

San Juan Islands

Recommended Reads and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

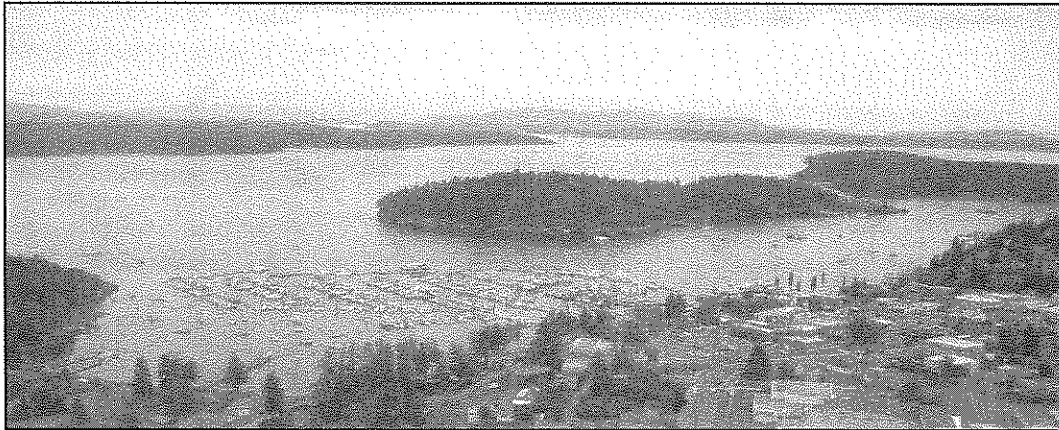


Photo: Robin Jacobson

History and Historical Resources

Friday Harbor, Then and Now, F.H. VanCleve

Contains drawings of local buildings and their former uses.

Magic Islands, David Richardson

A 95 page history of the islands including early Spanish and English explorers. Includes the Pig War, pioneer days, the founding of Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor, Orcas Island and Rosario, etc. A chapter covers notable boats and ferries in the history of the county through the 1960s.

Pig War Islands, Davis Blair Richardson

The first part of the book chronicles Pig War history while the second half profiles the subsequent century of San Juan archipelago history, focusing on key events and personalities.

The Pig War: Standoff at Griffin Bay, Mike Vouri

This detailed history might put off a casual reader, but a bit of persistence pays off as the story moves along and the prose engages the reader. Celebrate the fact that the San Juans' history attests that territorial disputes can be resolved by diplomacy rather than violence.

Roche Harbor: A Saga in the San Juans,

Lynette Evans and George Burley

90 pages, including dozens of photographs, of the history of the Roche Harbor community, the John S. McMillin family, and the resort of the same name through 1972, when the booklet was published.

The San Juan Islands: Illustrated Supplement to the San Juan Islander

This reprint of a 1901 pictorial supplement to the San Juan Islander newspaper summarizes early historical events and contemporary economic activities in San Juan County. Its current value may be its photographs of historic buildings and profiles of prominent islanders of the time.

The San Juan Story, C. T. Morgan

About 20 pages of text and 30 photographs give the briefest overview of the islands' history. Tidbits on institutions like the medical center, the gravel pit, the Santa ship, San Juan Airlines, and University of Washington Friday Harbor Labs are given. Outdated travel guide information is also included.

San Juan: the Powder Keg Island,

Jo Bailey-Cummings and Al Cummings

Recounts the story of the Pig War and the settlers of that time, using diaries, letters and newspaper articles.

Who the Hell Was San Juan? Doug Cardle

This book of place names and origins of the San Juan Archipelago was compiled in 1982. Through interviews and examination of various historical charts and maps, the author creates a fairly comprehensive list. Many of the name origins come from old stories. This book remains one of the best available sources for lore and place name information.

Native Americans

Economic life of the coast Salish of Haro and Rosario Straits, Wayne Suttles

This 1951 doctoral dissertation remains the most extensive description of the life of Native Americans of the San Juan Islands. Chapters address subsistence, including hunting and gathering on land and sea, manufactures, including textiles, watercraft and housing, society, individual possessions, and life cycles.

