



Maple Pass

Move Over Netflix, here comes the WT #Hiking Channel!

March 11th, 2021 marked the one-year anniversary of the World Health Organization declaring the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic, forcing us all to hunker down at home. In spite of this, WT-ers still found impressive ways to connect. In-person meetings, walks to coffee, and kitchen chats have been replaced with digital tools like Zoom, WebEx, Teams, and perhaps primarily with Slack—a word that was barely on our radar a year ago has joined Google, Text, and Tweet as a new noun-verb in our lexicon. Slack is a texting platform that allows users to create specific channels for each project team or well...pretty much anything. Weber Thompson's legendary spirit for fun and life-work balance soon translated to Slack, and project team channels were joined by extracurricular channels like **#wt-writing-circle**, **#wt-ski**, **#food**, and my personal favorite, **#hiking**.

The **WT #Hiking Slack Channel** is my fave not only because it is an amazing resource for epic outdoorsy adventure ideas, but because it speaks to our resilience in the face of the pandemic.



Moran State Park, Orcas Island



North Bend Tinkham Road Snowshoe



Summer blueberries!

Like the Whos in Whoville, WT-ers overcame pandemic gloom finding joy, connection, and beauty by safely venturing out into nature, and then sharing those great experiences with each other for fun and inspiration. I planned to show the three most impressive hikes here, but in less than two months, twelve spectacular adventures throughout our beautiful state have been posted and it was impossible to choose. Instead, all twelve are plotted on the map below with links for more information on each and every one. The map shows that you don't have to travel far from the city to reach these fun escapes, and the wide variety of hikes offer something for everyone: hikes for all seasons and skill levels, hikes with pets, hikes with kids, hikes with mountains, hikes with lakes, and hikes with berries. The #hiking group members have even shared some great tips on what to avoid, which is often the most important info to know!

So do yourself a favor and click on the links below to find gorgeous photos, helpful tips, and directions to the trailheads. I am confident they will inspire you to turn off Netflix, grab your mask and your partner/pets/kids, and head for the hills.

