







PEOPLE OF EDMONDS

Food critic Nancy Leson (cover photo) takes visitors on a culinary stroll through some of her favorite Asian restaurants in Edmonds. Bev Bowe (left) shares why Edmonds is a birders' paradise. (Top) the Bubble Man retired from comedy to entertain kids on the waterfront. Rick Steves (bottom left) is a world traveler, with a love for his hometown of Edmonds. And diver and ocean advocate Annie Crawley (bottom right) shares the beauty of Edmonds Underwater Park.

Treat Yourself!

With a deeply embedded love of the arts and views to match, Edmonds will leave you breathless.

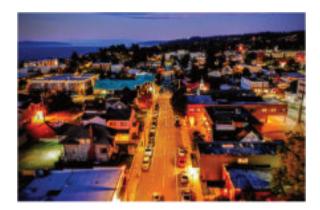
Art is woven into every fiber of Edmonds, so much so that it was declared Washington State's first Creative District. From the culinary and liquid arts to the visual, performance, musical and literary arts, the energy here is hopped up on creativity and beauty.

Some speculate that it's due to the incredibly beautiful location just north of Seattle on the Salish Sea. The downtown drinks in views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains.

Locals and visitors alike walk the waterfront trail just to take in the sunsets over the Olympics, or pose for a selfie in front of one of the public art sculptures.

Maybe their evening will include a show in the 1939 Art Deco high school-turned Edmonds Center for the Arts, a 700-stage theater that regularly boasts national acts.

These days, many of them have been virtual, so grab a hotel or a room in a bed and breakfast (there are plenty with views), and stop in at Kelnero, the hippest new cocktail joint in town, for a cocktail crate to go. Cozy up in your room, cocktail in hand, and catch a (virtual) show.



Edmonds gives you so many reasons to visit that, once you're here, you won't want to leave. Enjoy.

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Writing by Ellen Hiatt & Carol Banks.

Photography courtesy of Matt Hulbert, Janine Harles, Edmonds Downtown, Annie Crawley, Tom Marks Photo, Steve Woods, Scratch Distillery, and Discovering the High Life

Editor: Ellen Hiatt



Rick Steves: Welcome to Edmonds!

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Sculptures on Every Corner

City art collection inckudes more than 160 permanent indoor and outdoor artworks

The wellspring of talent and commitment to art in Edmonds is evident on every street and park.

Wander the beach by the ferry and Watch the Whales beside the "Seeing Whales" sculpture by Richard Beyer.

Nearby seals clamber to shore while a child on his father's shoulders looks on ("Locals" by Georgia Gerber). At the core of downtown Edmonds, the iconic fountain greets visitors at Fifth and Main Street as part of a larger installation: "Cedar Dreams" by Benson Shaw.

installations plus 27 smaller sculptures on flower basket poles, and over 100 indoor two- and three-dimensional artworks in public spaces, Edmonds' dedication to creativity and community is noteworthy. The Cascadia Art Museum (Bottom Right) – a gem of a space that gives shape to the history of Northwest art and artists – celebrates the rich tradition of Northwest art from 1860-1970. Also, look to the Edmonds Historical Museum for the history of Edmonds through its exhibits and commissioned artworks.





Edmonds' iconic fountain (top); Cascadia Art Museum (below).

Murals to Galleries to Museums The visual arts are just non-stop here. There are nearly a dozen galleries downtown and public art installations. Even the humblest of walls may hold a mural commissioned by Mural Project Edmonds (below), which also juried into creation a piece by Andy Eccleshall, supported by Tulalip Tribes member and artist Ty Juvenil, depicting the local area prior to Colonialism. For a tour of downtown galleries and to see artists in action, visit every Third Thursday for Art Walk Edmonds.







MUSICAL & PERFORMING ARTS

"It's been a great, great ride"

Edmonds' own 700-seat theater hosts national acts, ballet company and symphony orchestra

Joe McIalwain, Executive Director of the Edmonds Center for the Arts (ECA), recently reflected back on the acts that have held the stage in Edmonds. "We have been so lucky to have this happen to us," he said, scanning the list of past performers. "I mean... look at this list. It's just awesome: Aaron Neville. Arlo Guthrie. Bruce Hornsby. Cowboy Junkies. Indigo Girls. Joan Baez. Lily Tomlin. Lyle Lovett. John Hiatt. Marc

Cohn. Ricky Skaggs. Buddy Guy," he said with awe. "It's just been a great, great ride."