Exploring Coast Salish Prehistory: the Archaeology of San Juan Island, Julie K. Stein

Describes archaeological work on the early life of Native Americans at San Juan Island National Historical Park at Cattle Point and at English Camp in Garrison Bay.

Haboo: Native American Stories from Puget Sound, Vi Hilbert

This collection of stories covers Western Washington, so the stories are not necessarily from or about San Juan County. They are transcribed as they were orally recounted, without editing or revision.

Indian fishing: Early Methods on the Northwest Coast, Hilary Stewart

Profusely illustrated with photographs and drawings, this anthropological study in lay terms reports the techniques and tools used by Native American fishers. Like Stewart's other books, this one is not just specific to San Juan County, but addresses regional techniques. Includes explanations from members of various tribes for how hooks, harpoons, nets, and traps were manufactured and used as well as a section on fish cooking and fish preservation, and the tools used for these purposes.

Northwest Coast Indian Art: An Analysis of Form, Bill Holm

Although not specific to the San Juans, this book explicates the organization of form and space as well as the symbolism of Native American art of the Pacific Northwest. Discusses secondary and minor elements and the use of color.

Artifacts of the Northwest Coast Indians, Hilary Stewart

Cedar: Tree of Life to the Northwest Coast Indians, Hilary Stewart

Looking at Indian art of the Northwest Coast, Hilary Stewart

Natural History

Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific Coast: an Illustrated Guide to Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia,

Eugene N. Kozloff

The go-to resource for lay identification of a variety of different life forms found on beaches, in tide pools, and in near shore waters.

Organized around habitats, black and white illustrations or photographs may illustrate many common plants and animals, including shellfish, jellyfish, sea weeds, etc.

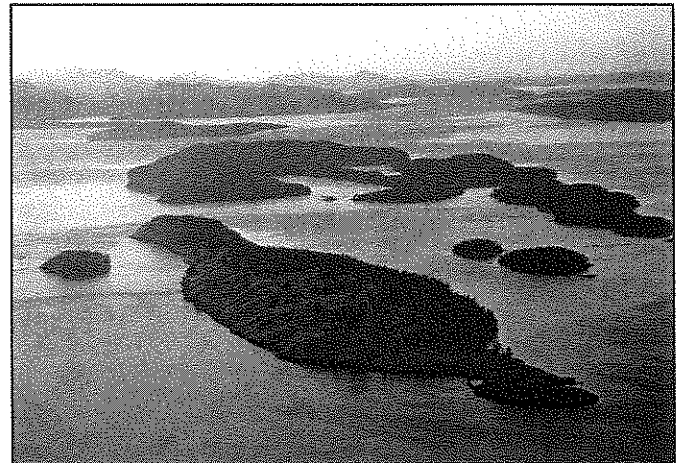


Photo: © Mark Gardner

Orcas, Eagles and Kings: Georgia Strait and Puget Sound, Steve Yates

Lyrical prose with glorious full color photographs about life in the islands and the region. Chapters cover Vancouver's voyage, traveling with the whales, the horrific decline in marine bird populations, and SCUBA dives and amazing sea life images that the non-divers among us might not otherwise see.

Geology

Roadside Geology of Washington, David Alt and Donald Hyndman

A short chapter about the San Juan Islands is found here. A detailed description of

glaciation is found in *Orcas, Eagles and Kings*, by Steve Yates. The readable book about the fascinating geology of the San Juan islands has yet to be written.

Plants

The New Savory Wild Mushroom,
Margaret McKenny and Daniel E. Stuntz, Revised
by Joseph Ammirati

This handbook is designed for use in the Pacific Northwest for fungi hunters who want a field guide that primarily will help them identify edible mushrooms and discern edible mushrooms from poisonous ones.

Wild plants of the San Juan Islands,
Scott Atkinson and illustrated by Fred Sharpe
Black and white illustrations help identify plants in the field, and accounts relate edibility and origin of non-native species. Organized by habitat, the book makes it fairly easy for the beginner to identify new plants and to learn about plant communities.

