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LODGING



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CASINO
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7 HISTORIC LODGES

WITH UNIQUE
STORIES TO TELL

BY TRACY BEARD

The Pacific Northwest's rugged coastlines, ancient forests and pristine rivers have long attracted travelers seeking respite from urban life. This region boasts some of America's most distinctive and storied lodges, each with its own remarkable history and character. From sacred seminaries and fish canneries to wilderness retreats that once hosted Hollywood royalty, the following seven historic lodges represent the diverse hospitality and authentic regional history of the Pacific Northwest.



1

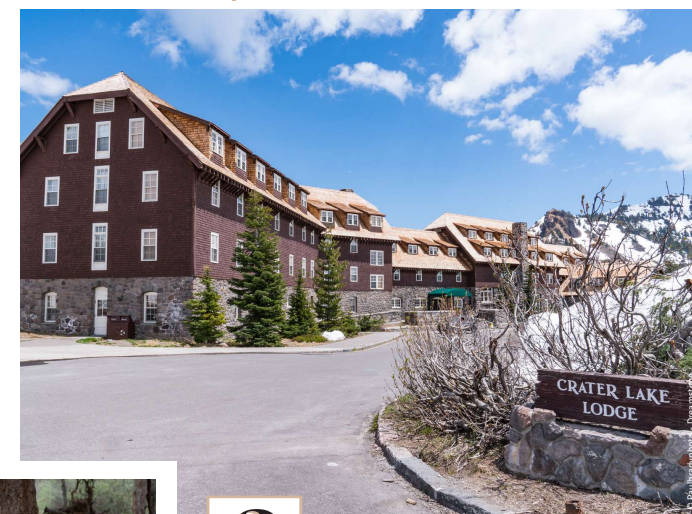
WEASKU INN HISTORIC LODGE *Where Hollywood Found Refuge on the Rogue*

Built in 1924 along the banks of the scenic Rogue River, the Weasku Inn once served as a vacation retreat for many Hollywood stars, including Clark Gable, Carole Lombard and Walt Disney. The stars sought

privacy and a respite from the spotlight; today's guests seek an escape from their own busy lives. This historic fishing lodge has maintained its authentic character through nearly a century of change.



In 1993, Country House Inns acquired the Weasku Inn and commenced its restoration. Completed in September 1998, the renovation carefully preserved the Inn's original charm while adding modern amenities in the five lodge rooms and 12 cabins. Guests can sit by the fireplace in their cabins



2

CRATER LAKE LODGE *Preserving a Timeless Treasure*

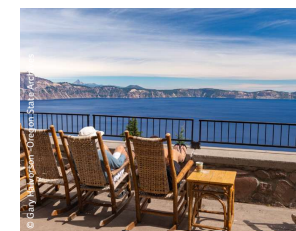
Perched precariously on the rim of one of America's most dramatic natural wonders, visitors find themselves overwhelmed by both the breathtaking beauty and the remarkable survival story of Crater Lake Lodge. Constructed in 1915 on the edge of the caldera, nearly 1,000 feet above the pristine blue waters, this grand lodge, boasting 71 rooms, has witnessed almost a century of popularity and near-disaster simultaneously.

In the 1980s, the deteriorating structure was slated for demolition after the National Park Service declared it unsafe and proposed tearing it down. The lodge closed in 1988 amid serious safety concerns, but today, visitors are reminded of the power of public passion and preservation.

A citizen outcry led to congressional intervention, saving the

lodge from destruction and launching one of the most ambitious restoration projects in the National Park Service's history. The complete reconstruction, earthquake stabilization and implementation of modern safety standards were completed in 1995, preserving the lodge's 1920s rustic atmosphere.

This historic lodge offers warmth via roaring fires in its massive fireplaces, mesmerizing lake views from the comfort of deck chairs, and a variety of delicious dining options.



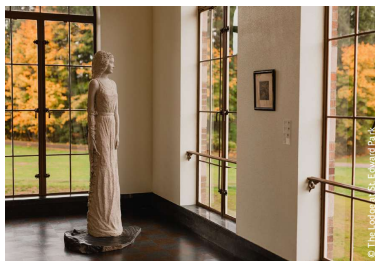
3

THE LODGE AT ST. EDWARD PARK *From Sacred Seminary to Luxury Sanctuary*

This magnificent Romanesque Revival building, initially constructed in 1931 as Saint Edward Seminary, was designed by renowned Seattle architect John Graham to serve as a training ground for Catholic priests of the Sulpician Order. For nearly five decades, these corridors echoed with the footsteps of seminarians and the quiet contemplation of religious study. What makes this transformation from seminary to luxury lodge so remarkable is how it honors both its spiritual heritage and its secular future.

