

COMMUNITY PROFILE

ANACORTES, WASHINGTON

September 2009

Community Profile- City of Anacortes, Washington USA

Introduction

Anacortes is the principal city on Fidalgo Island, the eastern-most island in the San Juan archipelago. Anacortes, an All-American City, is the second largest city in Skagit County and its largest seaport. The City has modern educational facilities, state-of-the-art health care, and abundant business opportunities, all in the natural beauty of an island setting. Anacortes residents and visitors enjoy 12 ½ miles of saltwater shoreline, a pristine environment, four freshwater lakes, nearly 3300 acres of city-owned forestlands and parks and breathtaking water, island and mountain views. The natural abundance, vibrant community and the convenience of bridges connecting to the mainland make Anacortes “A Natural Destination” for those seeking a superior quality of life.

Finding Anacortes

Anacortes is located on the north central coast of Washington State (USA), 80 miles north of Seattle, WA and 90 miles south of Vancouver, BC. The City is 16 miles west of the I-5 freeway (exit 230), via Highway 20. Our Zip Code is 98221 and Area Code is 360.

Population

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2009</u>
Anacortes (city limits)	11,757	14,557	16,790
Fidalgo Island	16,800	20,700	23,026
Skagit County	79,555	102,979	118,900

Summary Demographics (2008 estimates)

Number of Households	7,178	
Average Household Income	\$63,259	
Median Household Income	\$48,258	
Age Distribution		
19 and under	3742	(23%)
Ages 20-54	7070	(43%)
55 and over	5479	(34%)
Education (Population 25 yrs and over)		
High School Grad/Some College	6126	(52%)
College Graduate	4503	(38%)

There are more than 590,000 households and nearly 1,500,000 people within 90 minutes drive of Anacortes.

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Climate

Anacortes enjoys a mild, marine climate due to its island location on the inland waters of Puget Sound. The prevailing southwesterly flow of weather is interrupted by the Olympic Mountain Range creating a “rain shadow”- and those fortunate communities like Anacortes that are in that shadow experience less precipitation than surrounding communities. Anacortes has on average, 30% (12 inches) less rain than Seattle just 80 miles to our south. Our temperatures are mild year around and we enjoy many sunny / partially sunny days.

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Avg Max Temp (F)	46	49	52	58	64	68	72	72	67	59	51	46
Avg Min Temp (F)	35	36	39	42	46	50	52	53	50	45	40	37
Avg Rainfall (in)	3.6	2.4	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.4	.9	1.0	1.5	2.6	3.8	3.8
Avg # of Sunny / Part Sunny Days	11	16	17	20	21	22	25	25	23	17	12	10

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Transportation

By Road

Interstate 5- Major north / south freeway in Washington State, Exit 230 to Highway 20;
- 16 miles to Anacortes

Highway 20- Major east / west highway in Skagit County- Hwy 20 Spur runs through Anacortes.

Anacortes / Fidalgo Island is accessible by 3 bridges: Highway 20 from the east, through LaConner to the southeast and over Deception Pass from Whidbey Island to the south.

Most major truck and package delivery lines serve Anacortes. Skagit Transit (SKAT) provides scheduled/ by request public bus service. Private Airporter and taxi services are available.

By Water

The Washington State Ferry terminal for the San Juan Islands (Lopez, Shaw, Orcas, San Juan) and Victoria, B.C. via Sidney, Vancouver Island, B.C. is 5 miles west of downtown.

The Guemes Island ferry terminal (½ mile west of downtown) is a county maintained local ferry service.

By Train

AMTRAK passenger service to Seattle and Vancouver B.C. is available daily. Connect in Mount Vernon, 16 miles east of Anacortes at Skagit Station (local bus service, Airporter, taxi).

By Air

Anacortes Airport (3,018' paved runway)- Regional scheduled / charter service by San Juan Airlines (4 miles west of downtown).

Skagit Regional Airport (5,474' & 5,080' paved runways), 10 miles east- Charter, package delivery.

