

Twanoh State Park is ideal location for fall excursion

What: Twanoh State Park

Where: On lower Hood Canal, 8 miles west of Belfair.

To do: Early fall is the perfect time to visit this beautiful state park, which is a 45-minute drive from Tumwater. Coho and chum salmon on their way to spawning streams roll and jump just offshore. Chum salmon are about to start their spawning run up the park's little creek. Fishing is not allowed in the creek. Lots of different birds, including great blue herons and shorebirds, stop by to get a snack of little baitfish. Harbor seals are often seen just offshore.

There is a launch ramp and dock for boaters, and many Hood Canal anglers launch at this spot. Moorage buoys are \$10 or more each night.

The park also is a good spot for beachcombing, picnicking and loafing. The park has beautiful views of Hood Canal. There are 2.5 miles of trails.

Shellfishing: Twanoh is a popular spot for crabbing and oyster gathering -- in season. Crabbing season is during the summer months. Oyster gathering usually is open year-round.

Camping: Twanoh is usually a year-round camping park, and it's a great place to stay while exploring Hood Canal.

The park's day-use area remains open. For more information, call 360-275-2222.

Equipment: Rubber boots or sandals, picnic supplies, fishing gear, camera, binoculars, birding guide, warm clothes, raingear, sunglasses and sunscreen.

Directions: From South Sound, take U.S. Highway 101 past Shelton to Purdy Cut-off Road. Turn right onto Purdy Cut-off Road and follow it to the intersection with state Route 106. Turn right onto Route 106 and follow it about 12 miles to the park.

Safety: Wear sandals, rubber boots, sneakers or waders on the beach, as there are plenty of sharp-edged barnacles, rocks and oyster shells. Keep an eye on kids near the water. Don't harvest or eat shellfish out of season.

Pets must be on leashes and are not allowed on the beach. Glass bottles or containers are not allowed on the beach.

Rules: The park is open from 6:30 a.m. to dusk. People launching boats must have a State Parks launch permit, which is \$5. Annual permits can be bought at parks or online at www.parks.wa.gov.

For more information, call 360-902-8844.

More information: Go to www.parks.wa.gov.



[Enlarge Photo](#)

Chester Allen/The Olympian

Twanoh State Park on lower Hood Canal has 3,167 feet of shoreline, including this stretch of gravelly beach. The shoreline has great views of wildlife and Hood Canal scenery.



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A young great blue heron wading the shallows at Twanoh State Park draws a bead on a school of small fish. Herons are spooky birds, but a lot of them roam Hood Canal, and they will approach you -- if you stay as still as a rock.

