



## Islands Series, Part 2: Exploring Vashon Island

Nestled in the heart of Puget Sound, Vashon Island offers a haven for water enthusiasts with its stunning landscapes and vibrant marine life. Whether you're a seasoned sailor, an avid boater, or a kayaking aficionado, Vashon Island has something for everyone.



**Sailing:** The Vashon Park District's Bruce Haulman Junior Sailing Program is a fantastic opportunity for young sailors to learn the ropes. With camps running throughout the summer, participants enjoy hands-on instruction in sailing fundamentals, water safety, and seamanship. For adults and families, the district also offers tailored lessons that cater to all skill levels. The picturesque waters of Quartermaster Harbor provide the perfect backdrop for these sailing adventures.

**Boating:** Dockton Park and Marina is a popular spot for boaters, offering a public boat launch, moorage and beach access. The marina holds up to 30 boats, making it an ideal location for both day trips and extended stays. Boaters can explore the scenic waters around Vashon and Maury Islands, enjoying the tranquility and beauty of the area.

**Kayaking:** Vashon Adventures provides kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals, guided tours, and classes for all experience levels. Paddle through the protected waters of Quartermaster Harbor, where you might spot seals, otters, herons, and eagles. For those looking to enhance their skills, Vashon Adventures offers introductory classes and private excursions. The Jensen Point Boathouse serves as the main launch site, ensuring easy access to the island's best kayaking spots.

Whether you're gliding through the water under sail, cruising in a boat, or paddling a kayak, Vashon Island's aquatic adventures promise unforgettable experiences and a deeper connection with nature. Find more info on island's website: [Vashon Maury Island](http://VashonMauryIsland.com).

## Oh Snap! Capturing Puget Sound Beauty Frame by Frame

Photography around Seattle and the greater Puget Sound area can provide hours, if not days of creative fun and scenic opportunities.

May in Seattle brings longer days, blooming landscapes, and clearer skies — ideal for photographers looking to capture the vibrant Pacific Northwest in spring.

### Where to Shoot

#### Discovery Park

Trails, wildflowers, and sweeping views of Puget Sound — especially beautiful at golden hour.

#### Washington Park Arboretum

Lush foliage and blooming rhododendrons make this a peaceful spot for close-ups and nature shots.

#### Kerry Park

Classic skyline views with Mount Rainier often visible on clear May days.

#### Alki Beach

Perfect for sunset silhouettes, ferry scenes, and reflections across Elliott Bay.

### Sunny Day Camera Settings

- ISO 100–200 for clean, crisp images
- Aperture f/8–f/16 for sharp landscapes
- Fast shutter speeds to freeze movement in breezy conditions
- Polarizing filter to reduce glare and enhance skies
- Golden hour offers the best lighting for warmth and contrast

May is a refreshing time to explore Seattle through the lens — from waterfront serenity to cityscapes in bloom. Don't forget your sunscreen and a spare battery — you'll want to stay out longer than planned.



Memorial Day, Monday 26th

## Upcoming Events for May

**May 14**  
**Seattle Mariners vs. NY Yankees**  
T-Mobile Park  
Seattle, WA

**May 17**  
**Kendrick Lamar and SZA**  
Lumen Field Event Complex  
Seattle, WA

**May 17**  
**Rainier Dragon Boat Festival (Free)**  
Thea's Park  
Tacoma, WA

**May 17**  
**Armed Forces Day (Free)**  
Heritage Hill Airpark,  
McChord Air Force Base

**May 19 - 20**  
**Jack White**  
Paramount Theatre  
Seattle, WA

**May 23**  
**Seawolves vs. Sabercats (Rugby)**  
Starfire Sports  
Tukwila, WA

**May 26**  
**Memorial Day Ceremony**  
Tahoma National Cemetery  
Kent, WA

**May 30 - June 1**  
**PhotoFest (Free)**  
Glazer's Camera  
Seattle, WA

Note: Check official websites and venues for details.



## Celebrate Mini Garden Month with a Touch of Green

May is Mini Garden Month, and it's the perfect time to bring a little life into your workspace. Whether you're in a cubicle, private office, or collaborative pod, adding a plant or two can brighten your environment and support your well-being. Mini gardens are low-maintenance, space-friendly, and great for boosting productivity. Even a small touch of greenery has been shown to reduce stress and improve focus—something we could all use during a busy workweek.

Some easy ideas to get started include succulent trays for your desk, herb jars in the breakroom window, air plants in decorative holders, or vertical wall gardens in common areas. We strongly suggest looking for ways to make your spaces feel fresh, inspiring, and human-centered. This month, we're encouraging everyone to share their mini garden creations and help green up the office—one tiny planter at a time.

Pro tip: Opt for hardy, office-friendly plants like pothos, ZZ plants or peace lilies. Let's grow something together and make our space just a little bit greener.

## Design Inspiration: Baseball Training Room



National: Footings tables, Kimball: Work|Able wall system, Nate & Natty chairs, OFS: Porter planters



National: Footings tables, Kimball: Work|Able wall system, Nate & Natty chairs, OFS: Porter planters, Hon: Contain lockers, Sculpt round top tables



National: Footings tables, Kimball: Work|Able wall system, Nate & Natty chairs, OFS: Porter planters



National: Footings tables, Kimball: Work|Able wall system, Nate & Natty chairs, OFS: Porter planters