Tolmie Peak

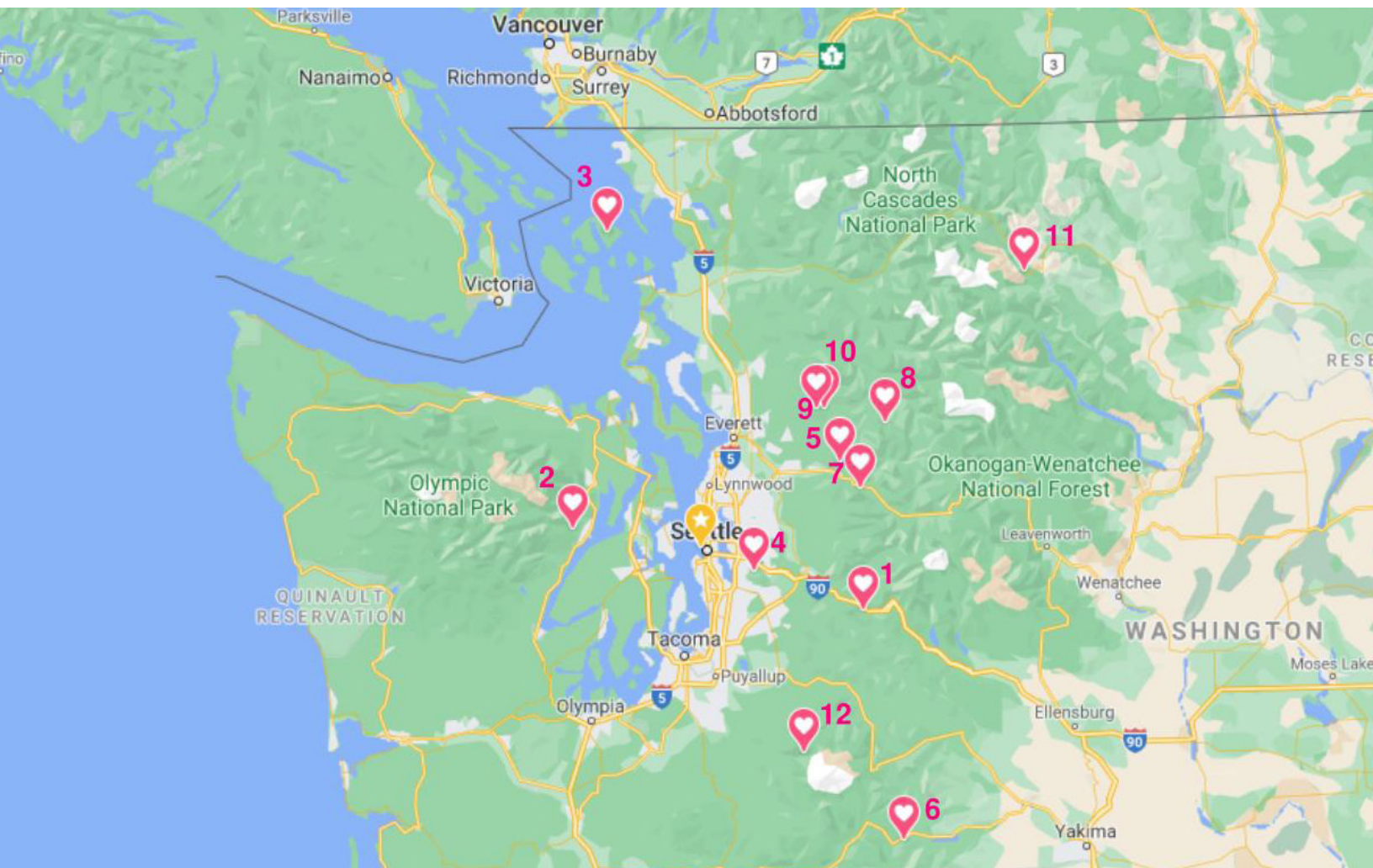




"Monster Fur Tree" at Cougar Mountain

Map Key

1. Erin's I-90 North Bend Snowshoe Trail
2. Brittany's Olympic National Forest Cabin
3. Noelle's Orcas Island / Cascade Lake Hike
4. Emily D's Cougar Mountain Hike
5. Temyka's Bridal Veil Falls / Lake Serene Hike
6. Mariah's White Pass Snowshoe Trail
7. Tanya's Wallace Falls Hike
8. Emily E's Gothic Basin Hike
9. Eric S's Heather Lake Hike
10. Gloria + Tiffani's Lake 22 Hike
11. Brittany's Maple Pass Larch March
12. Noelle's Tolmie Peak / Lake Eunice Hike



1. Erin's I-90 North Bend Snowshoe Trail

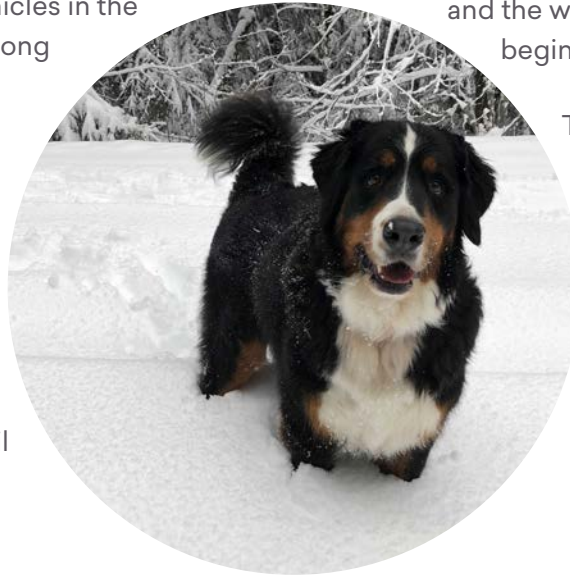
"If you find yourself headed for snow along with the rest of Seattle and encounter bumper to bumper traffic on I-90, why not pull off on the side of the road and create your own trail?"