After the seminary closed in 1977 and the property became Saint Edward State Park, the building sat largely unused for decades, slowly deteriorating despite its protected status. The meticulous restoration, which culminated in the lodge's 2021 opening as a luxury hotel, represents one of the most ambitious adaptive reuse projects in Washington State's history. The lodge maintains the building's monastic tranquility while offering modern luxury within 326 acres of pristine forest along the shores of Lake Washington.

World-renowned Chef Luke Kolpin sits at the culinary helm of the lodge. The food and drinks are creative and delicious. The 84 rooms and suites are modern, spacious and well-appointed, which earned the lodge a Michelin key award in 2024.



5

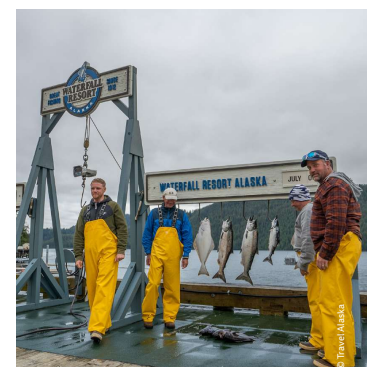
WATERFALL RESORT *From Canery to Retreat*

Tucked away on a remote 52-acre waterfront on Prince of Wales Island, Waterfall Resort Alaska offers a singular blend of history, wilderness and angling allure. What once opened in 1912 as the record-setting Waterfall Cannery—cranking out hundreds of thousands of salmon cases—is today one of Alaska's most storied sport fishing lodges. The clapboard crew quarters and old "Egg House" have been lovingly converted into cozy guest rooms and premium suites, preserving authentic character alongside modern comforts. The Resort offers 26 cabins, 4 Egg House Suites and 8 Lodge rooms.

Accessible only by floatplane or boat, guests arrive amid the stunning Tongass National Forest and pristine waters of the Inside Passage. The resort features nearly a one-to-one guide-to-guest ratio, with expert Coast Guard-licensed skippers leading half-day and full-day fishing excursions that target king and silver salmon, halibut, lingcod, black bass and more.

Evenings come alive in the historic Dining Room and Lagoon Saloon—born from the original cannery warehouse—where hearty buffets of fresh Alaska seafood and warm camaraderie fuel the famed fish tales. Guests can stroll boardwalks past vintage processing buildings, sip coffee dockside under dramatic sunsets, or soak in the serene coastal grandeur.

More than a resort, Waterfall is a living tribute—a century-old cannery reborn as Alaska's premier fishing hideaway, where history, light-hearted adventure and untamed beauty converge in unforgettable harmony.



4

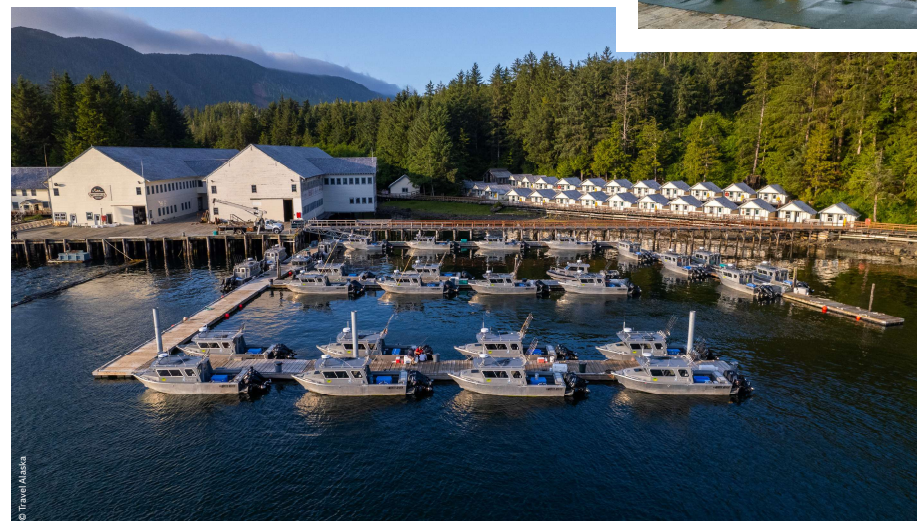
CAMP DENALI *A Place for Quiet Contemplation and Majestic Views*

Mt. Denali, the tallest mountain in North America, standing 20,310 feet tall, sits front and center for every one of the 19 cabins at Camp Denali, as well as each accompanying outhouse. When the mountain shows itself from the clouds, the views are glorious. Conservation and preservation of the massive landscape are core to Camp Denali's mission.

Sustainability is the definitive song at the resort. Practices ranging from food sourcing and material purchasing to daily chores are all done with sustainability in mind. Inspiration through education is the resounding heartbeat of every hiking tour, accompanied by honor and respect for wildlife. Hospitality comes first, and it is evident in both the owners and the staff.

Food at Camp Denali is delicious and nourishing. Greens and veggies typically come from the onsite greenhouse, and the remaining dining fare is prioritized by being local, organic, and then regional.

