Day-use areas are picnic areas, five kitchen shelters, two watercraft launch areas, boat rentals and a camping barge. The picnic shelter along the shores of Cascadia Lake may be reserved by calling (888) CAMPOUT. Moran State Park is a popular and often crowded park. Campers may hold a family gathering or wedding reception.

Cascadia and Cascade lakes are stocked with trout by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The camp sleeps 14 guests in heated cabins with windows, near a propped-up heated rustic lodge that's complete with a wood-burning stove and a fully equipped commercial-size kitchen. The lodge also is available as a day-use rental. The camp offers an outdoor amphitheater with a fire circle, a volleyball and basketball area and its own swim beach on Cascadia Lake. For information or to reserve Camp Moran, call (800) 360-4240 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388.

Group CAMP: Group Camp G1 at Mountain Lake can accommodate 56 people. The group camp has seven individual sites and can accommodate 14 vehicles. The site includes a rustic shelter, pedestrian barbeques and a fire pit. Restrooms nearby are shared with park visitors during daylight hours. For more information or to reserve the group camp at Mountain Lake, visit www.parks.state.wa.us or call (888) 226-7688.

Vacation house: The vacation house at Camp Moran is available for a rental for up to eight guests (a double futon in the living room may be available for additional sleeping space). It has two bedrooms, one bathroom and a shower room. The living room has a TV with DVD and VCR, and the kitchen is equipped with pots, pans, dishes and utensils. Toilet paper, paper towels and basic cleaning items also are provided. On request, guests can have access to their own dock, fire ring and swim beach at Cascade Lake. These areas are shared with Camp Moran guests, but not with the general public. For reservations, visit www.parks.state.wa.us or call (888) 226-7688.

Be a friend: Friends of Moran is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Their mission is to raise funds and coordinate volunteer efforts throughout the year for projects within this 5,252-acre state park. They assist the Moran State Park ranges with trail and campground maintenance, clean up and preservation. They also support educational and interpretive programs for thousands of visitors. Friends of Moran State Park P.O. Box 1961 Eastsound, WA 98245 (360) 376-3111 www.friendsofmoran.org

While you’re in the islands
Orcas Island is the largest island in the San Juans, which include Lopez, Shaw and San Juan Islands. The 17,000 acres of island land and 8,000 acres of ocean are open to the public. The main routes are the three other state parks: Obstruction Pass on Orcas, which has campsites and the largest public saltwater beach on the island; San Juan Point on Lizard Island, where camping is available; and Lime Kiln Point, open for day use on San Juan Island and best known for whale watching from March to October. Several other small islands have state marine parks available for camping. These parks, accessible only by private or chartered boat, are on Blind, Burrows, Doe, James, Jotia, Patos, Posey, Stuart, Sucia and Turn islands.

Visitors to the San Juans are never lacking for things to do. You can take in gorgeous scenery from the ferry, and from May through September, you can try to spot a pod of Orcas whales or porpoises, seals, harbor seals and puffins. The islands also are home to a large round population of bald eagles. Travelers may take ferries to four islands to explore villages and lush scenery. Charter a boat, bicycle the rolling hills, go scuba diving or take a scenic flight in a small plane. Sea kayaking, whale watching, golf and horseback riding are other popular activities. Island residents stage many fairs and celebrations each year. For more information, contact the San Juan Island Chamber of Commerce at (360) 376-2273 or visit their website at www.orsainlandchamber.com. The San Juan Islands Visitors Information Bureau at (888) 68-3701.

Things to remember
• Park hours: The park is open year round. From April 1 to Sept. 30, 6:30 am to dusk; and from Oct. 1 to March 31, 8 am to dusk.
• Reservations are advised between May 15 and Sept. 15. Call (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688, or visit www.parks.state.wa.us. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis from Sept. 16 through May 9.
• Pets must be on a leash no longer than eight feet and under control at all times.
• Camping is allowed only in authorized areas. Fires are permitted in fire pits, which are available at each site.
• The park is a game refuge. Hunting is not permitted.
• Eight people are permitted to stay at each campsite. A maximum of two vehicles are allowed at each site. The first vehicle is included in the camping fee, while an additional fee is charged for the second vehicle.
• Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.
• Raccoons, crows and deer are very effective at robbing camps. Feeding animals is not allowed and creates a problem for them. Store food safely away from them.
• Proper trail etiquette calls for bicyclists to yield to hikers and all to yield to equestrians. Hike, bike or ride on established trails.
• For ferry schedule and fares, call 1-800-4-FERRY, or visit online at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries.