Back in December, that's exactly what some friends and I decided to do, and boy was it a sound decision. After 90 excruciating minutes in bumper to bumper traffic and an estimated 90 to go, we put on our blinker and beelined to the next exit. We came upon Tinkham Road/NF-55, which is closed to vehicles in the winter. The road is flat and winds along the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River, and it's just off the highway. Park near the road closed sign, strap on your gear and go.

The road is at an elevation of around 1,500', so be sure to check the snow report before you go. If the snow hasn't quite reached the lowlands, or you're looking for a trail dusted with snow near the top, you

can also hike the McClellan Butte Trail, just off Tinkham Road. If you do meet up with Tinkham Road on a snowy day and decide to snowshoe or cross country ski, you'll enjoy the peace and quiet and thrill of forging your own trail. Follow the road as far as you can (it runs about 6 miles and ends at the Asahel Curtis Trailhead for a 12 mile roundtrip trek) or take a pitstop at the Tinkham Campground for lunch, before continuing on or turning back. It's about 1.5 miles from the road closed sign to Tinkham Campground, for an easy 3 miles, and the whole route is flat and perfect for beginners.

The next time you're hankering to get out and enjoy some snow, consider heading to Tinkham Road, or work up the courage to pull off on the road if you encounter traffic, because you just might be stumble on an impromptu trail that's even better than the snow parks."



Directions to the trailhead

<https://goo.gl/maps/nkzqa8nz8eeffLcg9>

2. Brittany's Olympic National Forest Cabin

"The Interrorem Cabin is located in the Olympic National Forest and requires reservations well ahead of time. It's a fairly remote cabin with camp grounds nearby, an outhouse, electricity, and gas powered lighting and fireplace. We were there during a particularly wet weekend and it was the nicest place to stay warm and dry after venturing out for any of the nearby day hikes to waterfalls or look out points. If you want to get away from it all and hang out the in rainforest of the Olympics it's definitely worth a look!"



Directions to the trailhead

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233743>

3. Noelle's Orcas Island / Cascade Lake Hike

"If you're on Orcas Island, Cascade Lake in Moran State park is a nice easy hike for all ages. It's a 2.4 mile hike around a picturesque lake that is chockful of activities in the summer including swimming, picnicking, boat rentals and fishing. But hiking this trail in late December offered a very different, almost surreal experience. A dense fog blanketed the lake on my hike, and there were hardly any other hikers in sight. It was so peaceful and serene!"



Directions to the trailhead

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/washington/cascade-lake-trail>

4. Emily D's Cougar Mountain Hike

"Cougar Mountain, aka one of the "Issaquah Alps" along with Squak and Tiger Mountains, is soooo close. Spend your time hiking instead of driving! Hikeable year-round, Cougar has over 35 miles of winding trails in a protected 3000+ acre of King County Park land. Cougar offers something for everyone. You can hike one mile with your kids or run 20 if you're training for a trail marathon. There are also places to access streams to play in and an interesting history of coal mining, cold war missile storage and brick making/a clay pit to explore. Fun fact: I go there nearly every week and have hiked or run every trail."



Unexpected Hiking Surprise: A tree decorated with Christmas ornaments at Harvey Manning Trailhead on Cougar Mountain!