What a ride, indeed, with so much more to come! Since this community's commitment to art is in its blood and soul, the ECA also provides arts education and outreach programs for children and seniors. The acts that cross their stage delight with comedy, poetry and spoken word events, as well

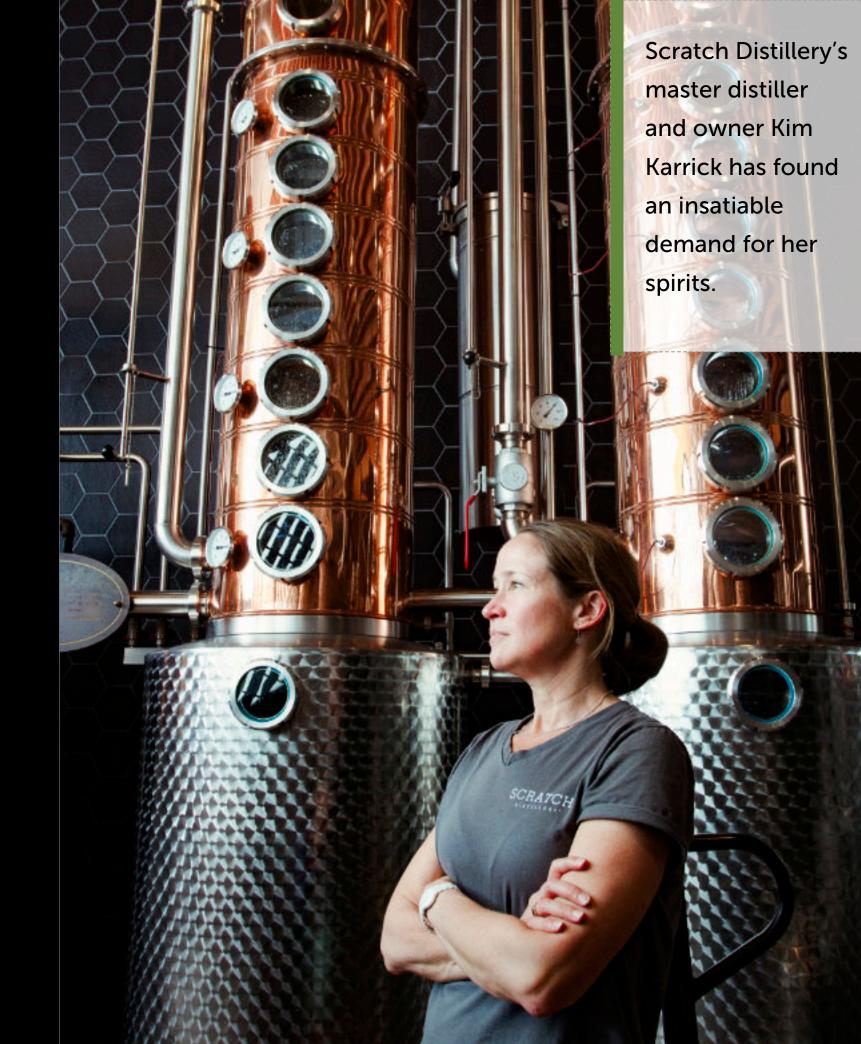
as theatrical productions. They also host 130 events put on by groups like the Cascade Symphony Orchestra, Edmonds' own since 1962, and the Olympic Ballet Theatre and School. Local theatrical groups Phoenix Theatre and Edmonds Driftwood Players put on performances in their own venues. Edmonds is doubly blessed to be one of the few communities with a historic theater for film movies.

ECA'S 700 SEATS FILL FOR MAGICAL LINE-UP OF ACTS

The Edmonds Center for the Arts (ECA) is center stage for the performing arts. A 700-stage theater and a line-up of national acts, the ECA curates a performing arts and concert series of approximately 30 artists each season, as well as hosting 130 events produced by local and regional performing arts organizations and community partners.



Since his soft opening late 2021, Niles Peacock Kitchen & Bar has packed 'em in for craft cocktails, artisan pizza, and the warmest of welcomes.