Birds

Birding in the San Juans,
Mark G. Lewis and Fred A. Sharpe
This guide to San Juan archipelago birds provides abbreviated, geographic-specific species accounts. Black and white illustrations enhance text. Tips on what time of year and where to watch for some species are included.

Marine Birds and Mammals of Puget Sound,
Tony Angell
Geographic distribution and habitat specificity combined with a regional map make this a useful resource for learning about particular bird species. As the environmental data recorded in 1982 ages, the book's usefulness will decline, but the illustrations alone will keep this a classic for many years to come.

Fish

Marine Wildlife of Puget Sound, the San Juans, and the Strait of Georgia, Steve Yates
This guide includes marine mammals, birds, fishes, invertebrates and seaweeds. It utilizes line drawings, provides brief descriptions of habitats as well as ranges, and offers some life cycle information about the wildlife it covers.

Whales

Killer Whales, John K.B. Ford, Graeme M. Ellis, and Kenneth C. Balcomb

Written by the founders of orca research and foremost experts on killer whales, this book provides a catalogue, as of the year 2000, of both the Southern and Northern Resident communities of orcas, including familial relationships and photographic identifications. Also included are some beautiful color photographs, and background on the thirty-year research on the orcas of Washington, southeastern Alaska and British Columbia.

Whales and other Marine Mammals of Washington and Oregon, Tamara Eder

An introductory field guide that includes some animals that won't be found in the inland waters of the Salish Sea, but is more comprehensive and less outdated than Rich Osborne's *A Guide to Marine Mammals of Greater Puget Sound* or Tony Angell and Ken Balcomb's *Marine Birds and Mammals of Puget Sound*; although each of these continues to be useful in many respects.

Guidebooks

Natural Areas of the San Juan Islands,
Terry Lee Domico

This guide profiles 60 different natural sites within the San Juan archipelago. Some lands are publicly owned, others are private, all have some public access. The profiles point to special features of each, including distinct flowers, trees, geologic features, wildlife, and views.

A Place in the Islands: How Private Land Owners Shape the Future of the San Juan and Gulf Islands, The Islands Trust and the San Juan Preservation Trust

This beautiful booklet informs prospective and current landowners about some of the special features of the island landscapes, makes suggestions to consider before undertaking development, and provides resources for how to get information on siting development, water, and protection of existing features of island property.

Historic Friday Harbor on Foot, San Juan Historical Museum

A walking tour of the historic town. Profiles historic homes and other buildings, as well as giving a history of Friday Harbor.

Gardening

Deer-proofing Your Yard & Garden, Rhonda Nassingham Hart

While not Northwest-specific, this list plants deer like, plants deer don't tend to like, provides some general designs for different types of gardening conditions like shade or sunny, dry or wet, and discusses repellents and designs for fences. A nice feature of the book is that it provides pros and cons, rather than recommendations, so the reader has the information to choose for herself.

Landscaping for wildlife in the Pacific Northwest, Russell Link

A very "down to earth" approach, with chapters focusing on maintaining whole habitat, and specific chapters on mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, fish and insects. Includes lists of species to plant to attract different kinds of wildlife, plans for building bird nest boxes and bat houses, and what do about "wildlife-related problems."

Why We Garden: Cultivating a Sense of Place, Jim Nollman

Essays on gardening reflect on the development of an orientation to life that is respectful, joyful, and participatory. Intellectual, spiritual, and political philosophy are combined with a little bit of local knowledge in one man's musing on how we develop a new relationship with the planet through gardening.

Boats, Boating and Maritime

Gunkholing in the San Juans, Al Cummings

This cruising guide describes the San Juan islands for the mariner in words, photographs and miniature charts. Bits of lore, origins of places names, public tidelands, aids to navigation, marinas and good anchorages are noted.

Nautical Highways: Ferries of the San Juan

Islands, Robert Demar and Robin Atkins

Black and white photographs taken at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries depicting ferries serving the San Juans.

Captions identify some places and individuals. *Ferry Guide Map of the San Juan Islands*, Ferry Tale Productions

While containing much outdated information, the map and guide accurately name many points of interest along the Thatcher Pass route from Anacortes through the islands to Sidney, British Columbia.