Bellingham Airport, 40 miles north – 2 major and 3 limited carriers.

Seattle Tacoma International, 90 miles south- All major carriers.

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Utilities

Electricity

Puget Sound Energy 1-888-225-5773

Natural Gas

Cascade Natural Gas 1-888-522-1130

Telephone

Verizon Residential 1-800-483-4000
Business 1-800-265-2316

Most National Cellular Providers

Cable /Satellite Television

Comcast 1-800-266-2278

National Satellite services

High-Speed Internet Service Providers

Verizon 1-877-483-5898

Comcast 1-800-266-2278

National Satellite services

Water

City of Anacortes (Source- Skagit River) 360.428-1598

Waste Water

City of Anacortes (Primary and Secondary Treatment) 360-299-0953

Solid Waste

City of Anacortes (inside city limits) 360-293-1921

Waste Management NW (unincorporated areas) 1-888-592-9995

Recycling

Rabanco 1-800-942-5965

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Education

Anacortes School District

Superintendent- Chris Borgen: 360-293-1210

The Anacortes School District is approximately 25 square miles in size, serving the community with a high school, a middle school, three elementary schools and four additional educational support groups totaling approximately 2600 students. The District employs 253 total staff.

The district has an annual drop-out rate of 4.9% (2006-07). The teaching corps has an average of 14.2 years in the classroom. Over 70% of teachers have at least a master's degree.

Enrollment / Faculty for 2009-2010

	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
High School (9-12)	1	850	48
Middle School (7-8)	1	450	22
Elementary (K-6)	3	1300	65

Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) Results (2008-2009)

Anacortes School District scores above the state average in each category.

	<u>% Meeting or Exceeding Standards</u>			
	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Science</u>
3 rd Grade	78.7%	66.1%		
4 th Grade	82.2%	69.0%	78.7%	
5 th Grade	82.7%	73.1%		72.6%
6 th Grade	85.6%	76.0%		
7 th Grade	66.5%	63.8%	76.8%	
8 th Grade	72.9%	57.5%		58.9%
10 th Grade	86.4%	60.7%	94.2%	55.8%

Anacortes Senior College (ASC)

ASC, in partnership with the Anacortes School District, provides multi-disciplinary coursework for all citizens 50 years of age and older. The college is managed and taught by qualified volunteers for the benefit of the senior community. The college is collocated with Anacortes Middle School.

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Skagit Valley College (SVC)

SVC has campuses near Anacortes (Mount Vernon (16 miles east) and Oak Harbor (20 miles south)—offering a broad curriculum of technical skills, certificated programs and two-year Associate degrees transferable to four-year institutions.

Western Washington University (WWU)

WWU is a 4-year, multi-disciplinary state university located in Bellingham, approximately 40 miles north of Anacortes.

Housing

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Home Sales	465	301

Single Family Housing Market

Construction cost:	Spec: \$130 per sq ft; Custom: \$150+ per sq ft
Monthly rent range:	Apartment \$495- \$900+; Houses \$950- \$2000+
Building Lots	\$100,000 to \$600,000

Health Care

Anacortes enjoys an exceptional level of health care service usually only found in larger municipalities, provided by Island Hospital and the supporting medical community.

Island Hospital is a modern, publicly owned facility that is recognized as one of the most innovative small hospitals in the nation. The hospital has 43 beds, a 24-hour emergency room (level 3 trauma) and a 6 bed ICU. The hospital features a birthing center, a physical therapy and rehab unit, cancer care and sleep disorders centers, a state of the art electronic medication administration system and is converting its imaging technologies (x-ray, CT, Ultrasound, MRI, mammography / arteriography) to an all digital system. An FAA approved, lighted helipad for air ambulance service is located on hospital grounds, providing Level 1 trauma service to patients via Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

The hospital and local medical community include 515 professionals and staff, including 120 physicians and 151 registered nurses. The supporting medical community includes

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more than 24 specialties, including 12 dentists and two skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities.