LIQUID & CULINARY ARTS

Creativity is cornerstone of local liquid arts scene

Edmonds beer, wine, and spirit makers and merchants infuse creativity and love into every drop of their magical elixirs, and the public gladly reaps the benefits.

Edmonds' prized distiller, Scratch, whips up small batches of quality gin infused with organic botanicals — GMO-free. Co-owner Kim Karrick's pure focus on flavored vodkas, gins, liqueurs, and whiskeys earned the Salish Crossing distillery plenty of accolades from the public, colleagues, and Sip Magazine. Cutomize your own gin recipe in a GINiology class.

<u>Salish Sea Brewing</u> owner-operators Jeff and Erika Barnett added a second location in Harbor Square after purchasing American Brewing Co., which closed during the pandemic.

Gallagher's Where U Brew is a public brewery – book a DIY beer-making experience, with 57 base recipes to choose from — Stouts, Porters, Pilsners, IPAs, and ales.

<u>Brigid's Bottleshop</u> features 24 taps with 18 rotating beers and a mix of cider, wine, and non-alcoholic options.

Proprietor Roger Clayton's family-owned <u>Arista Wine Cellars</u> prides itself on great-value vino and hard-to-find and must-have collectibles. The wide selection is only matched by the staff's knowledge of their wines.

Downtown/waterfront watering holes promise to whet whistles with elevated concoctions for the eyes and tongue. Kelnero, Bar Dojo, Salt & Iron, Barkada, and new to the scene, Niles Peacock Kitchen & Bar put the bubble and pop in their crafty craft cocktails. Tiny, but mighty, Daphne's Bar draws a loyal clientele, thanks to veteran bartender Desmond van Rensburg and his classic, retro drinks. ChurchKey and Engel's Pub, A Very Taki Tiki Bar epitomize neighborhood haunts. Leftcraft joined the party recently, awash in James Bond chic. Kelnero owners Kris and Kali took over The Cheesemonger's Table, continuing the legacy with their own Vinbero take on cheese and wine.



Nancy Leson's Best Edmonds Eats

From waitress to award-winning food writer, this long-time Edmonds resident gives up her favorite places to eat — and we're here for it!

Nancy Leson is a 25-year Edmonds resident who also happens to be an award-winning, former Seattle Times food writer/restaurant critic, radio personality, and cooking instructor.

She knows where to get the best food in town, and she's here to spill.

Hosoonyi

This bright café is where my son had his first taste of soondubu — a bubbling minicauldron of soft tofu afloat with meat and/or seafood — while he was still in a high chair. As a teen, he drove his pals from Edmonds-Woodway High School here to introduce them to

favorites, like haemul
pajeon (a shareable
seafood-and-greenonion pancake)
and sizzling
platters of pork
bulgogi. When
he returns from



his home in British Columbia, this is always one of his first stops, where we share all that and more, fighting over who gets the last slurp of bibim naengmyeon (spicy cold noodles), or come summer, its icy cousin, mul naengmyeon.

Noodle Hut

I'd love this Thai-accented gem more if it were open all day, every day, rather than the ephemeral hours it keeps, so I could stop in every time I have a taste for hot basil noodles properly charred at the edges. Or the House Noodle Soup, an aroma-therapy assault on the senses known elsewhere as Boat Noodles and defined by the 20-plus spices that add to its fragrant funk.



Pho Than Brothers

I can still recall when the first Than Brothers pho shop opened on Highway 99 near Green Lake, impressed that I could find a bowl of Vietnam's national dish north of Seattle's Little Saigon. A quarter-century (and a chain of Than Brothers) later, strip-mall shops specializing in rice noodle soup are as ubiquitous as teriyaki joints. Edmonds' long-standing branch remains my go-to close to home. Lightning-fast service and complimentary cream puffs seal the deal.

SanKai

When I introduced Edmonds' restaurant kingpin Shubert Ho to one of my favorite sushi chefs, Ryuichi Nakano, I had no idea I'd fostered a match made in my own personal heaven.



SanKai is everything a neighborhood sushi bar should be, with a pro at the helm, and his family (wife Yuka and son Toru) working alongside him. Open only briefly before Covid struck, this is the restaurant my husband and I turned to during the dark days of the pandemic for take-out-sushi extravaganzas enjoyed at home. We look forward to many brighter days ahead, seated at the sushi bar at SanKai.



