



## OUTDOOR RECREATION

### FOR RELEASE AT WILL

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### **BEYOND WINE: AN ABUNDANCE AND VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION ATTRACTS VISITORS TO WALLA WALLA**

(WALLA WALLA, Wash.)—With 260 days of sunshine and less than 20 inches of precipitation annually, it's no wonder that Walla Walla is a sought-after destination for outdoor adventure seekers. From hiking in the Blue Mountains to fishing the land of "many waters" to viewing more than 300 bird species, Walla Walla offers outdoor recreation for all ages, abilities and interests.

- **Walking/hiking:** The City of Walla Walla is home to 17 public parks totaling some 600 acres of lush recreation area, including more than 20 miles of trails at the popular Bennington Lake Recreation Area. In addition, Walla Walla is the gateway to the Blue Mountains, where the Umatilla National Forest offers an abundance of trails for hikers, bikers, and horseback riders to explore.
- **Cycling:** Known as the road cycling capital of Washington, Walla Walla is beloved among cyclists for its rural farm roads that meander through rolling wheat fields and vineyards. The nearby Blue Mountains await more experienced cyclists, while paved trails that run through Walla Walla's historic residential and business neighborhoods are great for a relaxing ride.
- **Bird watching:** Walla Walla offers some of the best bird watching in the country. During annual spring and fall migrations, birders flock to the area to marvel at the more than 300 bird species that call Walla Walla home. The McNary Wildlife Refuge and the Walla Walla River Delta are two of the best spots to get a glimpse of migratory birds that return to Walla Walla each year after wintering in South America.

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- **Golf:** Walla Walla's mild and dry climate make it an ideal year-round destination for golfers – particularly those interested in playing one of the State's best public courses. Wine Valley Golf Club opened in 2009 to national acclaim, and *GolfWeek* magazine ranks it third in the state of Washington among Courses You Can Play. In 2009, *Golf* magazine honored Wine Valley Golf Club as the fifth-best new course in the nation.
- **Water sports:** The name Walla Walla translates to “place of many waters,” so naturally the area is a bountiful spot for anglers and other water sports enthusiasts. The Columbia and Snake River systems, combined with a host of lakes and streams of the Blue Mountains, provide ample sport fishing opportunities, while the 52-acre Bennington Lake offers year-round fishing and standup paddleboarding.
- **Winter sports:** Downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing attract visitors to Walla Walla in the wintertime. Ski Bluewood, located 52 miles southeast of Walla Walla, includes two triple chairlifts serving more than 400 skiable acres, a day lodge, 24 ski runs, three terrain parks, and a half-pipe, along with ski and snowboard rentals and lessons. Meanwhile, night skiing and cross-country skiing are offered at the 21-acre family-friendly Spout Springs Ski Resort, located just across the border at Oregon's Tollgate Mountain.

### **About Walla Walla:**

As the unofficial capital of Washington wine country, Walla Walla is home to more than 120 wineries, a nationally recognized culinary scene, access to an abundance of outdoor recreation, and an arts & entertainment scene that rivals cities many times its size. This community of just over 30,000 residents is known for many things, including its friendliness and hospitality, the quality of its wine, and of course the famous Walla Walla Sweet Onion. An easy and scenic four-hour drive from Seattle, Portland, or Boise, Walla Walla can also be accessed via Alaska Airlines daily non-stop flights from Seattle. For more information and to begin planning a trip to Walla Walla, visit [www.visitwallawalla.com](http://www.visitwallawalla.com).

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