

Watchable Wildlife

All manner of animals live in the natural areas surrounding the Cascade Loop. What you see during your trip will depend on the season, time of day, weather, and how far from the roadway you explore. Animal behavior varies.

Enjoy looking for and photographing wildlife but be alert and safe! Keep a safe distance from all wildlife, do not attempt selfies with critters, and do not offer them your food.

See more about resident wildlife at cascadeloop.com/wildlife



The Cascade Loop begins and ends along Washington State's Puget Sound. From the car, you may spot seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Get out of the car for a chance to see otter, sea lion, crab, orca, gray and humpback whales, sea urchins, and sea stars. Your best bet for seeing all of these is to book a trip with Anacortes Kayak Tours or Whidbey Island Kayaking.

Western river valleys are favorite spots for hundreds of species of birds and waterfowl. Look for snow geese, trumpeter swans, and tundra swans in winter.

While driving through the mountains, be on the lookout for deer, coyote, bald eagle, and osprey.

In the backcountry, you may encounter black bear, mountain goat, elk, cougar, raccoons, skunks, and whistling marmots.

Driving through eastern river valleys, you may see deer, rabbits, coyotes, bighorn sheep, blue heron, bald and golden eagles, osprey, wild turkey, and turkey vulture.

Away from the highway, you might encounter gray wolves, black bear, cougar, beaver, raccoon, skunk, whistling marmots, grouse, bobcats, badgers, moose, mountain goats, grouse, wild turkey, wolverine, lynx, bobcat, and pikas.

✓ Checklist

Region

Feathered Friends

- bald eagle all
- blue heron all
- Canada goose lowlands
- common loon 1,8,9
- cormorant 1,8,9
- golden eagle 2,3,4,5,6,7
- grouse 4,5,6
- duck all
- osprey all
- snow goose 4,5,6,8
- tufted puffin 1,9
- trumpeter swan lowlands
- tundra swan 4,6,8
- turkey vulture 3,4,5,6,8,9
- wild turkey 3,4,5,6,8,9

Aquatic

- beaver 4,5
- Dungeness crab 1,8,9
- harbor seal 1,8,9
- humpback whale 1,8,9
- orca whale 1,8,9
- river otter 1,2,3,6,7,8
- sea lion 1,9
- sea urchin 1,9

Cute Critters

- pika 2,3,4,6,7
- rabbit all
- raccoon all
- skunk lowlands
- whistling marmot 2,3,4,5

Herbivores

- bighorn sheep 4,5
- elk 2,3,7,8
- moose 4,5,6,7
- mountain goat 2,3,5,6
- mule deer 3,4,5,6,7
- white-tail deer 6,7,8

Predators

- black bear 2,3,4,5,6,7
- cougar 2,3,4,5,6
- coyote 2,3,4,5,6,7
- gray wolf 2,3,6,7
- lynx 6,7

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CASCADE LOOP ASSOCIATION

Photos: Pete Freund Photography