I danced with joy more than a decade ago when [T&T Seafood] ,,, installed a dedicated dim sum kitchen, offering roving carts and a dazzling line-up of daytime dim sum (shumai! shrimp paste-stuffed eggplant!).

T&T Seafood Restaurant

I've been eating at T&T since its inception as a tiny Shoreline café and was thrilled when owners Tony Mann and Theresa Lam moved to Edmonds — taking an anchor spot at the then-new 99 Ranch Market shopping center. I appreciate their sprawling Cantonese-leaning menu, live seafood tanks (try the House Special Crab or seasonally available spot prawns), barbecue duck, dim sum, and stalwart staff.



Destination Restaurants

Fire & the Feast

Find Italian comfort food classics transformed with Neapolitan style, woodfired pizzas and handcrafted pastas.





Kelnero

Kris and Kali Kelnero and staff go to great lengths to dress up dreamy cocktails and seasonal, sustainable cocktail bites at this cozy, neighborhood bar.





Bar Dojo

Bar Dojo raises the bar on the bar scene, thanks to chef Luis Brambila's consistent reinvention of evertantalizing Asian-fusion/Chino-Latin dishes.

Chanterelle's

Cafe evokes idyllic European seascapes and leisurely lunches over fancy cocktails, superb meat and fish entrees, and that cosmopolitan touch.

Salt & Iron

High-class surf 'n turf with NW freshness in mind, come for refinement with luxury: duck confit, squid ink risotto, cassoulet, spiced Moroccan soup.

Five

Consistent and intentionally-sourced crowd favorites in an intimate Mediterranean setting. Baguette with clams and mussels, French-cut pork chop.

Elevated Eats Employ PNW Fare for West Coast's Best Kept Secret

Inspired chefs come here to play, sharing creative ideas and cultural experiences, sourcing as locally, sustainably, and seasonally as possible, with more and more restaurants coming up right behind them. Edmonds, says Chef and Restaurateur Shubert Ho, is the West Coast's best kept secret.

From "The Bowl" Downtown to the Waterfront, and the International District Uptown, and all the neighborhoods in between, Edmonds spreads the wealth, loaded with ethnically diverse, high-quality, taste-tempting cuisines.

To name just a few, Epulo Bistro brings a bit of European, Mediterranean ooh-la-la to the Northwest. It's where you go for champagne, house-made burrata, prime filet of beef, and a piece of chocolate torte.

At Bistro 76 isoy ginger-marinated pork banh mi pita wraps, Cuban pork hash, and a fancy BLT with heirloom tomatoes and pesto aioli are on the menu.

What's your craving? Caribbean? Greek? Mexican? Asian? Surf 'n Turf? It's all here.

While Seattle ranks in the top 10 culinary destinations nationwide, says Ho, Edmonds more than keeps up.

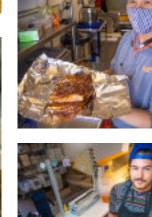
Ho and business partner Andrew Leckie have grown five restaurants in their expanding empire: Bar Dojo, Salt & Iron, The Mar-Ket, SanKai, and their newest baby in town, gallery-worthy Fire and The Feast, where pasta, pizza, and other Italian comfort food classics go to become culinary art on a plate. They've helped jump-start a serious food scene the envy of other towns.

"Downtown Edmonds has really grown in the culinary arts sector, as more restaurants have opened in the last five years," Ho says. "I would say no fewer than 10...in that timeframe."











Unpretensious. Delicous. Comfort food.

