



Family Hike Recommendations

There are some great nearby hiking trails just waiting to be explored! To get your family started on the right foot, REI employees have selected some of their favorites below.

Be sure to bring these necessities along in your daypack:

- Drinking water
- Lunch or snacks
- Extra clothing layers
- Map and compass
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- First-aid kit
- Insect repellent
- Whistle
- Headlamp or flashlight

For a complete day hiking checklist, visit [Expert Advice](#) on REI.com.



Here Are Five of Our Favorite Kid-Friendly Local Hikes

Hike One: **Tiger Mountain Recreation Area**

Rating: **Easy**

Distance: **1-2 miles one way, less than 100 feet elevation gain.**

Why this hike: Kids will love these forested trails with plenty of wildlife to witness along the way.

Hike Description: Tiger Mountain has a wealth of easy, family-friendly trails. Try the “Around the Lake Trail” with its views of Tradition Lake and interpretive signs describing the Pacific Northwest plants and animals you’re likely to encounter. At just under two miles, the Bus Trail – which is wheelchair accessible – is also a favorite. Enjoy the quiet under the forest canopy and listen for native birds flying from branch to branch in these dense woods.

Driving Directions: From Seattle, take I-5 south to I-90 east. Follow I-90 to High Point, Exit 20, just east of Issaquah. From the off-ramp, turn right and quickly turn right again onto SE 79th Street. This is the entrance to High Point trailhead, located 0.5 mile down the gravel road.

Tips: The Tiger Mountain recreation area is a popular place for hikers, horseback riders and bicyclists, so be cautious as you hike and share the trail.

Hike Two: **Boardman Lake**

Rating: **Easy**

Distance: **2 miles roundtrip, 200 feet elevation gain.**

Why this hike: Hikers young and old can reach this beautiful back country body of water.

Hike Description: The hike to beautiful Boardman Lake is one of the easiest off the Mountain Loop Highway. Huge cedars greet you at the beginning of the trail and you’ll reach little Lake Evan just two minutes later. Hike under a canopy of massive trees along the well-groomed trail. After climbing a small ledge you’ll reach Boardman Lake. Surrounded by rocky knolls, ancient trees and brushy slopes, the lake feels tucked deep in the wilderness. Head for the shoreline by crossing the outlet creek on a log jam, or explore primitive paths along the eastern and northern lakeshore.

Driving Directions: From Seattle, take I-5 north to Exit 194. Merge onto US-2 east toward Snohomish/Wenatchee. Drive six miles east on US 2 to the Highway 9 exit near Snohomish. Follow Highway 9 north to US 92. Turn right and follow US 92 eight miles east to Granite Falls. At the end of town turn left (north) onto Mountain Loop Highway. Follow Mountain Loop Highway east to the Verlot visitor center. Continue for 4.7 more miles, turning right onto graveled FR 4020. Proceed five miles to the trailhead, located on your left.

Tips: A northwest forest pass is required for this hike. While it will only take most people about 30 minutes to hike to this destination, you might want to plan on spending hours enjoying and appreciating the scenic lake.

Hike Three: **Franklin Falls Trail**

Rating: **Easy**

Distance: **2 miles roundtrip, 250 feet elevation gain.**

Why this hike: Remember playing in the sprinklers on a hot summer day? Treat your kids to the real thing and let them splash in the spray of a 70' waterfall!

Hike Description: The Franklin Falls Trail follows the south fork of the Snoqualmie River. It's an easy walk that rises gradually through old-growth forests, with views of Denny Creek. There are several spur trails along the way, but these aren't recommended for kids because the terrain on the spurs is steep and there are no guardrails. The trail ends at the base of Franklin Falls. You may hear the traffic on 1-90 in the distance, but the sound you'll really notice is the squeal of delighted children playing in the cool water. As you approach the falls, give little ones a hand, as the rocks can be slippery from the spray. A good two-mile loop can be made by turning right 0.25 miles before reaching the falls. A right turn at this junction will take you back to the Wagon Road trailhead. This short connecting trail joins the Wagon Road Trail.

