



Cama Beach State Park

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Before it was a State Park, what was Cama Beach used for?

For centuries, the area that is now Cama Beach served as a summer fishing encampment for several local tribes. To this day, traditional ceremonies and teachings are held on this land that is considered sacred to tribal members.

Starting in the mid-1800s, settlers turned the area into a logging camp. After that, the construction of a bridge connecting Camano Island to the mainland plus the advent of the automobile in the early 20th century made the island more accessible to the general public. This newfound accessibility led to the development of many fishing resorts in the 1920s and 1930s to satisfy the increasing tourism demand of the era.

Cama Beach was built as a fishing resort in 1934 by entrepreneur LeRoy Stradley and was operated by his daughter and son-in-law, Muriel and Lee Risk. Over the years, all other resorts that previously flourished on Camano Island closed due to changing vacation style preferences. Cama Beach was the lone holdout until the family decided to close the resort in 1989.

After closing, the family could have sold the property to developers for a considerable sum, but instead they worked with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to preserve the resort that served as a source of fond childhood memories for generations. Once all assessments and renovations were complete, Cama Beach State Park officially opened on June 19, 2008.

For a more detailed history, go to <https://www.historylink.org/File/8843>.

What are the rental rates of the cabins?

Rental fees vary based on the cabin type and the time of year. For current cabin rates, go to <https://parks.state.wa.us/407/Cama-Beach-State-Park>. Current bungalow rates can be found at <https://parks.state.wa.us/379/Cama-Beach>.

How do I reserve a cabin?

To book a cabin online, please go to <https://washington.goingtocamp.com>, select the 'Roofed' tab, click on the 'Cama Beach Cabins' button, and then select 'Cama Beach State Park' from the dropdown. You can then enter your party size and search for your desired dates.

You can also reserve a cabin over the phone by calling either the Washington State Parks Call Center at (888) CAMP-OUT or the Cama Beach Welcome Center at (360) 387-1550.

How far out do you accept reservations?

For groups reserving six or fewer cabins, reservation requests may be made up to nine months in advance of the arrival date. For groups reserving seven or more cabins, reservations may be made up to 18 months in advance.

How difficult is it to get a reservation?

We recommend booking right when the reservation period opens if you are interested in staying anytime in the summer or weekends in the spring or fall.

If you are booking six or fewer cabins, this would be nine months to the day ahead of the desired arrival date at 7 a.m. [online](#). For these dates, we highly recommend booking online because the cabins can sell out before the Call Center and the Cama Beach Welcome Center open for the day.

For groups wanting to book seven or more cabins, we also recommend booking right when the reservation period opens, which is 18 months ahead of the desired arrival date. The best way to secure a group reservation is to call the Cama Beach Welcome Center at (360) 387-1550 and leave a voicemail exactly 18 months to the day ahead of time at 12:01 a.m. Please include your name, phone number, the dates you would like to reserve, and how many of each cabin type you would like to reserve. Calls will be returned in the order they were received.

Cabins also tend to fill up on holiday weekends, but in general, it is much easier to secure a reservation in the winter months and weekdays in the spring and fall.

How do I book a group reservation?

If you are booking seven or more cabins for the same dates, the best way to secure your group reservation is to call the Cama Beach Welcome Center at (360) 387-1550 exactly 18 months to the day ahead of time at 12:01 a.m. and leave a voicemail. Please include your name, phone number, the dates

you would like to reserve, and how many of each cabin type you would like to reserve. Calls will be returned in the order they were received.

Do I need to book a minimum number of nights?

Yes, Cama Beach State Park reservations require a minimum of two nights anytime of year. If available, it is possible to book one-night stays starting two weeks before the desired arrival date. One-night stays can only be booked by calling the Washington State Parks Call Center at (888) CAMP-OUT or the Cama Beach Welcome Center at (360) 387-1550.

How long am I allowed to stay?

Please refer to the [Washington State Parks rules and regulations](#) for information on the maximum length of stay.

