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TRAVEL & LIFE

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GETAWAYS

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BEST TRIPS IN 2019

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Azalea Way,
Washington Park
Arboretum,
Seattle, WA

Spring *getaways*

Spring fever is real. I know first-hand. Maybe I am not a winter person, but when spring finally arrives it feels like a prison break. The warmth of the sun, the sound of songbirds and plants pushing through the soil lift my spirit more than any other season. Spring, when it first arrives, carries the unmistakable promise of new things to come.

It also opens the door for new travel discoveries. In the “Spring” pages that follow, we urge you to take a hike—a long hike along Oregon’s Rogue River—to stay at a series of backcountry lodges along the trail. We take you to the unique landscape

of Palouse country to discover its small towns amid the beauty of fresh spring crops blanketing its famous rolling hills. We invite you to one of the Northwest’s most historic cities to discover its surprising concentration of world-class museums. And we set sail to explore Alaska on board a small ship that feeds its passengers dishes created by James Beard-awarded culinary stars. These are just a few ideas in the “Spring” section of this issue, and there are many more.

This spring indulge your wanderlust. I know I will.



Spring

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Pullman,
Washington

Gateway TO THE PALOUSE

BY HENRY ALLEN



Those who have never set eyes on the Palouse region of southeast Washington and north-central Idaho are often astounded at the sight of endless undulating hills, layer after layer retreating to the horizon. Late spring is a perfect season to visit, as a thousand shades of green cover the landscape in the form of young wheat, lentils and other dry crops. The Palouse Scenic Byway makes exploring this photographer's paradise easy, and the vibrant university city of Pullman sits in the middle of it all, offering a central home base for day trips.

HOME BASE: PULLMAN

First, settle in at the Coast Hilltop Inn (hilltopinnpullman.com), a convenient, locally owned hotel right in Pullman. Then check out the Palouse Scenic Byway website's map to plan your day trips (palousescenicbyway.org).

In Pullman, art lovers can dive deep into the local art scene at the largest art museum in the inland Northwest, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (museum.wsu.edu) on the Washington State University campus. While on campus, seek out Ferdinand's Ice Cream Shoppe in the Food Quality Building for the freshest and best gourmet ice cream around, made on site.

Downtown, there's a lot to discover, such as the Pullman Riverwalk, roughly a mile round-trip paved trail along the Palouse River with Paradise Creek Brewery (paradisecreekbrewery.com) along the way. At dinnertime, check out the Mediterranean-inspired fare at The Black Cypress (theblackcypress.com), also downtown just a block off the Riverwalk. In the evening, enjoy a play at the city's professional theater, Regional Theatre of the Palouse (rtottheatre.org).

Over a weekend stay, you should make time for two separate day trips to explore the surrounding Palouse countryside. The first route will take you north of Pullman, where you'll find an overlook to gain a bird's-eye perspective of this unique landscape as well as discover tiny towns with just enough charm to make you want to quit your job, buy land, learn to grow wheat and settle in. The second route takes you south of Pullman where you'll find historic towns, a community of artists and the twin cities of Lewiston and Clarkston straddling the Washington-Idaho border on the Snake River.

NORTH PALOUSE DAY TRIP

Drive north on U.S. 195. This route will take you first to Colfax (explorecolfax.com/visit-colfax), a small town going through a much-welcomed revitalization,

located 16 miles northwest of Pullman. Here, seek out the Codger Pole, a fixture that puts this small city on a global map of quirky attractions. Stop by the historic Perkins House and pick up a map of "Photography Hot Spots in the Palouse." Browse Main Street—you never know what you might discover.

Next, get ready for the view you've been waiting for. Continue north on 195 to Steptoe Butte State

Park. You can drive to the 3,618-foot summit or hike 3.1 miles to the top. Either way, you'll be rewarded with a spectacular 360-degree view of the Palouse. The view from the top is one of the most photographed in the Northwest.

Continue north on 195 to Rosalia, a hamlet of roughly 700, home to the Steptoe Battlefield State Park, the site of a victory over the U.S. Army in 1858 by the Spokane, Palouse, Coeur d'Alene, Yakama and other tribes.