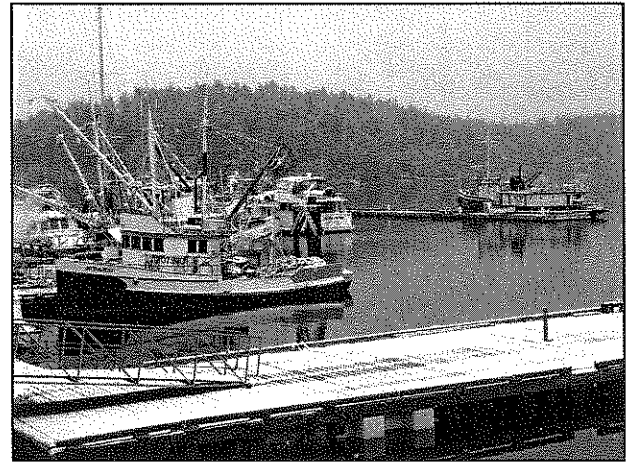


Photo: © Mark Gardner

Biography

Lopez Island: Foul Play on the Friendly Isle, City Confidential Television

This episode covers the true story of the murder of Rolf by his wife, Ruth Neslund.

No Regrets and Other True Cases, Ann Rule

Noted crime writer details the Rolf Neslund murder and the Ruth Neslund trial in 200 pages, with photos, as one of several profiles in this bestseller.

Memoirs by Islanders

In Season: Culinary Adventures of a San Juan Island Chef, Greg Atkinson

Charming personal essays accompany recipes for each of the seasons. Based on a column that ran weekly in the *Journal of the San Juans* during the 1980s and 1990s.

Island Bush Pilot, Roy Franklin

In language so plain the reader almost hears the author speaking, Roy narrates how he founded San Juan Airlines, built the Friday Harbor Airport, and his adventures in establishing scheduled air service to the islands after World War II.

Island Ebb and Flow: A Pioneer's Journal of Life on Waldron Island, Frances K. Lovering

A year by year account of life on Waldron from the 1930s to through the 1970s. Packed with details about raising chickens, Waldron mail service, the Waldron island public school, and many individual Waldron families, but hard to keep up with as there is no narrative to hold the memoir together.

James Francis Tulloch Diary, 1875-1910, James Francis Tulloch

In feisty tones, this early pioneer recounts memories of settling on Orcas Island: founding an orchard, establishing Emmanuel Episcopal Church, the first cemetery, and the mail route, discouraging deer and other orchard pests, running for office, and continuously struggling against his "swindling" neighbors.

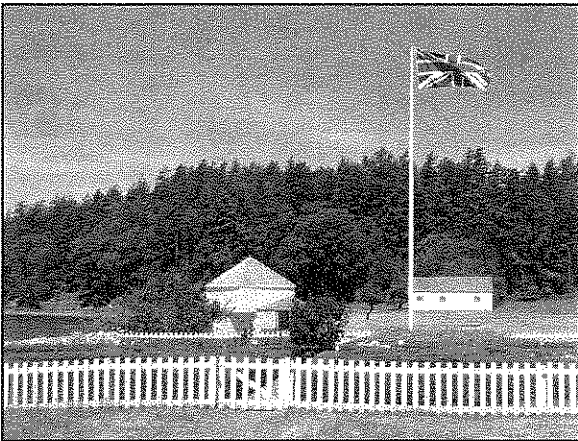


Photo: San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau

Light on the Island: Tales of a Lighthouse Keeper's Family in the San Juan Islands, Helene Glidden

Profiles a childhood on Patos Island from 1905-1913 as the daughter of the light keeper. Strong language may put off some readers. A sense of fun pervades the book, and some readers question the accuracy of the text.

Living High: an Unconventional Biography, June Burn

Recounts the adventurous Burn family's early years in San Juan County, earning their living fishing, gathering gull eggs, working for the Roche Harbor Company, writing, selling songs, raising their children--North and South Burn, and life on Waldron Island. June and husband Farrar Burn literally staked one of the last homestead claims in the United States on Sentinel Island. They also traveled extensively, living on a shoestring celebrating life.

