



FACT SHEET

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JUST THE FACTS – WALLA WALLA, WASH.

Location: Located in southeastern Washington State, Walla Walla is the largest city and county seat of Walla Walla County. It is situated approximately 13 miles north of the Oregon border. The town of Walla Walla is located in the Walla Walla Valley carved out by the Walla Walla River, which from its headwaters in the Blue Mountains flows southwest of the City en route to the Columba River. Mill Creek, which flows through the town of Walla Walla, joins the Walla Walla River at the Whitman Mission west of the city. Walla Walla means the place of “many waters.”

Population: 33,000 (approximate)

Climate: Walla Walla is located on the “dry side” of the Cascade Mountain range and averages 20 inches of precipitation and 260 days of sunshine annually. Average temperatures in January are highs of 40F and lows of 28F. Average temperatures in July are highs of 89F and lows of 60F. Located on latitude 46 degrees North, the Valley straddles the same latitude line that passes between the Burgundy and Bordeaux regions of France.

Demographics: The median age in Walla Walla is 34 years old. Median household income is \$44,000 (2010).

Economy: Wineries in Walla Walla account for more than \$100 million in revenue to the region each year. Among Walla Walla’s major employers are food processors, machinery and irrigation manufacturers, schools and colleges, government business (including the State’s largest penitentiary with an annual payroll of \$30 million, and a district office of the Army Corps of Engineers) and health care (the area is home to three hospitals).

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Getting here: Walla Walla is approximately 4.5 hours by car (275 miles) from Seattle, and 4 hours (250 miles) from Portland, Oregon and Boise, Idaho. The area is serviced by the Walla Walla Regional Airport (ALW), located three miles north of downtown Walla Walla, with daily direct flights to Seattle via Horizon Airlines a subsidiary of Alaska Airlines.

Higher education: The Walla Walla region is home to three colleges including Whitman College, a private liberal arts school, Walla Walla Community College, and Walla Walla University.

Agriculture: With its mild climate and rich soils, Walla Walla is among the nation's most fertile agricultural regions and is recognized as Washington's breadbasket. Along with vineyards (largely represented by Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes), wheat, Walla Walla Sweet Onions, apples, asparagus and strawberries also thrive here.

Wine: Leonetti Cellars (1977), Woodward Canyon (1981), and L'Ecole No. 41 (1983) pioneered the wine industry in Walla Walla, which received an American Viticulture Area (AVA) designation in 1984 with just four wineries and 60 acres of vineyards. Today, more than 130 wineries operate in the Walla Walla Valley, and some 2,800 acres of vineyards have become part of the agricultural landscape.

About Walla Walla:

As the unofficial capital of Washington wine country, Walla Walla is home to more than 130 wineries, a nationally recognized culinary scene, access to an abundance of outdoor recreation, and an arts & entertainment scene that rivals cities many times its size. This community of just over 30,000 residents is known for many things, including its friendliness and hospitality, the quality of its wine, and of course the famous Walla Walla Sweet Onion. An easy and scenic four-hour drive from Seattle, Portland, or Boise, Walla Walla can also be accessed via Alaska Airlines daily non-stop flights from Seattle. For more information and to begin planning a trip to Walla Walla, visit www.visitwallawalla.com.