



DESTINATION FOCUS

AAA Washington Travel Services

Leavenworth

Set in the central Cascades in an area reminiscent of the Alps, Leavenworth is the quintessential theme town and a top Northwest destination. By redefining itself as a snow globe scene brought to life, the town has thrived since the mid-1960s and now serves 1 million tourists annually. Leavenworth is a year-round magnet for river rafters, campers, cross-country skiers, families, arts enthusiasts, wine connoisseurs and trinket shoppers. The town's boutiques, dressed in faux-Bavarian architecture, combine with the collective enthusiasm of just 2,000 residents to create Washington's most unique travel experience.

Leavenworth was first settled in 1892 by homesteaders taking advantage of the natural beauty of the Icicle Flats on the western edge of the Wenatchee Valley. Near the turn of the 20th century, the Great Northern Railway put the town on the map as a division point and logging hub and it incorporated in 1906. The area fell on hard times in the late 1920s when Great Northern relocated its division point to Wenatchee, and Leavenworth languished in obscurity for over three decades.

The town was resuscitated in 1962 when a city Project LIFE (Leavenworth Improvement for Everyone) Committee gathered a consensus to remodel the town into a Bavarian hamlet. Community members began several large events that continue to the present day – the Autumn Leaf Festival, Maifest, a tremendous Oktoberfest celebration, and Leavenworth's signature Christmas Lighting Festival.



Dancers Celebrating Maifest [Photo © Don Adams]



Fireworks Over Christmas Lighting Festival [Photo © Don Adams]

THE INFORMED TRAVELER

WHOM TO CONTACT

Emergency: 911

Police (non-emergency): (509) 667-6851 – Chelan County Sheriff

Weather: [National Weather Service Leavenworth Forecast](#)

Hospital: Cascade Medical Center, corner of 8th and Commercial just south of US-2, phone (509) 548-5815

Visitor Information: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center (www.leavenworth.org) 940 Highway 2 (or PO Box 327), Leavenworth, WA 98826. Phone (509) 548-5807

MEDIA

Newspapers: The weekly *Leavenworth Echo* publishes each Wednesday. The daily (except Saturday) *Wenatchee World* serves the entire Wenatchee Valley.

Radio: Leavenworth's KOHO 101.1 FM plays easy listening favorites and BBC world news. Wenatchee's KNWR 90.7 FM carries NPR programming, and several other Wenatchee stations carry English- and Spanish-language programming.

Television: Leavenworth receives broadcast television stations from Seattle and Spokane via cable.

TRANSPORTATION

Approaches By Car

U.S. Highway 2 is Leavenworth's east-west connection to the outside world. Approaches from points south are from **U.S. Highway 97** at Peshastin, four miles east of town. The **Chumstick Highway** connects Leavenworth with the town of Plain, Lake Wenatchee and points north.

By Air

Pangborn Memorial Airport (www.pangbornairport.com) is 25 miles southeast of Leavenworth in East Wenatchee.

Horizon Air offers four flights daily on 76-seat Q400 aircraft between Pangborn and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

By Rail

Amtrak (www.amtrak.com) added a stop in Leavenworth on its Empire Builder Line in 2009. **Icicle Station** is located at 11645 North Road, a half-mile north of Highway 2 off Chumstick Hwy. The train from Seattle arrives at 8pm nightly, while the train from Spokane arrives just after 6am daily. Tickets and baggage service are not available at the station – tickets can be purchased at your local AAA office. **Leavenworth Shuttle** (509) 548-7433 provides shuttle service into town.

Rental Cars

Hertz – Pangborn Airport, East Wenatchee. Phone (509) 884-6900

Public Transportation

Link Transit serves Chelan and Douglas Counties with a fleet of buses. Phone (509) 662-1155, or online at www.linktransit.com

