



This Old Town

Antiques remain its bread and butter, but new shops and eateries give historic Snohomish a whole new flavor

This page, left to right: Snohomish's namesake river; the town's shops retain their historic finishes. Opposite page, clockwise from top: Embrace your inner cowgirl at Way Out West; Sebastian's sophisticated martini; bath fizz at Inside Out; the serene BeeHive Day Spa; gifts galore at Blooming Hearts; chase the chill with a hearty cup of soup at City Deli and Wine Shop

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THOUGH IT'S BEEN KNOWN for decades as the "Antique Capital of the Northwest" (so dubbed by a local business owner), a transformation is under way in Snohomish. The beloved antique stores haven't disappeared from this small town's historic downtown core, bounded by First Street, Union Avenue and Avenue D, but many have consolidated into malls off the main drag, such as the five-level Star Center Mall on Second Street.

Moving into the historic storefronts are unique home and garden retailers, specialty gift shops and restaurants offering novel dining experiences. Even old-timers—British pub and tearoom Piccadilly Circus, for one—are sprucing up with major refurbishments.

Yet Snohomish, 30 miles northeast of Seattle, clings lovingly to its small-town allure. Many buildings retain their historic finishes, from intricate brickwork and carved corbels (brackets) to sidewalk mosaics that spell out original store names like welcome mats. Cars stop—voluntarily!—for pedestrians, and everyone knows everyone else.

Says Allison Olsen, lifetime Snoho and owner of girly-gift haven Inside Out on Avenue A, "Everyone's really good about working together to promote Snohomish's growth and also to preserve the town's history and charm."

●●● EAT + DRINK

The Cabbage Patch Restaurant (111 Avenue A; 360.568.9091) has been a Snohomish fixture for 30 years. The restaurant serves good ol' home cooking (Yankee pot roast or lasagna anyone?) and owner Sondra McCutchan's killer Mudd Pie, a brownie-like concoction oozing caramel, coconut and marshmallow, and topped with ice cream. Locals head to the City Deli and Wine Shop (102 Avenue D; 360.568.0369) for made-to-order sandwiches and soups (think turkey/pesto/Havarti panini and from-scratch chicken noodle soup). Informal wine tastings take place every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Sebastian's (924 First St.; 360.568.3928), all dark wood and attitude, is known for live jazz and sophisticated martinis. Staying for an aperitif? Sip on a Sabo Cosmo (Absolut Kulant and Triple Sec jazzed up with cranberry juice and lime). Or bring the whole family on Sunday for the all-you-can-eat crab dinner and indulge in unlimited Dungeness crab plus fixings (soup, salad or garlic mashed potatoes) for \$25.95.

●●● SHOP

Despite its penchant for fluff and lace, we're smitten with Haley's Cottage (1118 First St.; 360.563.4955). Chic crystal chandeliers revamped and rewired by local artist Christine Casaus dazzle from the ceiling and mosaic-embellished mirrors and side tables beg to be bought; an assortment of romantic linens and jewelry rounds out the store's offerings. More modern but equally tantalizing is Inside Out (115 Avenue A; 360.563.0767), which carries home and garden items and other novelties, such as faux silver-leaf side tables, breathable garden gloves and baby booties. Along with sweet-smelling Vorivo candles, other fun gifts from local and/or women-owned companies include edible perfume by Patisserie Savonnerie and Jellybath crystals that turn your bath into a therapeutic soak. Blooming Hearts (901-1/2 First St.; 360.568.8997) sells wares from more than 70 local artists, including wool felt hats, fused-glass jewelry and hand-painted furniture. Our favorite is local artist Debora Deal's exquisite antique-glass window art; a spring meadow of tulips, daisies and irises is picture perfect in a wooden frame. A visit to Way Out West (1116 First St.; 360.563.6565) will have you swaggering like John Wayne in no time. Get in touch with your inner cowgirl (or cowboy) with saddle bar stools that swivel, a wooden CHECK YER GUNS IN AT THE BAR sign or a covered-wagon bed. And for the die-hard antiquer, all of the city's antique shops will participate in the annual Citywide Antiques Sale February 10 through 12.

●●● RELAX

Step into serene BeeHive Day Spa (629 First St.; 360.568.2740) and wind down with customized facials and body treatments that use all-natural ingredients luscious enough to eat, including crushed almonds, chocolate and cinnamon. At the end of the day, stroll along the new Riverfront Trail by the Snohomish River and take in the timeless and homey aromas of Snohomish: wood chips from the lumber mill across the water, diesel from a passing train and alfalfa hay from the surrounding farms. ●