Driving Directions: Take I-90 east to Exit 47. Turn north, drive across the overpass and turn right at the "T." In 0.25 miles turn left on Denny Creek Road #58. Follow this road 2.5 miles. Just beyond the campground, turn left on a paved road. In 200 feet, parking is on the left and the trailhead starts on the right. A Northwest Forest Pass is required for parking.

Tips: Very popular on the weekends in the summer, this trail is sure to have a fair amount of traffic. But kids absolutely love the cool water at the end.

Hike Four: **Carkeek Park Trails**

Rating: **Easy**

Distance: **0.5 to 6 miles roundtrip, minimal elevation gain.**

Why this hike: The park's various trails offer many ways for kids to have positive experiences in nature.

Hike Description: Start at the Environmental Learning Center to pick up a map of the park and its trails. Options include Piper's Creek Trail that starts at the Eddie McAbee entrance and stretches the length of the park. It passes by a restored orchard. On the Wetlands Trail, you'll spot lots of waterfowl as you walk over the boardwalk. The South and North Bluff trails offer gorgeous views, and you'll see many notched cedar stumps left over from late-1880s logging. For more remote options, try the South Ridge Trail or the upper part of the Salmon-to-Sound Trail, which hosts remnants of original fir, hemlock and cedar forests. Carkeek's beach area is a great place to explore, and during low tides you can walk two miles south to Meadow Point and Golden Gardens Park or north 4 miles to Richmond Beach.

Driving Directions: From Seattle, take I-5 north to Exit 172 (Aurora Ave N./N. 85th Street). Follow 85th to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Turn left on N. 105th Street. Turn right on Greenwood Avenue. Turn left on N. 110th Street. Continue on NW 110th Street which, bearing right, becomes NW Carkeek Park Road (look for brown directional signs) and follow road down to the park entrance, on the left.

From north Seattle, take I-5 south to Exit 173 (First Ave. NE/Northgate Way). Turn left on First, then left on Northgate Way. Continue on Northgate Way, then N. 105th Street, to Greenwood Avenue North. Turn right on Greenwood. Turn left on N. 110th Street, and continue on NW 110th which, bearing right, becomes NW Carkeek Park Road. Follow road down to park entrance, on the left. Continue down road for children's playground and beach parking, and the road to field, orchard walk and creek parking. Parking is free.

Hike Five: **Twin Falls Trail**

Rating: **Moderate**

Distance: **3 miles roundtrip, 500 feet elevation gain.**

Why this hike: This hike has it all; old-growth forest, a pair of waterfalls, a challenging climb and a long flat.

Hike Description: This trail follows the south fork of the Snoqualmie River traveling along a flat section for about 0.5 miles before rising steeply uphill to two dramatic waterfalls. About a mile from the trailhead, you pass the Grandfather Tree—an ancient Douglas fir that's now protected by a fence. A little farther, a stairway leads down to an overlook of the lower falls. The main trail continues to the bridge over the river. About 100 yards beyond the bridge is an overlook of the upper falls. The trail is well-traveled hardpack, wide enough to travel two side by side in most places. Little ones will need to be pushed, pulled and probably carried on parts of this one, but the payoff is big.

Driving Directions: Follow I-90 east to Exit 34 (Edgewick Road) Turn right onto 468th Avenue SE and go 0.6 miles. Turn left onto SE 159th. Follow the road another 0.5 miles to the state park parking area. Parking is \$5 for the day, or a State Park Annual Pass can be purchased.

Tips: Bring a water filter so that if you stop to have lunch by the creek, the kids can pump their own water and learn how important it is to drink filtered or boiled water. The top of the trail intersects with the Iron Horse Trail for the more adventuresome who would like to add mileage.



REI's PEAK program uses a fun presentation filled with hands-on activities and games to teach kids ages 6 through 12 about taking care of the outdoors.

Ask an REI team member about scheduling a free PEAK presentation for your classroom or youth group, or visit www.rei.com/PEAK for more information.



First Saturday in June The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, sponsored by REI, is a nationwide celebration of trails. Celebrate with your family by taking a hike, or volunteering for a trail clean-up project. Ask an REI team member about how to get involved, or visit www.rei.com for more information.