City of Anacortes

Anacortes was named for Annie Curtis, wife of early settler Amos Bowman and was incorporated in 1891. The city encompasses about 14 square miles, 17% of which is water. The city employs about 157 full-time and 30 part-time employees including:

Mayor / 7 City Council Members (Elected non-partisan positions)

Fire Department- 17 Firefighters/Paramedics; 2 Firefighters /EMT; 8 volunteers

Police Department- 24 commissioned officers

Port of Anacortes

The Port of Anacortes is responsible for operation and economic development of our major deep-water port, 3 marine terminals, the Cap Sante Boat Haven and the Anacortes Airport.

Marine Terminals

Pier I- Home of Dakota Creek Industries Shipyards and Port of Anacortes offices

Curtis Wharf- Commercial Dock and Wharf- ships to 480 feet

Pier II- Log and dry bulk cargo loading- short term moorage to 1,133 feet

Cap Sante Boat Haven

Publicly operated moorage (1050 slips with 150-200 guest slips) adjacent to the downtown business district including a full line of marine services, fuel, launching facilities, customs port-of-entry, restrooms and showers. Slips can accommodate ships up to 120 feet in length. The extensive commercial fishing fleet and a variety of charter and sightseeing (including whale watching) boats also make their home here.

Anacortes Airport

The general aviation airport about three miles west of downtown features a 3,018 ft long by 60 ft wide lighted asphalt strip. Parking facilities include 69 tie-downs and 39 hangers.

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Marine Trades / Boating Industry

Anacortes is the home to four private marinas (in addition to the publicly owned Cap Sante Boat Haven) offering 1287 slips, lengths to 110 ft. The City enjoys an extensive ship building and servicing community including a major shipyard (Dakota Creek Industries), a premier fiberglass yacht builder (Northern Marine- yachts 57 to 152 feet), a number of small- and medium-sized boat builders and a broad range of boat sales and product and service companies that can meet virtually any boating need.

Tax Structure

Current sales tax rate in Anacortes is 8.0%. The current lodging tax is 4%. Retail sales tax is collected on the sale of tangible personal property / selected services. There is no state personal or corporate income tax, no unitary tax, no inventory tax, no personal tax and no state tax on interest, dividends or capital gains.

Financial Institutions

Banks, Savings & Loans and Credit Unions- 12
Broad Selection of Accounting, Mortgage, Financial Planning and Investment services

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Major Employers and Manufacturers

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Business Type</u>
Island Hospital / Medical Community	515	Health Care
Shell Puget Sound Refinery	400	Petroleum Products
Anacortes School District	380	Education
Tesoro Northwest Company	350	Petroleum Products
Swinomish Northern Lights Casino	283	Casino /Resort
Trident Seafoods	225	Food Products
City of Anacortes	187	Government
Dakota Creek Industries	181	Shipyard
Safeway	145	Retail Grocery
Sugiyō USA, Inc	<100	Food Products
Cap Sante Marine LTD	79	Marine Services
Food Pavilion	70-95	Retail Grocery
SeaBear	50-150	Retail Seafood
T. Bailey, Inc	50-100	Industrial Products
Port of Anacortes	28	Port Operations

Work Force Data (Anacortes including March Point Refineries)

<u>Employment Sector</u>	<u># of firms</u>	<u># of jobs</u>	<u>Wages per job</u>
Manufacturing	39	1,769	\$ 51,393
A&E, Accommodations, Food Service	69	917	14,511
Retail	81	893	29,206
Health Care & Social Service	52	885	32,020
Education	5	691	31,069
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, mgmt	133	643	34,220
Construction	86	471	33,302
Transportation and Warehousing	18	356	42,428
Information / Administrative Services	111	329	22,899
Public Administration	4	259	42,620
Wholesale	23	57	31,728
Fishing, Agriculture, Forestry, Mining	8	40	113,114
Utilities	2	7	20,188
Totals	631	7,316	\$ 35,252

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Recreation

Anacortes offers a wonderful selection of marine and land-based recreational opportunities for individuals, families and groups. The city has a busy waterfront and an extraordinary amount of forest and parkland for a city of any size.