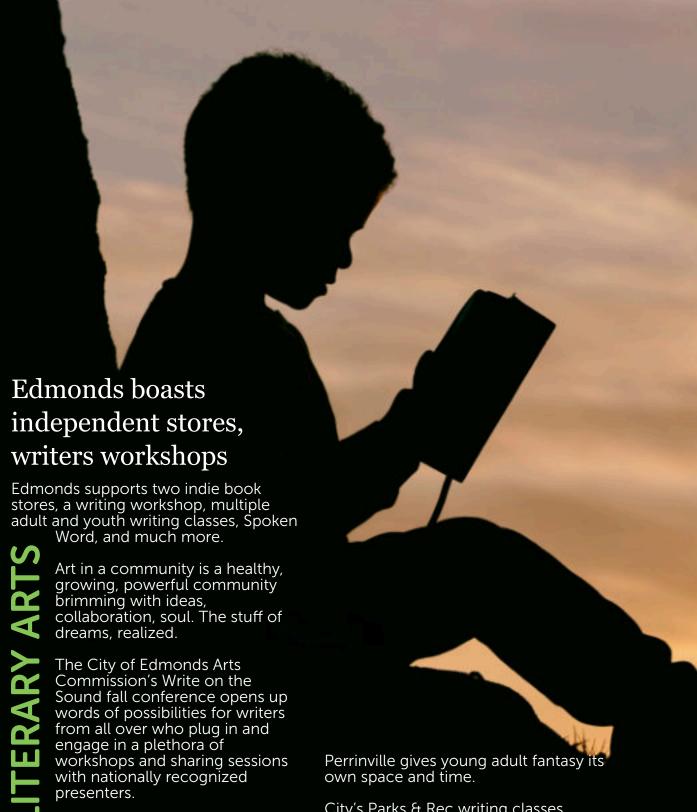
We're pretty casual around here. Come as you are. There is no shortage of eateries in Edmonds, serving up delicious comfort food at its unpretentious best.

Ezell's fried chicken, just like grandma used to make. Fat Pig BBQ ribs. Burgers with all the fixings. Cinnamon rolls, cardamom buns, and scones. A perfectly dressed Cubano with a side of cheesy arepa from Maize & Barley. The Mar-Ket lobster rolls and proper British style fish 'n chips. Turkish Eggs, found only at Jaiiya Café. A little bit of the Caribbean in Calypso's Jerk Chicken and Peppered Beef Stew.

A nice bowl of pho, ramen, udon, tofu jjigae at any number of Asian eateries up and down Hwy. 99. Otherwise known as Edmonds' International District, Uptown's a comfort-food paradise, with mom 'n pops doling out specials daily: bubble tea and Pandan waffles, Korean shave ice and giant cubes of "toast," dim sum, banh mi, biang-biang noodles. Say no more!

Spend any time here, and you'll be hooked.

Steven Ono of Eat Ono Poke in Westgate, who has his own top five comfort food faves, encourages everyone to "go out and try something new. Edmonds has even more great and exciting food options available to us every day, so get exploring — you'll never be disappointed."



Edmonds Bookshop houses volumes in every genre, hosts great writers near and far, and sponsors a fair

amount of community events. Annie

Carl's Neverending Bookshop in

City's Parks & Rec writing classes, Edmonds Library story time, ECA's WE SPEAK Festival...a wellspring of creativity, community, fed and nourished by the power of words.



SQUID CRAB & SALMON

On their annual migration through Puget Sound, squid are attracted to the lights of Edmonds' fishing pier. It's here that anglers fish for salmon, jiggers pull up squid, and crabbers drop crab pots in hopes of pulling up the delectable Northwest Dungeness Crab.



"It's Our Planet's Life Source"

27-acre marine sanctuary is award-winning dive team's starting point to save the world's oceans

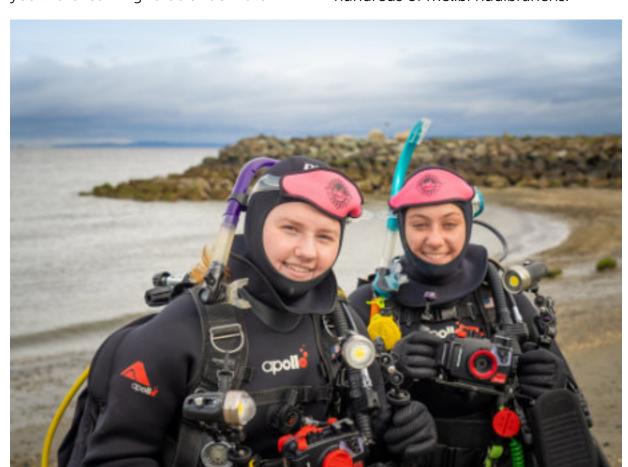
If you want to change the world, start where you are. For a fine example of that dictum, look to the inimitable Annie Crawley, a beacon of light for our oceans. Crawley travels the world as an environmentalist, motivational speaker, teacher and filmmaker. The change she seeks is in hearts and minds to shape ocean advocates.

