail drops below the dam, crosses a bridge and then rejoins the shoreline. Follow the trail to the north end of the lake and the junction with the Twin Lakes Trail (No. 12). Turn left and follow the trail to Mountain Lake Campground. From here, walk the road back to the cabin. From the far side of 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 stands of Western hemlock and Douglas-fir. Near the top you will come to the junction with Little Summit Trail (No. 14). If you wish to see the fine view from Little Summit, go left and hike .3 mile. To reach Mount Constitution directly, turn right and hike 1.9 miles following the signs to the tower. Go see the spectacular view from the tower, then cross the parking loop road and take the trail down to Twin Lakes (1.5 miles) and back to the Mountain Lake picnic shelter (2.2 miles), completing the loop.

#### 12. TWIN LAKES TO MOUNT CONSTITUTION TRAIL

*Easy to difficult, 2.2 miles, 200 feet elevation gain to Twin Lakes; 1.5 miles, 1,289 feet elevation gain from Twin Lakes to the top of Mount Constitution*

Start at the boat launch on Mountain Lake. Follow the trail north (clockwise – see map) 1.2 miles until it crosses a creek and leaves the lake. The trail follows the creek uphill for about .5 mile, levels off, then opens onto Big Twin Lake. Loop trails lead you around Big and Little Twin lakes. From Big Twin Lake, the trail zigzags up to the summit. This section of the trail is strenuous but rewarding. After about .75 mile, a small spur trail leads out to a grassy knoll. From the knoll are some fine views of Mountain Lake, Rosario Strait and the west face of Mount Baker. Rejoin the main trail and follow it to the stone tower at the summit of Mount Constitution.

#### 13. NORTH TRAIL

*Challenging, 2.7 miles, 940 feet elevation loss to Twin Lakes*

Drive up Mount Constitution Road 3.5 miles to Cold Springs, parking lot on the left. From here hike .5 mile down the Cold Springs Trail (No. 3), passing the shelter and the Cold Springs well to the intersection with the North Trail (No. 13); turn right. Hike one mile through a dense lodgepole pine forest to the point where the trail intersects with the West Boundary Trail (No. 1). Cross under the power line and then, 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 (No. 11). Turn left and descend .3 mile to Twin Lakes.

#### 14. LITTLE SUMMIT TRAIL

*Challenging, 2.2 miles, 389 feet elevation loss*

From the parking lot at the summit of Mount Constitution, begin your downhill hike at the trailhead nearest the restrooms. The trail goes along .5 mile of open ridgeline with excellent views to the east. This trail winds through one of the largest lodgepole pine forests in Western Washington on its way to Little Summit at 2,020 feet. From this point, you have spectacular views of Mount Baker and (on a clear day) Mount Rainier in the Cascade Range, as well as several snowy peaks of the Olympic Mountains to the southwest.

#### 15. OBSTRUCTION PASS STATE PARK

Follow the county road toward Olga. It's 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. The park also includes a small trail system and an interpretive exhibit describing many of the park's features. The park is open year round and has 10 primitive campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**WE HOPE YOU ENJOY  
THE VARIETY OF TRAILS  
AVAILABLE AT  
MORAN STATE PARK.**