Shopping areas

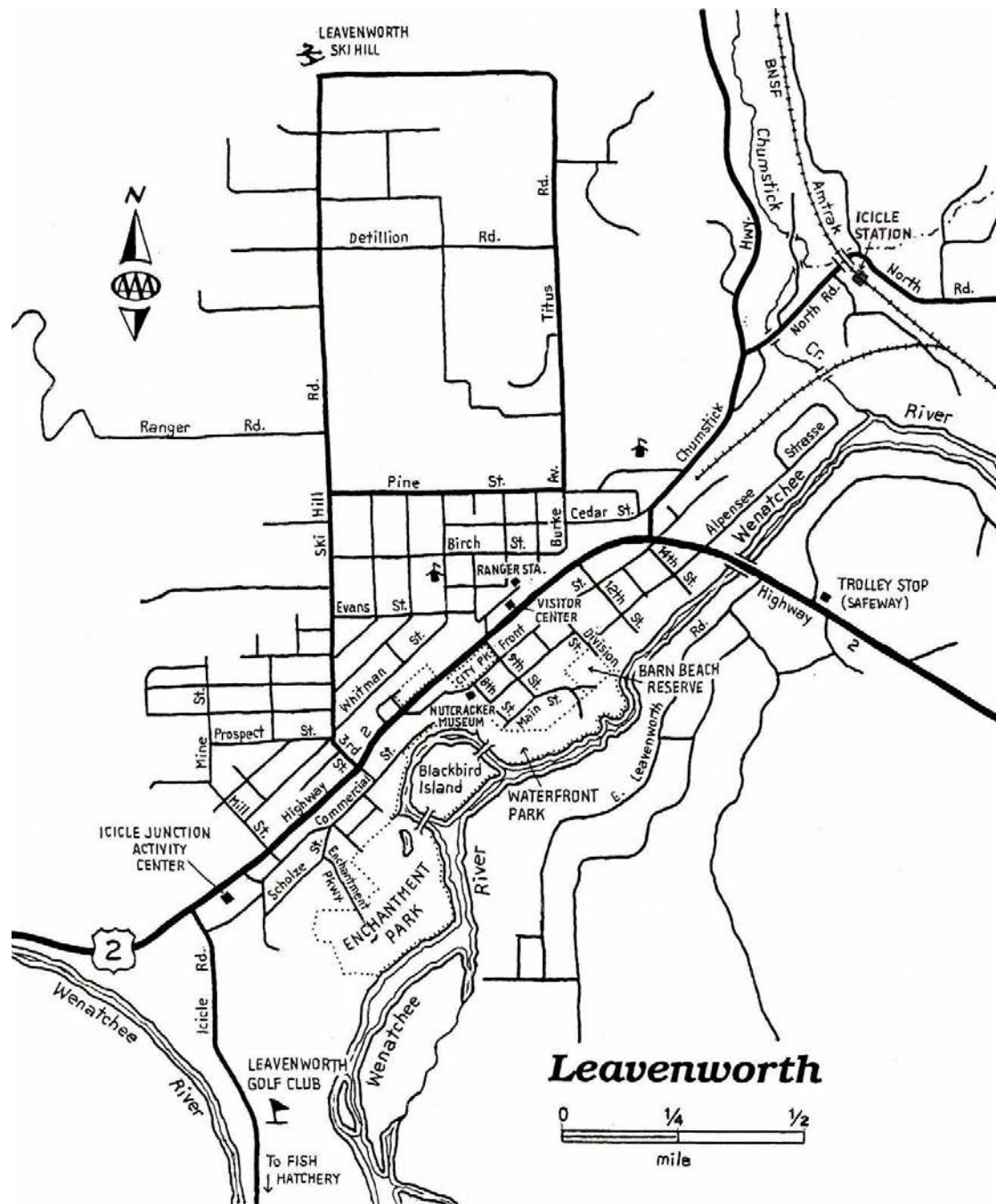
The main shopping zone is on Front and Commercial Streets just south of Highway 2. A cluster of dozens of boutiques sells handicrafts, art, wine, and typical tourist fare.

Climate

Leavenworth has a Humid Continental climate with temperature extremes ranging from 0° in mid-winter to the high 90's in the summer. About a third of its annual precipitation falls in the form of snow. The table below shows average conditions.

LEAVENWORTH (alt. 1166 ft.)

Averages	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Max. Temp. (°F)	33.4	42.1	52.3	62.7	72.7	79.2	87.6	87.2	78.6	63.1	43.7	33.5	61.3
Min. Temp. (°F)	17.1	21.8	27.2	33.5	40.5	46.6	50.5	50.0	42.4	33.6	27.6	20.0	34.2
Precip. (inches)	4.68	3.11	2.09	1.13	0.85	0.88	0.34	0.48	0.72	2.01	4.22	4.82	25.32
Snowfall (inches)	32.8	14.6	5.6	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	10.4	31.6	95.5



