



# DESTINATION FOCUS

AAA Washington Travel Services

## *Leavenworth*

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Set in the central Cascades in an area reminiscent of the Alps, Leavenworth is the quintessential theme town and a top Northwest destination. By redefining itself as a snow globe scene brought to life, the town has thrived since the mid-1960s and now serves 1 million tourists annually. Leavenworth is a year-round magnet for river rafters, campers, cross-country skiers, families, arts enthusiasts, wine connoisseurs, and trinket shoppers. Leavenworth's boutiques, dressed in faux-Bavarian architecture, combine with the collective enthusiasm of just 2,000 residents to create Washington's most unique travel experience.

Leavenworth was first settled in 1892 by homesteaders taking advantage of the natural beauty of the Icicle Flats on the western edge of the Wenatchee Valley. Near the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Great Northern Railway put the town on the map as a logging hub and it incorporated in 1906. The town fell on hard times in the late 1920's when Great Northern relocated to Wenatchee, and Leavenworth languished in obscurity for over three decades.

The town was resuscitated in 1962 when a city Project LIFE (Leavenworth Improvement for Everyone) Committee gathered a consensus to remodel the town into a Bavarian hamlet. Community members began several large events that continue to the present day – the Autumn Leaf Festival, Maifest, a tremendous Oktoberfest celebration, and Leavenworth's signature Christmas Lighting Festival.



*Dancers Celebrating Maifest [Photo © Don Adams]*



*Fireworks Over Christmas Lighting Festival [Photo © Don Adams]*

# THE INFORMED TRAVELER

## WHOM TO CONTACT

**Emergency:** 911

**Police (non-emergency):** (509) 663-9911 – Chelan County Sheriff

**Weather:** Visit [weather.com](http://weather.com) and enter 98826 as the ZIP Code

**Hospital:** Cascade Medical Center, corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Commercial just south of US 2, phone (509) 548-5815

**Visitor Information: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center** ([www.leavenworth.org](http://www.leavenworth.org)) 940 Highway 2 (or PO Box 327), Leavenworth, WA 98826. Phone (509) 548-5807

## MEDIA

**Newspapers:** The weekly *Leavenworth Echo* publishes each Wednesday. The daily (except Saturday) *Wenatchee World* serves the entire Wenatchee Valley.

**Radio:** Leavenworth's KOHO 101.1 FM plays easy listening favorites and BBC world news. Wenatchee's KNWR 90.7 FM carries NPR programming, and several other Wenatchee station carry English- and Spanish-language programming.

**Television:** Leavenworth receives broadcast television stations from Seattle and Spokane.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Approaches By Car

**US Highway 2** is Leavenworth's east-west connection to the outside world. Approaches from points south are from **US Highway 97** at Peshastin, four miles east of town. The **Chumstick Highway** connects Leavenworth with the town of Plain, Lake Wenatchee and points north.

### By Air

**Pangborn Memorial Airport** ([www.pangbornairport.com](http://www.pangbornairport.com)) is 25 miles southeast of Leavenworth in East Wenatchee.

Horizon Air offers four flights daily on 76-seat Q400 aircraft between Pangborn and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

### By Rail/Bus

**Amtrak** plans to add a stop in Leavenworth on its Empire Builder Line in 2009. Construction is scheduled to commence on Icicle Station in March 2009 with service projected to begin in late 2009. Until the stop opens, the nearest train stop is Wenatchee. Amtrak also offers twice-daily Thruway bus service to Seattle and once-daily to Spokane.

### Rental Cars

**Hertz** – Pangborn Airport, East Wenatchee. Phone (509) 884-6900

### Public Transportation

**Link Transit** serves Chelan and Douglas Counties with a fleet of buses. Phone (509) 662-1155, or online at [www.linktransit.com](http://www.linktransit.com)