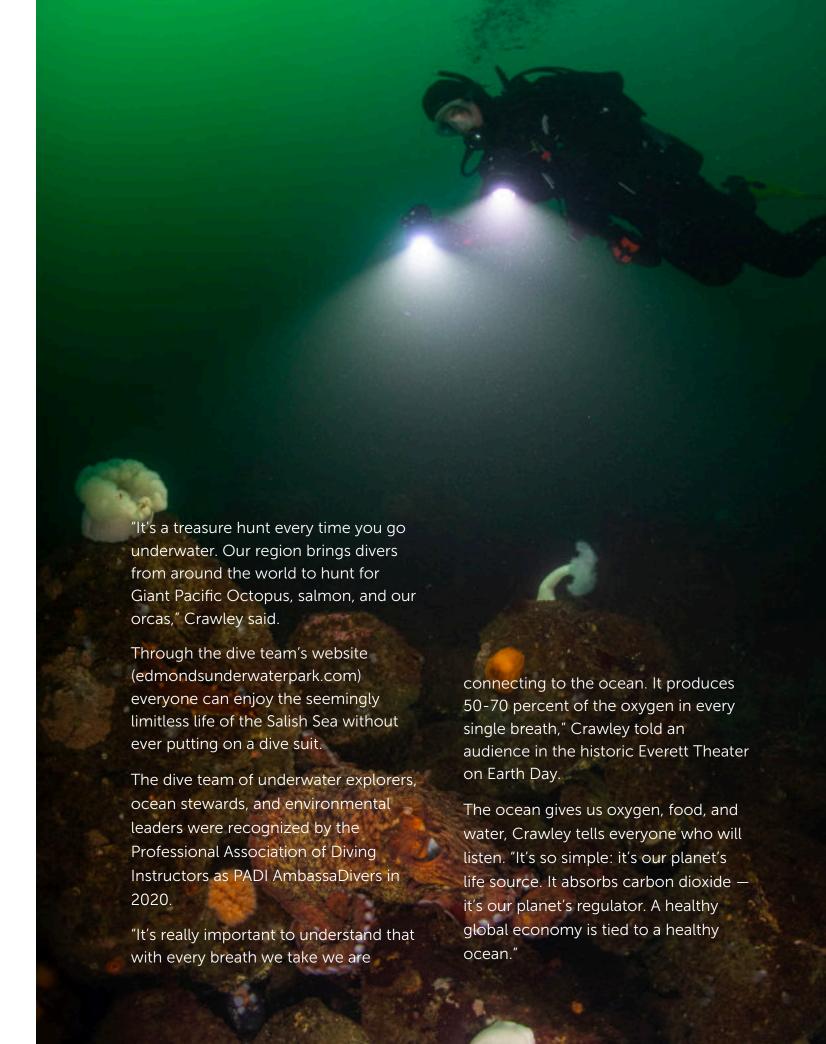
Crawley has been bringing up ocean ambassadors for nearly a decade, training scuba divers as young as 10 years old. The dedicated group of youth are learning to be underwater

photographers, scientists and leaders to advocate for the ocean, combat climate change and overfishing, and change the trajectory of our oceans' declining health.

They begin their journey in what she calls "Edmonds Underwater Backyard."

The 27-acre, 50-year-old marine sanctuary is the state's most popular dive park, with 25,000 annual visitors. It's here that they swim through gardens of eelgrass teeming with hundreds of melibi nudibranchs.







