



READ MORE

- 1 Mount Baker Highway, p. 15
- 2 Mountain Majesty driving tour, p. 21
- 3 North Cascades Scenic Highway, p. 15
- 4 Subdued Stringband Jamboree, p. 14
- 5 Whale-watching, p. 13

> LA CONNER

On the Waterfront

MANY TOWNS fancy themselves art colonies, but La Conner actually acts the part. Weathered houses with colorful gardens overlook the restaurants and shops in narrow streets along the Swinomish Channel. This village, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was once home to artists of the Northwest School, a movement that flourished from the 1940s through the 1960s.

That tradition continues at the **Museum of Northwest Art** (360.466.4466; www.museumofnwart.org), where Asian influences mingle with Northwestern nature. The town also boasts the **La**

Conner Quilt & Textile Museum (www.laconnerquilts.com), a self-guided **Outdoor Sculpture Walk**, and November's **Art's Alive!**, which includes culinary arts, music, and literature (www.laconnerchamber.com).

Whether it's winter bird-watching, spring tulips, summer boating, or fall produce that brings you here, you'll find an artful treasure to bring home. Don't miss the **Wood Merchant** (360.466.4741; www.woodmerchant.com), which displays furniture and other pieces from more than 200 woodworkers. Then relax



over English-style tea at **Ruby Sue's Tea & Treasures** (360.466.9948), fresh ales and wood-oven pizza at the **La Conner Brewing Company** (360.466.1415), or Northwest fare at **Kerstin's** (360.466.9111; www.kerstinsrestaurant.com). On the way out, stop at **Snow Goose Produce** (360.445.6908; www.snowgooseproduce.com) for a waffle cone overflowing with ice cream. —MIKE GREENSTEIN