What types of cabins are available and what are the amenities?

All cabins feature heat, electricity, a table and chairs, and a kitchenette area with a refrigerator/freezer, a microwave oven, a small four cup coffee maker, and a sink with hot and cold running water.

There are a total of 33 cabins at Cama Beach State Park. The quantity of each cabin type along with the corresponding bed configuration and additional amenities are listed below:

- Eleven standard waterfront cabins
 - Each contains two full size beds - one in the bedroom, and one in the living space
- Two pet-friendly standard waterfront cabins
 - Each contains two full size beds - one in the bedroom, and one in the living space
- Nine standard second row cabins
 - Except for cabin #14, each contains one twin-over-full bunk bed in the bedroom and one full bed plus an additional twin bed in the living space
Note: Cabin #14 has a slightly different bed arrangement - one full bed in the bedroom and one twin-over-twin bunk bed plus another twin in the living space
- Two pet-friendly standard second row cabins
 - Each contains one twin-over-full bunk bed in the bedroom and one full bed plus an additional twin bed in the living space
- One ADA-accessible deluxe cabin
 - This cabin has one twin-over-full bunk bed in the living space and a large restroom with a shower

- Note: There is no bedroom in this cabin
- Six deluxe cabins
 - Each contains one full bed in the bedroom, one twin-over-full bunk bed in the living space, and a restroom with a shower
- One bungalow (bungalow A)
 - This bungalow contains two twin-over-full bunk beds (one in each of the two bedrooms), two twin beds in the living space, a restroom with a shower, and a propane fireplace
- One ADA-accessible bungalow (bungalow H)
 - This bungalow contains one twin-over-full bunk bed in the bedroom, another twin-over-full bunk bed plus two more twin beds in the living space, a restroom with a shower, and a propane fireplace
 - Note: This bungalow only has one bedroom

Do the cabins have restrooms and showers?

The deluxe cabins and the bungalows all have restrooms with showers in the cabins. The standard beachfront and the standard second row cabins use the shared bathhouse located behind the cabins.

What should I bring?

In short, you will want to bring a lot of the items you would normally bring as if you were camping (except for the tent of course).

The beds all have mattresses and quilts but no linens, so you will want to bring pillows and either sleeping bags or sheets and blankets.

The kitchens in each of the cabins have a refrigerator, a microwave, a coffee maker with a reusable filter, and a sink with hot and cold running water. However, they are not stocked with dishes or utensils and they don't have a stove, so it would be a good idea to bring dishes, utensils, pots, pans, and charcoal for the braziers that we have available for use. You are also welcome to bring a camp stove to use outside on the picnic tables, but please do not bring any plug-in kitchen appliances.

We do provide a limited amount of complimentary firewood that is stored next to each of our four fire pits in the cabin area. You may bring additional firewood provided the wood is sourced from western Washington.

Additional items to bring would be towels and toiletries. It's also a good idea to bring quarters for the shower if you are staying in one of the standard beachfront or standard second row cabins that does not contain a restroom in the cabin.

Because you will be parking in the overnight parking lots and taking a complimentary shuttle down to the cabin when you check in, we recommend packing everything in totes or storage containers that can be easily transferred to the shuttle.

Am I allowed to cook in the cabin?

Except for microwave cooking, all cooking needs to be done outside. There are a total of 14 charcoal braziers available for use and you are welcome to bring your own camp stove to use outside on the picnic tables.

Also, due to the age of the cabins and the limited power supply, use of plug-in kitchen appliances in the cabins is prohibited.

Am I allowed to put up a picnic canopy outside my cabin?

Shade structures such as canopy tents or picnic tents can be set up in the cabin area ONLY if they are surface weighted. There is a strict rule at Cama Beach State Park that nothing may pierce the ground, so any structures that require the use of stakes, spikes, or posts are prohibited.

Am I allowed to drive to the beach?

No. In order to maximize recreation space, minimize congestion, and provide a safe environment for children, personal vehicles are not allowed in the cabin area.

