

Your Guide To



EXPLORE!



Gateway to Mount Rainier

Nicknamed “The Pride of the Prairie,” Yelm sits at the intersection of nature and culture, past and present. Pioneer James Longmire forged the modern-day path to Mount Rainier and settled on Yeom Prairie. His homestead became a popular stop on the way to the mountain, and an entrance and a lodge in the national park are named for him. Yelm is also the hometown of the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Rainier. Fay Fuller got all the way to the top in 1890—wearing a dress.

Yelm—a version of the Nisqually word “shelm,” which refers to light when it shimmers in the heat—continues to be the gateway to Washington’s iconic mountain, and today it’s a hub of life for a young population, a growing arts scene, shopping and dining, and proximity to nature.



Things To Do

Yelm Water Tower

Mount Rainier isn't the only thing that looms large over Yelm. So does Yelm's iconic water tower, albeit to a slightly lesser degree. The 125-foot historic decommissioned tower is a preserved historic site and has been described as Yelm's version of Seattle's Space Needle. It's the beneficiary of a recent paint job and light system that brightens the night.

204 McKenzie Ave

Yelm Cinemas & Uptown Lounge

Dinner and a movie? Enjoy new releases from the comfort of leather recliners with bottomless popcorn and soda at Yelm Cinemas. Pair that with dinner at Uptown Lounge, a 21-plus restaurant-bar with hand-crafted cocktails and a crowd-pleasing menu.

201 Prairie Park St NE SE

uptownlounge.com, yelmcinemas.com

Nisqually Valley BBQ Rally

Each summer at this annual meat fest hosted in Yelm City Park, amateur Q'ers compete for prizes against the backdrop of live music, activities for kids, a beer garden, and vendors.

bbqrally.com

Biking & Hiking Trails

Pick up a bike or stretch your legs on a section (or all) of the 14-mile Yelm-Rainier-Tenino Trail, a former rail line. Along the way, stop to admire the graffiti wall—the longest free art wall in the Northwest—a creation kept up by a local graffiti artist and his friends. From there, pick up the Chehalis Western Trail and follow the path of an old timber railroad route, or take the Prairie Line trail from Yelm Avenue to the Centralia Power Canal, where you'll see the most picturesque views of Mount Rainier and informational kiosks will tell you a little about the history of the area.

Sweet Boutiques

Find home decor, accessories, art, and clothing at Yelm's unique boutiques, like The Shiplap Shop & Coffee House, Tim's Pharmacy, Between Sisters Boutique, and InGenius! Local Artisan Gallery and Boutique.



507 Taproom & Filling Station

With 18 taps and more than 200 beers—including many local brands—as well as cider and wine, 507 Taproom is a local favorite. Gather here to watch the game or bring the party outside to hang out with friends around a fire pit.

507taproomandfillingstation.com

Perfect Patios

Check out some of the perfect patios in Yelm and enjoy outdoor dining. 507 Taproom & Filling Station, Bertoglio's Pizza, Casa Mia, Pizzeria La Gitana, Uptown Lounge, Gather Gastropub, and The Local all offer excellent outdoor seating options.

Parks

Yelm City Park is the place to be, with a splash pad for kids and the Prairie Days Festival in the summer, Christmas in the Park in winter, and fun for all ages year-round. Those who like wheels will enjoy Yelm's Bike and Skate Park; for those who enjoy a slower pace, Cochrane Memorial Park provides wildlife sightings. Even your furry friends have a place to visit at the new Yelm Dog Park.

Yelm City Park: 115 SE Mosman Ave

Yelm Skate Park: 203 1st St NE

Cochrane Memorial Park: 750 Mill Rd SE

Yelm Dog Park: 902 NW Rhoton Rd

yelmwa.gov/connect/departments/parks/index.php



Take a Tour

Enjoy the self-guided Historical Tour of Yelm or the self-guided City of Yelm Mural Tour to learn about the history of Yelm, which just celebrated its 100th birthday, and enjoy the expanding art scene, both available at yelmwa.gov.

Festivals, Music & Family Events

Summer in Yelm is packed with family-friendly fun. Yelm City Park hosts festivals like Prairie Days—a three-day celebration with concerts, kids' activities, contests, and a Charity Mushball Tournament—and Jazz in the Park. From May through September, the Yelm Farmers Market adds local flavor every Saturday. Catch live music, theater, and interactive entertainment at Centennial Stage, including magic shows, drumming performances, and more.

Tahoma Valley Golf Course

Break out the five iron on Yelm's golf course, known as (believe it or not) one of the driest courses in the Pacific Northwest. This course offers iconic views of Mount Rainier, golf pros to help you perfect your putt, and a restaurant on site. A day on the greens in Yelm is a day well spent.

tahomavalleygolf.com



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experienceyelm.com