THINGS TO SEE AND DO

CENTRAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

The **CENTRAL SHOPPING DISTRICT**, hemmed between Highway 2 and the Wenatchee River, is long on gift boutiques, quirky dining choices, and souvenir shops of all varieties. The shopping zone has a mix of single-floor shopping arcades and narrow, two-story Bavarian facades. Beautiful flower baskets and flags from around the world hang from awnings at every turn as one find themselves transported into a storybook German village. Among the over 100 shops:

- **Kris Kringl**, a year-round celebration of all things Christmas and the retail center point during the Christmas Lighting Festival. 907 Front St. – Phone (509) 548-6867 – Web www.kkringl.com
- **Australian Store**, a counterpoint to the surrounding Bavarian-themed shops, specializing in pirate, outback, and beach-themed apparel and accessories. 929 Front St. – Phone (509) 548-3088
- **Cheesemonger’s Shop**, serving gourmet collections of beer, wine, cheese, and sausage in gift and picnic baskets, or as a snack. 819 Front St. – Phone (509) 548-9011 – Web www.cheesemongersshop.com



Leavenworth’s Bavarian Welcome

The **LEAVENWORTH NUTCRACKER MUSEUM** (www.nutcrackermuseum.com), located downtown at 735 Front St., houses over 5,000 nutcrackers, some dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. A kids’ favorite since its creation in 1995, the museum is a menagerie of figurines that value artistic form over function – animal and cartoon likenesses are prominently featured. The centerpiece of the museum, said to be the only one of its kind in the United States, is a 2,000-year-old Roman metal nutcracker unearthed in 1960. Included in the admission rate is a 14-minute video that traces nutcrackers through history and introduces the museum. Limited operating hours – 2-5pm daily, Sat.-Sun. only Nov-Apr. Phone (509) 548-4573. (Admission)

Interesting note: The museum’s curator, Arlene Wagner unexpectedly earned two minutes of national fame in 2010, when she was plucked from obscurity to be the first guest of Conan O’Brien’s talk show on cable network TBS.

Link Transit offers the **LEAVENWORTH TROLLEY**, a convenient (and since 2009, fare-free) east-west bus route connecting the parking lot at Safeway at the east end of town, the central shopping district, and the Icicle Inn on the west side. The route takes less than ten minutes from either end to downtown. The trolley departs the Safeway lot every 30 minutes from 10:30-5 six days a week year-round (no service Sundays or holidays).

WENATCHEE RIVER GREENBELT

Just south of the shopping zone, the Wenatchee River takes a respite from its turbulent rapids upstream to meander past a 50-acre greenbelt. The trailhead commences at the **BARN BEACH RESERVE**, a hub for avian pursuits centered around the historic ‘River Haus’ (built 1903) and its **Upper Valley Museum** (open Wed.-Sun. 10-5, Apr.-Oct., Thur.-Sun 11-4, Nov.-Mar.). Guided tours of the grounds are available upon request. 347 Division Street – Phone (509) 548-7584 – Web www.barnbeachreserve.org

RIVERFRONT PARK, accessed via an entrance at Seventh and Commercial, provides a playground, a bandstand for festival time, and a connection to the birders’ paradise **BLACKBIRD ISLAND**. This small, three-acre landmass circumvented by the river (accessible only via foot bridges on either side) teems with waterside vegetation and is the centerpiece of the Audubon Society’s Great Washington Birding Trail. Alternatively, walkers can take the shore-side path past the island directly to **ENCHANTMENT PARK**, home to a kids’ fishing pond, a playground, and ball fields.

ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY & NEARBY VICINITY

Another mile south along Icicle Road lies the **LEAVENWORTH FISHERIES COMPLEX**, the administrative hub of three hatcheries in north-central Washington operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Built in the 1930s as an ancillary part of the Grand Coulee Dam project, the complex provides public guided tours of its facilities and a visitors’ center tracing the life cycle of salmon. The hatchery also hosts the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival in mid-September, featuring educational activities and a Native American encampment with storytelling and a traditional salmon bake. Open daily. 12790 Fish Hatchery Road – Phone (509) 548-7641 – Web www.fws.gov/leavenworth. (Donations)

ICICLE JUNCTION ACTIVITY CENTER, located at the west end of Highway 2 just east of Icicle Road, offers a wide range of fun for the entire family. The center houses an 18-hole miniature golf course, an 80-seat cinema, table and arcade games, and an outdoor multi-sport court. Open daily at 3pm weekdays and 10am on weekends during the school year, and 10am-10pm during summer and other school breaks. 565 Highway 2 – Phone (509) 548-2400 or (800) 558-2438 – Web www.iciclejunction.com

Another kids' favorite is the horse-drawn sleigh rides at **RED-TAIL CANYON FARM**, located three miles north of town off Chumstick Highway. Gentle draft horses take you out from a 120-acre working ranch for a 40-minute trip into a snow-covered timbered canyon. Groups of 12 can also arrange hay rides in the summer, complete with barbeque cookouts. 11780 Freund Canyon Road, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (509) 548-4512 – Web www.redtailcanyonfarm.com

WINERIES

The upper Wenatchee Valley is an emerging wine region within the Columbia Valley viticultural appellation. A number of wineries host tasting rooms in and around Leavenworth.

