

# HISTORY | ART | NATURE

Since 1921, this international heritage site has been the location of civic ceremonies, celebrations, festivals, annual events, historical reenactments, weddings and family gatherings.

The park features elegant floral displays, magnificent gardens, interpretive displays, annual outdoor sculpture exhibit, spectacular sunsets, ocean views, bird watching, picnic areas, and a playground. Pets are allowed on leashes.



SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

## INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CONCERT SERIES



FLORAL DISPLAYS



EDUCATIONAL

### GROUP TOURS



Park history and art tours offer authentic experiences that educate and engage tour groups and students alike. Tours are available during regular park hours and must be scheduled a minimum of one week in advance of your tour date.

If your tour group or students would like to explore the park on a guided tour, contact the Peace Arch Association at 360.332.7165 or email us at [info@peacearchpark.org](mailto:info@peacearchpark.org)

VISIT BLAINE, WASHINGTON

### "THE PEACE ARCH CITY"

The USA park entrance is located off North or South I - 5 exit #276, Blaine City Center. Follow the signs to the park entrance on 2nd Street.



## LOCATION

Peace Arch International Park is located 21 miles north of Bellingham, Washington, and 30 miles south of Vancouver, BC, on the USA Canada border between Douglas, BC, and Blaine, WA. The parks are managed and maintained by British Columbia Parks and Washington State Parks.



Washington State Parks requires state residents and visitors to purchase a Discover Pass (vehicle pass) to visit Peace Arch State Park. The Discover Pass fee is \$10.00 (single day use) or \$30 for an annual pass good at all Washington State Parks. Complete Discover Pass information is posted at the main park kiosk.

The International Peace Arch Association (IPAA) is a privately funded non-profit association dedicated to the heritage and preservation of the Peace Arch and the international parks. The IPAA is an IRS approved nonprofit charitable organization. Donations to the IPAA are tax-deductible in the United States.



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# PEACE ARCH INTERNATIONAL PARK AND NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



## CERTIFICATE of EXCELLENCE

North America's first and foremost International Peace Park was dedicated by the citizens of the United States and Canada on September 6th, 1921.

Located on the international boundary between Blaine, Washington and Douglas, British Columbia, this world famous peace park and monument is rich with history, culture and natural beauty.



OPEN EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR  
 Park hours: Open daily 8 am to dusk.

PEACEARCHPARK.ORG



# WELCOME

환영합니다  
*Korean*

Karibu  
*Swahili*

*English*

Velkomin  
*Icelandic*

دمآ شيوخ  
*Persian*

Bienvenue  
*French*

добро пожаловать  
*Russian*

גנוסירגאב  
*Yiddish*

Καλός ήλθατε  
*Greek*

歡迎  
*Chinese*

welkom  
*Dutch*

Bienvenido  
*Spanish*

Bun venit  
*Romanian*

Chào mừng các bạn  
*Vietnamese*

Art is a universal language.  
Peace is a universal need.

You can enjoy the park's magnificent gardens and experience the International Sculpture Exhibition, Hands Across the Border Celebration, a historical reenactment, group tours, a peace education outreach program (school visit). We bring together the young and old, friends and strangers, tourists and residents alike, to honor and remember the founders of the International Peace Arch.

The International Peace Arch Association depends on the gracious and generous support of donors, sponsors, and volunteers to hold our annual programs. We invite you to get involved and learn more about how you can support our unique mission. We can be reached at 360.332.7165.



Historical Photos courtesy the International Peace Arch Association and the Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldendale, WA.

## THE HISTORY OF A PEACE PARK

The Peace Arch stands on the international boundary between Blaine, Washington, and Douglas, British Columbia. The Arch was constructed to commemorate the centennial (1814-1914) of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1814. The Treaty of Ghent ended the war of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain, a conflict that was waged in North America and involved Canadians as well as Americans and British.

In 1914, the international fund-raising efforts for the Arch were spearheaded by Samuel Hill, famed Washington State lawyer, financier, road builder and humanitarian, who later dedicated it on September 6, 1921. The Arch's design was donated by H.W. Corbett, an internationally known architect. Construction began under an international force of volunteers in 1920.



Samuel Hill  
1856-1931



Construction of the  
Peace Arch 1920.

Standing 67 feet high, the Peace Arch is made of concrete and reinforced steel with one-foot anchored in each country. Its foundation consists of 76 fourteen-inch pilings driven 25-30 feet into the earth. The Arch was said to be one of the first structures in North America constructed to be earthquake proof. The 3500 sacks of concrete for the Arch's foot walls were donated by R. P. Butchart, of Victoria, British Columbia's Butchart Garden's fame. E.H. Gary of New York donated 50 tons of steel.

Originally, 470 lights were "artistically set" up and down the massive pilasters and along the interior frieze of the Arch. The American side of the Arch is inscribed with the words "Children of a Common Mother," the Canadian side, with the words "Brethren Dwelling Together in Unity." Within the portal of the Arch on the west side are the words "1814 Open One Hundred Years 1914" and on the east side, "May These Gates Never Be Closed."

Two bronze plaques are placed above the exterior foot walls of the Arch. One is of the Canadian steamship the Beaver;



Peace Arch Dedication September 6th, 1921.

the other of the Mayflower. Wooden relics, allegedly cut from each ship, were sealed behind each plaque when the Arch was dedicated in 1921.

The shrubbery in the gardens of the original seven-acre park that surrounded the Arch was donated by Robert Moran, the famed shipbuilder who built Rosario Mansion (Rosario Resort) on Orcas Island, Washington. In 1931, the expansion of the park to 40 acres was made possible with the help of school children from Washington State and British Columbia who donated their pennies, nickels, and dimes to the project.

Today, the international park's picturesque gardens are the home of over 200 perennials and 20,000 annuals that are planted each year. The park hosts ethnic and family gatherings, picnics, weddings, civic events and annual events of international significance. These include the International Peace Arch Association's historical celebrations: the "International Sculpture Exhibition" and annual "Hands Across the Border a Peace Arch Celebration" that was first held on International Armistice Day in 1937.

Annually 9.2 million tourists and community members pass through the park each year as they travel from country to country and over 650,000 visitors tour this international historic site yearly.

The International Peace Arch is one of the few landmarks in the world listed on the National Historic Registries of two different countries. The history of the Peace Arch reflects more than our past; its existence gives meaning to our present. As the world moves into the twenty-first century, the Peace Arch is a beacon of hope for our future.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PEACE ARCH ASSOCIATION OR TO SHARE YOUR PEACE ARCH STORY VISIT US AT [PEACEARCHPARK.ORG](http://PEACEARCHPARK.ORG)