Sandy Beaches for Long Walks

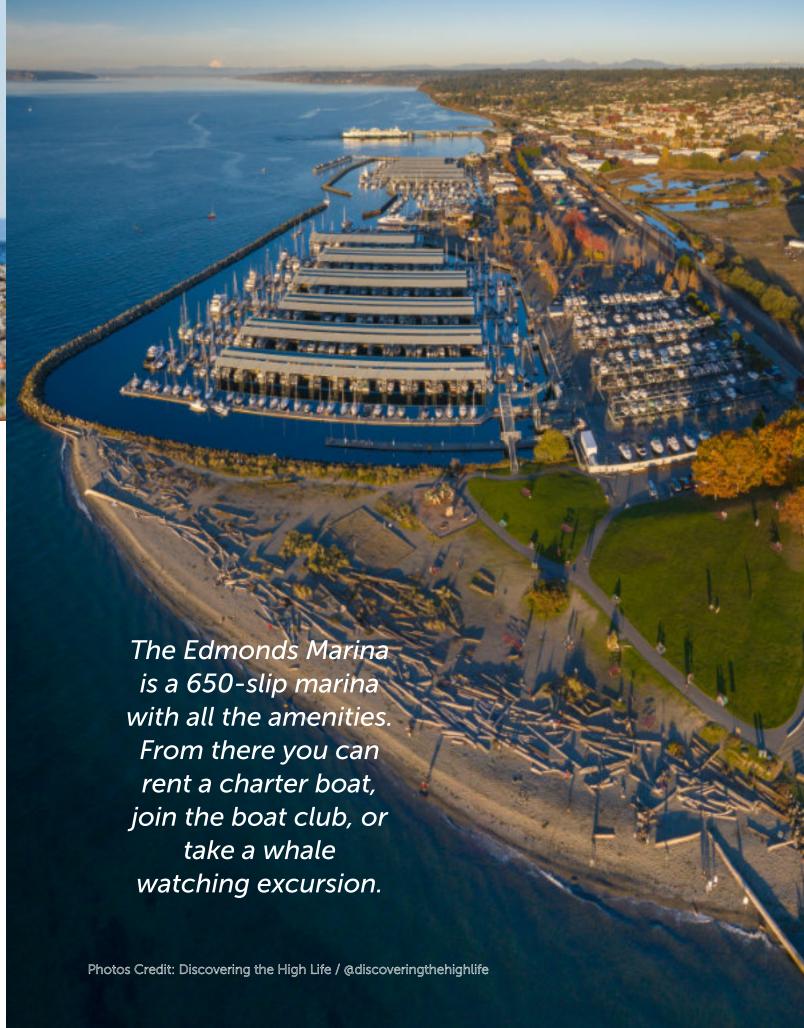
Over mile-long waterfront walkway comes with views of the Olympic Mountains and sandy beaches

Edmonds is a walker's paradise, offering up plenty of opportunity for a good stretch of the legs and some fresh sea air in the lungs. With a very walkable downtown and 47 different parks and open space sites, many with wooded trails, walking is a favorite pastime of the locals. The crown jewel is the Edmonds Marine Walkway — a paved path just over a mile long

that runs from the Edmonds Marina to the marine sanctuary, dotted with public art sculptures and opportunities to watch birds and wildlife.

You can also stroll around the marina, walk on the 944-foot public fishing pier, or dig your toes into the sandy beach while admiring the many art sculptures.

Visitedmonds.com Marine WalkwayVisitedmonds.com BeachesEdmonds Marina



Dogs, Birds, Beaches & Kids

BEACHES

From the Marina on its southern point to Haines Wharf Park in the north, Edmonds has plenty of beaches to explore.

DOG PARKS

Off-Leash Area Edmonds gets Rover from woods to water for some off-leash romping on the beach. Dogs are also allowed onleash in many other parks.

WALKING TRAILS

Visit the mile+ waterfront walking trail or Yost
Memorial Park (great for walking and looking for wildlife that thrive in forest and near streams),
Meadowdale Beach Park,
Pine Ridge Park (24-urban acres with a pond), Yost
Park, and more.

URBAN MARSH

22.5-acre rare urban saltwater estuary, the Edmonds Marsh is a bird watcher's heaven. With five miles of shoreline, 47 park and open space sites and multiple athletic fields, we know how lucky we have it in Edmonds.

We revel in our beaches, from the off-leash dog park at its southern end to the Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Dive Park, where divers bob to

the surface after exploring the considerable wildlife out of eye from the land lovers. Edmonds peeps do love their dogs. So they banded together to create the spacious off-leash park on the beach and they volunteer to keep it clean. Because dogs love the beach, just like we do.

Kids and adults enjoy tennis/pickleball and basketball courts, Pétanque and Sand Volleyball. Dog lovers walk the many miles of park trails.

The Edmonds Marsh is a 22.5-acre park preserving an urban remnant of the saltwater marshes that provide fish, bird and wildlife habitat. It's the first stop on the National Audubon Society's Cascade Loop bird trail.

There is no better time – or place – to get outside.

