

DISCOVER



- 1. Launch party: paragliders, hikers, and pups on Tiger Mountain.
- 2. Top Pot Doughnuts' addictive treats.
- 3. Capri Cellars.
- 4. The XXX Rootbeer Drive-In hosts vintage car shows most weekends.
- 5. A long reclaimed-lumber bar is the focal point at Capri.



A PERFECT DAY IN

ISSAQUAH, WA

An Eastside mountain town makes a strong case for suburban cool. *By Heather Hansman*

A backyard with bragging rights

What sets Issaquah apart from its neighboring Eastside suburbs is immediate, easy access to mountains. The forested Issaquah Alps frame the town on three sides, with

the snaking, 7-mile-long Lake Sammamish to the north. For a patchwork-quilt view of the rolling green peaks and blue waterways, you can hike the moderate 4-mile-long **Poo Poo Point Trail** (named after the “poo poo” sound of the whistles

that local loggers once used). The trek leads to a 1,700-foot-high point on Tiger Mountain—and wide-ranging views of Sammamish, Seattle, and Mt. Rainier. On a clear day, you can see all the way to Mt. Baker, nearly 100 miles north. *Free;*

trailhead begins just south of Issaquah High School, on Second Ave. S.E.

Nostalgia, updated

Issaquah sits just 18 miles east of Seattle, but it feels far more like Smalltown U.S.A. than

Travel



GETTING HERE
From Seattle, take I-90 east to Exit 15 for Issaquah.

cookie-cutter suburbia. Early 20th-century storefronts line leafy Front Street, American flags fly above boutique entrances, and a 1925 red-and-white trolley trundles through town. Retro enterprises, such as the **XXX Rootbeer Drive-In**, fit the old-fashioned vibe (the XXX specializes in diner fare: hamburgers, onion rings, and soda floats) while new coffee shops, bars, and eateries make recently arrived transplants from Seattle feel at home. Two-year-old **Capri Cellars**, for instance, has won fans with its carefully sourced menu of wines, poured alongside cheese and charcuterie plates. *Trolley*: \$3; departs from 78 First Ave. N.E. XXX: \$; 98 N.E. Gilman Blvd.; triplerootbeer.com. *Capri*: \$; 88 Front St. S.; capricellars.com.

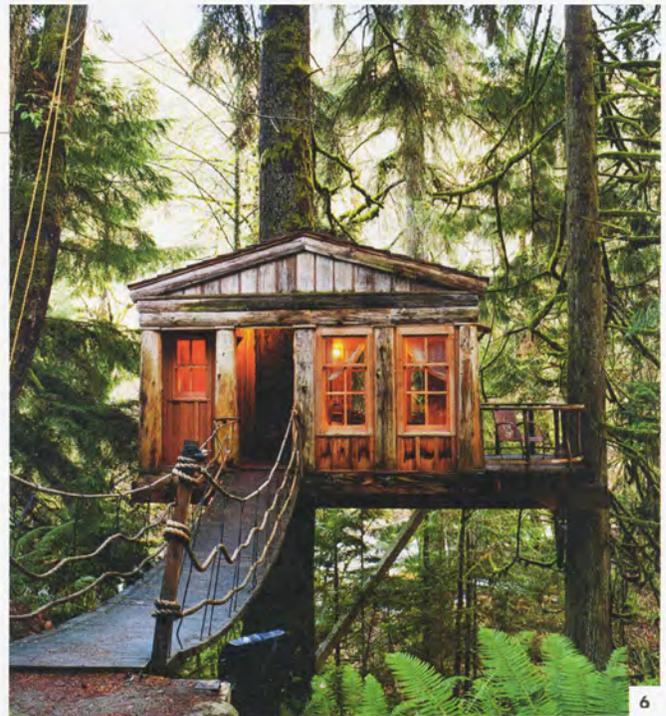
Picnics in the park

The shaded waterfront lawns of **Lake Sammamish State Park** are ideally suited to summer afternoons. There are miles of

walking trails, kayak rentals with **Issaquah Paddle Sports**, and free-to-use kitchen shelters with fireplaces. Nearby, you can find the perfect pairing: picnic ingredients. The **Issaquah Farmers Market**, a mile away, takes place every Saturday from April through October. In July, you'll find an abundance of blueberries, and all season the market has food stands, including **Forest Fairy Bakery**, famed for made-from-scratch cinnamon rolls. *Park*: \$10/vehicle; 2000 N.W. Sammamish Rd.; parks.wa.gov. *Paddle Sports*: From \$20 for one hour; rental office at Tibbets Beach; issaquahpaddlesports.com. *Market*: 1730 10th Ave. N.W.; issaquahwa.gov/market. *Forest Fairy*: forestfairybakery.com.

Canopy beds

Long before Animal Planet made him the star of reality show *Treehouse Masters*, now in its third season, local Pete Nelson was crafting custom-built treehouses for Issaquah-area families, parks, and hotels. In 2006 he opened an inn of his own, called **TreeHouse Point**, where you can stay in a 200-square-foot cabin built around a Sitka spruce or red cedar. The six treehouses are all hand-built and full of quirky details. (The Trillium house, for instance, has 80 tiny windows.) Rooms book up fast, but you can still visit: The property offers yoga



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6. Temple of the Blue Moon, one of six cabins at TreeHouse Point. 7. Paddling Lake Sammamish. 8. Rootbeer floats at the XXX are made with a scoop of vanilla from the creamery up the road. 9. A Bavarian Crème Bismark at Top Pot.

classes, guided tours, and massages for guests and day-trippers alike. From \$255; 6922 Preston-Fall City Rd. S.E.; treehousepoint.com.

A hole in one

In May 2013, Seattle's beloved **Top Pot Doughnuts** opened an outpost in Issaquah, and ever since, the cafe-cum-bakery has become a go-to gathering place for locals. On weekends,

the sunny, crown-shaped space—built in the '60s to house a burger joint—is full of kids in soccer uniforms, neighbors sharing newspapers, and pets hoping for handouts. In addition to artisanal doughnuts, Top Pot also serves small-batch coffee and Snoqualmie Ice Cream, made in doughnut-inspired flavors, like maple and apple fritter. \$; 1235 Maple St.; toppotdoughnuts.com. ☺

THE LOCAL LOWDOWN

"It's the perfect blend of having big-city stuff but not being right in the city. You can be on a trail or launching on the lake in five minutes."

—RESIDENT JOEL HAMMOND