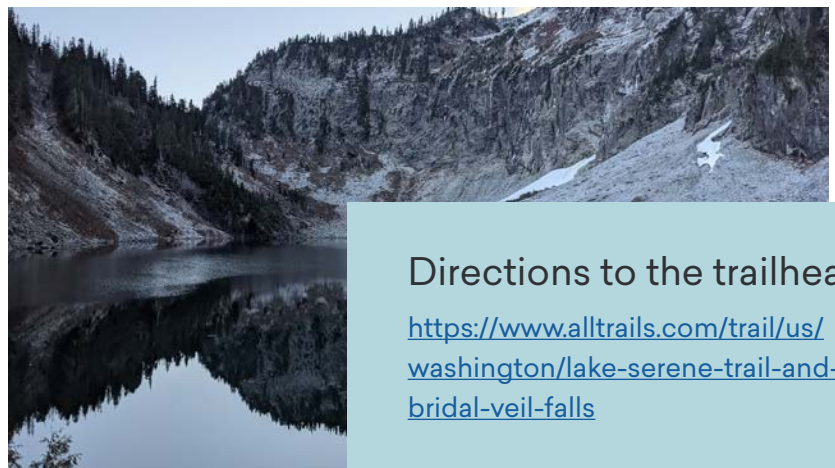
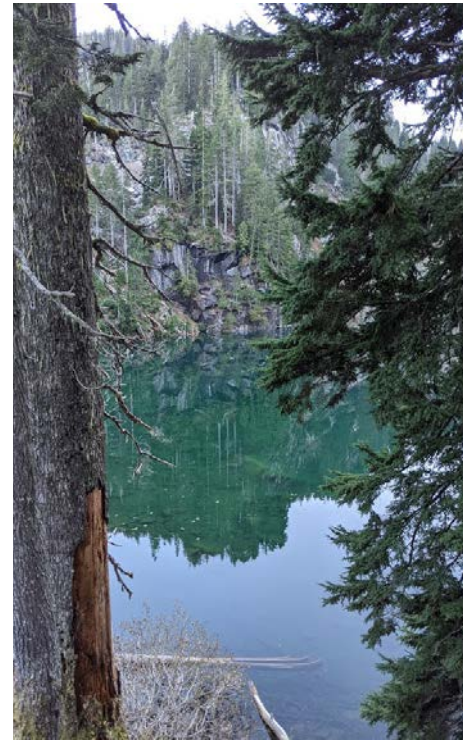
Taking a break to eat TicTacs under the "Monster Fur Tree" at Cougar Mountain

Directions to the trailhead

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/parks-recreation/parks/parks-and-natural-lands/popular-parks/cougar.aspx>

5. Temyka's Bridal Veil Falls / Lake Serene Hike

"Lake Serene and Bridal Veil Falls is a beautiful two part hike, totaling 7.5 miles and 2716 feet in elevation and located in close proximity to Seattle at Gold Bar. Part 1, Bridal Veil Falls, offers a shorter milder walk at four miles roundtrip and 1000 feet in elevation. You walk along a well-maintained track with a small easy river crossing which would offer a perfect stopping point in the summer. During the month of October you enjoy beautiful fall colors. Arriving at a fork turning right and after a short stint of elevation gain, you arrive upon a huge rock face with water trickling down very elegantly as if it truly were a veil. Upon climbing some stairs you can immerse yourself in the spray of the falls – again another summer beauty. Returning to the fork, turning left and trekking along rockier trails but more immersive in the landscape you arrive at an opening at the base of the falls enjoying the height of the rock face and spectacular views back to index. Continuing left, you will be in for quite the hike. The trail takes on many forms, each offering a new experience along the trail, and after a lot of up, cute staircases, bridges and switch backs galore you arrive at the most gorgeous reflective lake – it is 100% serenity and worth every minute of elevation gain. 360° of views of beautiful turquoise and deep blue water, mountains covered lightly in snow and trees – including mini-Christmas trees! (would 100% recommend studs for the last section of the hike). There is a huge rock perfect for a relaxing lay in the sun and a break. The only downside to this trail is having to leave."



Directions to the trailhead

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/washington/lake-serene-trail-and-bridal-veil-falls>

6. Mariah's White Pass Snowshoe Trail

"We went to find snow in December – snowshoeing just east of White Pass. The road to the sno-park is ~5 miles down an unplowed road off Highway 12 so I would only recommend if you feel confident driving on snow! It wasn't crowded at all. We saw maybe six people while we were there and it was just as we passed by each other on the trail. It was very peaceful! We stayed at an Airbnb just outside Yakima and it was about an hour drive out there – it would be a bit of a drive coming from Seattle for a day trip."