### Shopping areas

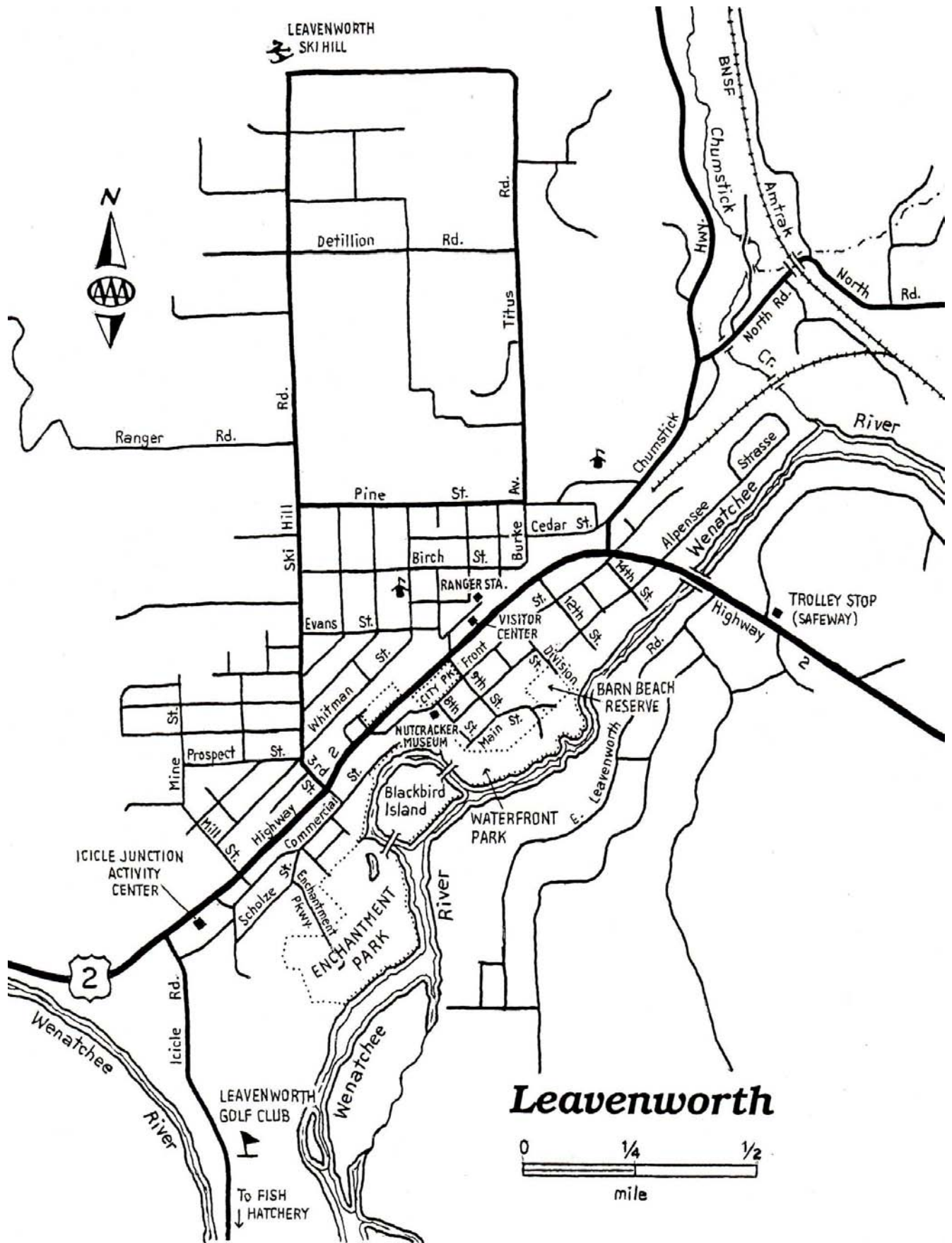
The main shopping zone is on Front and Commercial Streets just south of Highway 2. A cluster of dozens of boutiques sells handicrafts, art, wine, and typical tourist fare.

### Climate

Leavenworth has a Humid Continental climate with temperature extremes ranging from 0° in mid-winter to the high 90's in the summer. About one-third of the town's annual precipitation falls in the form of snow.

### LEAVENWORTH (alt. 1166 ft.)

Averages	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Max. Temp. (°F)	33.4	42.1	52.3	62.7	72.7	79.2	87.6	87.2	78.6	63.1	43.7	33.5	61.3
Min. Temp. (°F)	17.1	21.8	27.2	33.5	40.5	46.6	50.5	50.0	42.4	33.6	27.6	20.0	34.2
Precip. (inches)	4.68	3.11	2.09	1.13	0.85	0.88	0.34	0.48	0.72	2.01	4.22	4.82	25.32
Snowfall (inches)	32.8	14.6	5.6	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	10.4	31.6	95.5



## THINGS TO SEE AND DO

### CENTRAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

The **CENTRAL SHOPPING DISTRICT**, hemmed between Highway 2 and the Wenatchee River, is long on gift boutiques, quirky dining choices, and souvenir shops of all varieties. The shopping zone has a mix of single-floor shopping arcades and narrow, two-story Bavarian facades. Beautiful flower baskets and flags from around the world hang from awnings at every turn as one finds themselves transported into a storybook German village. Among the over 100 shops:

