



## OUTDOOR RECREATION

### FOR RELEASE AT WILL

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### **BEYOND WINE: ABUNDANCE, VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION** **ATTRACTS VISITORS TO WALLA WALLA**

(WALLA WALLA, Wash.)—With 260 days of sunshine and less than 20 inches of precipitation annually, it's no wonder that Walla Walla is a sought-after destination for outdoor adventure seekers. From hiking in the Blue Mountains to fishing the land of "many waters" to viewing more than 300 bird species, Walla Walla offers outdoor recreation for all ages, abilities and interests.

- **Walking/hiking:** The City of Walla Walla is home to 20 public parks totaling some 600 acres of lush recreation area, including more than 20 miles of trails at the popular Bennington Lake Recreation Area. In addition, the City is also the gateway to the Blue Mountains, where the Umatilla National Forest offers a wide selection of trails to explore for hiking, biking and horseback riding.
- **Cycling:** Known as the road cycling capital of Washington, Walla Walla is beloved among cyclists for its rural farm roads that meander through rolling wheat fields. The nearby Blue Mountain await more experienced cyclists, while paved trails that run through Walla Walla's historic residential and business neighborhoods are great for a relaxing ride.
- **Bird watching:** Walla Walla offers some of the best bird watching in the country. During annual spring and fall migrations, birders flock to the area to marvel at the more than 300 bird species that call Walla Walla home. The McNary Wildlife Refuge and the Walla Walla River Delta are two of the best spots to get a glimpse of migratory birds that return to Walla Walla each year after wintering in South America.

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- **Golf:** Walla Walla's mild and dry climate make it an ideal year-round destination for golfers – particularly those interested in playing one of the State's best new courses. Wine Valley Golf Club opened in 2009 to national acclaim, and *GolfWeek* magazine ranks it second in the state of Washington among Courses You Can Play. In 2009, *Golf* magazine honored Wine Valley Golf Club as the fifth-best new course in the nation.
- **Water sports:** The name Walla Walla means place of "many waters" so naturally the area is a rewarding hot spot for anglers and other water sports enthusiasts. The Columbia and Snake River systems, combined with a host of lakes and streams of the Blue Mountains are teeming with trout, while the 52-acre Bennington Lake offers year-round fishing and flat-water paddling.
- **Winter sports:** Downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing attract visitors to Walla Walla in the wintertime. Ski Bluewood, located 52 miles southeast of Walla Walla, includes two triple chairlifts, a day lodge, 21 ski runs and a half-pipe, along with ski and snowboard rentals and lessons. Meanwhile, night skiing and cross-country skiing are offered at the 21-acre family-friendly Spout Springs Ski Resort, located just across the border at Oregon's Tollgate Mountain.

### About Tourism Walla Walla

As the voice for all sectors of tourism and hospitality in the Walla Walla Valley, Tourism Walla Walla is committed to being a representative, industry-driven organization. Through cooperation, experience and industry insight, Tourism Walla Walla is dedicated to providing leadership and direction, making tourism and hospitality one of the leading and most viably sustainable industries in the Valley. For more information visit [www.wallawalla.org](http://www.wallawalla.org).

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