Directions to the trailhead

<https://goo.gl/maps/rmUMrUCd6Jg7UaRt7>

7. Tanya's Wallace Falls Hike

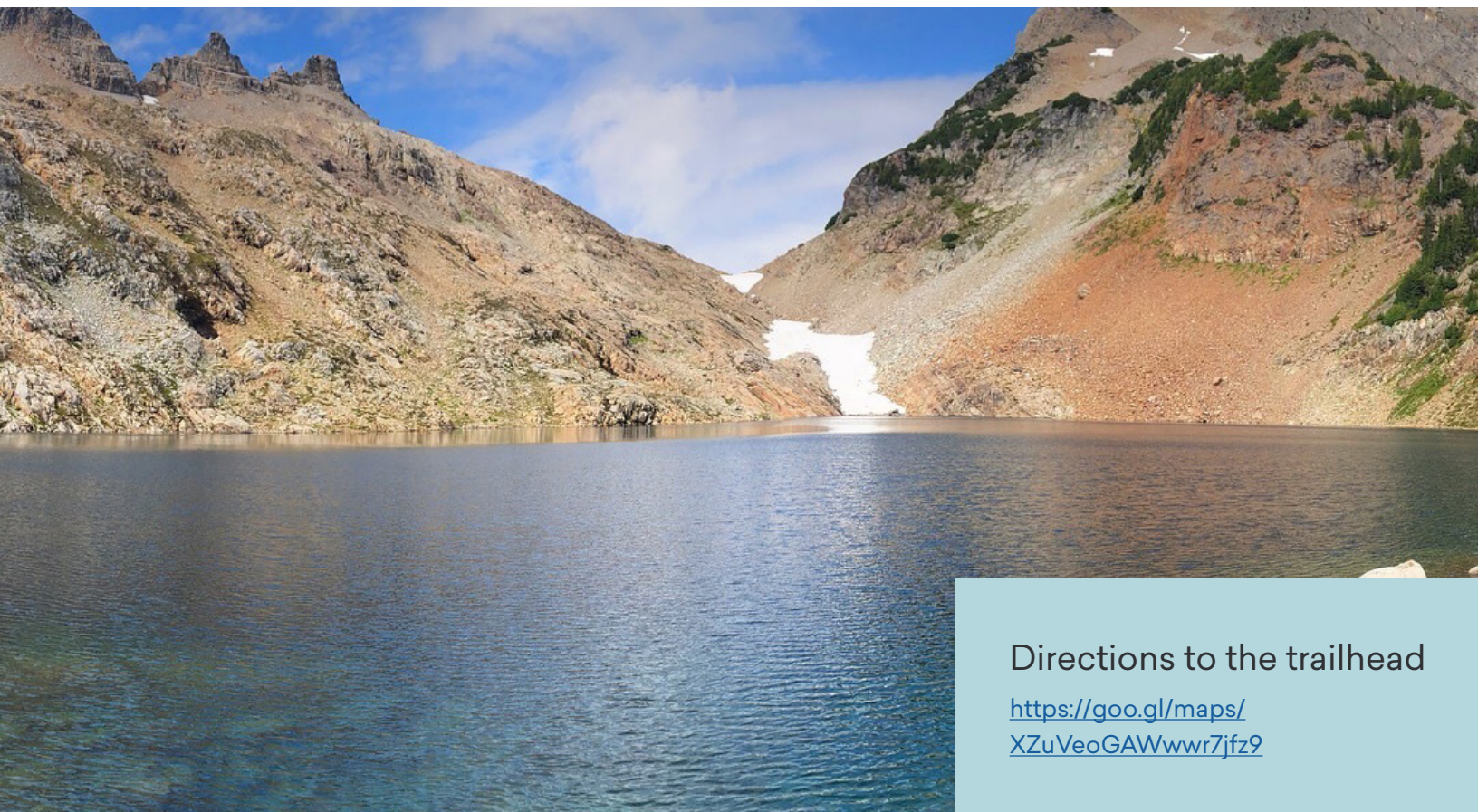
"We went to Wallace falls back in November and got super lucky with timing to experience this enchanted forest on our way down. The filtering light on the mossy trees was just spectacular and calming!"