- **Kris Kringl**, a year-round celebration of all things Christmas and the retail center point during the Christmas Lighting Festival. 907 Front St. – Phone (509) 548-6867 – Web [www.kkringl.com](http://www.kkringl.com)
- **Australian Store**, a counterpoint to the surrounding Bavarian-themed shops, specializing in pirate, outback, and beach-themed apparel and accessories. 929 Front St. – Phone (509) 548-3088
- **Cheesemonger's Shop**, serving gourmet collections of beer, wine, cheese, and sausage in gift and picnic baskets, or as a snack. 819 Front St. – Phone (509) 548-9011 – Web [www.cheesemongersshop.com](http://www.cheesemongersshop.com)



*Leavenworth's Bavarian Welcome*

The **LEAVENWORTH NUTCRACKER MUSEUM** ([www.nutcrackermuseum.com](http://www.nutcrackermuseum.com)), located downtown at 735 Front St., houses over 5,000 nutcrackers, some dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. A kids' favorite since its creation in 1995, the museum is a menagerie of figurines that value artistic form over function – animal and cartoon likenesses are prominently featured. The centerpiece of the museum, said to be the only one of its kind in the United States, is a 2,000-year-old Roman metal nutcracker unearthed in 1960. Included in the admission rate is a 14-minute video that traces nutcrackers through history and introduces the museum. Limited operating hours – 2-5pm daily, Sat-Sun only Nov-Apr. Phone (509) 548-4573. (Admission)

Link Transit offers the **LEAVENWORTH TROLLEY**, a convenient east-west bus route connecting the parking lot at Safeway at the east end of town, the central shopping district, and the Icicle Inn on the west side. The route takes less than ten minutes from either end to downtown. The trolley departs the Safeway lot every 30 minutes from 10-5:30 daily and fares are just 25 cents.

### WENATCHEE RIVER GREENBELT

Just south of the shopping zone, the Wenatchee River takes a respite from its turbulent rapids upstream to meander past a 50-acre greenbelt. The trailhead commences at the **BARN BEACH RESERVE**, a hub for avian pursuits centered around the historic 'River Haus' (built 1903) and its Upper Valley Museum (open Fri.-Sun. 11-5 year-round). Guided tours of the grounds are available upon request. 347 Division Street – Phone (509) 548-7584 – Web [www.barnbeachreserve.org](http://www.barnbeachreserve.org)

**RIVERFRONT PARK**, accessed via an entrance at 7<sup>th</sup> & Commercial, provides a playground, a bandstand for festival time, and a connection to the birders' paradise **BLACKBIRD ISLAND**. This small, three-acre landmass circumvented by the river (accessible only via foot bridges on either side) teems with waterside vegetation and is the centerpiece of the Audubon Society's Great Washington Birding Trail. Alternatively, walkers can take the shore-side path past the island directly to **ENCHANTMENT PARK**, home to a kids' fishing pond, a playground, and ball fields.

## ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY & NEARBY VICINITY

Another mile south along Icicle Road lies the **LEAVENWORTH NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY**, one of three centers in north-central Washington operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Built in the 1930s as an ancillary part of the Grand Coulee Dam project, the hatchery provides public guided tours of its facilities and a visitors' center tracing the life cycle of salmon. The hatchery also hosts the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival in mid-September, featuring educational activities and a Native American encampment with storytelling and a traditional salmon bake. Open daily 8-4. 12790 Fish Hatchery Road - Phone (509) 548-7641 – Web [www.fws.gov/leavenworth](http://www.fws.gov/leavenworth). (Donations)

**ICICLE JUNCTION ACTIVITIES CENTER**, located at the west end of Highway 2 just east of Icicle Road, offers a wide range of activities for the entire family. The center houses an 18-hole miniature golf course, an 80-seat cinema, table and arcade games, and an outdoor multi-sport court. Open daily 3-10pm weekdays during school year, and 9am-10pm during summer and other school breaks. 565 Highway 2 – Phone (509) 548-2400 – Web [www.iciclejunction.com](http://www.iciclejunction.com)

Another kids' favorite is the horse-drawn sleigh rides at **RED-TAIL CANYON FARM**, located three miles north of town off Chumstick Highway. Gentle draft horses take you out from a 120-acre working ranch for a 40-minute trip into a snow-covered timbered canyon. Groups of 12 can also arrange hay rides in the summer, complete with barbeque cookouts. 11780 Freund Canyon Road, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (509) 548-4512 – Web [www.redtailcanyonfarm.com](http://www.redtailcanyonfarm.com)

## WINERIES

The upper Wenatchee Valley is an emerging wine region within the Columbia Valley viticultural appellation. A number of wineries host tasting rooms in and around Leavenworth.