A San Juan Islands Journal, Jo Ann Ridley with photographs by Mary Randlett

Not really a journal at all, but a set of polished essays, some constructed in the 1970s and others in the early 2000s. Essays address topics like counting eagle nests from a small airplane, reef netting, the old ferryboat the *Vashon*, and Emelia (Lee) Bave's *San Juan Saga*—her dramatic rendition of the Pig War. The author was a correspondent for the *Journal of the San Juans* and had a column in the 1970s called the Courthouse Mouse; one essay remembers the mouse.

Underpinning: a Vivid Recollection of Life in Washington State in the Early Part of This Century, Caroline Reed

Written in the 1980s, this memoir recalls a childhood in the early part of the 1900s: the hardships the family faced before automobiles were common in San Juan County, the enjoyment of picnics, parades, and games children played, and the difficulties brought on the family by the advent of World War I.



Photo: © Mark Gardner

Fiction

Children

Jessie's Island, Sheryl McFarlane with illustrations by Sheena Lott

For children, this book illustrated with watercolors details the many things to do and see on a visit to a “boring island in the middle of nowhere.”

Flight of the Fisherbird, Nora Martin

For children grades 4-7, this is a somewhat edgy novel treating the history and beauty of the San Juan Islands as well as the complexities of good and evil in every human heart.

Adults

Amber Beach, Elizabeth Lowell

In her quest to find out what happened to a stolen fortune in amber, Honor heads to the San Juan Islands, but she needs a guide to run the boat. She doesn't know that Jake used to be involved in the family business, and he assumes he is being set up to take the fall. Alone together at sea, the two face betrayal, temptation, relentless enemies, and a mutual hunger for the other.

Critical Mass, Steve Martini

A burned-out lawyer opts for a quieter life on San Juan Island, but becomes embroiled in the search for nuclear devices gone missing from a Soviet storage facility.

Death on a Casual Friday, Sharon Duncan

Scotia MacKinnon lives aboard her sailing yacht in Friday Harbor, where she works as a PI for attorneys and insurance companies until she gets caught up in helping a woman who claims she's being stalked. The author deliberately plays with some of the geography of the island, but writes about a place she knows with more than affection.

Educating Waverly, Laura Kalpakian

Set on Isadora Island (think Orcas), a member of the timber baron family founds a school for girls after World War I. A school girl's isolation, school friendships, and first loves shape her entire life and the lives of those around her.

Folly, Laurie R. King

Set on a fictional private island west of San Juan, a single woman recovering from a psychotic break rebuilds a house. Her family thinks she's crazy to attempt such a project with her history; their fears, and hers, may be justified. Award-winning author King gets the setting of the San Juans right, and perhaps even more important, picks up on the nuances of island characters.

Madonnas of Leningrad, Deborah Dean

Alternating between Marina's youth in Leningrad where she worked in the Hermitage Museum and the present, where she attends the wedding of her granddaughter on a fictional San Juan island, this complicated story explores art, memory and memory loss.

Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson

In a deep fog, alone in his boat, a fisherman is lost at sea. Was it an accident, or was it murder? The trial of a rival fisherman—a Japanese-American World War II veteran whose family was interned—seeks to find justice. The complex histories and racism of the fishing families, the newspaper reporter covering the trial, and the community are interwoven in a series of flashbacks and trial testimony.

Summer Island, Kristin Hannah

On deadline to write a nasty expose of her mother, a bitter and cynical daughter comes home to take care of her mother, who has been injured in an accident. Exploring her family's past, the daughter learns that her mother is not the woman she hated all those years—she is forced to grow up, and to allow herself to love.

You May Now Kill the Bride, Deborah Donnelly

The bride wears purple and lavender, and while the wedding does not take place at Pelindaba, it is set on a fictional lavender farm. The premise is that the wedding planner stumbles into bad things on the way to other people's weddings, so you might not want to hire her for your San Juan Island nuptials.