

Travel & Tourism Strategic and Economic Impact of private & commercial seaplane Passengers



Prepared March 2018 by:

Submitted to:
[Washington State Department of Commerce](#)
[WTA : Washington Tourism Alliance](#)
[Washington Hospitality Association](#)
[Washington State Department of Transportation: Aviation](#)



Local Direct Expenditures of Passenger and Crew

In the Pacific Northwest, the cost of a seaplane ride per-passenger is between \$59 and \$500. The Washington Seaplane Pilots Association reminds communities that private and commercial seaplane have a high average per-person spend and economic benefits to local communities through:

- Food & Beverage
- Merchandise
- Excursions and Activities
- Lodging
- Ground Transportation, including to-and-from transfers to land-based airports
- Fuel

No Food on Seaplanes = Higher Restaurant Spend

Unlike a cruise ship or airline passenger, as food is not served on seaplanes, seaplane passengers are more likely to spend money on food and beverages at their point of arrival.

In addition to this, private pilots frequently fly to destinations for the sole purpose of dining and can quickly and frequently make direct spending impacts on local economies.

The Washington Seaplane Pilots Association maintains and advertises a list of seaplane accessible restaurants for private pilots.



Potential Economic Impact Per Landing – Fuel

Towns, Marinas and Seaplane Bases equipped with Fuel services benefit economically from Seaplane activity.

Seaplanes use a wide range of fuel, including Jet A, 100LL, and Ethanol Free Marine Fuel.

Seaplane Fuel Tanks range from 40-180 gallons depending on model.



Potential Economic Impact Per Landing - Passengers



\$70

Cessna 172
Private & Commercial



\$105

Cessna 180/185
Private & Commercial



\$175

DHC-2 Beaver
Private & Commercial



\$280

DHC-3 Otter
Commercial

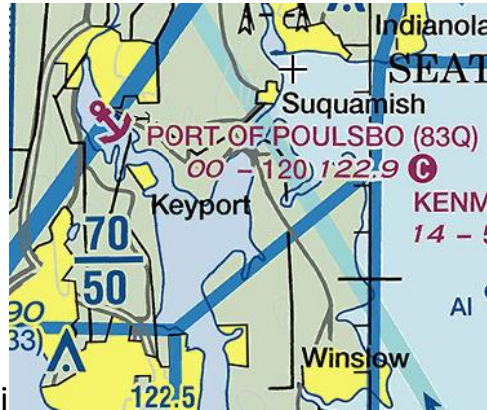


Conservative estimated *passenger* spend of 35\$ on Food, Beverage, and Merchandise.

For the purposes of this example, Crew are assumed to have Zero spend, and lodging is not considered.

Real World Direct Spend Example – Poulsbo, WA

The Washington Seaplane Pilots Association collected example data during a seaplane Fly-In hosted by the port of Poulsbo, WA in May 2017. In this event.

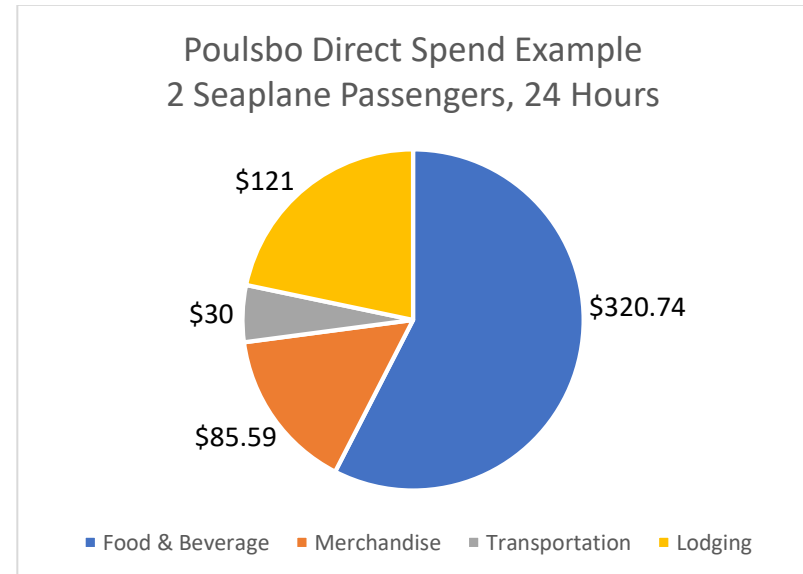


The Port of Poulsbo is a Strong Supporter of Seaplane Access

Real World Direct Spend Example

Spending details recorded by a private seaplane of 1 crew, 1 passenger during a 24 hour, overnight stay in Poulsbo, WA.