We offer a complimentary park-wide shuttle service for guests who are checking in or out of a cabin, attendees of special events, and anyone else requiring assistance.

Occasional exemptions may apply for guests with special needs. Please contact the Cama Beach Welcome Center at (360) 387-1550 for more information.

What are the hours of the shuttle?

The shuttle operates daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Fridays until 8 p.m. During special events, the shuttle runs until approximately 9 p.m. or later and will transport guests from the parking lots to any event locations within the park.

Do the cabins have Wi-Fi?

Wi-Fi is not available in the cabins. However, it is available in the park at the Welcome Center, the Historic Store, and the Cama Center / Cama Beach Cafe. The network is public and there is no Wi-Fi password.

Do I need a Discover Pass if I'm staying in a cabin?

No, each cabin comes with one overnight parking pass that is good for the duration of your stay.

If your party will be bringing more than one vehicle per cabin, then you will need to purchase an extra vehicle overnight pass for each additional vehicle. Extra vehicle overnight passes can be purchased at the Welcome Center for \$10 per night.

Discover Passes are day-use parking passes, so they are not valid for overnight parking.

Are pets allowed in the cabins?

Pets are only allowed in cabins that have been designated as pet friendly. Up to two pets are allowed in each pet-friendly cabin and an additional \$15 per night pet fee applies when you bring a pet.

Currently, there are a total of four pet-friendly cabins at Cama Beach State Park – two standard beachfront cabins and two standard second row cabins.

May I bring my pet to Cama Beach?

Yes, Cama Beach State Park allows pets in the park and on the beach provided they kept on a leash and you clean up after them. However, pets are only allowed in cabins that have been specifically designated as pet friendly.

Am I able to leave the park at night if I'm staying in the cabins?

Yes, the gates at the entrance to Cama Beach normally stay open all night. However, the gates may be closed occasionally under certain circumstances, such as when there is a hazard within the park.

What do I do if the power goes out in the cabins?

The Cama Center building will be opened for cabin guests at any time of day in the event of a power outage. The Cama Center was designed as an emergency shelter so it will still have power and a working heat source even when the power is out in the rest of the park.

Are you open all year? Can I reserve a cabin in the winter months?

Yes, Cama Beach State Park is open all year and the cabins are reservable anytime.

Do you have a boat launch? Am I allowed to fish here? When is crabbing season? What about clamming?

Cama Beach State Park does not have a boat launch. However, there is a boat launch at Camano Island State Park which is located one mile away.

Additionally, our partner organization, [The Center for Wooden Boats](#), operates on Cama Beach and they offer a variety of watercraft and gear rentals including row boats, motorboats, kayaks, canoes, crab pots, and fishing gear.

Fishing and crabbing are only allowed during the appropriate season and with proper licensing. Please refer to the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website](#) for further information.

Cama Beach State Park is permanently closed for clamming. Clamming at Camano Island State Park is closed indefinitely for conservation reasons.

May I build a campfire on the beach?

Campfires are only allowed in the four firepits located in the cabin area. Beach fires are not allowed because they destroy what is otherwise a pristine beach and can spread out of control.

Recreational fires may be restricted certain times of the year when a burn ban is in effect. Please refer to the [Cama Beach State Park website](#) for current burn ban information.

Where can I buy firewood?

Cama Beach State Park provides a small amount of complimentary firewood next to each of the four firepits in the park.

If additional firewood is needed, it can be purchased at the Camano Island State Park host site (campsite #3 in the lower loop campground). There are also several grocery stores located on Camano Island that sell firewood.

If you are purchasing firewood elsewhere, please note that any firewood brought into the park must be sourced from western Washington.

Do you allow camping?

There are no campsites at Cama Beach State Park and camping is not allowed in any parking lot located within Washington State Parks.

However, Camano Island State Park, located one mile south of Cama Beach, has two standard campgrounds with campsites that accommodate tents or RVs. If you are planning to bring an RV, please note that all campsites at Camano Island State Park are dry sites, meaning there are no water or electricity hookups.

