Welcome to Mount St. Helens

At 8:32 a.m. on May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens violently erupted as an earthquake suddenly split open the mountain's north face, triggering one of the world's largest landslides. The landslide slammed into Spirit Lake, creating a destructive mudflow which swept through the Toutle River Valley.

In a matter of minutes, the eruption devastated 234 square miles of forested lands, turning the area into a barren wasteland.

Today, the new award-winning Spirit Lake Memorial Highway (Hwy. 504) provides access deep into the blast zone where you can see what happened to these lands, and how they are recovering.

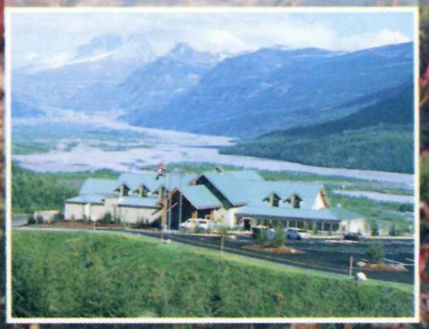
Along the way, you'll want to be sure and stop at all the exciting attractions, including two new visitor centers: **Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center** and the **Forest Learning Center**.

Make this the year you visit Mount St. Helens – where nature has created a living landscape of primordial splendor.

Department of Tourism
Cowlitz County
207 Fourth Avenue N.
Kelso, WA 98626 USA

Two More Reasons To Visit

Mount St. Helens



Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center

Forest Learning Center

Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center

This charming, Alpine lodge-like facility has a unique grandeur you'll long remember.

In addition to featuring a family-dining restaurant, catering to both small and large groups, you'll also find an exclusive gift shop with Mount St. Helens and Pacific Northwest products.

Hoffstadt Bluffs offers the first panoramic view of the mountain, and if you'd like a closer look, helicopter rides are available to the volcano's crater and Spirit Lake. Along the way, you'll have a chance to see the many elk who live in the area.

Picnic sites and hiking trails are available, and ample parking provided for RV's and buses.

Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center:
Located 27 miles east of Interstate 5 on Highway 504.

Open Daily
10:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. May through October
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. November through April

Free Admission
For General Information:
Call (360) 577-3137

Or write: Department of Tourism
Cowlitz County
207 Fourth Avenue N.
Kelso, WA 98626 USA

Forest Learning Center at Mount St. Helens

Celebrate the return of the forests to Mount St. Helens as you learn about nature's destructive and regenerative powers at the Forest Learning Center.

Begin your tour with a walk through a life-like forest. Experience the Eruption Chamber, learn about recovery and reforestation, then sit inside the cockpit of a helicopter for a video tour of forests at Mount St. Helens today. Continue on to learn how forest resources are being conserved for the future and what you can do to help.

Outside you'll find spectacular views of the mountain, the avalanche debris flow, wildlife, and replanted forests. Kids will have fun at a volcano-themed playground.

The Forest Learning Center:
Located 33½ miles east of Interstate 5 on Highway 504 at North Fork Ridge.

Open Daily
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. May through October

Free Admission
For General Information: Call (360) 414-3439

Or write: Forest Learning Center
Weyerhaeuser • P.O. Box 188
Longview, WA 98632 USA

Directions:

Take Interstate 5 to Exit 49 (Toutle/Castle Rock exit). Exit onto Highway 504 (Spirit Lake Memorial Highway) and drive east approximately 27 miles to Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center; then continue on to your next stop, the Forest Learning Center.

Tour groups of 20 or more can reserve a parking space at both locations by phoning ahead.

All exhibits at the Forest Learning Center are courtesy of Weyerhaeuser.