

Exploring Vancouver, WA: Attractions and Activities for Long-Term RV Residents



Welcome to Vancouver, Washington—our charming town located just north of Portland, Oregon, full of delightful surprises for those who like adventure and the great outdoors. Whether you're just starting to consider taking up residence in [Piper RV Park](#) for a short stay or the long haul, there's a charm to Vancouver that we'd love to share with you. Hopefully, it may make you consider stretching your stay a little longer.

Good Vibes in the Historic Downtown

When considering things to do in Vancouver, WA, there's nowhere better to start than the scenic downtown heart of our little community—it's vibrant, colorful, and full of independently owned hidden gems that can make the town feel like home.

You can start your day with a freshly brewed cup of coffee at the beautifully renovated wood-and-porcelain-themed Compass Coffee (they even have a giant compass as their logo), then head down to wander the Waterfront Renaissance Trail. It's a favorite walk of many locals—a flat, 5-mile path that hugs the quiet rush of the Columbia River, offering great views of the river and Oregon's picturesque shores beyond.

Afterward, you can stop by Esther Short Park, which happens to be one of the oldest public squares in the old west of the Mississippi, created in 1853. It's also a great place to relax with a picnic or catch a live concert when the weather's warm (which, lucky for us, is more often than expected). And don't miss the Vancouver Farmers Market on the weekend—it's typically bursting with fresh local produce, crafts, and homemade treats when it's in season.

Nature and Scenic Spots

If you're someone who loves the outdoors, the options near Vancouver are endless. First, a visit to Frenchman's Bar Park is an absolute must. This spot is like an ancient treasure along the Columbia River—you can have a barbecue, walk along the beach, or just watch the boats float by while you let the stress of the day disappear. Not far from there, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is perfect if you're into birdwatching or just need a day of peaceful walking trails and the occasional glimpse of a shy deer or blue heron.

And of course, Mount St. Helens is always hovering in the distance—a reminder of the raw power of nature that's also just a great spot for some amazing hiking. If you have a day to spare, you can take the drive up to Johnston Ridge Observatory for the best views of the volcano and a pretty cool visitor center that explains the area's explosive history—don't worry, it's not supposed to blow again for quite a while!

Food, Drinks, and More

Now, after all this exploring, you'll probably have worked up an appetite. Lucky for you, Vancouver has a burgeoning food scene that's been growing steadily in recent years. I'm talking about everything from food trucks to upscale bistros. For example, The Eatery at the Grant House is an absolute must—a historic setting serving amazing local fare - learn about Vancouver's history as you dine! Or, if you're looking for a more laid-back evening, check out Victor 23 Craft Brewery. It's a microbrewery that's been gaining ground in space, named after the flight path for Northwest pilots in the '50s—because, let's face it, people take their aviation history a little seriously around here!

So, whether you're biking, hiking, strolling through markets, or simply enjoying a good pint, Vancouver has this unhurried, easygoing charm that's perfect for a long-term RV stay in one of the Vancouver RV parks. It's a nice mix of scenic beauty and small-town quirks—and once you dig beneath the surface, there's always something else to discover.

Finally, it's that specific Pacific Northwest beauty that makes Vancouver such a wonderful place to call home, even just for a while.