

november/december 2010  
the magazine for **AAA** members

# journey

puget sound



anacouver music Ekko Space Needle snow ski travel yoga  
cowboy festival Red Rock Canyon books Echo Ridge Needle snow ski travel yoga  
ding crafts sun can go green family bike Echo Ridge Needle snow ski travel yoga  
fun japan books Echo Ridge Needle snow ski travel yoga  
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forming skating Whistler go kitchen Sayulita  
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ateful ziplining drive Costa Rica kids surf movies spa  
love ziplining drive Costa Rica kids surf movies spa  
explore Antartica Panama New Zealand Dungeness crab eat Todos Santos  
will traditions Jamaica Airplanes Lake Union community syrah snowshoeing  
Bachelorette party fruitedake canals hosting eat Todos Santos  
age peace festivals Disney Land Centennial Trail cold cold ice-fishing  
olidsays work Spokane Scoualanie Walk Leavenworth Hawaii crafts vacation epic  
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place Coeur d'Alene trees sleep decorating gifts fuzzy snow boots Miami wine  
lanterns sultan Mount Hood airports theater baking play watch  
inamon Cologne garland carnival writing retreats Huskies drive San Andrés  
road trips chocolate pancake Stevens Pass basketball ZOO  
B&B gingerbread Anthony's restaurant  
peppermint hot cocoa snowman mountains  
Thanksgiving pictures snowman mountains  
gondola Mt. Rainier read Journey yachts  
wise charin singe laugh Seattle

what  
are  
**you**  
doing  
this  
winter?

# next stop

## DESTINATION:

# Bellingham

The arts flourish  
in the shadow of  
Mount Baker

BY ALLEN COX



Whatcom Museum's elegant Lightcatcher exhibit space.

**W**hen you need a break from winter thrills on the slopes of Mount Baker, you can head down the hill and in from the chill in Bellingham's cultural arts district.

Welcome to the city's "living room"—beginning at the corner of West Holly and Bay streets—where the arts, science and history come together. This downtown district's centerpiece? Whatcom Museum's Lightcatcher, a 42,000-square-foot exhibit space defined by a 37-by-180-foot translucent curved wall. Having opened its doors in November 2009, this fine art and history museum is one of the Northwest's newest, with exhibits ranging from regional history to American fine art, plus a "Family Interactive Gallery" that kids love.

At nearby Mindport Exhibits, you'll wonder whether you're in a science or art museum, and that question flatters its creators. Here, hands-on exhibits are all about creativity and exploration. Around the corner, geek is chic at the American Museum of Radio and Electricity, where an electrifying collection of world-class exhibits spans 400 years of discovery.

Local artists have works on display at the Allied Arts gallery. "We feature a new exhibit every month," says Kelly Hart, Allied Arts executive director. "But one of our most popular events is the annual Holiday Festival of the Arts." Now in its 31st year, this juried arts and crafts show runs from Nov. 19 to Dec. 24. **■**



## THE BASICS

**Visitor Information Center**  
(800) 487-2032; I-5 Exit 253;  
[www.bellingham.org](http://www.bellingham.org)

**Whatcom Museum**  
(360) 778-8930; 250 Flora St.;  
[www.whatcommuseum.org](http://www.whatcommuseum.org)

**Mindport Exhibits**  
(360) 647-5614;  
210 W. Holly St.;  
[www.mindport.org](http://www.mindport.org)

**American Museum of Radio  
and Electricity**  
(360) 738-3886;  
1312 Bay St.;  
[www.amre.us](http://www.amre.us)

**Allied Arts**  
(360) 676-8548;  
1418 Cornwall Ave.;  
[www.alliedarts.org](http://www.alliedarts.org)

## EAT

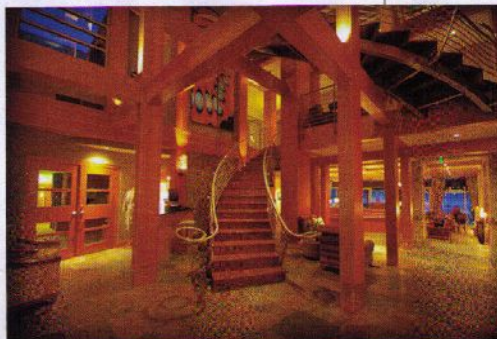
**Old Town Cafe:** Scrumptious breakfasts and lunches. (360) 671-4431; 316 W. Holly St.; [www.theoldtowncafe.com](http://www.theoldtowncafe.com)

**Flats Tapas Bar:** Delectable small plates. (360) 738-6001; 1307 11th St.; [www.flatstapas.com](http://www.flatstapas.com)

**Nimbus:** Locally sourced fine cuisine. (360) 676-1307; 119 N. Commercial St., 14th floor; [www.nimbusrestaurant.com](http://www.nimbusrestaurant.com)

## ZZZZZs

**The Chrysalis Inn and Spa**  
(Pictured below) Relax and unwind at this elegant respite right on the Bellingham waterfront. 804 10th St.  
**Hotel Bellwether**  
This exceptional hotel, also on the waterfront, is pet friendly. 1 Bellwether Way.



PETER JAMES