Campsites at Camano Island State Park are available by reservation only from May 15 to Sept. 15 and are first-come-first-served the remainder of the year.

Where can I get quarters for the showers?

Quarters are available at the Cama Beach Welcome Center and at the Historic Store on the beach.

Is the water in the cabins safe to drink?

Yes, the water in the cabins is safe to drink. The water at Cama Beach State Park is tested daily.

What are the hours for the Cama Beach Cafe?

Cama Beach Cafe is open for breakfast and lunch from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily from mid-June through Labor Day. For the remainder of the year, they are open Friday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Do I need a Discover Pass to go to the Cama Beach Cafe?

A valid parking pass or permit is required to park at any Washington State Parks. These include [annual or one-day Discover Passes](#), overnight parking passes issued by the park, a WA State issued Permanent

Disability Parking Permit, WA State issued disabled persons license plates, or [other valid State Parks parking passes](#).

Are there any activities for kids? Adults?

Cama Beach hosts many programs for kids and adults ranging from star gazing at night with a telescope to blowing massive bubbles on the beach, arts and craft activities, guided beach and forest walks, and even an indoor circus. The Center for Wooden Boats hosts toy boat building every Saturday at the CWB Boathouse.

In addition to planned events and activities, there are a total of 5 miles of hiking trails at Cama Beach State Park. These include the Cranberry Lake trail where you can observe a beaver lodge and beaver “logging operation” and the Marine View Loop Trail where you can experience sweeping views of Saratoga Passage, Whidbey Island, the cabins at Cama Beach, and the Olympic Mountain range. The Cama Beach trails also connect to those at Camano Island State Park.

For a daily listing of events and activities, please visit either the [Cama Beach website](#) or the [Cama Beach Foundation website](#).

Am I allowed to drink alcohol at Cama Beach?

Alcohol is allowed in the Cama Beach State Park cabins, picnic areas, and in the Cama Center. Consumption of alcohol is not allowed on the trails or roads, and intoxication is never allowed in any Washington State Parks. Kegs are prohibited at Cama Beach State Park with exceptions for some events at the Cama Center. Please call the Cama Beach Welcome Center at (360) 502-0055 for more information.

If you are planning an event where alcohol will be served, you will need to obtain a banquet permit. Please visit <https://lcb.wa.gov/licensing/banquet-permits> for more information.

What types of wildlife live at the park?

While hiking, you might see deer, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, coyotes, skunks, raccoons, and river otters. Also keep an eye out in the water for orcas, harbor seals, Dall’s porpoises, and grey whales.

Birds commonly seen at Cama Beach include crows, ravens, doves, pigeons, ducks, eagles, geese, gulls, hawks, herons, hummingbirds, jays, owls, woodpeckers, and wrens.

May I ride my bike?

Yes, bicycles are welcome everywhere in the park except for the Cranberry Lake trail and the other trails located east of SW Camano Drive.

Do I need a Discover Pass if I am just looking? What does my Discover Pass give me access to?

Visitors are welcome to drive through Cama Beach State Park to check out our facility for future use; there are several 15-minute parking spaces for your convenience that do not require a Discover Pass. Longer visits will require either a \$10 day-use Discover Pass or a \$30 annual Discover Pass, good at all 118 Washington State Parks as well as the WA Department of Fish & Wildlife and WA State Department of Natural Resources recreational lands. Visitors may also request a free tour of the park without buying a Discover Pass.

Do I need a Discover Pass if I don't have a car?

No, Discover Passes are only required when parking a vehicle at Washington State Parks. There is no charge to enter the park on foot or on a bicycle.

Is geocaching allowed at Cama Beach?

Yes, there are several geocaching sites at Cama Beach State Park.

How do I sign up to volunteer?

For information on how to volunteer in Washington State Parks, please go to <https://parks.state.wa.us/262/Volunteer-Program>.