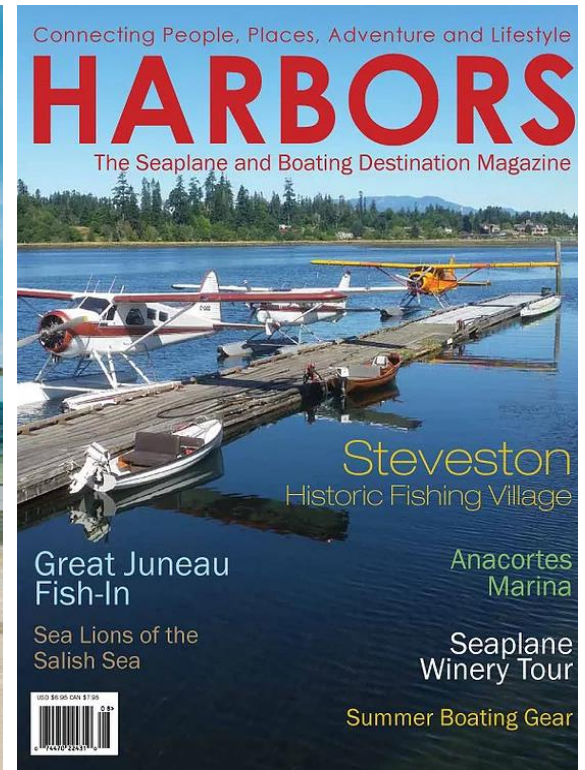
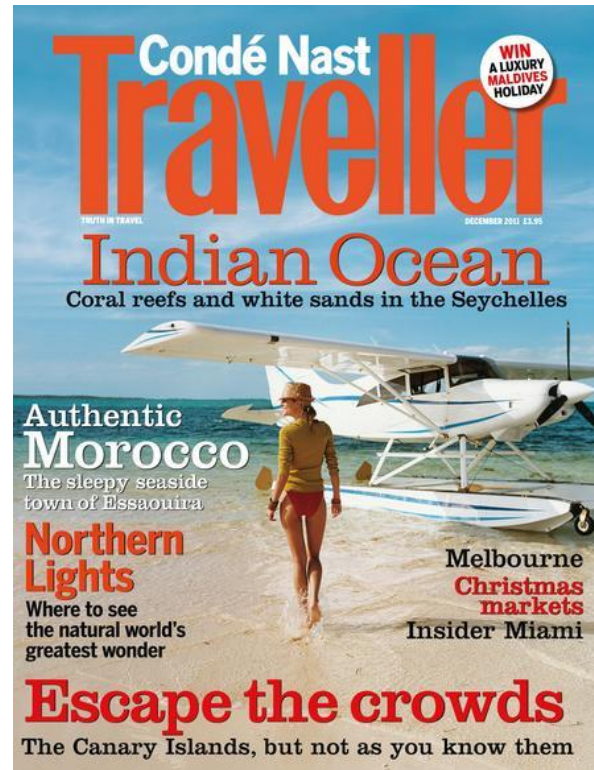
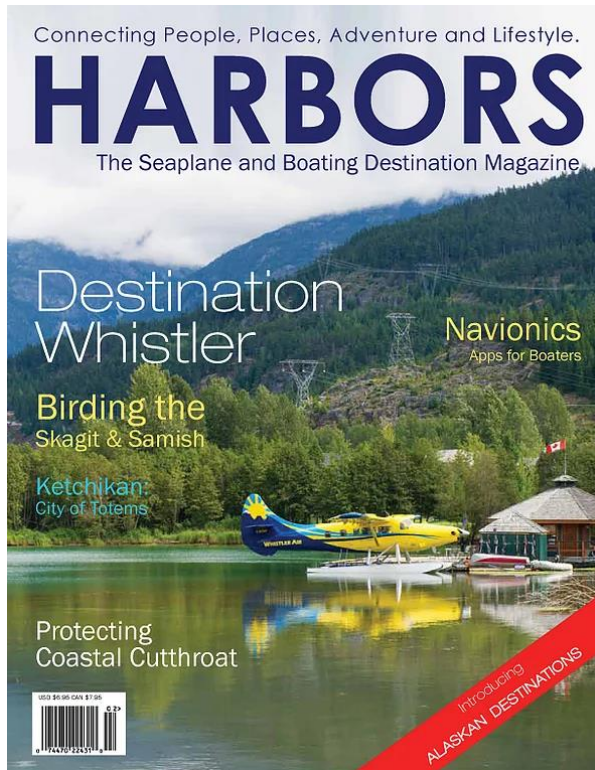
Category	Merchant	Spend
Food & Beverage	Sogno Di Vino	\$ 98.20
Transportation	Viking Cab Co	\$ 15.00
Lodging	GuestHouse Inn	\$121.00
Transportation	Viking Cab Co	\$ 15.00
Food & Beverage	Sogno Di Vino	\$ 61.59
Food & Beverage	Hot Shots Java	\$ 4.43
Transportation	Viking Cab Co	\$ 10.00
Food & Beverage	Hot Shots Java	\$ 4.65
Food & Beverage	Hot Shots Java	\$ 8.68
Merchandise	Liberty Bay Books	\$ 14.34
Merchandise	Dancing Brush	\$ 64.75
Merchandise	Poulsbo Mercantile	\$ 6.50
Food & Beverage	Tizleys Europub	\$ 90.66
Food & Beverage	Green Light Diner	\$ 52.53
Total		\$567.33