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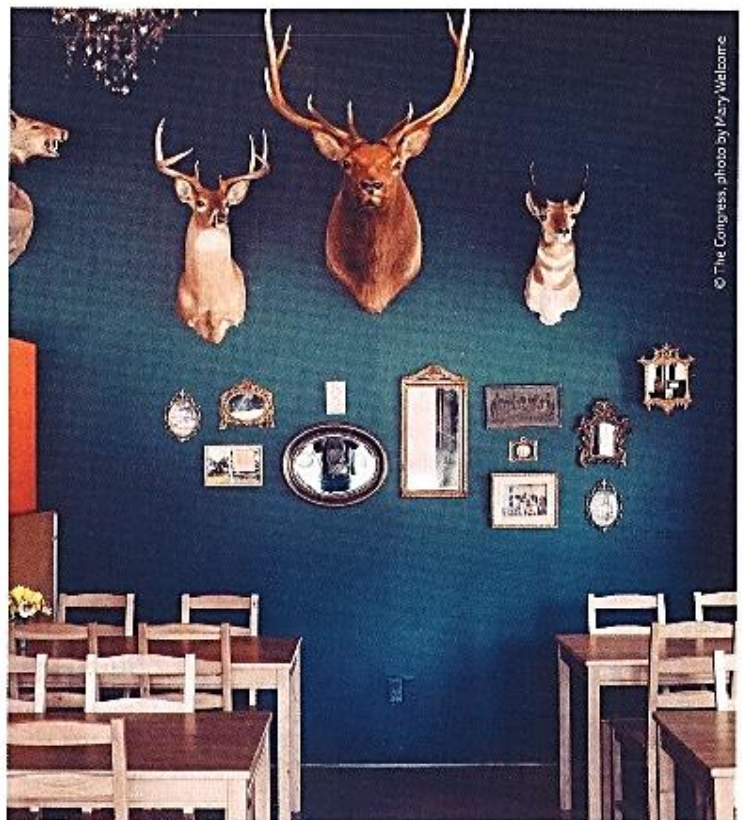
From Highway 195, take 271, which connects with Highway 27. Head south on 27 to Oakesdale, Garfield and, finally, Palouse, more towns with deep agricultural roots. Oakesdale is one of the oldest towns in Washington, a great place for antique hunting and a break for a latte at Ditzys Quilting Shop. Next town: Garfield, where you can stop in at Bishops Orchard (bishop-orchard.com) to press your own apple cider to go, if you brought your own jug.

If I were tasked with describing the quintessential American small town, I would describe Palouse (visitpalouse.com). In Palouse, check out the Newspaper & Printing Museum, even if you have no interest in printing, to gain an appreciation for what it once took to print a newspaper. While you're in town, browse the Bank Left Gallery and grab a bite with the locals at The Congress. From Palouse, it's only a 20-minute drive back to Pullman on Highway 27.

Driving distance on this scenic loop is about 90 miles; allow three to four hours at a leisurely pace, longer if you hike Steptoe Butte.

SOUTH PALOUSE DAY TRIP

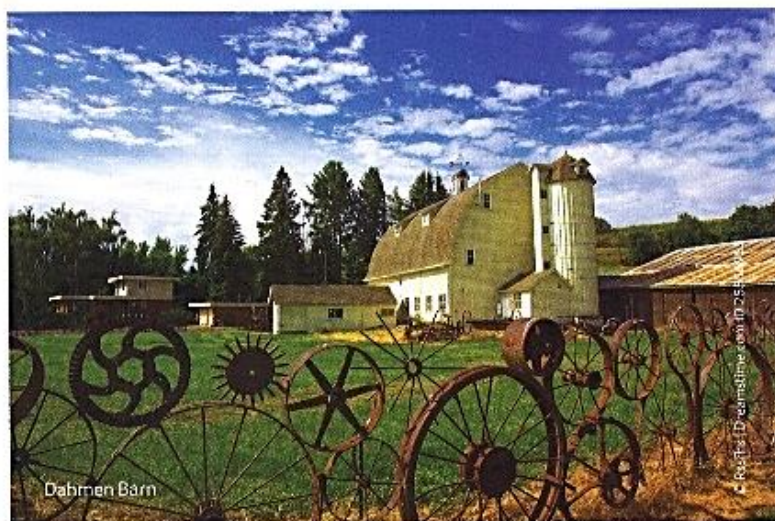
From Pullman, Highway 195 is a straight and very scenic shot down to Lewiston and Clarkston, with a



stop in historic Uniontown on the way. You'll backtrack on the return trip to Pullman. Uniontown (uniontown.us) harbors a few worthy curiosities. First stop, Dahmen Barn, a massive renovated dairy barn built in 1935 that has become an artist cooperative. Artisans have replaced the cows, and today, studio after studio, gallery after gallery occupy the barn nearly to the rafters. You can't miss it—it's surrounded by an elaborate fence cobbled together out of old wheels of all sizes, testament to the creativity you'll find inside the barn.

Uniontown hugs the highway, so with a slow drive through town you'll see nearly all the sights. One exception a few blocks off the highway is St. Boniface Catholic Church, a historic church that took 17 years to complete, beginning in 1888, due to a kerfuffle between the priest and his congregation. Next door, you'll find the historic Churchyard Inn (churchyardinn.com), originally the convent that served the parish, now a distinctive B&B. If you want to spend a tranquil night surrounded by quiet in the heart of the Palouse, this is the place.

Onward on Highway 195 and then 95, you'll come to Clarkston, Washington, and Lewiston, Idaho. Here, another world opens up—wineries, jet boating on the Snake River, rich history of the Nez Perce



Tribe and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Pick your pleasure by browsing the region's tourism website (visitthevalley.com).

Round-trip driving distance on this route is about 65 miles; timing is up to you, depending on what you choose to do in Lewiston-Clarkston. 🍷