Directions to the trailhead

<https://goo.gl/maps/WXzDbsHcBnHbjegB9>



8. Emily E's Gothic Basin Hike



Directions to the trailhead

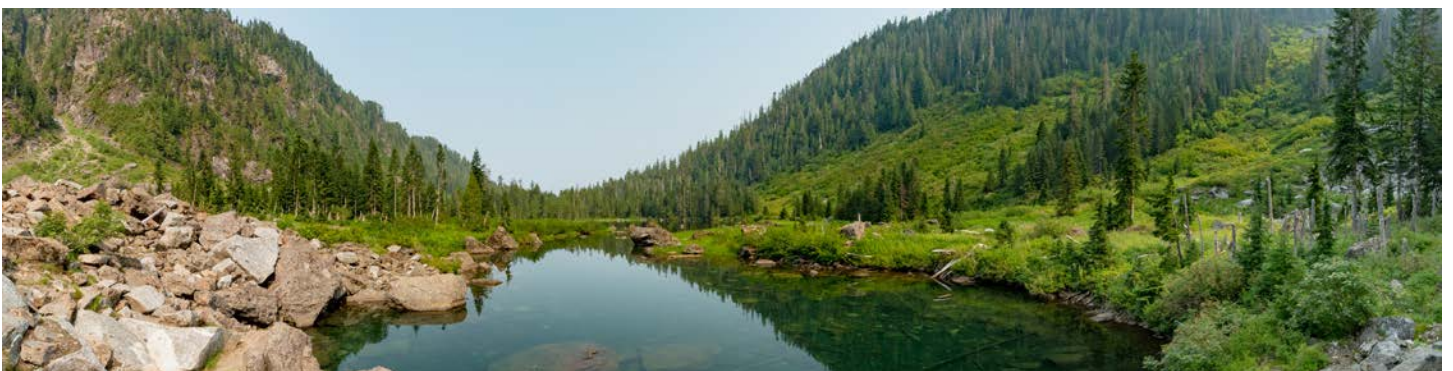
[https://goo.gl/maps/
XZuVeoGAWwwr7j fz9](https://goo.gl/maps/XZuVeoGAWwwr7j fz9)