283.33\$ Per Person Direct Spend

Seaplane Prestige

Providing private and commercial seaplane access provides immediate intangible benefits through prestige to Ports, Towns, Communities, Restaurants, Resorts, & Hotels. Seaplane access brings additional traveler reviews, traveler access, magazine articles, and fame to communities and businesses.



“Despite the 25-pounds-per-person luggage limit on seaplanes, I always bring something back.”

Rebecca Misner, Conde Nast Traveler

[Why Washington's Orcas Island Should Be Your Next Family Getaway](#)

“Bringing seaplanes to your community brings tourism, prestige, and access.

There are immediate and tangible economic benefits to seaplanes”

[The Washington Seaplane Pilots Association](#)

Please contact us to learn more about providing seaplane access in your City, Port, Resort, Restaurant, or Business

Board@washingtonseaplanepilots.org

Seaplane Friendly Destinations in Washington

The following destinations are already benefiting economically from Private and Public Seaplane access:



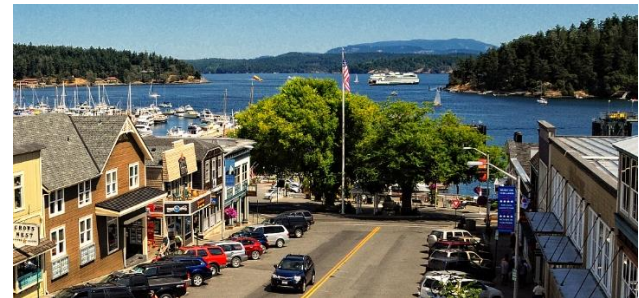
[Rosario Resort and Spa](#)

- [City of Renton](#)
- [Carillon Point, Kirkland](#)
- [City of Kenmore](#)
- [Stehekin, Lake Chelan](#)
- [Spencer Lake Resort, Shelton](#)
- [City of Westport](#)
- [Lopez Island](#)
- [Sucia Island](#)
- [Eliza Island](#)



[Alderbrook Resort & Spa](#)

- [Port of Olympia](#)
- [Port and City of Poulsbo](#)
- [Foss Waterway Seaport, Tacoma](#)
- [Lake Union & The City of Seattle](#)
- [American Lake, & the City of Lakewood](#)
- [Port Angeles](#)
- [Lake Cushman State Park](#)
- [Curlew Lake State Park](#)
- [Roche Harbor](#)



[Friday Harbor, WA](#)

- [Squalicum Harbor, Bellingham](#)
- [Harvey Field - Snohomish](#)
- [Tapps Island](#)
- [Moses Lake](#)
- [City of Spokane](#)
- [Kiana Lodge](#)
- [Deer Harbor](#)

Additional References



Tavares, FL

Lost Seaplane Bases in Washington

<http://www.nickelboat.com/lspb.html>

Tavares, America's Seaplane City

<https://www.tavares.org/1176/Seaplane-Base>

Tavares – America's Seaplane City – Master Plan

<http://www.tavares.org/DocumentCenter/View/4435>

Vancouver Harbor Flight Center

<https://vhfc.ca/>

2001 Study Economic Benefits of Washington Airports

<https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/EconImpacts/>

Economic Benefits of Lake Hood Seaplane Base [Alaska]

<https://aedcweb.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Lake-Hood-Seaplane-Base-Economic-Benefits-Study.pdf>



Vancouver Harbor Flight Center, Vancouver BC