The natural setting of Fidalgo Island provides access to the San Juan Island archipelago (176 named islands in San Juan County and 700 islands/reefs overall, including the British Columbia Gulf Islands). Boating, whether power, sail or paddle, is well supported in Anacortes with many marinas, boat rentals, charter services, boat launches and a full range of marine related products and services.

The city has 12 parks totaling 468 acres. Washington Park encompasses 220 acres, featuring extensive seashore areas, 75 campsites, a boat launch, picnic areas and 2.3 mile paved road that meanders through the park. Other specialized parks include a skateboard park, an off-leash dog park, childrens' playgrounds and the 4 mile Tommy Thompson Parkway—a paved pedestrian trail that parallels some of the city waterfront.

The Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) comprises 2800 acres of forests, meadows, lakes and wetlands, entirely within the city limits. Well-mapped trails provide opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and, on select trails, motorized trail biking.

Arts and Entertainment

Anacortes, Skagit County and the San Juan islands have a vibrant arts and entertainment community featuring artists in most mediums, a wide variety of performing arts and festivals and galleries for any taste.

Brodniak Hall, seating 806, is our major performance venue.

The major Anacortes festivals include Waterfront Festival (May), Shipwreck Day (an all city garage sale in July), What-the-heck Fest (independent bands in July), Arts Festival in August, Jazz Festival in September and the Oyster Run (a motorcycle rally in October).

City buildings feature more than 100 life-sized murals depicting events in the city's history by local artist Bill Mitchell. The City has many independent music venues, the Anacortes Community Theater, the Skagit Symphony at Brodniak Hall and a three screen, first run movie theater.

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Lodging / Hospitality

Fourteen motels and hotels totaling 365 units
Six RV parks and Campgrounds totaling 454 spaces
A variety of Bed and Breakfasts, Lodges and rental houses are also available.

A number of restaurants, halls, motel / hotels, the Port of Anacortes, Chamber of Commerce, Swinomish Casino and the Fidalgo Bay RV park have conference / meeting facilities seating from 10 to 350 people.

Anacortes has many fine restaurants featuring all types of cuisine, a number of capable caterers, equipment rentals and many musical entertainers.

Media

Local Newspapers

Anacortes American (weekly)	360-293-3122
Fidalgo This Week (weekly)	360-293-4168
Skagit Valley Herald (daily)	360-424-3251

Local Magazines

Anacortes Newcomers and Visitors Guide (annually)	360-336-6171
Clamdigger (weekly)	360-299-3444
Northwest Business Monthly	360-671-3933
Skagit Business Pulse	360-755-0195

Local Radio Stations

KWLE 1340 AM (Anacortes)	360-293-3141
KBRC 1430 AM (Mount Vernon)	360-424-4278
KAPS 660 AM (Mount Vernon)	360-424-7676

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Economic Development Organizations

Anacortes Chamber of Commerce

Mitch Everton, Executive Director
819 Commercial Avenue, Suite F
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-7911 (Visitor Info 360-293-3832)
Fax: 360-293-1595
Website: www.anacortes.org
Email: info@anacortes.org

Port of Anacortes

Bob Hyde, Executive Director
PO Box 297
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-3134
Fax: 360-293-9608
Website: www.portofanacortes.com
Email: hyde@portofanacortes.com

City of Anacortes

Ryan Larsen, Director of Planning and Community Development
PO Box 547
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-1907
Fax: 360-293-1938
Website: www.cityofanacortes.org
Email: ryanl@cityofanacortes.org

Economic Development Association of Skagit County

Don Wick, Executive Director
PO Box 40
204 W. Montgomery
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-336-6114
Fax: 360-336-6116
Website: www.skagit.org/subcategorypages/mission.htm
Email: info@skagit.org