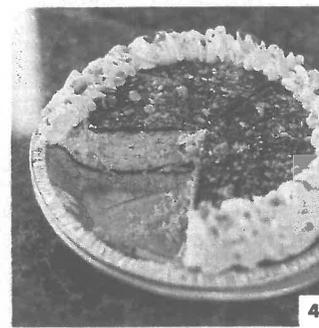


DISCOVER



1. Mt. Rainier looms southeast of Enumclaw.
2. Storefronts dating to the early 1900s line downtown's Cole Street.
3. Tracy's Roadside Produce. 4. The Pie Goddess's decadent Peanut Butterfinger pie.
5. A sampler of sips from Cole Street Brewery.



A PERFECT DAY IN

ENUMCLAW, WA

Small-town charm meets big-mountain beauty in this rural community an hour southeast of Seattle. *By Heather Hansman*

Road-trip delights

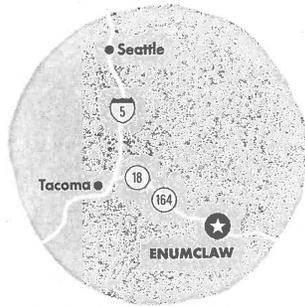
Enumclaw sits on the boundary between field-checked farmland and the mountains of Mt. Rainier National Park. You can get a taste of its agriculture side on the way into town, starting at **Tracy's Roadside**

Produce, where you'll find fresh fare—squash, apples, and greens—even in February. In addition to produce from its farm and neighboring ones, Tracy's stocks local honey, jams, and pickles, along with Washington wine and beer. Down

the road, **Olson's Meats and Smokehouse** sells double-smoked bacon, cheese, salmon, and elk and buffalo sausage. *Tracy's: 23110 S.E. 436th St.; tracyroadsideproduce.com. Olson's: 20103 S.E. 436th; olson'smeatsandsmokehouse.net.*

High bites

The mountains of the Cascade Range start to pitch up steeply east of town, and in the winter, nearby **Crystal Mountain Resort**, Washington's biggest ski area, pulls in powder fiends from across the state. Crystal



GETTING HERE
Enumclaw is 45 miles southeast of Seattle and 30 miles east of Tacoma, accessible via I-5 and State 164 east.

has 2,600 acres of skiing—with 54 percent of its runs suitable for intermediates—and receives nearly 500 inches of snow a year. Even if you're not a skier, you can still ride the gondola to the peak for wide-ranging views of Mt. Rainier and the North Cascades. **Summit House**, the restaurant at the top, prepares dishes like chili made from Washington beef—a big step up from the standard burgers found on most ski-resort menus. *Crystal*: \$22 gondola ticket; 33914 Crystal Mountain Blvd.; crystalmountainresort.com. **Summit**: \$\$; (360) 663-3085.

Literary buzz

Enumclaw is free of chain stores, so there are plenty of one-off boutiques to explore in the walkable downtown. Residents tend to gather at **The Sequel Used Books and Espresso**, where you could spend days perusing the ceiling-high

stacks, but the most interesting section is the deep stash of Northwest guidebooks. If you want to read up on picnic spots in Washington, for instance, or haunted hikes along the Columbia River, the options are plentiful. The sunny, attached coffee shop serves Italian Bristot Coffee and local Mad Hat teas. *1456 Cole St.; thesequel-usedbooks.net.*

Heavenly pies

Enumclaw, which celebrated its centennial in 2013, was founded as a logging town, and even today, it's a hearty meat-and-potatoes kind of place. Restaurants like **The Kitchen**, **The Kettle**, and **Charlie's Cafe** serve huge portions of steak and eggs, burgers, and ribs. The best known (and arguably best) of the bunch is **The Pie Goddess**, which anchors the quiet corner of Griffin Avenue and Railroad Street. Peanut Butterfinger is the most popular sweet pie, but they have nearly 50 varieties, ranging from seasonal fruits, like peach pecan crunch, to meaty shepherd's pie, which is perfect for a post-ski dinner. People drive in from Seattle to pick them up. **The Pie Goddess** herself, Suzie Sidhu, who has been baking pies for almost 30 years, says her secret is not to mess with the crust too much: Roll it once and don't touch it. \$; *1100 Griffin Ave.; (360) 625-8568.*



6. Fresh fruits and vegetables and Washington wines fill the shelves at Tracy's. 7. Cole Street Brewery owner Eric Brandjes. 8. Olson's Meats and Smokehouse. 9. Summit House sits high atop Crystal Mountain.

Brews and views

Eric Brandjes experimented with homebrewing for more than 20 years before introducing his beers to the public. In 2013, he opened Enumclaw's first craft operation, called **Cole Street Brewery**, and it quickly became a mainstay. The light-filled brewery is BYO food and has eight beers on tap. From its deck, you get an unobstructed view of Mt. Rainier. In addition,

Brandjes creates seasonal specialties, such as a vanilla-oat brown, for area restaurants like **The Mint**, and his beer is on tap at **Chalet Theatre**, Enumclaw's movie house. Brandjes says his **Overlander IPA**—a hoppy, Northwest-style India pale ale—is the most popular, while the **Cascadian Rye** has a cult following. "I don't hear the end of it if it goes off tap," he says. *2551 Co St.; colestreetbrew.com.* ▲

LOCAL LOWDOWN
"Enumclaw may come across as a cow town if you're just passing through, but it's much more diverse and sophisticated after a closer look."
 —ERIC BRANDJES, OWNER OF COLE STREET BREWERY