Edmonds: Birder Paradise

Puget Sound
Bird Fest
Nearly 200 species
of birds are spotted
annually in
Edmonds. Puget
Sound Bird Fest
celebrates this by
bringing in birders
from across the

nation.



Birders are a funny lot. I'll be in a park and someone will be like, 'Oh I just saw a vireo, come on!' and you just take off with them. It's like you're eight years old again. Let's go play on the slide! It's awesome.







Bev Bowe makes bird watching fun. The master birder routinely takes people out in the field to spot all sorts of fine-feathered, fluttering, soaring, jay-popping friends. In no time, she'll make you a birder, too.

"This marsh here — "Bev Bowe breaks off, an endearing habit of birders always on the lookout. "—Oh! Okay, now, that's a male, you'll see 'em, and they've got...well, there were three here the other day... In February, you'll see hummingbirds do a jay-pop, and you can actually hear it. They go way up and then, shoot down and do a quick up, like a jay, and their wings make a popping sound. That's a territory thing. Now, let's go see if we can find a bushtit nest..."

Bowe is a master birder who loves to give newbies a glimpse of

paradise, tucked into the hills and marshlands of Edmonds, and beyond. Constantly on alert for the sounds and sights of our fine-feathered friends, she continues an endearing, running commentary about life all around her, whether it's winter's first red-tailed hawk sighting or a group of regular birders standing near a grove of bushes, waiting for sparrows to light up the sky.

Bowe's guided walks are in high demand — the stuff of birding legend. The <u>Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds</u> is lucky to have her.

She's one of many expert twitchers ready to give you the lay of the land, and sea, at the annual two-day affair, usually in September — a favorite of amateur and expert birders everywhere.

Sign up early for any of Bowe's accessible, guided tours, and you'll be a birder in no time. She has a way of drawing you into their



Edmonds: Birder Paradise

magnificent, hallowed world, an eternal playground, where everyone is welcome and free to be themselves, running around like kids again.

After 15 minutes following Bowe around, you begin to get used to the birding shorthand and the bird-like attention span. The master birder will frequently interrupt her lively, running monologue to notice the slightest flash outside the corner of her eye, or perk up at the sound a certain kind of chickadee makes during mating season.

"Most people [recognize] birds by seeing them," she explains. "But we find them a



lot of times by hearing them. Part of the master birder program is, you are expected to learn birding by ear and you should know a hundred or so. You get tested on it. I was really good at it during class, then I forgot 80 percent of it, which is okay, it's allowed. It's birding, not diffusing a bomb [laughs]."

Before she has a chance to say more, movement up in the trees dead-ahead attracts her attention and she goes to it like a moth to a flame. She catches adorable Cedar Waxwings — fast-moving blips the color of a summer sunset — jumping from branch to branch, before flying off again, and then, turns her head just in time, as a Red-Tailed Hawk soars high above, dangerously close to a murder of territorial crows in a line of trees next to State Route 104.

Just another thrilling day in the life of a master birder, with another eager recruit falling helplessly in love...

The Bubble Man

Is it the sense of peace that draws the Bubble Man to Olympic Beach at sunset? Or maybe, just maybe, he can't quit show business. He says he found his calling in crossword puzzles. But every lovely evening, with just a slight breeze and a setting sun, you'll find Bubble Man — also known as Gary Larson... and as Elliot Maxx... blowing bubbles-giganticus for children to chase across the sand.

Larson's massive bubbles glow iridescent in the setting sun. His special recipe bubbles typically are no more than 10- to 12-feet across, but he'll blow them smaller just for sheer quantity if there are enough young ones looking to chase-and-pop the glowing, undulating orbs of soap.

"I don't really go for big bubbles," Larson says. "If the kids are there, I just blow bubbles three feet across, so I can get a lot of them out!"

Larson has been blowing bubbles on Edmonds' beach, near the fishing pier, for the past five years. He had recently retired and was falling into a depression. His wife, Amy, would come home and ask him what he'd done all day. Nothing was always the answer.

He got his bubble hobby started when he watched a man blow bubbles at Carkeek Park. Why not blow bubbles himself? After all, entertainment is really in his DNA.

"I started small, hanging out at the beach, making bubbles with a drinking straw attached to string," he said. "The kids started flocking around. The first time I did it, 20 kids came running down the beach, running around, popping bubbles, and we

Rick Steves: Welcome to Edmonds!

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