The Discover Pass is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands. The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles. • Annual pass: $30   • Day pass: $10 (transaction and dealer fees may apply)
WILDERNESS ADVENTURES: TRAILS OF MORAN STATE PARK

MORAN STATE PARK has more than 38 miles of foot trails, most built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. They range from a fairly level 2.7-mile walk around Cascade Lake to the more challenging trail to Rustic Falls. The 5,252-acre state park, at 351 feet, is the summit of Mount Constitution, at 2,109 feet, and descends 2.4 miles back to Cascade Lake.

1. WEST BOUNDARY LOOP
Difficult, 6.0 miles, 1,620 feet elevation gain
The trail begins to the left of the picnic shelter, ascending the road from the Cascade Lake day-use area. After 0.5 miles, cross the bridge over the road. The trail continues to the left of the picnic shelter, passing by an interpretive exhibit. The next 0.5 miles is a steep climb to the summit of Mount Constitution directly, turn right at the trail intersection to Cold Springs. The last part of the trail goes along a power line and further on, across an old road. Continue through dense mixed stands of Douglas Fir, Red Cedar and Hemlock to the junction with the Mount Constitution Loop Trail. Turn right and ascend 1.5 miles to the Mount Constitution summit. From here, hike the ridge along 5 miles of open ridge with excellent views of the Cascade Range to the east. The Little Summit trail winds back to Cold Springs and the Lower Lodgepole Loop to the west in Washington State.

2. CASCADE LAKE LOOP
Easy, 2.7 miles, slight elevation gain and loss
Start at the Cascade Lake day-use area, and follow the trail counterclockwise. About after 0.75 mile cross the bridge that spans Cascade Lagoon. Continue left along the road another 0.75 mile to the South End Campground. Follow the road through the campground and pick up the trail again near campsite #1. Cross the road above the Camp Moran beach following the Cascade Lake Loop sign. You will cross Olga Road, go uphill, and follow the same trail that describes the powerful windstorm that hit the park in 1932. The trail switches back up and down, past a sign for the future Camp Moran shelter. At the next intersection follow the sign left to Cascade Falls. While the trail has steep ascents blending with short, gentle descents, the falls are most impressive at times of high water. Water is available at the park's more popular trails. Trail mileages are one-way unless designated as a loop. Trail ratings for hikers and bicyclists are as follows: easy (flat terrain, gentle hills); challenging (moderate to strenuous); and difficult (damatic elevation gains). The ratings are based on overall trail conditions, and some sections may be more difficult than others. Hikers may enjoy all trails in a minimum of equipment: sturdy shoes, a jacket for that unexpected shower, snacks and water. Caution: Creek and lake water may contain harmful bacteria.

Hikers, note: Hikers are advised to carry plenty of drinking water because there is no potable water at most trailheads. Water is available at the park office year round and in campgrounds during summer.

Bikers, note: Bicycles are permitted in any camping or day-use areas, but are not allowed on roads or at trailheads. Water is available at the park's more popular trails. Trail mileages are one-way unless designated as a loop. Trail ratings for hikers and bicyclists are as follows: easy (flat terrain, gentle hills); challenging (moderate to strenuous); and difficult (damatic elevation gains). The ratings are based on overall trail conditions, and some sections may be more difficult than others. Hikers may enjoy all trails in a minimum of equipment: sturdy shoes, a jacket for that unexpected shower, snacks and water. Caution: Creek and lake water may contain harmful bacteria.

3. COLD SPRINGS TRAIL (CASCADE LAKE TO MOUNT CONSTITUTION)
Difficult, 4.3 miles, 2005 feet elevation gain
Start at Cascade Lake, across the county road from the day-use area. Take the trailhead to the left of the picnic shelter, passing by an interpretive exhibit that describes the powerful windstorm that hit the park in 1932. The trail switches back up and down, past a sign for the future Camp Moran shelter. At the next intersection follow the sign left to Cascade Falls. Hikers should use caution on the steep uphill West Boundary portion of the trail as it is heavily used by downhill, free-ride bicyclists.