- **Boudreaux Cellars** – 921 Front Street. Open daily 11am-6pm. Phone (509) 548-4848. – Web www.boudreauxcellars.com
- **D'Vinery-Eagle Creek** – 627 Front Street. The in-town tasting room for Eagle Creek WEinery. Open noon-7pm Mon.-Fri., noon-8pm Sat., 11am-6pm Sun. – Web www.dvinery.com/
- **Eagle Creek Winery** – 10037 Eagle Creek Road. Open 11am-5pm Fri.-Sun. May-Oct. Web – www.eaglecreekwinery.com
- **Icicle Ridge Winery** – Located in Peshastin, one mile north of US-2 on Main Street and North Road. Open daily noon-5pm. Phone (509) 548-0261 – Web www.icicleridgewinery.com
- **Kestrel Leavenworth Tasting Room** – 843 Front Street. Open 11am-5pm Sun.-Thurs., 11am-8pm Fri.-Sat. Web – www.kestrelwines.com
- **Wedge Mountain Winery** – Located ½ mile north of US 2 at US-97 junction, then e. on Jeske Road and n. on Saunders Road. Open Thurs.-Mon. 10am-4pm. Phone (509) 548-7068 – Web www.wedgemountainwinery.com

AROUND THE AREA



West of town, Highway 2 hugs the north bank of the Wenatchee River inside **TUMWATER CANYON**. Every spring this wild six-mile stretch of whitewater rapids (pictured at left) east of the roadside respite of Coles Corner roils tempestuously and attracts hundreds of roadside gawkers witnessing nature's fury.

LAKE WENATCHEE STATE PARK lies on the southern shore of the key natural attraction of the area, seven miles west on Highway 2 to Coles Corner, then 3½ miles north on Lake Wenatchee Highway (SR-207). The park is separated in half by the headwaters of the Wenatchee River – the North Park is a densely-forested campground set back from the river, while the South Park hosts horseback riding, a swimming area, an amphitheater for groups and picnic sites. A public boat launch (fee) accommodates personal watercraft and ski boats during the summer season, as well as fishermen trolling for trout and steelhead. Wildlife is abundant in the park, including bears and bobcats – so keep those coolers covered! Beware the swarms of mosquitoes that gather from late May through late July.

Nearby is **FISH LAKE**, a two-mile-long basin filled with native perch species and several different types of stocked trout. **The Cove**, located one mile northeast of the state park on Chiwawa Loop Road, has a private boat launch and a day-use fishing dock. Phone (509) 763-3130.

Backtrack to Lake Wenatchee Highway and turn at the sign for Leavenworth onto Beaver Valley Road. Six miles farther, the small town of **PLAIN** appears, consisting of a community church, a general store, and a hardware store. A left turn at the end of the town takes the motorist onto the Chumstick Highway, with a winding opening mile of steady switchbacks to climb Beaver Hill. The highway continues for eleven more miles until returning to Highway 2 at the east end of Leavenworth

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Icicle Road, on Leavenworth's western flank, is the gateway to a multitude of active and tourist pursuits. Jumping-off points for a number of rafting and kayaking adventures can be found all along the route, as well as over a dozen trailheads for hiking, mountain biking, and snowshoeing and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

GOLF

- The public, 18-hole **LEAVENWORTH GOLF CLUB**, located one mile south of town on Icicle Road, is a mostly flat layout abutting the Wenatchee River and hosts golfers of all abilities from April-October. It is also a popular cross-country and snowshoeing venue in the winter. 9101 Icicle Road, Leavenworth. Phone (509) 548-7267 – Web www.leavenworthgolf.com
- **KAHLER GLEN GOLF & SKI RESORT**, found one-half mile south of the state park (use the same turnoff from the highway), features a rolling 18-hole layout set among tall firs and a driving range with floating island targets. In the winter, the course converts to a groomed Nordic skiing and snowshoeing wilderness that connects up to the state park's 30-kilometer trail system. The property features a restaurant and time-share lodging. 20700 Clubhouse Drive, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (509) 763-4025 – Web www.kahlerglen.com

HIKING/MOUNTAIN BIKING

- **Wenatchee Valley Ranger Station** – 600 Sherbourne Street, Leavenworth – Phone (509) 548-2550
- **Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce** – 940 Highway 2, Leavenworth – Phone (509) 548-5807 – Web www.leavenworth.org (click Activities, then Trail Guide for an excellent reference – including driving directions).