9. Eric S's Heather Lake Hike

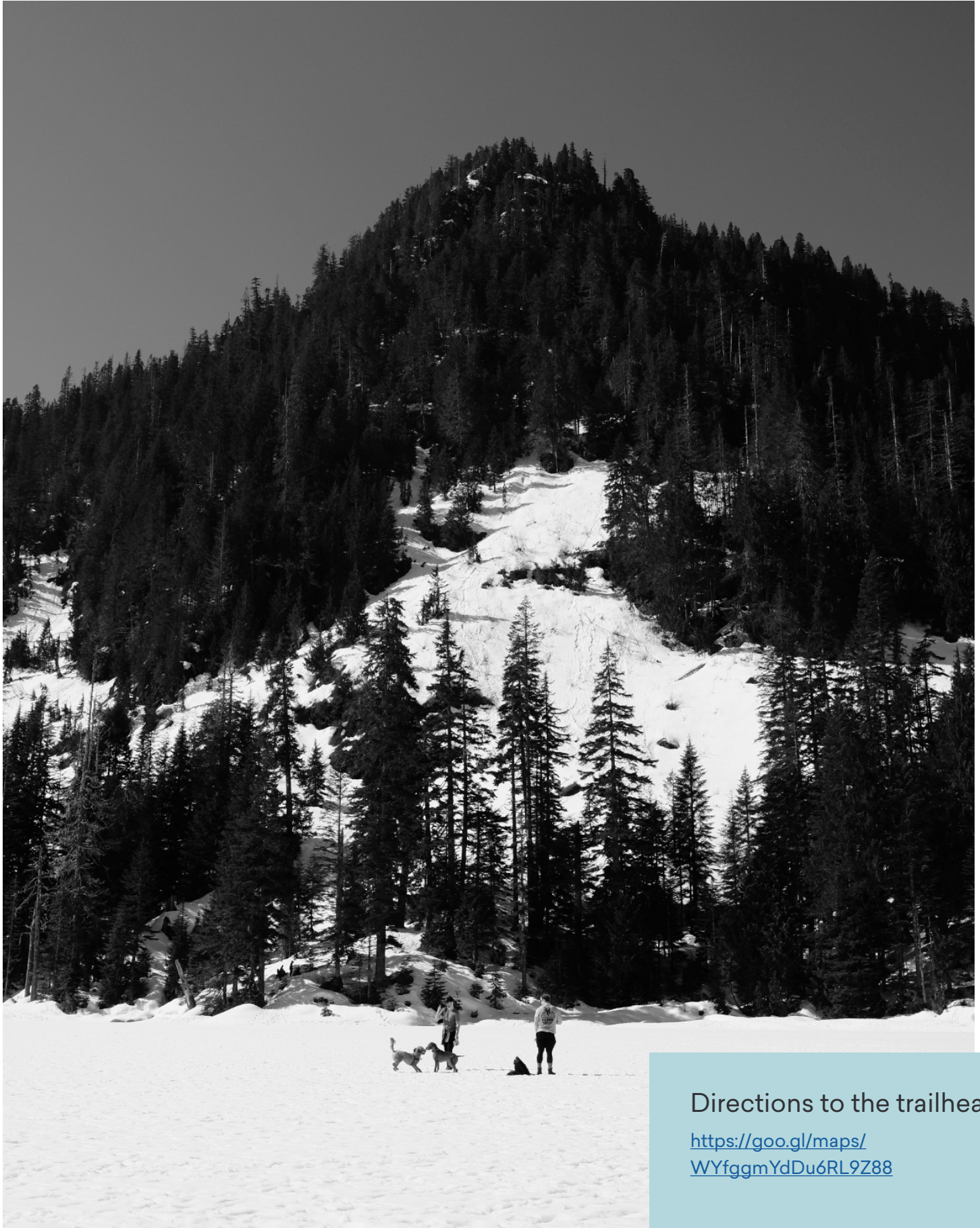
"Hiking at Heather Lake is easy and enjoyable. Once you reach the lake it is gorgeous! You'll be treated to lush greenery, tree-lined mountain peaks, and plenty of great spots to rest and have a snack or a picnic."

Directions to the trailhead

<https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/heather-lake-1>



10. Gloria + Tiffani's Lake 22 Hike



Directions to the trailhead

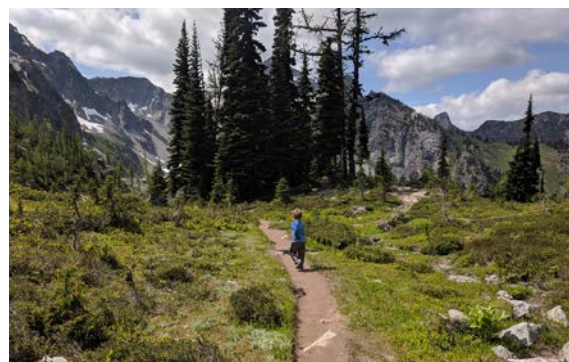
[https://goo.gl/maps/
WYfggmYdDu6RL9Z88](https://goo.gl/maps/WYfggmYdDu6RL9Z88)

11. Brittany's Maple Pass Larch March

"Maple Pass Loop is a beautiful ridgeline hike in the North Cascades that revolves around Ann Lake. It's a moderate to difficult hike depending on the ground conditions (i.e. ice or mud) and is pretty popular so aim for less typical hiking times if crowds are of concern. It is my favorite spot to see the larches in early October and the expansive views over the mountain range are phenomenal!"

Directions to the trailhead

<https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/maple-pass>



12. Noelle's Tolmie Peak / Eunice Lake Hike

"By far one of my favorite day hikes! The scenery is absolutely breathtaking. Eunice Lake is a perfectly acceptable place to stop but I highly recommend hiking the last mile up to the Tolmie Peak fire lookout. It's a grueling uphill climb, but the in-your-face view of Mount Rainier up at the top (and Eunice lake glistening below) is well worth the effort! Bonus, there are huckleberry bushes on this trail."

Directions to the trailhead

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/washington/tolmie-peak-trail--2>