- **Berghof Keller Winery** – Located one mile east of downtown on US 2, then south on Duncan Road. Open Tues-Sat 1-5pm. Phone (509) 548-5605 – Web [www.berghofkeller.com](http://www.berghofkeller.com)
- **Icicle Ridge Winery** – Located in Peshastin, one mile north of US 2 on Main Street and North Road. Open daily noon-5pm. Phone (509) 548-0261 – Web [www.icicleridgewinery.com](http://www.icicleridgewinery.com)
- **Wedge Mountain Winery** – Located ½ mile north of US 2 at US 97 junction, then e. on Jeske Road and n. on Saunders Road. Open Thurs.-Mon. 10am-4pm. Phone (509) 548-7068 – Web [www.wedgemountainwinery.com](http://www.wedgemountainwinery.com)

## AROUND THE AREA



West of town, Highway 2 hugs the north bank of the Wenatchee River inside **TUMWATER CANYON**. Every spring this wild six-mile stretch of whitewater rapids (pictured at left) east of the roadside respite of Coles Corner roils tempestuously and attracts hundreds of roadside gawkers witnessing nature's fury.

**LAKE WENATCHEE STATE PARK** lies on the southern shore of the key natural attraction of the area, seven miles west on Highway 2 to Coles Corner, then 3½ miles north on Lake Wenatchee Highway (SR 207). The park is separated in half by the headwaters of the Wenatchee River – the North Park is a densely-forested campground set back from the river, while the South Park hosts horseback riding, a swimming area, an amphitheater for groups and picnic sites. A public boat launch (fee) accommodates personal watercraft and ski boats during the summer season, as well as fishermen trolling for trout and steelhead. Wildlife is abundant in the park, including bears and bobcats – so keep those coolers covered!

Nearby is **FISH LAKE**, a two-mile-long basin filled with native perch species and several different types of stocked trout. **The Cove**, located one mile northeast of the state park on Chiwawa Loop Road, has a private boat launch and a day-use fishing dock. Phone (509) 763-3130.

Backtrack to Lake Wenatchee Highway and turn at the sign for Leavenworth onto Beaver Valley Road. Six miles later, the small town of **PLAIN** appears, consisting of a community church, a general store, and a hardware store. A left turn at the end of the town takes the motorist onto the Chumstick Highway, with a winding opening mile of steady switchbacks to climb Beaver Hill. The highway continues for eleven more miles until returning to Highway 2 at the east end of Leavenworth.

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Icicle Road**, on Leavenworth's western flank, is the gateway to a multitude of active and tourist pursuits. Jumping-off points for a number of rafting and kayaking adventures can be found all along the route, as well as over a dozen trailheads for hiking, mountain biking, and snowshoeing.

### GOLF

- The public, 18-hole **LEAVENWORTH GOLF CLUB**, located one mile south of town on Icicle Road, is a mostly flat layout abutting the Wenatchee River and hosts golfers of all abilities from April-October. It is also a popular cross-country and snowshoeing venue in the winter. 9101 Icicle Road, Leavenworth. Phone (509) 548-7627 – Web [www.leavenworthgolf.com](http://www.leavenworthgolf.com)
- **KAHLER GLEN GOLF & SKI RESORT**, found one-half mile south of the state park (use the same turnoff from the highway), features a rolling 18-hole layout set among tall firs and a driving range with floating island targets. In the winter, the course converts to a groomed Nordic skiing and snowshoeing wilderness that connects up to the state park's 30-kilometer trail system. The property features a restaurant and time-share lodging. 20700 Clubhouse Drive, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (509) 763-4025 – Web [www.kahlerglen.com](http://www.kahlerglen.com)

### HIKING/MOUNTAIN BIKING

- **Wenatchee Valley Ranger Station** – 600 Sherbourne Street, Leavenworth – Phone (509) 548-6977
- **Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce** – 940 Highway 2, Leavenworth – Phone (509) 548-5807 – Web [www.leavenworth.org](http://www.leavenworth.org) (click Activities, then Trail Guide for an excellent reference – including driving directions).