HORSEBACK RIDING

- **Eagle Creek Ranch**, 2½ miles north on Chumstick Hwy, then 5½ miles east on Eagle Creek Road. Group rides, private rides, and other activities available. Phone (509) 548-7798 – Web www.eaglecreek.ws
- **Icicle Outfitters**, 2½ miles south on Icicle Road. Sleigh rides in winter, pack trips and day rides in summer. 9-5 daily May-Sept., 10-4 Dec.-Feb. Phone (509) 669-1518 – Web www.icicleoutfitters.com

SKIING

Cross-country skiing is one of Leavenworth's popular winter pastimes. The **LEAVENWORTH SKI HILL**, located 1½ miles north of town on Ski Hill Drive, is home to five miles of Nordic skiing trails, a tubing park (with a lift), small ski jumping hills, snowshoeing and a kids' Alpine course. The Leavenworth Winter Sports Club operates the hill, as well as thirteen miles of Nordic track at Leavenworth Golf Club and along the Icicle River south of town. Kids' classes and private lessons are available. Phone (509) 548-5477 – Web www.skileavenworth.com.

WHITEWATER RAFTING/KAYAKING

Leavenworth's site and situation next to the Wenatchee River makes the town a prime hub for whitewater rafting and other aquatic pursuits. The whitewater rafting season extends from late April into August. The peak season is May and June for rafting (coinciding with the spring meltwater from the Cascades), and July and August for kayaks.

- **Alpine Adventures** – PO Box 373, Gold Bar 98251. Phone (360) 863-5065 – Web www.alpineadventures.com
- **Blue Sky Outfitters** – 9674 50th Ave SW, Seattle 98136. Phone (800) 228-RAFT – Web www.blueskyoutfitters.com
- **Leavenworth Outfitters** – 325 Division St, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (509) 548-0368 – Web www.leavenworthoutfitters.com
- **Orion Expeditions** – 12681 Wilson St, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (800) 553-7466 – Web www.orionexp.com
- **Osprey Rafting** – 9342 Icicle Road, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (800) 743-6269 – Web www.ospreyrafting.com
- **River Recreation** – P.O. Box 125, Monitor, WA 98836. Phone (800) 464-5899 or (206) 276-8774. Web www.riverrecreation.com.
- **River Riders** – 10860 Highway 2, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (800) 448-RAFT – Web www.riverrider.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY (mid-month) – **Bavarian Ice Festival** (Snowshoe and dog-sled races, sleigh rides, fireworks)
MAY (mid-month) – **MAIFEST** (Spring festival celebrates Bavarian tradition – costumes, dance, parade)
MAY (mid-month) – **Spring Bird Fest** (Birder's congregation – hiking, guided trips, songbird concert)
SUMMER – **Art in the Park** (Professional and amateur art on display in the town green – May-Sept., Thu-Sun)
JUNE (mid-month) – **International Accordion Festival** (Four days of jazz, ethnic, classical, and more)
JULY – **Kinderfest & 4th of July Celebration** (Children's festival downtown – face painting, games)
JULY (weekends) – **Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival** (International guest artists and resident musicians)
AUGUST (late-month) – **Leavenworth Wine Tasting Festival** (Art, live music, wine from across Washington)
SEPTEMBER (mid-month) – **Wenatchee River Salmon Festival** (See fish hatchery complex listing above)
SEPTEMBER (late-month) – **Autumn Leaf Festival** (Celebration of fall foliage season – parade, food booths)
OCTOBER (weekends) – **OKTOBERFEST** (Quintessential Bavarian festival – Arts, music, food and drink)
NOVEMBER (late-month) – **Christkindlmarkt** (Annual Bavarian-style Christmas Market)
DECEMBER (weekends) – **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FESTIVAL** (Town lit in 19th-century style lights)

Photos by Tony Mayer, except as listed – Map drawn by John King

Updated 6 March, 2014 / jpk