The cabins are comfortable, and the outhouses are pristine, but it is the view of the mountain and the Alaska Range that makes this place a must-visit.



6

CAPE FOX LODGE
The Tlingit Legacy Lives on

Perched on a forested hillside overlooking downtown Ketchikan, Cape Fox Lodge blends luxury with deep-rooted Tlingit heritage. Built in 1990 by Alaska Natives and updated in 2019, this lodge welcomes guests with panoramic views of Tongass Narrows and Deer Mountain.

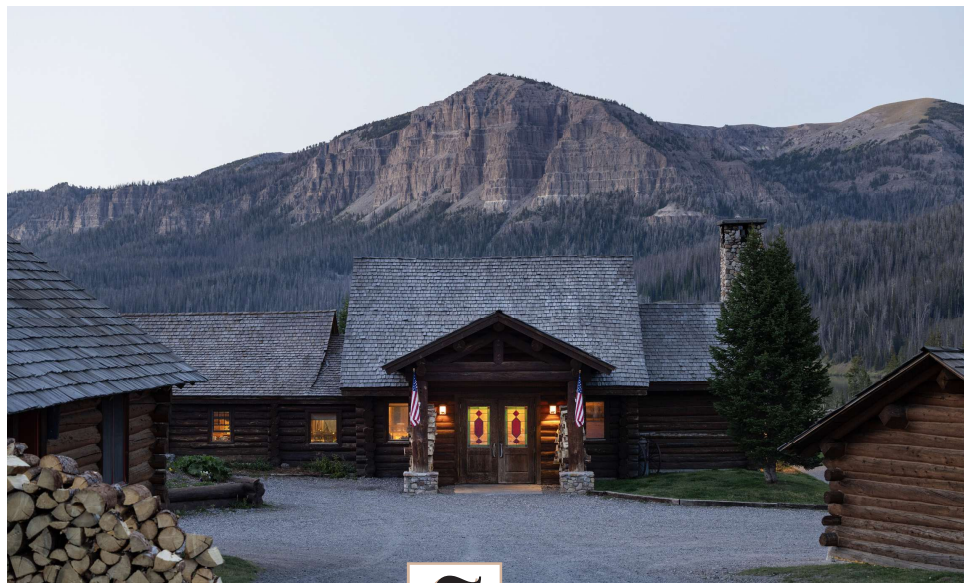
A distinctive funicular—branded Cape Fox Tram—connects the lodge to historic Creek Street, making arrivals both scenic and effortless. Visitors pass the awe-inspiring “Council of the Clans” totem circle and explore an

in-house museum showcasing carvings,

masks and artifacts that honor local Tlingit culture.

With 69 renovated rooms and suites, all offering views of the sea or mountains, the lodge combines rustic charm—featuring a river-rock fireplace and hand-tapped pine beams—with modern comforts, including air conditioning, Wi-Fi and room service. Dining is equally memorable: Heen Kahidi Restaurant serves Alaska-sourced seafood, while the new Eagles Nest pizzeria fires up brick-oven pies with stunning views.

Cape Fox Lodge is more than a hotel—it’s a cultural retreat, inviting guests into Tlingit tradition while offering refined comfort and breathtaking Alaska scenery.



7

BROOKS LAKE LODGE

Gateway to Yellowstone's Western Frontier

Located high in the Shoshone National Forest at an elevation of 9,200 feet, Brooks Lake Lodge stands as a testament to Wyoming’s pioneering spirit and the golden age of Western tourism. Built in 1922 to accommodate travelers coming to Yellowstone National Park on U.S. Route 287 from central Wyoming, this remarkable lodge represents one of the last intact examples of early 20th-century mountain hospitality.

The lodge complex, which includes guest cabins, barns, a bunkhouse, and other outbuildings all constructed in 1922, has survived numerous challenges over its century-long existence. After facing abandonment in the 1980s, the lodge was

lovingly restored and continues to operate as a luxury mountain getaway listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, visitors enjoy modern amenities, gourmet dining and a plethora of activities, including fishing, horseback riding, archery, darts, foosball and shuffleboard.



These seven-story lodges are not just places to stay—they are places to remember, where history, hospitality, and nature beautifully converge. 🌲

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- Weasku Inn
weasku.com
- Visit Grants Pass
visitgrantspass.com
- Crater Lake Lodge
explorecraterlake.com
- Travel Southern Oregon
southernoregon.org
- The Lodge at St. Edward Park
thelodgeatsteward.com
- Camp Denali
campdenali.com
- Denali National Park
nps.gov/dena/index.htm
- Waterfall Resort Alaska
waterfallresort.com
- Cape Fox Lodge
capefoxlodge.com
- Visit Ketchikan
visit-ketchikan.com
- Brooks Lake Lodge
brookslake.com
- Travel Wyoming
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