### HORSEBACK RIDING

- **Eagle Creek Ranch**, 2½ miles north on Chumstick Hwy, then 5½ miles east on Eagle Creek Road. Group rides, private rides, and other activities available. Phone (509) 548-7798 – Web [www.eaglecreek.ws](http://www.eaglecreek.ws)
- **Icicle Outfitters**, 2½ miles south on Icicle Road. Sleigh rides in winter, pack trips and day rides in summer. 9-5 daily May-Sept., 10-4 Dec.-Feb. Phone (509) 669-1518 – Web [www.icicleoutfitters.com](http://www.icicleoutfitters.com)

### SKIING

Cross-country skiing is one of Leavenworth's popular winter pastimes. The **LEAVENWORTH SKI HILL**, located 1½ miles north of town on Ski Hill Drive, is home to five miles of Nordic skiing trails, a tubing park (with a lift), small ski jumping hills, snowshoeing and a kids' Alpine course. The Leavenworth Winter Sports Club operates the hill, as well as thirteen miles of Nordic track at Leavenworth Golf Club and along the Icicle River south of town. Kids' classes and private lessons are available. Phone (509) 548-5477 – Web [www.skileavenworth.com](http://www.skileavenworth.com).

### WHITEWATER RAFTING/KAYAKING

Leavenworth's site and situation next to the Wenatchee River makes the town a prime hub for whitewater rafting and other aquatic pursuits. Peak season is May and June for rafting (coinciding with the spring meltwater from the Cascades), and July and August for kayaks.

- **Alpine Adventures** – PO Box 373, Gold Bar 98251. Phone (360) 863-5065 – Web [www.alpineadventures.com](http://www.alpineadventures.com)
- **Blue Sky Outfitters** – 9674 50<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Seattle 98136. Phone (800) 228-RAFT – Web [www.blueskyoutfitters.com](http://www.blueskyoutfitters.com)
- **Enchanted Water Tours** – PO Box 611, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (888) 723-8987 – Web [www.enchantedwatertours.com](http://www.enchantedwatertours.com)
- **Leavenworth Outfitters** – 325 Division St, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (509) 548-0368 – Web [www.leavenworthoutfitters.com](http://www.leavenworthoutfitters.com)
- **Orion Expeditions** – 12681 Wilson St, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (800) 553-7466 – Web [www.orionexp.com](http://www.orionexp.com)
- **Osprey Rafting** – 9342 Icicle Road, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (800) 743-6269 – Web [www.ospreyrafting.com](http://www.ospreyrafting.com)
- **River Riders** – 10860 Highway 2, Leavenworth 98826. Phone (800) 448-RAFT – Web [www.riverrider.com](http://www.riverrider.com)



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY (mid-month) – **Bavarian Ice Festival** (Snowshoe and dog-sled races, sleigh rides, fireworks)  
APRIL – **International Choral Festival** (Five premier Northwest chorales perform on own and as an ensemble)  
MAY (mid-month) – **MAIFEST** (Spring festival celebrates Bavarian tradition – costumes, dance, parade)  
MAY (mid-month) – **Spring Bird Fest** (Birder's congregation – hiking, guided trips, songbird concert)  
SUMMER – **Art in the Park** (Professional and amateur art on display in the town green – May-Sept., Thu-Sun)  
JUNE (mid-month) – **International Accordion Festival** (Four days of jazz, ethnic, classical, and more)  
JULY – **Kinderfest & 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration** (Children's festival downtown – face painting, games)  
JULY (weekends) – **Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival** (International guest artists and resident musicians)  
AUGUST (late-month) – **Leavenworth Wine Tasting Festival** (Art, live music, wine from across Washington)  
SEPTEMBER (mid-month) – **Wenatchee River Salmon Festival** (See fish hatchery listing above)  
SEPTEMBER (late-month) – **Autumn Leaf Festival** (Celebration of fall foliage season – parade, food booths)  
OCTOBER (weekends) – **OKTOBERFEST** (Quintessential Bavarian festival – Arts, music, food and drink)  
NOVEMBER (late-month) – **Christkindlmarkt** (Annual Bavarian-style Christmas Market)  
DECEMBER (weekends) – **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FESTIVAL** (Town lit in 19<sup>th</sup>-century style lights)

*Photos by Tony Mayer, except as listed – Map drawn by John King*

*Updated 6/26/08 tm*